



TE IPUKAREA SOCIETY

*Caring for our Environment
Taporoporo i to tatou Ao Rangi*

Kia Orana e te katoatoa. Teia te nuti no Tiunu e Tiurai 2021. Welcome to the June & July 2021 edition of our newsletter. Meitaki to all who came to our AGM in June and celebrated our 25th anniversary!

Tāua e Moana - Ocean & I

We are all watching the horizon for sightings of the Marumaru Atua vaka as it returns from an historic voyage of the northern group Pa 'Enea Tokerau.

Our staff Alanna Smith and Kelvin Passfield are onboard having spent the last 7 weeks sharing a message on Ocean Health with the communities.



The voyage is a collaboration between Te Ipukarea Society, Kōrero O Te `Ōrau and the Cook Islands Voyaging Society with a mission to initiate discussion with the communities on ocean health.

The vaka has visited Tongareva, Rakahanga, Manihiki, Pukapuka and Suwarrow, Palmerston and Aitutaki, missing out on Nassau due to weather conditions.



TE IPUKAREA SOCIETY Box 649, Rarotonga, Cook Islands. Ph: (682) 21144

email: te.ipukarea.society.inc@gmail.com website: tiscookislands.org [Facebook](#)

[Instagram](#)





Suwarrow is a popular nesting sea bird site for sooty terns (tara) and frigate birds (kotaa). Tavake, boobie birds, noddies and terns also nest in healthy numbers.

While in Suwarrow, Alanna and Kelvin, with the help of ranger Katu and Kōrero o Te `Ōrau's Pareu and Kane, spent several days checking for evidence of rats, as a follow on from the 2018 rat eradication project we did with the assistance of BirdLife on 3 islets where rats were present.

Recent rat trap checks however confirmed that rats were still present on 1 of the 3 islets. We will now look to work with the National Environment Service on a strategy moving forward to eradicate the remaining population.

Alanna has also delivered school and community presentations on our Maine Mura project and distributed free reusable feminine hygiene products to all who wanted them, thanks to UN Women.

She also gave presentations to all of the schools on pollution, particularly marine plastic and with Kelvin, ran refresher courses on composting and worm farming.



We think they need to come back to Rarotonga for a rest!



Deep Sea Mining Discussions - What's the Rush?

As part of the Tāua e Moana vaka voyage, Kelvin Passfield and Dr Teina Rongo from Kōrero o Te `Ōrau have delivered presentations on ocean health issues and shared bilingual brochures entitled "Ocean

Health is Our Ocean Wealth”, [available on our webpage.](#)



There appears to be strong community support for upskilling our own people in the area of deep sea ecology and in mining technology before making a decision on whether to proceed or not with commercial seabed mining.



The latest presentation was on Palmerston a couple of days ago, where the community agreed that we need a lot more time, 10 years or more, before considering moving into commercial deep sea mining.

T-shirt tote bags, Kata Kapu and Jar Undies in Plastic Free July

Plastic Free July has now wrapped up for another year and it has been great to see so many activities happening around Rarotonga.



The overall message of Plastic Free July is that every small effort counts. When you begin to make changes, they start to become a habit.

Everywhere we look now we are seeing people carrying their reusable water bottles. The next thing might be remembering to bring your own washable straw, cutlery or takeaway containers.

Earlier this month we were at Apii Takitumu chatting to the middle syndicate students. They are studying Ridge to Reef and their main focus is waste, in particular plastics. The students are trying to find creative ways of reducing the need for plastic shopping bags by turning old T-shirts into tote bags.



TIS had a stand at the Ministry of Education Careers Day where senior students across Rarotonga joined in the Plastic Battle. Students made individual pledges to Choose to Reuse and give up one or more single use plastic items for the month of July.

Some chose to give up water Pump bottles for the month, others chose straws, plastic cutlery, lollies, and even potato chips because of the high plastic content in the bags.



Look for our Kata Kapu Jars - Funny Cups at a café near you. Perfect for all those times that you forget to bring your washable keep cup for your coffee or hot chocolate. Instead you can grab a free jar to use and reuse it as a travel cup.

You can also take a Kata Kapu heat sleeve to protect your hands from the hot jar. The latest sleeves have been made by TIS executive member June Hosking from upcycled wetsuits which have been sanitised and sewn into what June calls 'Jar Undies'.

Rare Rarotonga Kakerori Research continues

The opening of the travel bubble has been good news for the kākeroi birds because it means that veteran kākeroi researcher and kiwi expert, Dr Hugh Robertson of the Department of Conservation has once been able to hike the high ridges, steep paths and deep valleys of the Takitumu Conservation Area.



Dr Hugh Robertson with a young kakerori Photo Credit Kirby Morejohn.

His mission is to find as many kākeroi as possible by setting mist nets to catch, measure, record and attach coloured identification bands or “jewellery” as Hugh calls it.

Also known as the Rarotonga monarch or flycatcher, these birds are a single island endemic. This means that Rarotonga is the only place in the world where these birds are naturally found.

It was a privilege for us at TIS to be able to assist Hugh in his work and we look forward to his return in August to complete a full census count of the kakerori bird.

World Ocean Day – Muri Beach Clean Up

For the third year running, Te Ipukarea Society joined forces with the Muri Environment Care Group and Rarotonga Sailing Club to collect the rubbish that washes up on our coastline.



We are grateful to all who came along and helped collect rubbish from the motu and coastlines. Meitaki to our sponsors CITC and Avarua Bakery for the sausage sizzle afterwards.

One thing we see a lot of in these clean-ups is the fishing debris that washes up on our coasts, including nets, fishing lines and remains of Fishing Aggregate Devices (FADS).



This is of concern due to the potential for strangling of marine life. Earlier this year, a hawksbill turtle was found tangled in fishing nets in Muri and was lucky to be rehabilitated. Last year a green turtle was not so lucky, as it was found dead in Avaavaroa passage after having ingested plastic.

Welcoming New Members

We are very grateful to the individual, family and corporate supporters who have joined us this year.

If you would like to renew your membership or perhaps join for the first time, we would love to have you be a part of our organisation and get involved!

Details for joining are found on our [webpage](#), including information on joining from overseas. Or you can come into the office or pay via internet banking to our BCI & BSP accounts below:

Te Ipukarea Society

BCI 82853-S15 or BSP 2000325007

We also wish to shout out a big meitaki ma'ata to Edna Torea-Allan who has used her fantastic graphic design skills to once again create our corporate members page (see overleaf) plus two gorgeous banners for TIS which will soon be proudly displayed at our office and upcoming events.

We hope you enjoyed reading our newsletter. Meitaki e kia manuia from all of us at Te Ipukarea Society.

MEITAKI

to our generous supporters



GOLD



SILVER



Heritage Holdings



BRONZE