



TE IPUKAREA SOCIETY

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

Kia Orana e te katoatoa. Teia te nuti no Tepetema 2021.

This September edition of our newsletter comes to you from the lovely island of Mangaia, where we have been this past week, participating in the southern Marumaru Atua vaka voyage and school presentations, as well as working on a community waste management project.

Tāua e Moana – Ocean & I

The historic Tāua e Moana – Ocean & I voyage on Marumaru Atua has come to an end with the crew safely returned to Rarotonga on Tuesday 28th September.

The recent second leg of the voyage to the southern group islands took two weeks, completing what was in total a 9 week adventure to the Pa 'Enea of the Cook Islands.

This project has been a collaboration between Te Ipukea Society (TIS), Kōrero O Te 'Ōrau and the Cook Islands Voyaging Society.

TIS had three representatives on this voyage being Kelvin Passfield, Alanna Smith and Terena Koteka-Wiki.



One of the key messages we were passing on was the potential risks involved with mining our deep ocean floor, and the need for more time for independent research, time to build the capacity of local scientists, engineers and others to allow for rational decision making.

The objective of sharing a respectful message of Ocean Health with the whole of the Cook Islands has been an amazing opportunity for all involved, to both share and learn from one another.

Mangaia – The Waste Project

This past week TIS staff, Alanna and Kate visited Mangaia for our Waste Management Behavioural Change project funded through the GEF Small Grants Project.



The objective of this visit was to undertake a waste audit of households and to survey businesses to try to determine the amount of recyclable waste and what can be diverted from the Tamarua landfill.

Audits can also help determine the staffing requirements of the recycling centre, plus give a baseline to monitor any changes in community behaviour towards waste following the awareness raising programmes.

The enthusiastic ‘Solar Girls’ were employed to help us run the waste audit across the island. These young women assist the Island Government with maintenance jobs mostly around the island’s solar panels.

Now they are also upskilled in doing waste audits and in the various requirements of the recycling centre including crushing cans with great enthusiasm.

Mangaia’s new glass crusher also arrived on the barge last week, which everyone is itching to get up and running.

Alanna also managed to spend a morning with the guys on the rubbish truck to learn hands on what they do and ask them their opinions about waste issues on Mangaia.

We are very grateful to all of the help we received from the participating householders and also to Executive Officer Anthony Whyte and to Metua Vaiimene for his assistance with running the audit and interviewing businesses.

Thanks also to TIS member Alice Leney for excellent advice on waste audits.

While in Mangaia we also interviewed Allan Tuara about Mangaia’s conservation issues. We discussed the reigning Cook Islands Bird of the Year champion the Tanga’eo and the current rau’i on the Moa Kirikiri.



Interview with Allan Tuara on Mangaian conservation issues

First Time Voyaging Experience

TIS Project Officer, Terena Koteka-Wiki shares her experience as a first time voyager, having just completed a 2 week voyage to the southern group.

You can read Terena's full story on our [webpage here](#), and as summarised below:

"Sailing feels like reconnecting to the ways that our ancestors travelled. Voyaging to the southern group islands was an opportunity of a lifetime and one that I will never forget!

There were several moments of joy, laughter, and many songs played on the ukulele by the beautiful Konini Rongo. Learning about the stars on clear nights from watch captain Deon Wong was enlightening.

My family and I are from Nga-Pu-Toru, my mama Kathy Koteka was born in Mauke and married my papa, Dr. George Koteka in Atiu. My mum Emm Koteka-Wiki was born in Rarotonga but grew up and attended Api'i Mangaia.



Terena Koteka-Wiki and Konini Rongo arriving off the vaka to Mitiaro in the traditional paiere fishing boats

Presenting to the students at the school that my mother attended growing up was an awesome experience. I couldn't help but look at the view from the school in Mangaia, was beautiful!

I feel very proud and honoured to have had the opportunity to represent Te Ipukarea Society on Vaka Marumaru Atua on this second leg of the Tāua e Moana voyage to the southern group islands and alongside the best crew!"

Kata Kapu Car Chats

Kata Kapu Car Chats is our new short interview series we are doing with Cook Island youth. Check it out on our [YouTube channel](#).



Having a chat, while driving around in the TIS electric truck makes for easy conversation and offers a free-thinking space. It gives us an insight into the thoughts and opinions our youth have about current environmental topics.

First up, Antony Vavia touches on topics around climate change, studying for his PhD in Mitiaro, and tries not to crash the truck while deciding whether coconut biofuel would be good body oil, or does it have diesel in it.

Meitaki to The Café for sponsoring the coffees for this first car chat, all consumed in reusable coffee cups of course!

Watch this space for the next episode!

Maine Mura Refresher Classes

Earlier this year we completed our Maine Mura project in the outer islands, distributing a large number of reusable menstruation pads and moon cups to women to try.

This month presented an opportunity to follow up with the southern group participants, to ask them how they were finding the reusable menstruation products and to give them a chance to ask questions.

These refresher catchups were made possible with Terena being on the southern group vaka voyage and Alanna visiting Mangaia for our waste management project.



Alanna Smith chats with senior Apii Mangaia female students to help answer questions about reusable hygiene products as part of a Maine Mura refresher class

This project was funded through UN Women which meant we could promote and provide these zero waste products, free of charge.



Apii Mauke students sharing experience and asking questions about Maine Mura products with Terena Koteka-Wiki

Low Waste Gala Success for Apii Te Uki Ou

Apii Te Uki Ou stepped up to the challenge of designing a low waste gala last week.

With well labelled bins separating recycling, pig food and paper compost from general tita. As well as this, waste was minimised by providing jars for

coffees and smoothies which were washed for re-use on the day.

Used biodegradable plates and cutlery went to Titikaveka Growers for composting. Plus gala prizes were intentionally chosen to be low waste and minimising throwaway plastic items.



Student sustainability monitors at the gala Recycle Centre were available to provide advice on where waste goes.

TIS member and Apii Te Uki Ou staff, Sophia Panzarella said that by all reports there was significantly less waste than in previous years. “During the event we didn’t need to empty any of the bins. We only needed an extra container for the squished down cans”.

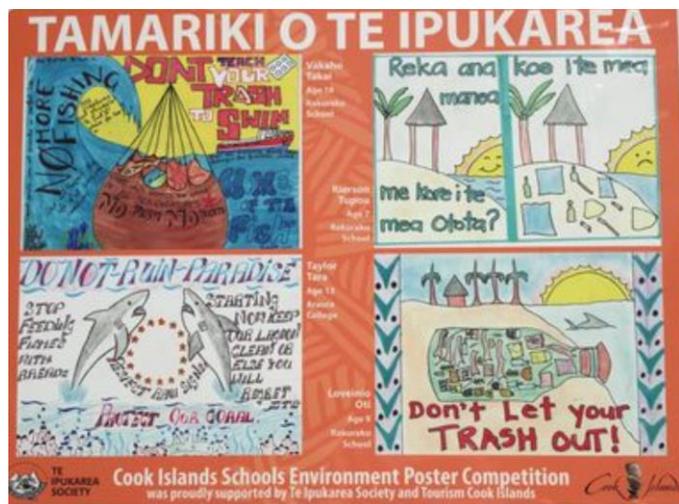
TIS staff were pleased to provide advice and support for this initiative. If your school or club want help with low waste events, come and chat to us at TIS.

MOTU Villas share their Mana Tiaki

TIS Gold Corporate Member, MOTU Villas have been using this quiet period to spread the Mana Tiaki message about caring for our environment by spending every Wednesday cleaning different parts of Rarotonga including beaches, streams and ocean clean ups.

TIS was happy to donate one of the ‘Tamariki o te Ipukarea’ signs which MOTU villa staff arranged to be erected in Titikaveka. These posters were designed a few years ago as part of an environment

poster competition run by TIS and Cook Islands Tourism.



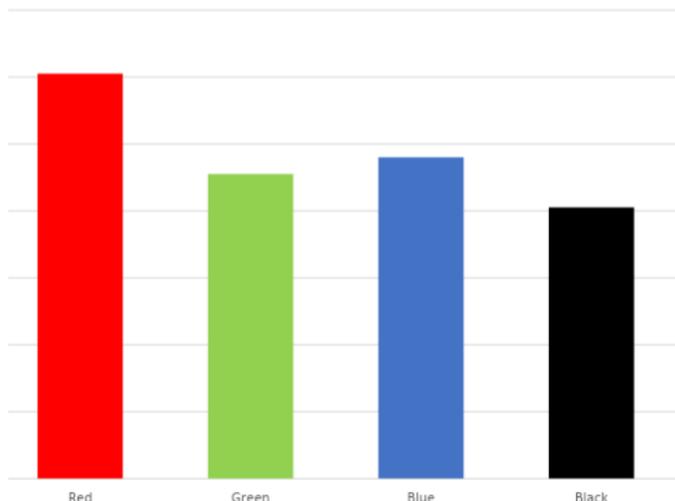
The winning entires came from students at Araua College in Aitutaki and Rakuraku school in Rakahanga. If your community would like to display one of these signs, please contact us at TIS.

Read full article [here](#).

TIS Battle of the Bottles

Do you have a favourite colour for your TIS insulated 1.2 litre bottle? We can now report that Red is the hottest seller, with blue in second place then green and black.

TIS Battle of the Bottles



These bottles are available at our TIS office. They are \$35 each and \$8 for extra lids.

Our door is always open so please stop in for a chat about helping with sustainability in the Cook Islands and getting involved with our Society.

Meitaki e kia manuia from all of us at Te Irukarea Society.

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