



## TE IPUKAREA SOCIETY

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

**Kia Orana e te katoatoa. Teia te nuti no Titema 2021. Welcome to the December 2021 edition of our newsletter.**

**Thank you for all the wonderful support this year.  
Meri Kiritimiti e kia mataora mataiti ou**

### TIS the Season for a Sustainabili-Tree

There is still time to enter our Christmas Sustainabili-tree Competition!



Entries must have no new store bought items and can include trees that are either natural or have reused products. Yudita Szekely from Vaimaanga found and rescued this Christmas tree (above) on a burnpile! It has been made by folded newspapers on the inside, around an old bottle to shape the very creative reused tree.



Another lovely example is Mary & Graham MacDonald's ladder tree, which is lit with candles set in repurposed jars and hung from a ladder with used fishing line!

This competition is open to everyone in the Cook Islands and the winners will receive one of our new TIS bottles. Tag us in Facebook @tiscookislands and Instagram @te\_ipukarea\_society or email your entries in to TIS by Friday December 24th.



The Tiraa-Passfield family's driftwood tree this year

## TIZ QUIZ



Try our TIZ Quiz online, or at the end of this newsletter!

What you've all been waiting for, now you can test your knowledge of all the TIZ BIZ in this QUIZ! You can do the quiz online [here](#), or find it in full at the end of this newsletter.

## Itirangi starts her TIS Internship



TIS intern Itirangi at the Muri Community nursery this week

We are excited to welcome Itirangi Pennycook into the TIS family this month, who has taken up the Dame Margaret Karika Environmental Internship.

So far Itirangi has proven she is a quick learner and a hard worker, with the technical research project we have given her.

But it hasn't all been deskbound, she has also been out at the Takitumu Conservation Area (TCA) updating 50 rat bait stations with new rat bait poison and recording the status of the old rat bait stations!

This week Itirangi lent a hand planting koka seedlings at the Muri Environment Care Group community nursery.

We will be sure to have a lot more interesting opportunities for Itirangi over the summer while she is with us.

## We're in a Rat Race Against Time for Suvarrow's Seabirds

In our last newsletter we launched our fundraising campaign for the Suvarrow rat eradication. This campaign seeks to raise \$50,000NZD to fund a crew to return to Suvarrow atoll to eradicate the last of the kiore or polynesian rats (*rattus exulans*) that we recently found on Motu Kena. You can read more about this campaign [on our TIS webpage](#).



Tavake (Red Tailed Tropicbird) chick on Motu Kena

Our local and international community has so far been very generous in their donations, and we are thrilled to have already received \$1,800. We will publish a full list of donors in our next newsletter but wish to make special note of a very generous donation of \$465 which came from the Cook Islands Over Sixties Club. Another of \$500 came from Wolfgang Losacker, author of a picture book on Suwarrow, who spent many years practicing medicine in the Cook Islands.

We are also excited that the National Environment Service has pledged funds and additional support towards the cause.

At TIS we are donating \$5 for every one of our insulated bottles sold, including all purchased so far which comes to \$3300. Pop in to grab your bottle for Christmas for \$35 and know that you are also helping bird conservation in Suwarrow.



We still have quite some way to go, so if you are able, please join us in this 'Rat Race Against Time' campaign by donating to this fund to rid Suwarrow of rats once and for all!

- For the Cook Islands: Bank of the Cook Islands (BCI) Te Ipukarea Society Account: 82853 S15
- NZ: Kiwibank 389 020 0794187 00
- For international donations we have a crowdfunding page: [Protecting a Little Paradise](#)

## Tereora College Day Out at Muri Nursery

The 128 year 9 and 10 students from Tereora College spent their last week of school helping out at the new community nursery at the Pa Ariki palace grounds at Turangi.



This has been set up by the Muri Environment Care Group. Jobs included weeding, prepping the vetiver grass and sorting out cardboard weedmat.



Another group of students helped clear a Muri stream of an overgrowth of invasive creepers, as well as plant plugs of vetiver along the stream banks.

Volunteers are always welcome at the nursery usually on Wednesday and Saturday mornings so if you're keen contact Anne Tierney, or us at TIS for details.

## UYO Campaign - Use Your Own



The Use Your Own (UYO) Campaign encourages people to bring their own containers, cups and cutlery when ordering takeaways. It's about moving away from a culture of throwaway, and towards reusing what we have.

Food packaging is an important factor in the food supply chain. However, it does lead to an increasingly large amount of waste that piles up in our landfill.

Soon you will be able to see bright posters at participating cafes and food outlets saying they welcome UYO. So far we have generated some interest from Bite Time, Kai Guy and The Falafel Shack to participate in this movement and others are showing interest too.

## Becoming an Ocean Champion - Tāua e Moana

Three local NGOs, Te Ipukarea Society, Kōrero o te 'Ōrau and Cook Islands Voyaging Society, all came together at Tamarind House on December 9th to share experiences from the voyages.



A range of marine related issues were discussed including industrial fisheries, microplastics found in the ocean and the imminent start to deep sea mining exploration.

Climate change impacts on the ocean was a widely shared concern, from its impacts on invasive species such as taramea (crown of thorns), coral bleaching, plus weather patterns and changes to water temperatures influencing tuna fisheries migration patterns.

The critical role that the ocean plays in regulating climate and absorbing man made carbon is just one of the many reasons why rushing into deep sea mining is not right for the Cook Islands or the planet at this time.

More recently, the submission period for the seabed exploration licenses have closed with only 5 submissions received. Some of those submissions, including the TIS submission are [available here on the SMBA website](#).

## Vaka KaiKai Wrap Up

Crew kaikai wrap up to congratulate and thank all those who have helped and continued to support the collaboration of the three NGO's for the Tāua e Moana vaka voyage to the northern and southern group islands in the pa enua.



This was an opportunity for the crew to reflect on their experiences and share some memories that will not be forgotten.

While we set on a voyage to share knowledge of ocean health and awareness to the pa enua, we all gained a wealth of unforgettable experiences.

Meitaki ma'ata to everyone who made this voyage possible and to the wonderful families, friends, parents and guardians for your continued support.

### Sooty Shearwater Shows up in Avarua

Rarotonga had a surprise drop in visitor – an injured Sooty Shearwater (*Ardenna grisea*) was found at the Punanga Nui Market last week.

Sunshine George contacted us at Te Ipukarea Society and we managed to enlist the help of Steph Jansen from the Discovery Centre to assist with the recuperation of the bird.

These birds are spectacular long distance travellers, averaging 500km per day. From March, after the nesting season, they head up the west side of the Pacific to the northern hemisphere to feed. From September to October they return south but this time down the eastern side of the oceans, usually reaching the breeding colonies in the southern hemisphere by November.

It is very likely our Sooty was returning south to its breeding colony when it sustained its injury, either

at sea or on landing, after being drawn in by the Avarua harbour lights.

Te Are Manu Vet Clinic confirmed that this bird had a broken leg and it weighed in at a hefty 577 grams. The vet advised that the bird would lose its leg and would not have the best shot at life, one leg down. On this advice it was agreed best to put the bird out of its misery, and so it was put down.



While this of course wasn't the outcome anyone had hoped for, it was lovely to see a Sooty Shearwater up close and learn more about them.

It was also nice to once again see how our community shows care for animals in need. From the kind people who found it and kept it safe, to the offers of help and the awesome volunteers at Te Are Manu. [Read more here.](#)

## The Great Annual TIS Quiz

<b>1. What significant birthday anniversary did TIS celebrate this year?</b>  a) 50 b) 25 c) 15 d) 75	<b>2. Which bird won the TIS Cook Islands Bird of the Year 2021</b>  a) Tanga'eo (Mangaia Kingfisher) b) Kurāmo'o (Aitutaki Nunbird) c) 'I'oi (Rarotongan Starling) d) Moa Kirikiri (Pacific Fruit Bat)
<b>3. Who was interviewed in the first episode of: TIS Kata Kapu Car Chats</b>  a) 3 school children (Sose, Ari, & Arthur) b) Zeb Revake c) Ants Vavia d) Olliver Oolders	<b>4. What was the name of the extinct bird the featured in this years Te Manu o te Matai'ti</b>  a) Kako'i b) 'Ikoi c) Kiko'i d) Ko'iko
<b>5. What does Alanna forget to do everytime she films Kata Kapu Car Chats?</b>  a) Follow the speed limit b) Put the brake on c) Drink her coffee d) Sing Karaoke requests e) All of the above	<b>6. What has been the most popular TIS 1.2 litre reusable bottle colour this year</b>  a) Green b) Black c) Blue d) Red
<b>7. What does Moratorium on seabed mining mean?</b>  a) A ban on seabed mining  b) Something those annoying lefty greenies want so they can lock up the seabed minerals forever  c) A pause to allow sufficient time for: independent research into environmental impacts; improve technology; to build capacity of people  d) An aquarium that has the last living specimens of a deep sea creature made extinct by deep sea mining	<b>8. Suwarrow Rat Race Against Time is a TIS fundraiser for what cause?</b>  a) An eRATication b) Midlife crisis support for burnt out conservation staff to go to Suwarrow to unwind and get out of the rat race c) An urgent campaign to get rid of rats in Suwarrow, for once and for all d) All of the above

<p><b>9. What is the purpose of the TIS Maine Mura project</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Reusable jars in cafes</li> <li>b) Reusable baby nappies</li> <li>c) Reusable insulated bottles</li> <li>d) Reusable menstruation products</li> </ul>	<p><b>10. Which one of all the inhabited islands of the Cook Islands did the Tāua e Moana voyage NOT get to visit due to bad winds?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Tongareva</li> <li>b) Mitiaro</li> <li>c) Nassau</li> <li>d) Pukapuka</li> <li>e) Atiu</li> </ul>
<p><b>11. Which group of TIS Environmental Photography students were finalists in the UK Photo exhibition this year?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Apii Enuamanu</li> <li>b) Aitutaki Youth with a Vision</li> <li>c) Rarotonga School Holiday programme</li> <li>d) Apii Mitiaro</li> </ul>	<p><b>12. What does UYO stand for in our latest waste awareness campaign?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Using Your Orange-peels</li> <li>b) Use Your Opinion</li> <li>c) Unless You Object</li> <li>d) Use Your Own</li> </ul>
<p><b>13. This year was the Cook Islands 1st ever Rally for what?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Electric Vehicles</li> <li>b) Electric Bicycles</li> <li>c) Electric Skateboards</li> <li>d) Electric Toothbrushes</li> </ul>	<p><b>14. How many public submissions were received for the Seabed Mining exploratory licenses</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) none</li> <li>b) five</li> <li>c) eleven</li> <li>d) seventeen</li> </ul>
<p><b>15. On which one motu in Suwarrow did TIS find evidence of rats this year:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Motu Tou</li> <li>b) Motu Kena</li> <li>c) Anchorage Island</li> <li>d) Turtle Island</li> <li>e) Manu Island</li> </ul>	<p><b>16. How many pairs of glasses did Kelvin lose over the side of the vaka this year</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Less than 5</li> <li>b) 5 to 10</li> <li>c) more than 10</li> </ul>
<p><b>17. The Cook Islands is made up of islands, atolls and sand cays. Which of the following are the 2 sand cays:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Rakahanga and Manahiki</li> <li>b) Nassau and Manuae</li> <li>c) Takutea and Nassau</li> <li>d) Manuae and Atiu</li> </ul>	<p><b>18. What type of bird was found at Punanga Nui Market by Sunshine Mata George in December 2021</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) White tern</li> <li>b) Booby</li> <li>c) Gannet</li> <li>d) Sooty Shearwater</li> </ul>

Answers: 1(b), 2(b), 3(c), 4(c), 5(d), 6(d), 7(c), 8(d), 9(d), 10(c), 11(b), 12(d), 13(a), 14(b), 15(b), 16(b), 17(b), 18(d), 19(b)

# MEITAKI

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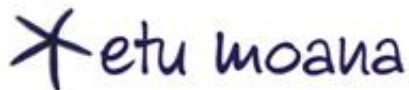
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