



TE IPUKAREA SOCIETY

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

Kia Orana e te katoatoa. Teia te nuti no Aukete 2021. Welcome to our monthly newsletter for the month of August 2021.

Mama Vaka has returned & getting ready now for southern group voyage



A successful trip to the Northern Group Islands to educate and share knowledge of ocean health

It was an exciting moment to have our staff, Alanna Smith and Kelvin Passfield back in Rarotonga after their 7-week long voyage to the northern group, on the Marumaru atua vaka.

Tāua e Moana - Ocean & I is a collaborative project between Te Ipukarea Society (TIS), Kōrero o te 'Ōrau (KO) and Cook Islands Voyaging Society. The objective is to share ocean health education, awareness and knowledge with our Pa 'Enea. Read some of their Vaka Diaries on our website [here](#).



Dining at the Domes with the Pa 'Enea Mayors & Executive Officers

One highlight of the voyage was the hospitality extended to the crew by all the different communities we visited. So it was a great pleasure for the three organisations to be able to host the Mayors and Executive Officers (EO's) during their recent visit to Rarotonga, to thank them for their generous hospitality.

Training is now underway for new crew to undertake the next section of the project which covers the southern group islands.



TIS staff member Terena leaving on an overnight training session on the vaka to prepare for the southern group of Tāua e Moana - Ocean & I

Presentation to the Prime Minister & the Seabed Minerals Authority

After having shared our deep-sea mining (DSM) presentations to the northern group, we were keen to update the Prime Minister Mark Brown and the Cook Islands Seabed Minerals Authority (SBMA) on the feedback we received from the northern communities.

TIS staff and Dr Teina Rongo from Kōrero o te 'Ōrau gave a presentation on the range of potential environmental impacts of DSM. We also advised on the comments made from the northern group consultations, the strong majority of which were in support of taking more time, eg 10-20 years before pursuing DSM.



TIS and KO presentation to the Prime Minister and Seabed Minerals Authority

We believe that the ocean is already under stress, mostly caused by humans including climate change, pollution, and overfishing. More time is needed to do independent research and build local capacity as well as work on reducing the existing stressors before we consider adding deep-sea mining to the mix.

Although our opinions around DSM may differ, the presentation was an excellent opportunity to keep the discussions flowing, so we can all better

understand each other's perspectives and work together constructively going forward.

Pa 'Enea Brilliant Resilient



Alanna presents to the Pa 'Enea representatives at the Brilliant Resilient workshop

We were pleased to be offered the opportunity to present at the Pa 'Enea Brilliant Resilient Workshop organised by Climate Change Cook Islands this month.

Approximately 40 of the Mayors, EOs and Finance Officers from each of the Pa 'Enea attended the workshop which was held at Crown Beach Resort & Spa.

Breakout sessions gave us the opportunity to elaborate further on our activities and projects, including waste management, rat eradication and coastal erosion. We were also able to better understand the needs of the communities in the individual islands.

Lunchbox Legends Advert

We recently had the privilege of visiting with Apii Nikao Year 1 students again to chat about what it means to be a Lunchbox Legend.

Changing habits can be hard and finding things that work for you can take a bit of trial and error. It was interesting to hear the ideas from the Apii Nikao

students about what changes they can make to reduce lunchbox waste and how to stop plastic getting into the marine environment.

We have now completed our third WasteWise advert which will soon be on Cook Islands Television. But you can get a sneak peak of the advert [here!](#)



Our new advert Lunchbox Legends screening on TV soon and [YouTube](#) now

Meitaki ranuinui to all of the school students and teachers who participated in the making of our advert and to the generous support of US Embassy in New Zealand for making it possible.

Waste Warriors, Be a Part of the Solution!

We also enjoyed chatting to Year 1 and 2 Apii Te Uki Ou students this month about plastic pollution and the impacts it has on our land and in the sea.



Apii Te Uki Ou Year 1 and 2 students being Waste Warriors.

Afterwards we had a fun cleanup around the school and beach. The best part was dumping it all out on the mat and having a good look and

chat about the stuff we found, where it comes from, where it goes next, and what we can all do to reduce our impacts.

The students had heaps of great ideas for what could be re-used, recycled, or just looked after a bit better, like a few half used glue sticks found without their lids!

Muri stream planting days

Everything is connected and particularly so when it comes to water. If we want to improve the water quality of the lagoon, we also need to protect the streams.

The Muri Environment Care Group has gotten stuck into the job of organizing the fight against invaders in Aremango stream in Muri.



TIS staff member Kate McKessar and TIS member Brennan Panzarella working hard planting vetiver in the Aremango stream behind Keta's shop & KiteSUP

Aremango stream in particular, has been struggling under the spread of the invasive water spinach plant, kang-kong (*Ipomoea aquatica*). The local community has already spent many weeks clearing the stream of this plant to prepare the stream banks. Next step is now planting strong rooted vetiver grass to start, followed with a range of other plants with a variety of root systems.

The main objective is to help the stream to be more resilient in floods and to help reduce the sediment

and nutrients that are getting into Muri lagoon.

This work is ongoing, and is part of a much bigger project focussed on Muri stream protection being led by Ministry of Marine Resources.

The stream planting continues every Wednesday at 9am in Muri, so be sure to get along to lend a hand.

You can read more about the project [here](#).

Underwater Wizardry From Rakahanga

Alanna Smith was grateful to be able to observe a traditional fishery for koperu (mackerel scad) in Rakahanga.

From underwater, this fishing practice looks like wizardry from a Harry Potter film, with magic wand battles between the two-submerged fisherman.

The underwater magic battles can go on for a long period of time or until the grated coconut bait has run out. Around 150 koperu were caught on this particular day, in the space of 90 minutes.



Sustainable and traditional ways of fishing for Koperu in Rakahanga

This style of fishing is helped by a bylaw in Rakahanga, banning nets for fishing the Koperu. This is a sustainable way of fishing used to feed families and the wider Rakahanga community.

A big thank you to Bundy Greig and Mana Ataria Papahu for taking me out fishing! Read more on the underwater magic of Koperu fishing [here](#) and Alanna's video [here](#).

IUCN Supports a PAUSE in DSM

In breaking news, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) congress has voted YES to a Motion supporting a moratorium on deep-sea mining!

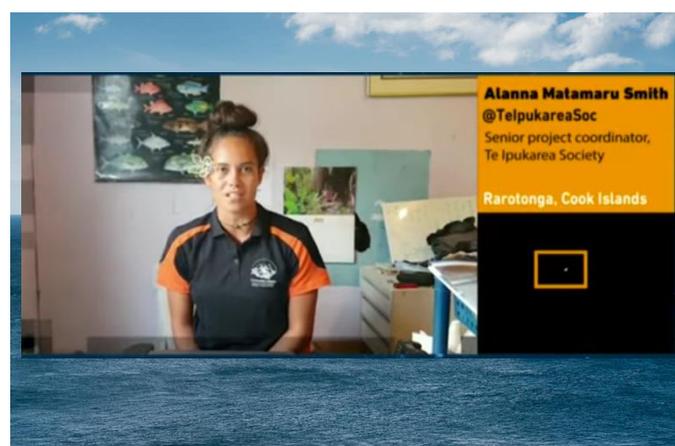
This is a very strong message to all governments that there is global opposition to deep-sea mining.

The IUCN is the only international conservation forum that brings governments, civil society and indigenous groups to the table. Motions are the mechanism for informing the IUCN policy and are a powerful mandate.

The vote was overwhelmingly in favour of the moratorium with 81 government and government agencies voting for the moratorium and 18 against (28 abstained). From Civil Society, the vote was 577 for and 32 against (35 abstained).

More information is still to come but we know that Germany and Fijian governments both voted to support the motion. If you want to read the motion itself you can find it [here](#).

TIS is a full member of the IUCN and we have been advocating strongly for this vote in favour of a pause in DSM.



Alanna contributing a Cook Islands perspective on deep sea mining on Aljazeera UK TV

In an episode of "The Stream", a television program produced by global media giant Al

Jazeera, the need for a moratorium on deep-sea mining to protect the ocean was discussed.

For this episode, Alanna was invited to contribute a Cook Island's perspective on deep sea mining in our waters, including feedback received from the recent vaka voyage to the northern Cook Islands, as part of this half hour discussion.

You can listen to this episode [here](#), Alanna is on in the first few minutes.

You can keep up to date with our ocean health awareness raising carousels that are being posted once every week on our social media platforms [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#).

Donations from CITC



Gaye Whitta from CITC donating proceeds from their Upcycle/Repurpose Yard Sale to TIS with our Project Officer Terena Koteka-Wiki

CITC had a “spring clean” earlier this year, cleaning out its store rooms and backyards of items that were no longer in use. Instead of sending to the landfill, they chose to put them up for sale at very affordable prices in a “Upcycle/Repurpose Yard Sale.”

Te Ipukarea Society is very grateful to have been the recipient of the proceeds from this sale as a

donation from CITC to assist in the crusade to reduce waste.

Cheers my Dears!



Spot the two new banners at the TIS office showcasing what we strive for

Meitaki ma'ata to Edna Torea-Allen for her beautiful graphic design skills in helping us pull together our new Te Ipukarea Society banners to showcase to our community what we stand for!

TIS insulated reusable bottles have landed



New colours and new designs, available from TIS office now!

No more waiting. Now you can now purchase our new 1.2 litre insulated bottles from the TIS office Monday to Friday between 9am-4pm.

These come in four colours 🟢🟠🔴🟡 \$35 each!
Spare spout lids also being sold separately for \$8,
we've got you covered!

Let's kick the plastic habit, reuse reduce 🌱

Come and chat to us about becoming a member at \$5 for students and \$20 for adults with other membership options too.

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



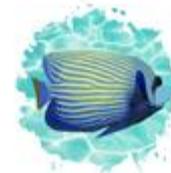
Our current TIS staff with our new banner and the lovely upcycled earrings made from pool floaties, kindly donated by Sabine from Circle Cooks and available to purchase from our office.

MEITAKI

to our generous supporters



GOLD



THE RAROTONGAN
BEACH RESORT & LAGOONARIUM

SILVER



//czechmate



Heritage Holdings



* etu moana



BRONZE