

# TE IPUKAREA SOCIETY NEWSLETTER AUKETE 2022



## TE IPUKAREA SOCIETY

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

***Kia Orana. Teia te nuti no Aukete 2022.***

***Welcome to the August 2022 edition of our newsletter. Presented here is an overview of the activities that we have completed over the month, along with some exciting events that will be taking place soon.***

### **Period Proof Packages delivered**

Earlier this year, Te Ipukarea Society introduced the Maine Mura reusable feminine hygiene products to senior classes in Rarotonga. These included

period undies, reusable pad kits and moon cups from AWWA period care, Days for Girls and MyCup, all based in New Zealand.

This awareness-raising program has allowed us the opportunity to chat with girls about topics that we often tend to shy away from.

We were able to talk to the senior classes from Apii Nukutere, Papaaroa Adventist School, Apii Te Uki Ou, Tereora College, and Titikaveka College.



Alanna and Terena dropping off the Maine Mura reusable feminine hygiene products for the Tereora College senior classes.

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The Maine Mura program has given us the chance to discuss alternative options to disposable single-use period products that end up in our landfill.

Washable, reusable period products, less waste and more savings.

## Greenwashing deep sea mining.



Cook Islands Cobalt seabed mining exploration company, located just past the airport, attempting to improve their public image by coming across as a research organisation.

This past month, Moana Minerals, one of the three seabed mining companies awarded an exploration licence earlier this year, launched a school competition to name their new exploration ship.

Significant cash prizes were up for grabs including an iPadPro for the student who came up with the best name.

Te Rito o te Moana held their own online naming competition and came up with a number of suggestions, including Seabed Destroyer and Deep Greed.

The winning school competition name however has just been announced, Anuanua Moana (rainbow ocean). It is great that the students and schools are benefitting from these gifts. Though we hope that they will not be deceived into believing that there is anything ecologically sustainable about deep sea mining. *To read the full article, click [here](#).*



## 30 Years of Traditional Navigation

2022 marks the 30th anniversary of a great friend of Te Ipukarea Society, the Cook Islands Voyaging Society.

The Cook Islands Voyaging Society (CIVS) have just turned 30!

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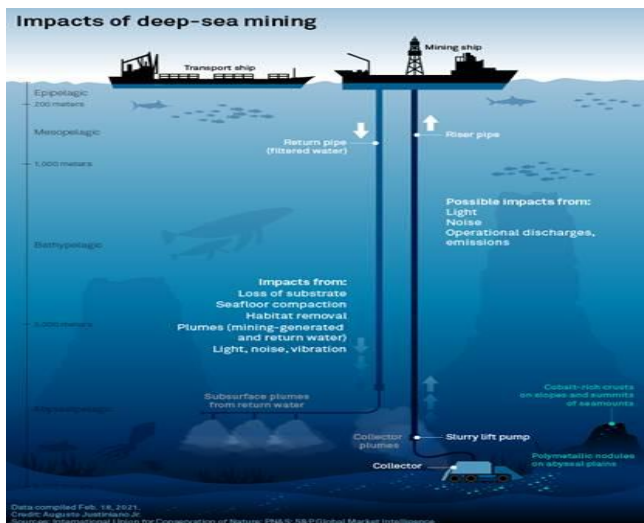
Te Ipukarea Society and the CIVS over the past couple of years have been working together on collaborative projects that include nationwide ocean health awareness raising programmes and the most recent rat eradication project on Suvarrow.

Marumaru Atua is one of three vakas in the history of the CIVS

- Vaka Takitumu in 1992
- Te Au o Tonga in 1994
- Marumaru Atua in 2009

To learn more about the Cook Islands Voyaging Society click [here](#).

## Impacts of Deep Seabed Mining



Predicting the impacts of deep seabed mining.

One of the biggest challenges that we face as a Pacific island nation is the

uncertainty around what could potentially happen if deep seabed mining does take place in the Cook Islands.

Cook Islands Cobalt, CIIC Seabed Resources, and Moana Minerals Ltd currently hold exploration licences for Cook Islands waters. These licences allow them to do exploration in order to determine the viability of future seabed mining operations and inform environmental impact assessments for future commercial seabed mining activities.

For more information on areas that are currently in need of more scientific knowledge, click [here](#).

## Blue Peril

There are many unknowns associated with the deep ocean and deep sea mining.

Blue Peril is a video that builds on the deep sea mining campaign related to the impacts that mining deep sea polymetallic nodules in the Pacific may have.

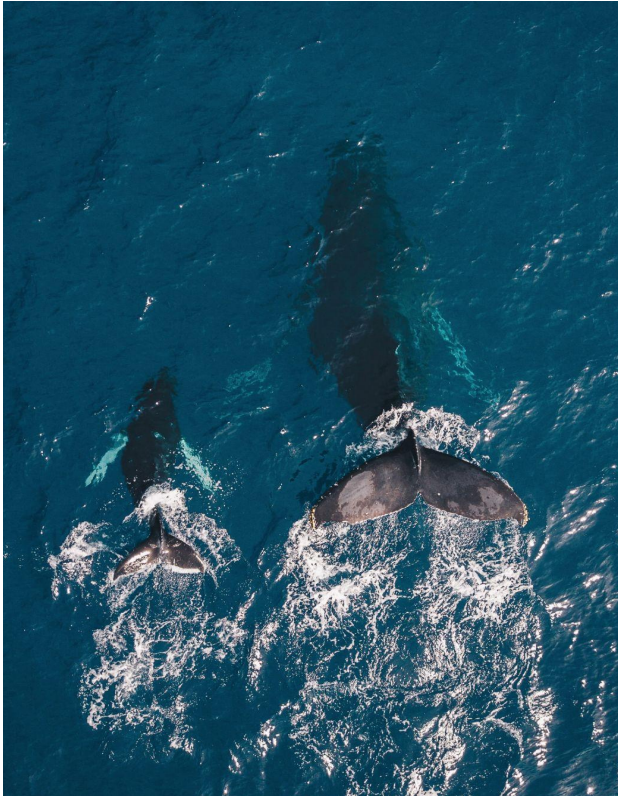
For a more visual representation of the potential impacts that deep sea mining



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could have in the Pacific, click [here](#) to watch.

## Everything whale be alright



Beautiful humpback whales that visit the shores of the Cook Islands. Photo taken from unsplash.

Whales have always captured our hearts, especially the humpback whales that visit our shores from July through to September. These migratory species travel from their cooler feeding grounds in the Antarctic or sub-Antarctic waters to give birth in our warmer Pacific waters.

It is a thrilling experience to sight humpback whales that reach our shores each year, especially after their long journeys from overseas. However, while they are here it is important that we ensure the safety and protection of our guests.

Perhaps it is time to consider following the examples of some other Pacific countries such as New Zealand and Hawaii in looking out for the welfare of our whales. Click [here](#) to read the full article.

## Breaking Records



A wonderful day spent up at the Takitumu Conservation Area with Hugh Robertson, and Kate Simister from the Department of Conservation in New Zealand

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It is always an exciting time for Te Ipukarea Society when Hugh Robertson from the Department of Conservation (DOC) in New Zealand pays a visit to Rarotonga.

Hugh has been collecting and recording valuable data for over 30 years and enjoys any opportunity to educate and upskill local conservationists.

Alanna Smith and Ieremia Samuela were very grateful to be present for the 100th new Kakerori caught during the 2022 census.

## Upcoming Events for September!

### Flying to the Birdlife Congress in England

This month Te Ipukarea Society will be represented at BirdLife's Congress and 100th Anniversary held in Cambridge, UK. TIS Conservation Manager Alanna Smith will be representing our Society, as we are a full member of BirdLife International. Ieremia Samuela will also be representing us as a 'young leader' from the Pacific. Both Alanna and Ieremia will have the opportunity to hear from other BirdLife Partners from around the world about the work they are doing in bird conservation. They will

also be sharing more of the work TIS has been involved with, particularly the recent rat eradication project in Suvarrow.



Ieremia Samuela conducting a transect survey of nesting kota'a populations on Suvarrow 2022

**Fun Fact** - Ieremia has been involved in all three rat eradication projects carried out on Suvarrow through TIS. This being in 2013, 2018 and 2022.

**Have you watched our most recent mini-documentary about the rat eradication project?**



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Anna and Kelvin on their way to get rid of the remaining rats in Suvarrow.

## Suvarrow Cook Islands

The mini-documentary highlights the expedition to Suvarrow via our traditional vaka Marumaru Atua as well as showcasing what practices are involved in conducting a man-powered rat eradication project. Seabird surveys and coconut crab surveys were also discussed as well as the insidious issue of washed up trash.

## Corporate Shoutout

Meitaki Ma'ata to all of our 2022-23 corporate members for your ongoing support in the work we do as well as protecting our environment. Here are some current corporate members who we caught up with during our certificate drop off.



Pictured top left to right 2022-23 corporate members; DayDreamer Resort, Motu Villas, Pacific Resort, Rarotonga Printing, The Cafe, and The Rarotongan.

Corporate members this year also receive a vinyl corporate membership sticker to put on display within their premises to highlight their business as a proud supporter of our environment.



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**Meitaki to our Te Ipukea Society supporters**

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