



TE IPUKAREA SOCIETY

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

Kia Orana e te katoatoa. Teia te nuti no Aukate 2020. Welcome to the August 2020 edition of our newsletter.

Exhibition Launch – Tereora Photography

We hope you can attend the launch event for the Tereora Environmental Photography exhibition, held tonight **Thursday 3rd September at the Bergman Gallery at 5pm.**

A total of 21 individual prints will be displayed in the Bergman Gallery for one week. Each image depicts an environmental message which was of personal significance to the individual student, ranging from waste issues to local biodiversity and invasive species.

The photos are also available for viewing online [HERE](#) thanks to the skills of our wonderful volunteer webmaster, Peter Huckle.



Tereora Student Eileen Vakapora’s photo ‘The Selective Eye’

Meitaki to the US Embassy in NZ for funding to support this project which will continue to roll out over a total of 6 senior schools in Rarotonga, Aitutaki & Atiu.

Read more on this project later in this newsletter.

Volunteer Spotlight

Meet one of our new volunteer executive committee members, Anna Koteka.



Anna Koteka, volunteering for the TIS executive

"I joined Te Ipukarea Society because I wanted to be a part of an organisation led by caring, hardworking, passionate and dedicated environmentalists and conservationists. I saw and heard about the work carried out by the TIS team and the work they continue to do with limited resources, funding and hands on deck – and I wanted to show my appreciation for their work and volunteered so I could help them in some small way.

Also, Rarotonga has been my home for 30+ years and I have seen the changes to the land and sea and people's ways of life that 'progress' has wrought. Not all of it is good, so I also wanted to educate myself about how I can do my part in helping slow down the degradation."

Meitaki ma'ata to our new Corporate Sponsors

We wish to extend a heartfelt Meitaki Ma'ata to our new corporate sponsors, Prime Foods and Capital Security Bank who both recently joined our Society as Gold Corporate Sponsors!

This support is greatly appreciated, especially given the difficult year everyone has had with the Covid19 pandemic.



We also have been very generously donated 20 pairs of beautiful Raukura (feather) earrings from NZ based company [O Te Motu Creations](http://www.otemotucorrections.com) to sell as a fundraiser to support our society's mahi.



These are upcycled from bicycle inner tubes and come in medium and large. You may have seen these or similar



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adorning Jacinda Ardern (Aunty Cindy). Come into our office for a wee look!

Is Kelvin Passfield the ultimate conscious consumer?

Consumers the world over are shining a light on the true cost of fast fashion industry in terms of the earth's resources and human cost.

In direct contrast to this, staff at Te Ipukarea Society are treated on a daily basis to the delightful, sustainable fashion choices made by the boss himself, Kelvin Passfield.



While many would argue strongly against the use of the words 'fashionable' or even 'conscious' for that matter, when describing the chosen outfit options of our Technical Director, you can't deny it is most definitely reused, recycled and (dare we say it), responsible.

Kelvin's T shirts range from clothes donated, gifted, borrowed and many received from various workshops, conferences or environmental causes he has been involved in over many, many years.

The earliest T shirt we have witnessed to date is the colourful flower power shirt dating back to 2004, received at a cycling hash harriers event in Bangkok. Other shirts include:

- 2009 Cycle 2 Work Day



- 2009 Western & Central Fisheries Commission, Port Villa, Vanuatu
- Cook Islands Earth Hour - year unknown
- 2012 Cook Islands Waste, made by Jacqui Evan's
- 2012 Western & Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Korea – Pictures of various Tuna
- 2015 Iconic Ani O'Neill: Unless & No Fish No Future for the anti purse-seine fishing marches
- Auckland Grafton Hall shirt by Alfred Wigmore
- 2018 Samoa perimeter relay



Environment through the Lens of Youth

As previously mentioned, we are celebrating the culmination of the past 6 weeks working with the Year 12 Environmental Sustainability class at Tereora College with a photographic exhibition launch.

Tereora College students Hereiti File and Charlene Akaruru share their thoughts on their experience of the recent field trip.

First, we went up Takuvaine Valley, to see the natural terraces of the pai taro plantations. Dr Teina Rongo guided us, describing the traditional methods of planting as we went along. He talked about how terracing (which is the levelling of the land in balcony-like platforms) was the central method for the pai taro.

He also spoke of the native and invasive species of plants that inhabited the valley, such as the tai tapu plant (a miniature orange, native bloom) known by fishermen, to indicate when it is whale season by its blooming flowers.

A cluster of utu bananas, that grow in an upwards direction hence the name 'utu', were also observed and described as being a very sensitive fruiting tree.

The mountain Te Kou (kou meaning fog) was very visible at the time of our visit. We were told the fog becomes present as a result of warm winds coming from the North mixing with the cool Southern winds.



In the thick of it at ICI Arorangi landfill. Photo courtesy of Tokerau Jim Images

Next stop was the local landfill in Arorangi Infrastructure Cook Islands. It was a real eye-opener to see our local landfill and its current state, overflowing with rubbish, mostly plastic waste.

Fortunately, glass can be crushed and turned into fine sand for construction purposes, though more work needs to be done in encouraging the sales of crushed glass, as sand is still the preferred material for concrete use.



Travelling in electric style thanks to Magic Reef Bungalows

Our form of transport for the day was made up of fully electric cars sponsored by Magic Reef Bungalows. We saw how their sustainable tourist accommodation generates much of its power from solar

energy to assist in charging their cars as well as other useful in-house practices such as making ice.

The Takitumu Conservation Area was next on our list of sites. It is home to the endemic kakerori, or Rarotongan flycatcher, and numerous native plants. The Conservation Area was a special site to capture various shots from greenery to native birds. One of our classmates was even able to photograph a grey unbanded (hasn't been caught and banded yet during the census which happens every two years) kakerori.

Lastly, we visited Avana Point and were greeted by Mauri Toa, who spoke about the history of the area as well as old legends told about the site. Avana Point provided a different environment to the previous sites with the ocean, waves, motu views and the makatea for us to capture through photos.



Tereora photography session on the makatea at Avana Point

With our final chosen shot we edit we aim to portray an environmental message that we hope will inspire others to become more conscious of our surroundings and how look after our natural resources.

A Loo with a View

It's nesting season and the birds are out in force. Mental note to always keep a camera in the toilet if you're lucky enough to have a Loo with a View like this one!

These shots are of one of our favourite endemic Cook Island birds, the Kukupa (Fruit Dove) enjoying the Mulberries fruiting at the moment.

If you have any great shots or footage of Cook Island native birds please share them with us for our upcoming Bird of the Year campaign.



A Kukupa (fruit dove) enjoying some juicy mulberries.

Feral Felines: Love them or hate them please de-sex them, for the sake of our seabirds

Is it just us? Or are there more stray cats out and about lately. At our Te Ipukarea Society office we have noticed several cats lurking around and have also been told by lots of people of sightings of many strays around too.

We use a cat trap as a humane way of catching live cats which can then be taken to the wonderful vet Te Are Manu. De-sexing means they no longer contribute to the wild cat population that is so high on our islands.

According to Google, one female stray cat in their reproductive lifetime can contribute 420,000 cats to the cat population!

Each cat caught in our trap could have had litters of 5 cats per litter and 3 litters per year on average. That is 15 cats prevented per year, by de-sexing ONE female cat alone. Of course, this number then multiplies each year.

Why are we concerned about cats? Cats are an introduced species to the Cook Islands that have had a major predatory impact on native biodiversity.



A feral cat with a Hawaiian petrel

Of particular concern is the impact that cats can have on our native birds, especially those that nest at ground level. This might be along the shore or in inland shrublands, or in burrows under trees.

Some of these threatened, ground nesting species include the Black Winged Petrel, which may still nest on Atiu, the Audubon Shearwater on Mangaia and the Herald Petrel on Rarotonga. Human related impacts, including the introduction of predators such as cats and rats have resulted in the poor conservation status for many of these seabirds today.



Photo: G. McCormack

The last recorded sighting of the Titi (Black winged petrel) in Rarotonga was in the 1980s (Photo courtesy of Gerald McCormack)

The Herald petrel can sometimes be seen on Rarotonga soaring over the interior ridgelines and peaks, during the winter period in the late afternoon. Although no physical nests have been found, their continued presence on Rarotonga over the years suggests the potential for the species to be nesting here.

The Black Winged Petrel also locally known as the Titi has been recorded on Mangaia, Rarotonga and Atiu. Sadly it has all but disappeared due to the arrival of humans and introduced predators. There has only been one recorded sighting of the Titi on Rarotonga, made in the late 1980s.

The record was of an injured Titi, found in a burrow amongst the roots of a small ironwood tree along with a damaged egg.

While Te Are Manu does not have cat traps available, Henry Wichman (55790) provides a trap rental service for \$45 for 7 days (but free if returned within 3 days) and will take the cat to Te Are Manu for an additional fee.

Henry's 'pet peeve' is when those people leaving the island drop their pet cats off at supermarkets or hotels to fend for themselves. Or if people catch cats only to then deliver them to the other side of the island creating a problem for someone else.

Meitaki from all of us at Te Ipukarea Society! If you want to get involved with Te Ipukarea Society, come in to our office for a chat! (next door to Bamboo Jacks) or send us a message.



Our Te Ipukarea Society team at the Pride Cook Islands quiz night fundraiser

MEITAKI

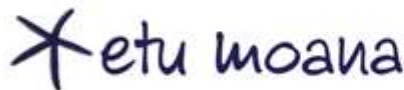
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