



## TE IPUKAREA SOCIETY

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

### Suvarrow Rat Race Fundraiser

Suvarrow is the Cook Islands' only national park and it is globally recognized as an Important Bird Area for nesting seabirds such as tropicbirds, boobies, frigates and the bristle thighed curlew.

Unfortunately on our recent northern group voyage we found kiore or polynesian rats (*rattus exulans*) present on one of the smaller motu in Suvarrow. Now we need to act fast to stop them from spreading further.



We have costed \$50,000 for materials and to charter the traditional vaka Marumaru Atua to sail to Suvarrow together with a crew of helpers. We are looking forward to partnering with the National Environment Service on this project, as we have done in the past.

Please, if you are able, join us in this 'Rat Race Against Time' campaign by donating to this fund to rid Suvarrow 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](#)

Read more about this campaign [on our TIS webpage](#).

### Tereora Prizegiving & Youth Internship



Alanna Smith with Level 12 Biology winner Itirangi Pennycook at Tereora prizegiving

Te Ipukarea Society was once again proud to sponsor the Year 12 Biology Prize at Tereora College this year. Congratulations to Itirangi Pennycook for winning this prize!

As well as a cash prize and TIS bottle, we are excited to also offer Itirangi a paid summer

internship starting soon. Our Dame Margaret Karika Environmental Internship provides a great opportunity for a wide range of learning and experience and a chance to learn about working for an environmental NGO.

## Upcoming Event – Experiences from the Tāua o te Moana Voyage & Ocean Health

Together with Kōrero o te 'Ōrau and the Cook Islands Voyaging Society, we are hosting our Ocean Health presentation event on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> December at Tamarind House.

Everyone is welcome to attend, to hear about our experiences from the recent Marumarū Atua voyage across the Pa 'Enua.

There will be videos and presentations covering a range of topics from fishing to marine pollution and deep sea mining. We look forward to seeing you at the event and welcome your thoughts and feedback on the night.

## Te Manu o te Mata'iti - Bird of the Year Cook Islands 2021



The second ever Bird of the Year Cook Islands competition saw the Kurāmo'o (Blue Lorieet/ Vini Peruviana) take top spot. Congratulations to the Kurāmo'o Krew Darryn Tamarua and Luis Ortez Catedral who ran an incredible campaign! [Final Te Manu o te Matai'i results here.](#)

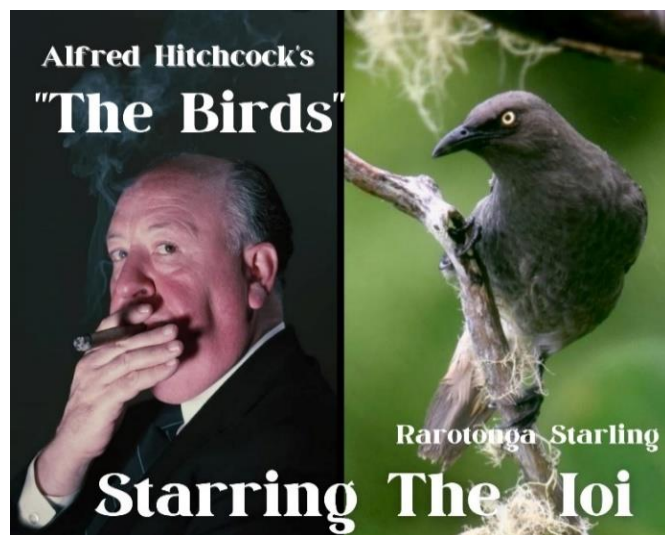
Kurāmo'o originates from French Polynesia but has been naturalised in Aitutaki since around 1830. Once widespread throughout Tahiti, Society Islands

and the Tuamotu Islands, today it is extinct on Tahiti, but fortunately still present on 8 islands in French Polynesia and is currently thriving in Aitutaki.



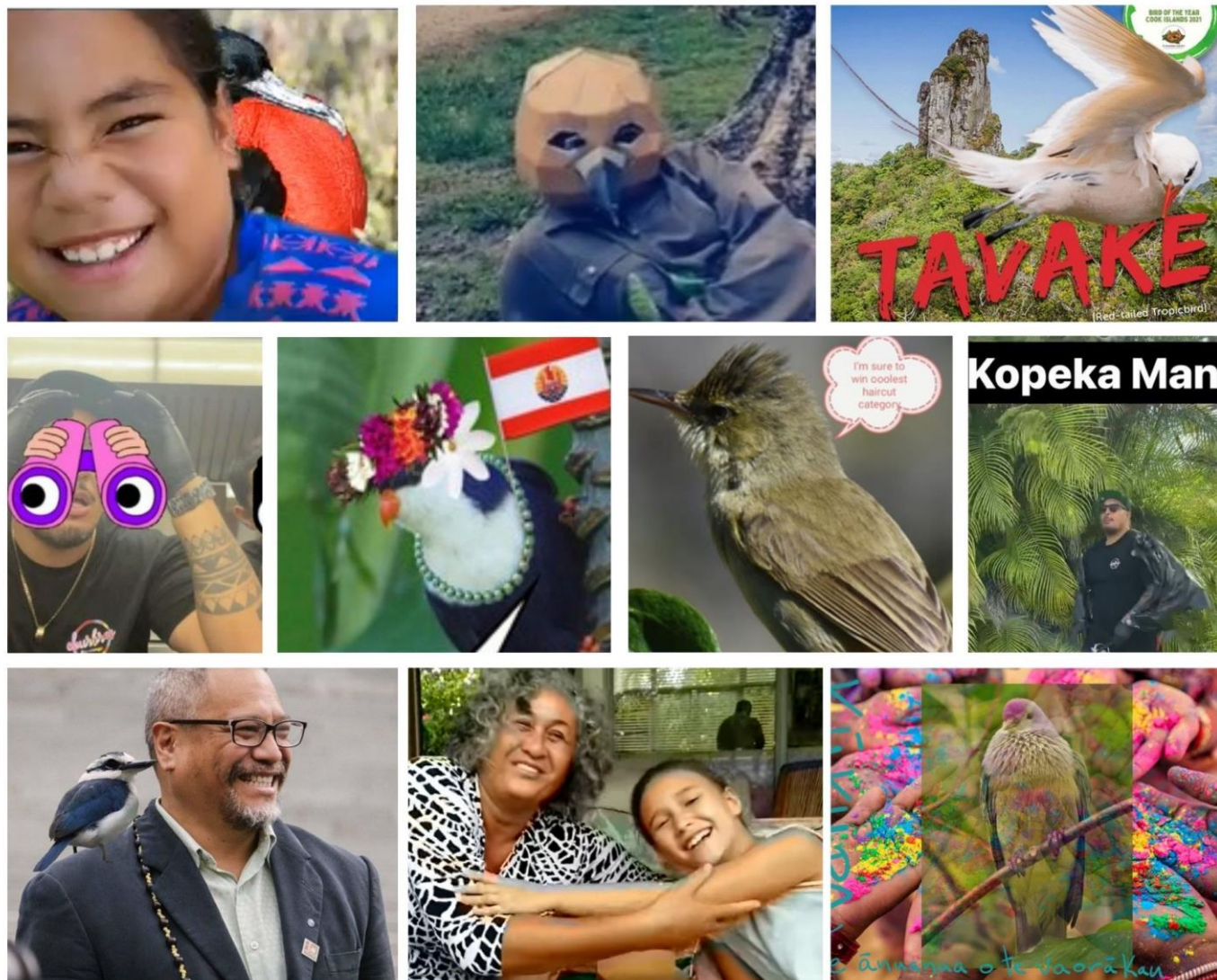
The level of interest this year was quite incredible. Having campaign managers behind the individual birds has resulted in a wide variety of entertaining campaigns, from social media reels, memes, bribery and even a rap.

This year saw a fierce competition for top spot, between the Kurāmo'o and the endemic 'Ōi (Rarotongan Starling), both running exceptional campaigns.



We also had two 8 year old campaigners this year. Sose Leuta has starred in some fantastic videos all about the Kōta'a (Frigatebird). Ari George campaigned for the extinct Kiko'i (Maui Starling), a close relation to the 'Ōi but endemic to Maui and offered a \$1million reward for finding one alive.





Just some of the fantastic campaigns for this year's Te Manu o te Mata'iti – Bird of the Year Cook Islands 2021

## Privy Council Update - Purse Seine Fishing

At last, after many years since we started discussions with the Cook Islands government on the expansion of the purse seine industrial fishery, we have finally now had the Privy Council hearing.

Due to COVID, it was held virtually on 17th November in the UK. You can watch the replay of the proceedings on line by [Clicking this Link](#) and finding the correct case.

Many of you may recall the protest marches in 2015, with Dame Margaret Karika leading from the front, and Doreen Boggs Iwith the megaphone, Auraka e kupenga!.



Then there was the petition calling for a ban on purse seine fishing, which more than half of the voting public in the Cook Islands signed in 2015.

This was followed by a court case in July 2017, with Te Ipukarea Society and the Aronga



Mana of Te au o Tonga, through William Framhein, seeking a judicial review of the issuing of new licences. We lost that case, but took it to the Cook Islands Court of Appeal in 2018.



This time we won on some very important points of law, i.e. the Government, unlawfully, failed to conduct an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), and failed to apply the precautionary approach. Government was directed to obtain and consider an EIA within 12 months, and to publish the results.

The Government appealed that decision to the highest court available for the Cook Islands, which is the Privy Council in England.

At the same time, William Framhein appealed the decision from the Appeal Court which basically stated that the Aronga Mana and Te Ipukarea Society, are not considered significant stakeholders in the fishery.

We now await the decision of the Privy Council and wish to thank lawyers Isaac Hikaka and Jack Cundy at Lee Salmon Long for their impressive efforts and generous pro bono work.

### TIS the Season for a Christmas Giveaway

Our insulated 1.2 litre bottles are a great christmas present option and you have the chance to win one with our Sustainabilitree Competition!

This competition is open to everyone in the Cook Islands, including the Pa Enua. The top 3 winners

will receive one of our new TIS bottles. Rules are as follows:

1. The tree cannot be plastic
2. No new store bought items
3. Must pose next to your sustainabilitree.



Tag us in social media Facebook @tiscookislands and Instagram @te\_ipukarea\_society or email your entries in to TIS before Thursday December 23<sup>rd</sup> by 10am.

### Deep Stuff for Deep Week



Alanna Smith speaking on the Deep Shorts series as part of the Deep Week online event this week

This week is Deep Week which is an online event sharing global voices about the deep-sea mining.

Alanna Smith spoke at the Deep Week event about some of the concerns that communities across the Cook Islands and Pacific have about deep-sea mining. A recording of this can be found [here](#).

Our TIS Documentary 'Deep Conversations' was also shown at the event to a wide audience on the 29<sup>th</sup> November.

One of the unmissable short films produced for this year's DeepWeek is a doco called 'In Too Deep' which provides a beautifully presented, easy to follow overview of deep-sea mining. [You can watch it here](#).

*We have also arranged to play it on Cook Islands Television this Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm.*

## Other Deep Stuff

Submissions on the three applications for Exploratory Licenses in the Cook Islands close this Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December at 12pm. TIS has prepared a submission which will soon be made publicly available. If you wish to have your voice heard, please put your submission in, [details found here](#).

In case you missed it, journalist Rachel Reeves has written an exposé on seabed mining in the Cook Islands which is worth a read [here](#).

## Muddy Buddy School Holiday Eco Walk

During the October school holidays, TIS and Muri Environment Care (MEC) ran a free school holiday activity to take children on an eco-stream walk along Aremango Stream and the Aroko salt marsh.

It was an opportunity to get muddy and learn about the stream and lagoon environment, while chatting about what they found, including freshwater fish, crabs, plants and birds.

Learning about healthy streams requires an understanding of what makes up healthy soil. Brennan Panzarella did a 'Jar Test' demonstration to identify different types of soil in Rarotonga and how sediment can be a problem for stream and lagoon life after big rains.

Using a quadrant, we counted Kō'iti Raukura (fiddler crab) burrows in the salt marsh and considered the impacts that concrete culverts were having with the deposition of sediment.

There was a lot of curiosity around all of the stream critters, especially the many tuna/ eels that generated some impressive responses.

Meitaki to TIS members who volunteered to help on the day including Brennan and Ra Tangaroa.



***Meitaki ma'ata from all of us at Te Ipukarea Society.***



# MEITAKI

to our generous supporters

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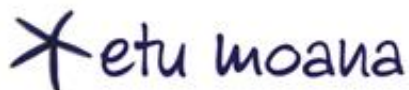
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