

August Issue # 19 Climate Change Cook Islands Office of the Prime Minister

Outboard motors for Rakahanga

After much anticipation and eagerness the people of Rakahanga finally realised the fulfilment of their dreams when five brand new outboard motors for the five villages eventually landed. According to SRIC officer Rob Matapo, it has taken just under a year to finally deliver on the request from a proposal that was submitted to the SRIC climate change office by the Rakahanga SRIC Focal Point officer Mr Nga Takai. It was a joyous celebration on the island at the blessing of the outboard motors on the 15th of this month.



Pictured here is Mr Nga Takai SRIC Focal Point officer and the Orometua with the outboard motors at the blessing ceremony, 15th Aug, 2015 (Picture provided by Mr Nga Takai).

The arrival of the outboard motors is timely for the tuna season in the Northern Cooks. Consumers on the main island Rarotonga can expect a flood of dried fish products to hit the shelves by Christmas.

Cook Islands Coastal Calculator

According to Infrastructure Cook Islands Engineer Mr Paul Maoate, the Cook Islands coastal calculator took several months to develop after two years of data collation which was inputted into a formula to generate the calculations. "One of the best things about this coastal calculator is that its' database includes all the islands of the Cook Islands, from Mangaia in the south to Penrhyn in the north. This means that we can easily use this calculator for the building of other coastal infrastructure in any of our 15 islands. We've already used it to design a new wharf for the island of Manihiki" says Paul. The harbour in Mangaia was the first designed using the

coastal calculator to withstand extreme weather conditions.



The recently renovated Mangaia Harbour designed by applying the coastal calculator method.

Evident of safety in this new design is seen by the wave action that no longer generates whirlpools in rough conditions. The harbour is now safer for fishermen and the general public who also use the area for swimming and family picnics.

Silver Surfers (Rauti Para) hit "KATA"

The Rauti Para tablet training project for seniors has certainly captured national affection when it hit 'KATA' of the local Cook Islands News. KATA is the cartoonist feature of the local newspaper that captures and depicts iconic or popular national views and sentiments with humour. It featured after the article 'Silver Surfers' from the Global Climate Change Alliance site was featured in the local newspaper on Tuesday 19th August. Next day Wednesday 20th August the cartoon below appeared in the KATA section of the Cook Islands newspaper. (KATA means laugh or laughter).



Taken from the Cook Islands News dated Wednesday 20 August 2014 (Mokopunas mean grandchildren)

Karangaranga (local talkback show) on "Burning" of tyres and plastics

In collaboration with the Ministry of Health, Climate Change Cook Islands held a Karangaranga session on Radio Cook Islands on Thursday 21st August to seek public opinion on the burning of organic rubbish, old tyres and plastics. Under the Health Act 2004, the burning of tyres and plastics is banned in the Cook Islands with a penalty of one thousand dollars for infringement of the Act. Those who called the station, all women, were surprised with the hefty fine, in addition, all of them have never heard of the Act. Dr Rongo explained that the heavy fine emphasises that Government is committed to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) on the reduction of green house gas emissions into the atmosphere. Callers suggested some ways of reducing burning, such as allocating a special unit to collect the different types of waste on designated days and areas.



Celine Dyer, Dr Teina Rongo from Climate Change Cook Islands with Tata Vaeau from the Ministry of Health, 21st August 2014 (Photo by Ana Tiraa)

Celebration on Nassau

People on Nassau has course to celebrate after receiving news that their proposal for a boat, with a trailer and outboard motor was approved by the SRIC Programme. The good news was conveyed to the council via a phone conversation by the SRIC Programme Manager Mr William Tuivaga and the Nassau SRIC Focal Point Mrs Manini Tuatai. Council member were ecstatic with the news and are already making preparations for the arrival of the consignment to the island. Nassau island is one of the

most isolated in the Cook Islands with a population of seventy people. Although it is under the jurisdiction of Pukapuka, the people have their own council who manages the island under a communal system. The boat will be used by the community for fishing which will reduce dependency on the only other boat on the island owned by the Ministry of Marine Resources. According to Programme Manager Mr William Tuivaga, the consignment will be delivered on the first boat to Nassau.



Mrs Manini Tuatai SRIC Focal Point for Nassau with William Tuivaga SRIC Programme Manager 27 August 2014 (Photo by Celine Dyer)

Presentation at Nukutere College

Climate Change Cook Islands Director Ana Tiraa paid a visit to Nukutere College on Friday 22 to present the second and third place prizes of the Lagoon Day school challenge. Prizes presented included an ipad mini, a hp tablet and a ten dollar mobile top up for each student who performed.



Ana Tiraa Director Climate Change Cook Islands presenting the prizes to Nukutere College second and third place winners. 22 August 2014 (Photo by Michelle Foster)

Kura Tauī'anga Reva

Kura Kuriri

Dr Teina Rongo attended the Ocean Acidification workshop in Samoa from 26 – 27 August 2014.

Ana Tiraa Director of Climate Change Cook Islands and Lavinia Tama from Ministry of Finance and Economic Development will attend USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific Third Annual Forum 2014 in Bangkok.

MORE PHOTOTS FROM THE RAKAHANGA BLESSING CEREMONY



Till next time...Kia Manuia