

## July Issue # 18 Climate Change Cook Islands Office of the Prime Minister

***“Step Forward, not Backwards, E Takai koe ki Mua, Auraka ki Muri”...***

The Lagoon Day theme for this year, which was celebrated on 17 and 18 July at the Punanganui Market. Climate Change Cook Islands was fortunate to be allocated undercover site on the old stage at Punanganui. The main message delivered to the throngs of schools that came through our site were; the causes of climate change, types of activities and main gas emitters in Cook Islands, the effects of excess carbon dioxide to our ocean and biodiversity. The take home message for students was what we can do as individuals to reduce green house gas emission in Cook Islands such as walking or cycling to school.



***Enthusiastic students from Avarua School interested in being future scientists 18July 2014 (Photo by Celine Dyer)***

The Climate Change school performance challenge proved to be a popular hit with last minute entrants from the Pa Enuā Colleges and from schools around Rarotonga. Videos of school performances were released on the Climate Change face book page where the public can like their favourite performance for second and third placing. First placing was awarded by the Climate Change team to Takitumu school with their ***‘sick world’*** performance that clearly depicted the consequences of climate change to our world.

At the close of the voting, Nukutere College took out the second and third placing wins with their performance songs.

What wowed the crowd even more were two soloist performances from Avarua Primary School. Teamate spoke in Maori about the issuing of fishing licences to foreign fishing entities that is threatening food security in the Cook Islands whilst Maiata spoke in Maori on “land based activities impacting the marine biodiversity” and in English on “invasive species”. Both girl’s were very impressive, hitting the right issues, that the climate change team decided to award them prizes for their special performances.

<https://www.facebook.com/#!/sriccookislands>

Videos on school performances can be viewed on the climate change face book page above.



***Crowds awaiting for the Climate Change school performance challenge show during lunch break at Punanganui Market 18July 2014 (Photo by Michelle Foster)***



***Aitutaki College students entertaining the crowd with their performance 18July 2014 (Photo by Michelle Foster)***

This was perhaps the most rewarding and exciting Lagoon Day with Climate Change involvement. Thanks to our climate change Lagoon Day organiser Michelle Foster and helpers for doing a fantastic job. And also a big thank you, to SRIC, for sponsoring the prizes for the school performance challenge and the quizzes.

## Kura Tauī'anga Reva



*Avarua student Teamate who vowed the crowd with her Maori rendition of the impacts of climate change in Cook Islands particularly the threat to food security by the continuing practice of issuing fishing licenses to foreign fishing fleets 18 July 2014 (Photo by Michelle Foster)*

### ***Koutu Nui annual conference 16 July***

We were invited to the Koutu Nui annual conference to present on the “***Impacts of climate change on land and people***”.



*Dr Teina Rongo presenting at the Koutu Nui conference 16 July 2014 at Takuvaine AOG Church (Photo by Celine Dyer)*

Members of the Koutu Nui from the Pa Enuā were particularly enthusiastic and interested with the SPC EU GCCA PSIS and SRIC projects that are being implemented on the different islands. Dr Rongo alluded them to the SRIC Focal Points on their respective islands if they are interested in putting together a project proposal. Dr Rongo highlighted the findings from the Rauti Para questionnaire indicating local examples that confirmed the occurrence of climate change in our islands. Whilst Celine directed attention to Kaveinga Tapapa the Climate & Disaster Compatible Development policy which is the Cook Islands national response mechanism to climate change.

Copies of the Maori policy were also distributed to members of the Koutu Nui.



*Some members of the Koutu Nui listening attentively to Dr Rongo's presentation 16 July 2014 (Photo by Celine Dyer)*

### ***Platform Meeting 15 July***

Second Platform meeting was held on Tuesday 15 July at the Cook Islands National Council of Women headquarters in Tauae. We were privileged with the presence of Professor John Hay who gave an update on the progress of the SRDP.



*Professor John Hay giving an update on the progress of the SRDP to Platform members 15 July 2014 (Photo by Celine Dyer)*

Paul Maoate the Project Manager on the Mangaia harbour gave a presentation on the new revamped harbour in Mangaia that has been built to withstand more adverse climate events. The project was in conjunction with PACC and SPREP.

According to Paul, climate proofing the harbour involved the widening and deepening of the channel, erection of a spending zone, platform extension, ramp relocation with raised rock wall on both sides of the

## Kura Tauī'anga Reva

harbour. The harbour was officially opened earlier this year.



*The revamped Mangaia harbour built to withstand more intense cyclone events presented by Paul Maaote (Photo by Paul Maaote)*

Coordinator of the USP GCCA: PSIS Programme Ms Vaine Wichman reported that materials for the construction and installation of 6,000 litre water tanks for fifteen homes in the village of Te Tautua in Penryhn has been landed on the island awaiting construction. The lagoon side of the village of Omoka will receive a rehabilitation of small boat landings for the families of Omoka village.

### ***Are Pa Metua embraces technology***

The Rauti Para free tablet training for seniors is continuing at Are Pa Metua on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. This is a one hour training session per day and all seniors are welcome to attend on any of these days.



*Tapu Metuarau and Mereina Murphy learning the tablet at Are Pa Metua 22 July 2014 (Photo by Celine Dyer)*

The initiative is to give seniors who attend Are Pa Metua the opportunity to learn and practice on the tablet as part of their day activity. This will also keep their minds active whilst also providing the opportunity to communicate with families and friends abroad as well as with the sharing and accessing of information. Since the tablet training started at Are Pa Metua, the number of attendees has increased threefold.

You can follow our mamas and papas on the Rauti Para facebook page and like our page.

[https://www.facebook.com/#!/rautipara?ref\\_type=bookmark](https://www.facebook.com/#!/rautipara?ref_type=bookmark)

### ***Kura Kuriri***

#### ***New face onboard...***

We extend a warm welcome to Manini Tuatai, the SRIC Focal Point for the island of Nassau. Manini is currently based at the Climate Change Division and undergoing extensive training to familiarise herself with her roles and responsibilities. Under the guidance of SRIC Programme Manager William Tuivaga, Manini is also putting together proposals under the SRIC Programme for Nassau. Manini is adamant that these new initiatives will be a great improvement to the lives of the people on Nassau as they endeavour to build a resilience community to the adverse effects of climate change.



*Mrs Manini Tuatai the SRIC Focal Point for the island of Nassau 15 July 2014 (Photo by Celine Dyer)*

**Till next time.... Kia Manuia**