

June Issue # 28 Climate Change Cook Islands Office of the Prime Minister

'Dr Please help me fight the Namu kill the mosquito namu'



Charlie Ave and Tata Vaeau with new stock of chemicals in readiness for mosquito outbreak (Photo by Celine Dyer)

In preparations for further outbreak of mosquito borne diseases, the Public Health division of the Ministry of Health received further assistance from the Strengthening the Resilience of Island Communities to Climate Change (SRIC CC) programme of the Adaptation Fund to purchase more chemicals. With the upcoming Te Maeva Nui celebrations many people from overseas are expected to congregate on Rarotonga including those from the outer islands. Public health is readying itself to prevent any outbreaks during this time. Public health is grateful for the new stock of chemicals from SRIC CC which will alleviate pressure on their meagre resources.

CLEWS project moving forward

CLEWS, stands for climate early warning system which is a project funded by SRIC CC to provide warning systems for all the outer islands of the Cook Islands. The initiative was a proposal put forward by the Meteorological Office so each island can monitor their climate and feed the information through to the geo-portal stationed at Emergency Management Cook Islands. Ideally, the public will have regular access to updated weather information that will assist them with planning daily and future activities in the efforts to build resilience to the adverse impacts of climate change. The tender

process for the procurement of equipment entailed stringent adherence to guidelines set out by the funders. This required a police presence, representative from the audit office, implementing agency and SRIC CC.



Tender committee at the opening of the tender box on Friday 19 June (Photos by Celine Dyer)



Mr Arona Ngari Director of Meteorology and the tender committee 19 June (Photo by Celine Dyer)

The next step of the process is for the committee to sit and go through the documents one by one to discern the credibility following a criteria ranking system. It is hoped that the early warning systems project will start rolling out to the Pa Enua by the end of this year.

SRIC CC carries out evaluation in Atiu 11/12 June

The SRIC CC team lead by William Tuivaga the Programme Manager, Ann Roi and Mia Teaurima took flight to Atiu for two days to carry out a project audit and evaluation for the midterm report. Whilst there the team met with the Island Council to discuss any identified issues resulting from the water tank project.

Kura Tau'i'anga Reva



*SRIC CC team meeting with the Atiu Island Council 11/12 June
(Photo provided by Mia Taurima)*

Platform Meeting 11 June



Stakeholders at the platform meeting 11 June (Photo by Celine Dyer)

The SRIC CC programme reported upcoming projects include, a refresher training on the Log Frame Approach (LFA) proposal writing workshop in quarter four. Mangaia agriculture is currently underway including the Tamarua water project. The climate early warning systems (CLEWS) implemented by the Meteorological Office is at the tendering stage. The upgrade to the Tauhunu hydroponics and construction of the Tukao hydroponics is to commence implementation later this year. Pukapuka will receive fencing around taro patches to keep animals out, Outboard motors for the islands of Atiu and Penryhn were approved for implementation. Atiu requested the outboard motor to travel to Takutea to carry out monitoring exercises on the marine and land wildlife since the island is a wildlife sanctuary. The Penryhn outboard motor will replace the old motor that drives the barge between the two villages.

Rakahanga is considering milkfish farming utilising the existing fish pond that has been filled in as a walkway. A partnership with the Ministry of Marine Resources and SRIC CC to repopulate the island of Rakahanga with paua will commence in quarter three. Another partnership between the two is the upcoming marine officers training on Penryh island.

SRIC CC and the Ministry of Marine Resources has signed another partnership agreement to employ a laboratory technical advisor to help the Pa Enea attain seafood standards on marine products. Attaining the seafood standard will enable the Pa Enea to commercialise seafood products.

PACTVET - Sarah Hemstock



Sarah Hemstock from USP giving a briefing at the platform meeting (Photo by Celine Dyer)

PACTVET is a partnership project between the European Union (EU), Secretariat of the Pacific Commission (SPC), University of the South Pacific (USP) aimed at enhancing sustainable livelihoods in 15 Pacific, African and Caribbean countries. The goal is to create capacity and technical expertise to respond to climate change adaptation and sustainable energy challenges of Pacific, African and Caribbean islands (PACs). Sarah Hemstock was here to conduct a two day workshop seeking agencies interested in hosting the program in the Cook Islands.

Mayors Workshop



Dr Teina Rongo doing a presentation at the Mayors workshop 28 May

Climate Change Cook Islands took part in the Mayors workshop considering that many projects in the Pa Enua are climate change related. Both Dr Rongo and William Tuivaga gave presentations pertaining to the science of climate change and projects under the SRIC CC programme. It is envisaged that the Mayors will have a better understanding of the kind of climate related projects that can qualify for SRIC funding.

The Bike 2 School Week competition, which ran from June 22 to 26, invited students to bike to school instead of using motorised transportation such as a car or scooter. The aim was to persuade the youngsters that biking to school is better for the environment, better for your health, and saves you money. The competition was closely contested, with Rutaki and Takitumu battling it out for first place. Rutaki ended up with first place, Takitumu was second and Papaaroa in third. Other schools also did well, including Nukutere College, Arorangi Primary School, Apii Nikao, Te Uki Ou, and Imanuela. *(TIS release)*



Apii Rutaki wins the bicycle rack (photo provided by Rutaki School)

Kura-Kuriri

The Agriculture forum on "Agriculture in the face of climate change" will be on the 7-8 July at USP from 630 – 8pm in the evenings. All is welcome and encouraged to attend this useful information sharing opportunity. Open to the public.

A workshop with the Northern Group senior school students is planned for the 26 - 31 July.

Celine Dyer is off to Laos to attend a one week workshop on vulnerability & adaptation assessment from the 29 June - 3 July

Ana Tiraa is off to Fiji to attend a Green Climate Fund (GCF) meeting 27 - 29 July.



Tukao school students on their bikes (Photo by Rangī Mitaera)