

August Issue # 30 Climate Change Cook Islands Office of the Prime Minister

Pa Enua Focal Points

The Te Maeva Nui celebrations was an opportunity to catch up with the SRIC Focal points from the Northern Group in terms of updating their skills whilst also to follow up on projects approved for their respective islands.



Thomas Taime (left) with William Tuivaga, SRIC Programme Manager (Photo by Celine Dyer)

Focal Point from Tongareva Mr Thomas Taime spent time in the climate change office with William Tuivaga going through the SRIC processes. Thomas also got involved with the procurement process by following up on materials destined for the school project on Tongareva which was developed at the recent climate change school workshop. Thomas returned to Tongareva and will return to Rarotonga in October for further training.



Moto Finiasi Agriculture officer with John McLeod Focal Point both from Manihiki discussing hydroponics (Photo by Celine Dyer)

Focal Point from Manihiki Mr John McLeod also followed up on the hydroponics project for Tauhunu and Tukao which is long overdue. John will stay on to follow up on the materials required to start up the hydroponics for both villages on Manihiki and the cold pressed virgin coconut oil project for Manihiki. Hopefully, these materials will be ready for shipment at the next boat to Manihiki.

Youths to Samoa



Ana Tiraa and Napa Banaba being interviewed on local tv (Photo by Celine Dyer)

Napa Banaba from Rakahanga Rakuraku school was picked to attend the South -south Sub-regional Youth Conference in Samoa which ran from 24-28 August. Napa received the best male student award at the recent SRIC climate change proposal workshop in July and was therefore chosen to attend the Samoa conference. Napa was accompanied by Ann-Marie Roi from the Climate Change office.



Napa Banaba and Ann-Marie Roi in Samoa 24 - 28 August (Photo provided by Ann Roi)

Our two participants were asked to give a presentation, so they presented on the project

Kura Tau'i'anga Reva

proposals developed by the Northern Group senior students. According to Ann and Napa, they were interviewed on Samoan radio and television to which they spoke on the SRIC activities and projects in Cook Islands. Take away lesson from the workshop; the participants from Tuvalu, Tokelau and Samoa of twenty three participants and the workshop organisers learnt more from the two Cook Island delegates than from the workshop itself.

Mitiaro water scoping



SRIC engineer consultant Mr Ben Parakoti with Project officer Mr Mia Teaurima off the plane from Mitiaro.

The two SRIC consultants carried out a re-assessment of the Mitiaro original proposal requesting for 20,000 litre cyclical concrete water tanks per household. Seemingly, this proposal would cost the project far beyond the allocated amount, considering the needs of other islands. Assessments on the 58 households revealed good roof conditions with some water catchment systems missing. Overall, the people of Mitiaro consented to reduce the water tank capacity from 20,000 to 10,000 litre concrete water tank per household. The people were also ecstatic about the installation of water purification systems at central locations around the island.



An uncompleted water purification unit at the Mitiaro school (Photo by Mia Teaurima)

Progress on Mangaia

Community Water Tanks Project



Tamarua Packing Shed (Photo by Mia Teaurima) 24 August

Purpose of the assessment of the Tamarua Packing Shed was to determine its condition as a water catchment for the community water tank projects under the GEF small grants project.



Tamarua Community Hall (Photo by Mia Teaurima)

Likewise, the Tamarua community hall was also assessed for possibility of installing community water tanks. The two SRIC consultants Ben Parakoti and Mia Teaurima are working on the delivery of this project.

From water tanks the team moved on to the agriculture project in Mangaia. Meeting was held with the farmers to iron out the fine details of the project and expectations required of them. Apparently, an MOU is required to ensure commitment and the delivery of the project from all stakeholders.

Kura-Kuriri

Mia Teaurima will be attending a 3 day GCF workshop in Japan from 14 - 16th September

William Tuivaga and John McLeod will be in Atiu from 7 - 9th September

Next Platform Meeting is Thursday 10th Sept from 10 - 12noon at the Womens National Council Headquarters, Tuae, Takuvaie



SRIC team meeting with the farmers on Mangaia (Photo by Mia Teaurima)

USP Presentation



William Tuivaga delivering SRIC presentation at the USP campus 25 August (Photo by Celine Dyer)

Celine Dyer and William Tuivaga co-jointly delivered a climate change presentation to university students from Christchurch, New Zealand. Focus was on climate variability and climate change in Cook Islands. Celine presented on the results of the Rauti Para research as the foundation for localising understanding on climate variability and climate change. Willie gave highlights on the projects currently activated under the SRIC program covering the Pa Enuu. This captured some students interest for future research opportunities in the Cook Islands. Apparently, USP brings down university students every year from different universities in New Zealand to expose them to our small scale situation in Cook Islands.

Till Next Time, Kia Manui!