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Climate Change Cook Islands

Office of the Prime Minister



Marorotu and Raurau Akamatutu workshops in Mitiaro 11-15th July



Rere Tu Moana vaka shelter in Mitiaro 11th July

The SRIC CC programme funded by UNDP Samoa office under the Adaptation Fund has done it again! This time on the island of Mitiaro with the completion and opening handover ceremony of the vaka shelter, named Rere Tu Moana. The project resonated from the Southern Students workshop held earlier in April. The whole island gathered at the site on Monday 11th July for the opening and handover ceremony from SRIC to the people of Mitiaro. In attendance from Rarotonga was the climate change team of seven lead by Dr Teina Rongo, who were on the island to conduct two trainings coinciding with the Marorotu season. The Raurau Akamatutu (Basket of Resilience) and marorotu workshops. The Member of Parliament for Mitiaro the Hon. Tangata Vavia also flew in from Rarotonga for the occasion. It was a proud moment for the school, parents, teachers and the whole community to witness a tangible outcome from the work done by their children. Along with the shelter were also ten vakas so the people of Mitiaro could continue with their traditional fishing practice of the marorotu.



Participants from the islands of Mauke and Atiu for the Marorotu workshop.

The Marorotu workshop was the first ever held in the history of the Cook Islands where fishermen from the two sister islands in the Ngaputuru group gathered on Mitiaro island to learn and share the marorotu tradition of fishing practice that has been lost on the other two islands. It was a rich exchange of information and at times emotional, as the fishermen of Mitiaro shared their many experiences on the Marorotu. "I couldn't sleep at night thinking what I have left out from sharing" says papa Kaukura Kaiui. Much was gained and captured from the discussions not only for the participants but more significantly the fishermen of Mitiaro. They realised they possess a wealth of valuable information that should be shared to others in order to revive this traditional knowledge and practices that are still relevant, and indeed sustainable in the face of climate change. Fishermen from Atiu and Mauke were enthusiastic and grateful for the experience and opportunity to learn about the marorotu traditional fishing practice from the fishermen of Mitiaro.



Climate Change team with the students and teachers of Mitiaro Ms Murare (front left) and School Principal Mr Christopher Story

The students of Mitiaro were equally proud along with the whole population of just over two hundred that such a historical occasion took place on their island because of them. **Well done Mitiaro School and congratulations!**



Winning team of the Raurau Akamatutu challenge

The Raurau Akamatutu workshop was condensed to two half days rather than the four half days previously held in Mangaia. It was packed with team challenges as teams figured out the links between climate change and their daily lives and household activities.



Intense participation and contribution by young and old in the team challenges.

The people learned the relationship between climate change and agriculture, fishing, water, health, food and household waste. How climate change affects the entire household and what they could do as individuals or as a household to adapt to the situation by doing little practical things such as planting and saving the native trees, walking, recycling, reusing, choosing wisely when purchasing goods for their household. Part of the workshop included the practical demonstration of healthy dishes put together from local produce on the island. This session was a big hit with everyone as they were amazed what other dishes can be made using limes

which grows in abundance on their island. Bottling fish, particularly the maroro as an alternative to freezing attracted great interest when it was demonstrated how simple and easy it was to do, and especially when it can be stored to a year. Well known Cook Islands chef Rangi Mitaera produced easy to make simple tasty dishes which never failed to amaze everyone's palate.



Chef Rangi Mitaera in action



*Watching and listening intently to the food demonstration
Strategic Planning Retreat 26/28 July*



Climate Change Director Ana Tiraa with staff prepping for early start to the day.

The Climate Change Cook Islands office went into strategic planning mode on Tuesday 26 and Thursday 28th July. The two half day planning retreat enabled staff to visualize the future of the office in both long and short terms and mapped out the stages and actions required to achieve that vision. On the whole, the exercise proved valuable as a lot of useful information was gathered which will be transferred to populate the climate change component of the overall OPM strategy.

SRIC Report from Pukapuka Island by Lucky Topetai



Pictured above is one of the culverts recently build and ready for transfer to the taro site for installation. Lucky Topetai the SRIC Focal Point worked alongside with the men of Pukapuka in constructing the culverts.



Photo above shows one of the culverts being lifted in position to drain excess water when the taro plantation floods. This project was also part of the SRIC Northern Students workshop outcome, where the students from Pukapuka proposed for fencing around their taro planting area and drainage to prevent further loss of

plants during flooding events. Delays in the project completion was due to shipping schedules and space availability that all materials cannot be loaded on one shipment. The fencing is on hold as they await the rest of the materials from Rarotonga.



Pictured is Lucky Topetai SRIC Focal Point for Pukapuka Island.
Thank you Lucky for the report and keep up the fantastic work in Pukapuka. [*Ata wai wolo*](#)

SRIC Report from Atiu

Mia Teaurima the SRIC Project Coordinator was recently in Atiu to check on the progress of projects including the cold press coconut oil project. The building for the coconut project has been ready since April, leaving the oven to be completed. According to Mia, 'this is the delay in the project, we are waiting for the stainless steel top for the oven to arrive'.



Atiu cold press coconut oil project progress to date

Miss Earth Cook Islands – Allanah Herman- Edgar

There was much excitement in the Climate Change office when Miss Earth Cook Islands Allanah Herman-Edgar visited the office with her team to discuss her campaign for the Miss Earth Pageant. Part of the challenge for the Pageant candidates is to carry out an environmental activity each week which is posted on the Pageant website. To contribute to Allanah's activities the Climate Change office, assisted by identifying some areas Allanah could do to build up her profile from the climate change perspective. The office will be working with Alanna in the next few weeks to promote climate change awareness in the Cook Islands.



Cook Islands Miss Earth Pageant candidate Allanah Herman Edgar with the Climate Change staff of the Office of the Prime Minister.

Kura-Kuriri

The climate change negotiations workshop will be held from Tuesday 9 – 12 August at the vaitetini headquarters in Tauae. Please note, this workshop is fully booked out.

To facilitate the workshop are;

Expert personnel from SPREP Cook Islander Ms Diane McFadzien, Climate Change Adaptation Adviser. From Climate Analytics, Ms Rueanna Haynes, Legal Adviser, all the way from Bonn, Germany. They will be assisted by our national panel of experts in the various areas.

Ms Debbie Ave of Mangaia was appointed as the SRIC Focal Point for Mangaia Island last week.

Applications for the position of SRIC Focal Point for Aitutaki will close on Friday 5th August.

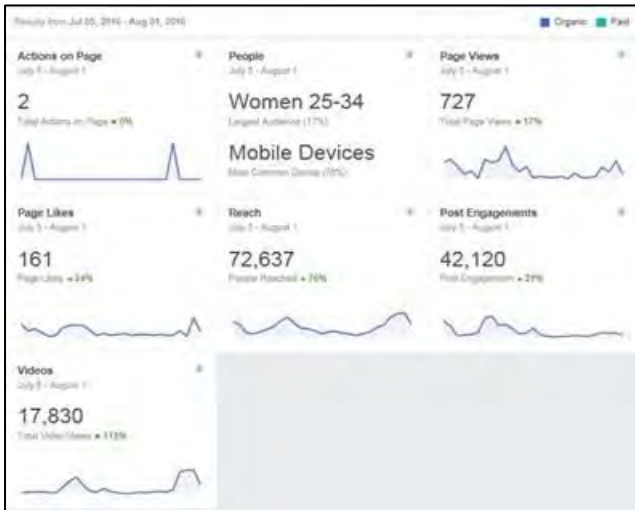
Facebook stats reported by Melina Tuiravakai

Post reach for the month of July was 72, 637

Post engagements was 42, 120

New likes was 161

Largest audience continues to be women between the ages of 25-34



Thank you to all our face book fans, please continue to follow our work in the Pa Enua and ask your friends and families to like our page

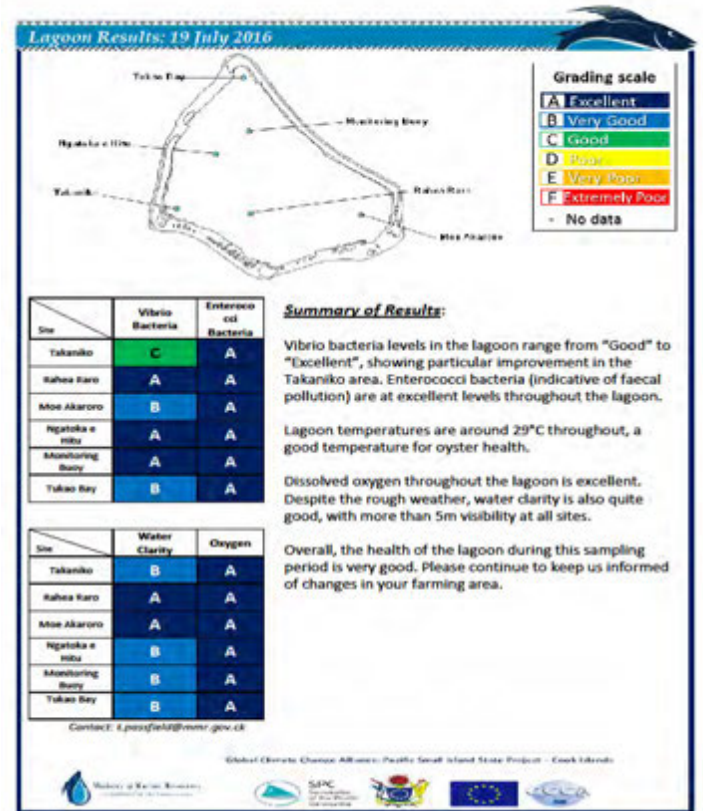
Included also is the lagoon water quality report from Manihiki Island provided by Ms Teuru Tiraa-Passfield who is currently based in Manihiki.

Thank you Teuru for the report.

Till Next Time – Kia Manuia!



We thank Air Rarotonga who sponsored some of the Mauke and Atiu participants, that attended the Raurau Akamatutu and Maroro Tu Workshops in Mitiaro.



Ms Tai George from the Mauke delegation at the Maroro Tu workshop.



Students and the Community participated in the Raurau Akamatutu and Maroro Tu Workshops.