

November Issue # 33 Climate Change Cook Islands Office of the Prime Minister

National Geographic Expedition Boat



Dr Rongo talking climate science with the passengers of the National Geographic Boat 4 Nov

Dr Rongo was invited to share climate change impacts in the Cook Islands with the group of scientists travelling on the National Geographic Expedition Boat that recently berthed at Avatiu earlier this month. This was a great opportunity to highlight climate related concerns and promote ongoing climate change actions currently being implemented in the Cook Islands. Apparently, the boat was on its way to the Arctic for 6 months but called into Rarotonga to pick up passengers from New Zealand and Australia.

SRIC CC on Midterm Review



Guido Corno and William Tuivaga 6 Nov 2015 (Photo by Celine Dyer)

Guido Corno from UNDP New York office spent two weeks with the Climate Change team conducting the midterm review on the SRIC CC project. Over the two weeks he interviewed people who are involved with the SRIC programme and travelled to Atiu and Mangaia to observe on ground activities as well as talk to those working with the SRIC projects on these two islands. Guido was impressed with the SRIC progress in the Pa Enua, however, his main concern was the visibility of the projects in the Pa Enua. Apparently there were no signs to identify the funding agency of the projects even though the people on the ground were aware of SRIC. In this regard, the SRIC team is set on including signage labels and sign posts as part of the supply requirements for all future SRIC projects in the Pa Enua.



Guido interviewing the Mangaia Project Manager, Mr Makiroa Beniamina 2 Nov 2015 (Photo by Mia Teaurima)



Keia farmers working on their farm in Mangaia 3rd Nov 2015 (Photo by Mia Teaurima)

Report from other projects

Akairo Consulting was contracted to carry out the procurement process for the SRIC project. First on the list was the Mauke chiller project which went through the evaluation committee on the 19 November.

Kura Tau'i'anga Reva



Ana Tiraa and Boyd signed the contract 15 Nov 2015 (Photo by Celine Dyer)

Mauke Chiller Tender Assessment

On Thursday 19 November the committee sat to assess the tender for the Mauke chiller. This is the second stage in the process for the instalment of the chiller at the Mauke airport terminal. The purpose of the chiller is to store excess vegetable produce from the farmers ready for airfreight to the Rarotonga market.



Tender evaluation committee 19 Nov 2015 (Photo by Mia Teaurima)

Report from Nassau

Earlier this year the SRIC project shipped an aluminium boat with outboard motor and trailer to Nassau. The boat was for the community to use for ocean fishing, since the only other boat on the island belongs to Marine Resources. Here are some photos from the Nassau SRIC Focal Point, Pamanini Tuatai.



From the photos received, it appears that the people of Nassau is making good use of their boat.

Cook Islands Team to COP21



Some of the team pictured above includes the Prime Minister Henry Puna and Mrs Puna (Photo provided by Ana Tiraa)

The Cook Islands delegation to the COP21 will be joined by others making a total delegation of 14. At the COP the Cook Islands with other Pacific Islands and Small Islands States will be fighting to keep the global temperature level to 1.5 degrees. For the Cook Islands, this is imperative as we are already being affected by sea level rise predominantly impacting the most western island of Pukapuka, the Northern Cooks and the rest of our islands. More on the COP meeting will be reported in the next bulletin.

Climate Change Mauke Awareness

The Climate Change team lead by Dr Teina Rongo arrived in Mauke on Friday 27 November. The team were to undertake several tasks, mainly, to conduct interviews for the SRIC Focal Point position which is long overdue, to seek assurance of support from the Island Council for the SRIC projects, to update the Council on projects earmarked for Mauke, raise community awareness and finally to carry out a scoping exercise on the projects and potential projects on Mauke.



Climate change float in the School Tiare week float parade 30 Nov (Photo by Celine Dyer)



Community awareness Oiretumu, Sunrise Hall 2 Dec (Photo by Celine Dyer)



Climate change awareness with the senior students of Mauke

Till next time.... KIA MANUIA!