



REPORT OF THE COOK ISLANDS TRUSTEES

MAY 2018 - REPORT

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2017

COMMUNITY GRANTS*

1. TAMARUA OIRE ASSOCIATION, MANGAIA- DRUM SET

Tamarua is one of the six traditional districts of the island of Mangaia in the Cook Islands. It is located on the southeast of the island, to the south of the district of Ivirua and east of the district of Veitatei. Mangaia is the most southerly of the Cook Islands and the second largest, after Rarotonga. Geologists estimate the island is at least 18 million years old, making it the oldest in the Pacific. The island of Mangaia rises 4750 m above the ocean floor and has a land area of 51.8 km².



Youth in the Tamarua district, ages range from 8-18 have been encouraged to participate in cultural activities, hence the request for a grant of \$2000. The grant has been used to purchase a traditional slit drum set, for the youth to use during cultural activities. These drums are used to pass on the traditional drumming skills acquired by the older generations to the youth. This is important as it immerses the youth in their culture, and ensures the traditional skills are maintained for future generations to learn and enjoy. Efforts by the community have been made before, to stimulate the interest of youth in their own culture, but the village elders have found it difficult as the youth are more interested in western trends. The village elders have found that traditional drumming, music and dancing has been the most effective method of capturing and sustaining the interest of the youth in their culture.

2. NIKAO-PANAMA RECREATION CENTRE

Nikao-Panama is located on the North Westerly side of Rarotonga, and is the location of Rarotonga's only Airport. Nikao-Panama residential population is made up predominantly of Cook Islanders who have migrated from the other islands of the Cook Islands, collectively referred to as "Te Pa Enuā". The majority of the Nikao-Panama community do not have land ownership rights to the land that they live on in Nikao-Panama and are thus dependent on communal halls and spaces to host meetings, family events etc.



Black Rock – a popular swimming spot in the village of Nikao



Nikao Panama Recreation Centre – Rust spots and holes in the roof.

The Nikao-Panama recreation centre is one such communal space that is essential to the residents of Nikao-Panama and their way of life.

The president of the Nikao-Panama recreation centre, Archer Hosking, requested assistance from the Cook Foundation towards renewing the roof of the building. The centres roof is old, and has started to rust. Leaving small holes that water leaks through, and an overall unpleasant appearance. The new roofing means the centre can still be used by the community for their various events, despite the weather.

3. NIKAO- WOMEN AND GIRLS WITH DISABILITIES ORGANISATION

The “Women and Girls with Disabilities Organisation” (WGD) is a non-government organisation that was established in 2013 to assist women and girls with disabilities to develop skills and knowledge that lead toward financial independence and self autonomy. The organisation aims to do this through two pathways, these are:

1. Steps towards employment placement or
2. Steps towards small business owner ship

Women and girls with disabilities are disproportionately affected due to gender discrimination and/or inequality, including a lack of equal access to adequate information, economic opportunities and social exclusion. As a result, they are more susceptible and vulnerable to various kinds of loss. WGD is an organisation that aims to address this problem.



The proposal received by the Cook Foundation sought financial assistance for the purchase of various textile materials. These materials has been and will be used by the women of the WGD to gain an income as they rely heavily on donations. The WGD has been using these materials to open up economic opportunities for these disabled women. This includes activities such as sewing dresses, pareu, dying fabric and then selling it, to make money to further support their motives.

4. MAUKE- P.A. SYSTEM FOR ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Mauke, traditionally known as Akatokamanava is an island in the southern group islands of the Cook Islands. Mauke geography is a raised atoll encircled with a close fringing reef. The island has a circumference of 18 kilometres. Mauke has four districts: Areora, Makatea, Ngatiarua, and Vaimutu, with a population of about 300 people



The island of Mauke from the air



Children swimming in one of the coastal inlets in Mauke

The St Marys Catholic church building was built by the early missionaries of the Catholic faith in 1904. This is the oldest Catholic building in the history of the island. The Catholic Church community is being looked after by Fr Alvin from the Phillipines. The parish of the Catholic faith on the island consists of 130 members. At the end of every month, a musical concert is held by the youth members of the church as well as a youth mass on every second Sunday. The request made by the church will allow them to purchase a sound system for the church. The sound system includes 4 microphones, 4 mic-stands, 6 channel powered mixers, 2 PA speakers and 2 5m speaker cables. This equipment will add to the quality of the youth concerts and mass, as well as ensure that everyone in the church can hear the weekly sermons, and enjoy the singing and worshipping of the lord.

5. AKE POTORU: SCHOOL FEES AT APII TE UKI OU

Apii Te Uki Ou is a thriving energetic school with over 200 students, from a range of backgrounds and abilities, and is one of few schools on the island that accepts and caters to children with special needs.

Apii Te Uki Ou is an independent school located on the eastern side of Rarotonga in the village of Ngatangia. The school is a private funded school with some contribution from the Ministry of Education.

The school mission is to “**provide an inclusive, nurturing environment that caters for individuals needs, challenging students to excel in a changing world.**”

The school provides Ake with a wonderful teacher aide, Gillian, who ensures Ake receives the social interaction and stimulus she needs, in a safe and caring environment.



Ake at School



Ake participating in Vaka Iti Sport with her class -
With the help of her Teacher Aide - Gillian

Ake Poutoru is a nine year old girl who has cerebral palsy. Ake had limited mobility when born, but over the years has learned to walk and mobilize well. Ake has regular seizures, some of which have been very severe. Despite her challenges, Ake is a loveable and cheeky personality. She is well loved by teachers and students at her school. Ake lives with her grandparents who are her main caregivers. The Cook foundation has supported Ake before with payment of her primary school fees, and fencing around her residential home to prevent her from wandering on to roadway, where she has been hurt before.

MP GRANTS*

1. MP TETANGI MATAPO: TAMARUA CONSITUENCY- WATER DISPENSERS



The village of Tamarua



The Agricultural production land of Tamarua

Tamarua is a village located on the island of Mangaia. Tamarua is one of the six traditional districts of the island of Mangaia in the Cook Islands. It is located in the southeast of the island, to the south of the district of Ivirua and east of the district of Veitatei. Mangaia is the most southerly of the Cook Islands and the second largest, after Rarotonga. Geologists estimate the island is at least 18 million years old, making it the oldest in the Pacific. The island of Mangaia rises 4750 m above the ocean floor and has a land area of 51.8 km².

Access to clean drinking water is a luxury that is hard to come by in the outer islands. Therefore it is very precious for the people who live on these islands. Large efforts are made by the head of these islands, to make clean water more accessible for their people. With the high obesity rates, illnesses and NCD cases in the Cook Islands, clean water is needed to help lead healthier lifestyles for these people. The community of Tamarua will soon commence a water intake project, and therefore request a grant to buy water dispensers. These water dispensers will be placed in a health clinic and various community halls throughout the district of Tamarua.

2. MP WILLIE JOHN: TETAUTUA COMMUNITY, PENRHYN- GRASS TRIMMER & TRIMMER EQUIPMENT



The northern island of Penryhn



Children swimming in the lagoon in Penryhn

Te tautua is the smaller of the two main settlements on the Penrhyn atoll in the Cook Islands. Penrhyn is an island of the Northern Cook Islands, and was given its name by the crew of the Lady Penrhyn, commanded by Captain Sever who landed on the island on their way from the Isle of Wight to set up the convict colonies in Australia. The island of Penryhn is traditionally known as 'Tongareva.'. Tongareva is variously translated as 'Tonga floating in space', 'Tonga in the skies' or 'Away from south'. With its remote location, it was easy to see why early Polynesian settlers believed the island floated in a vast space. The name Penryhn is more commonly used when referring to the island, and is a Welsh name that means 'peninsula'.

Reverend Tumukahu Marsters of Te tautua, Penrhyn identified the villages need for a grass trimmer to trim grass in communal spaces around the island. This is a healthier option for such a small island, as opposed to the toxic weed killer used in some of the other islands of the Cook Islands.

This trimmer is a very important tool for the people of Te tautua as it promotes the efforts of cleanliness, tidiness and prevention of vector born infections, like dengue. Due to the islands remote location, this grass trimmer will be a very reliable asset as the islands don't have access to many tools.

3. MP WILLIAM HEATHER: INAVE - WATER STATION & NGAI RINGIAO

William Kati (Smiley) Heather (born 7 July 1958) is a Cook Islands politician and former cabinet minister. Heather was born in Rarotonga and educated at Arorangi Primary school and Tereora College in the Cook Islands and Onslow College in Wellington, New Zealand. From 1980 to 1997, he worked as a public servant in the Cook Islands Ministry of Works before being elected to Parliament as a member of the Democratic Party in the 2006 snap election. In December 2009 he was appointed to Cabinet as Minister for Transport, Infrastructure & Planning, and Energy. He was re-elected at the 2010 election. In August 2012 he was elected Deputy Leader of the Democratic party. In June 2017 he became leader of the opposition again.



MP: William (Smiley) Heather



Mrs Ngai Ringiao-Mamanu standing in front of her 'new' house before it was placed and fixed up for her.

The grant of \$2000 requested by Mr. Heather has gone towards two projects:

1. The first project was to buy and install a water pump to pump fresh clean water to houses on higher ground in Inave. These homes have difficulty accessing water from the island supply, particularly during dry season. The water feed in the pipes is low, resulting in low pressure with not enough force for the water to flow to houses on higher ground. Now that the pump is in place, the people in these homes can continue to do simple things like having a shower, laundry etc.

2. The second project was to provide manual labour for Mrs. Ngai Ringiao-Mamanu. Mrs Ringiao-Mamanu was living in a tent with her son for a number of months. This was not an ideal situation, particularly with the amount of wet weather the island experienced during that time. The community rallied to assist Mrs Ringiao-Mamanu, and an existing home was located, and labour sourced to repair the house to make it a more suitable shelter for the mama and her son. Grant assistance was sought towards specialist labour needed on repairing damage and worn down areas of the house.



Selina Matenga-Napa is a Cook Islands politician and member of the Cook Islands parliament. She is a member of the Cook Islands Democratic party. Napa is a sportswoman and daughter of former MP Dr Teariki Matenga. She was elected to Parliament in the 2012 Titikaveka election, which was also contested by her brother.

Titikaveka is the southern-most village of Rarotonga, which is also referred to as the food bowl of Rarotonga due to majority of agricultural production on the island sourced from Titikaveka.

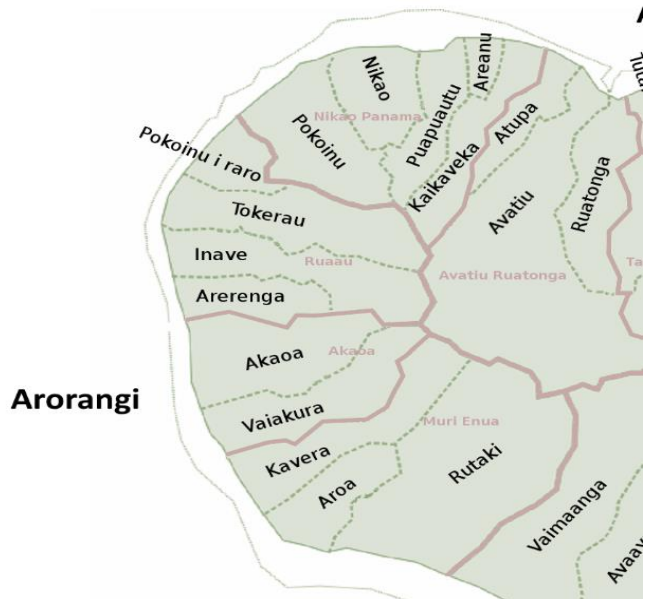
MP Selina Napa has requested a grant to go towards a 4 stage UV filtered water system at the Enea Manea hall, in the tapere Akapuao-Tikioki in the Titikaveka constituency. Akapuao-Tikioki is a large and populated sub district of Titikaveka, and residents did not have easily accessible drinking water or nearby water stations, therefore having to travel elsewhere to get clean water. Enea Manea hall is used quite frequently by the village to host meetings, community events, with all of Takitumu using the hall for preparation for Te Maeva Nui (Celebration of Self Government and the biggest cultural event of the Cook Islands). The community members who use the hall often have to travel elsewhere to fill containers or water for drinking purposes.

Now with the new water system in place, clean water is much more accessible for the people of Akapuao-Tikioki, the various community groups that use the hall, and Titikaveka as a whole. Thus fulfilling a basic requirement and further helping the Ministry of Health's push, to promote healthy living in the Cook Islands.

5. MP TEARIKI HEATHER: PUAIKURA COMMUNITY - UV FILTERED WATER SYSTEM

Puaikura otherwise known as Arorangi, is one of the five districts that make up the island of Rarotonga. It is located on the western side of Rarotonga and is the largest district on Rarotonga. Due to its size and population, Puaikura is divided into three constituencies: Ruaau, Akaoa and Muri-Enua.

Teariki Heather is the Member of Parliament for Akaoa, the central subdistrict of Puaikura. Teariki Heather is the Deputy Prime Minister of the Cook Islands, and is the minister for Infrastructure.



The District Puaikura

Because Puaikura is the largest district of Rarotonga, with the highest population of Cook Islanders. There are many UV filtered stations positioned throughout the village of Puaikura. Due to the frequent use of these stations, they need to be maintained regularly. The amount of rain this year, has resulted in a lot of muddy water through the water pipes which has contributed to high maintenance costs of the filters at the water stations. Clean drinking water is sadly not available in most residential homes with high dependence on the water stations for clean drinking water by the majority of the community. This grant requested by the community of Puaikura is to upgrade the community centre water station, which includes labour costs. This is to further ensure the health and wellbeing of the people within the Puaikura community.