



REPORT OF THE COOK ISLANDS TRUSTEES

SEPTEMBER 2017 – REPORT

COMMUNITY GRANTS*

TE VAERUA – ACCESS TO HOME

Te Vaerua Rehabilitation Service is an incorporated society that works to provide a health service to people who require therapy or rehabilitation within the community to maximize their potential and quality of life. In 2007 Te Vaerua was formally registered as a charitable, non-government organization with the aim to provide a community rehabilitation unit within the Cook Islands using a multi-disciplinary approach to cater for the needs of persons with disabilities, their caregivers and families and to ensure access to appropriate and affordable services, devices and other assistance for disability-related needs.

Te Vaerua has requested funds to benefit a 64-year-old man who has been unable to walk after a serious accident years ago. His name is S. Karaponga, and he has worked very hard to be independent albeit he is mobile only with a wheelchair. He has had issues with moving around in his wheelchair and Te Vaerua's Occupational Therapist and Clinical Manager proposed a modification to Mr Karaponga's home with a ramp.

Te Vaerua has observed with visits to Karaponga that he remains inactive during the day due to his disability, and needs to be encouraged to live purposefully. Te Vaerua believes the installation of a ramp will not only enable him to be active but also help encourage him to be more mobile around his house. A grant has been requested to cover the costs of materials for Karaponga to finish building the ramp. The amount of \$1,394.77 requested will cover the costs of materials bought from CITC Building.



SAFETY INSTALLATION FOR AKE

Te Vaerua has requested funds to benefit an eight-year-old girl who has cerebral palsy. Ake Potoru had limited mobility when born, but over the years has learned to walk and mobilize well. Ake has regular seizures, some which have been very severe. Ake lives with her grandparents, who are her main caregivers. They live in a home which has a large yard and hedge fencing. Ake has a tendency to run out to the roadway when outside, and has been hit by a vehicle. Because of this predicament, she is only allowed to go outside when her grandparents are monitoring her. Even then, this causes them unnecessary stress as they have to be constantly watching her. The fencing in the backyard has deteriorated, and is no longer sufficient in keeping Ake in the yard and away from the road.

Te Vaerua submitted an application to The Cook Foundation to build new gates and fence that will border the house to enable Ake to play freely and safely outside. The fence will also prevent her from running onto the road or falling down the steep hill at the back of her house. The family of Ake will provide the labor free of charge (the grandfather is a retired builder) and requested the funding to cover the materials. The request made to the Cook Foundation to aid the costs of fencing materials was \$2000.



EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FOR FAMILY

Esther Tereapii Matapo is an individual who is applying for financial assistance on behalf of her father, Tereapii Sabu Matapo. Sabu is a resident of the Cook Islands, who has had to leave recently due to ill family members. His wife, Zelma Matapo, suffered a severe stroke in April 2017 which required medical attention in New Zealand. Sabu travelled to New Zealand to support and take care of his wife while she was treated in Auckland. Sabu also had to take care of his daughter Zelma who is an epileptic and was hospitalized two days after his wife had a stroke. As Sabu is a planter, attending to his family has led his nursery in Rarotonga to be neglected. The airfare to Auckland for Sabu was paid partially with his pension and partially by his daughter Esther. Sabu and his family are struggling financially and cannot afford his flight back to Rarotonga, and an application was made to The Cook Foundation for assistance. The amount of \$924.00 was requested for Sabu's airfare, so he can return to Rarotonga.



HOMEWORK SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN

Vaimaanga Homework Hub is a community group that runs a weekly homework support program providing free support to children ages 5-18. The objectives of this group is to provide children a place to go to do homework, learning activities for those without homework and assistance to children by qualified teachers and parent helpers. The Homework Club operates each Thursday afternoon for two hours during the school terms. The number of students that attend vary from 2 children to 15 students per session, but in all circumstances the Homework Hub is an inspiring and successful program. Two tutors are required for this program due to the wide range of ages of the students who attend. There is a primary program and a senior program to provide information for students from different levels in their schools. Vaimaanga Homework Hub has requested an amount of \$2000, to cover the costs of the two tutors that are paid to run the program.



ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Mou Piri Incorporated (Mou Piri Inc) is an incorporated society registered on the 20th September 2016. It works alongside the Cook Islands Police, Ministry of Health and Education and other incorporated societies, to bring services available in relation to the elimination of violence against women. The promotion of this service is through flyers, banners and cards. The service is brought by three qualified and experienced counsellors who volunteer their time and advice freely to youth and their families, in order to hopefully strengthen and enhance value for life in the Cook Islands.

Mou Piri Incorporated applied for a grant from The Cook Foundation to fund the administration of their service to be proficient in documentation, providing reports for Internal Affairs and also communication via email. The application was for funds for an HP Notebook and its accessories such as a mouse, carry bag and printer. The grant requested the Cook Foundation is the amount of \$2047.



MP GRANTS*

HON. TANGATA VAVIA – MITIARO CONSITUENCY

Julian Aupuni is an officer for Internal Affairs, who has been providing assistance for the elderly of Mitiaro and hopes to improve the lives of elderly with his request. The elderly includes 8 citizens who are over the age of 70 years, who are bound at home due to the lack of transportation required to allow them to be active members of the community. They miss out on community activities such as church services, celebrations, and touring because of their lack of transportation.



Mitiaro, the fourth island in the Cook Islands group, is of volcanic origin with a population of 219 residents. It is 6.4 km across at its widest point. It is surrounded by a belt of fossilized coral between 6 – 9 metres high.



In order for the elderly to be active members in the community activities, a mobility scooter has been thought appropriate to be shared amongst themselves. An amount of \$2000 has been requested to The Cook Foundation to cover the costs of a mobility scooter purchased from Joyride Mobility Scooters. \$1500 will be used for the cost of the scooter and \$500 will go towards the freight cost from New Zealand to Mitiaro. The scooter will not be assigned to one person but shared amongst all the elderly on a need to use basis.



HON. GEORGE ANGENE – TUPAPA-MARAERENGA, RAROTONGA CONSITUENCY

George Angene is a member of parliament in the Cook Islands. He has applied for a fund to benefit members of the community who use the water stations located in different areas of Rarotonga. The local community use water stations at the Tupapa Meeting House, the Oaoa Child Welfare Clinic and the Tupapa Child Welfare Clinic.

Due to the high temperatures and humidity in Rarotonga cool water is a necessity, and Angene has requested funds to purchase watercoolers for these water stations. An amount of \$2015.00 has been requested from the Cook Foundation to purchase three watercoolers and two tap and racks from Pacific Spring. The purchased water coolers will be stationed at the Tupapa Meeting House, the Oaoa Child Welfare Clinic and the Tupapa Child Welfare Clinic. Grateful members of the community will then be able to access cool water in such humid weather.



Tupapa is situated in Avarua, which is one of the five districts that make up the island of Rarotonga in the Cook Islands. The Tupapa- Maraerenga constituency has a voter population of 574 people.



HON. ISAMAELA TOANUI ISAMAELA – AMURI-UREIA, AITUTAKI CONSTITUENCY

Isamaela is a member of parliament situated in Aitutaki. He has requested for the charitable donation from The Cook Foundation to be combined with the Arenikau Vainetini Group donation. The Arenikau Vainetini Group is a voluntary community group that works to purchase equipment for childcare and women's activities, and teach young ladies in the areas of motherhood for life. In order to purchase the equipment for such activities, the Arenikau Vainetini Group sells embroidery products that the members manufacture themselves.



Aitutaki, also traditionally known as Araura and Utataki, is situated north west of Rarotonga in the Cook Islands. It consists of three volcanic and twelve coral islets. The Amuri-Ureia constituency has a voter population of 133.



Member of Parliament Isamaela will combine his request with the Arenikau Vainetini Group to increase the donation amount to \$4000. The overall cost of materials for the embroidery products that the Arenikau Vainetini Group creates is \$3,933. The materials are yards of sheeting, packets of cotton and rolls of azlin to be purchased from the Vonnias store. The embroidery products, once made, will be sold and the funds will go towards purchasing equipment for the children's and women's activities.

HON. ROSE TOKI-BROWN – TEENUI-MAPUMAI, ATIU CONSTITUENCY

Vainetutai Rose Toki-Brown is a Cook Islands politician and Deputy Speaker of the Cook Islands Parliament. She is a member of the Cook Islands party, and in 2016 she became the Cook Islands first female Leader of the Opposition. Brown has made a funding request with the Teenui-Mapumai Disaster Committee. Teenui-Mapumai Disaster Committee, along with Brown, is situated in Atiu. It is a community organization that is associated with disaster related issues such as providing clean water, humanitarian aid and medical care.



The prevalence of the hurricane season has currently endangered many buildings in Atiu. Therefore Teenui-Mapumai Disaster Committee has requested an amount of \$1,805.76 from the Cook Foundation to cover costs that will give assurance to some of these buildings. This assurance includes bales of rope for the purpose of tying down the Te Akapuanga o te Avangelia meeting house, and the homes of the elderly within the community of Teenui Mapumai. This request includes the costs to transfer of the bales of rope from CITC Building Centre to Atiu.



Atiu Island, also known as Enuamanu (land of the birds) has a population of 571 residents. It lies 187 kilometres northeast of Rarotonga. It is a raised volcanic island and is surrounded by a reef from which rise six metre cliffs of fossilised coral which form a mile-wide ring around the island, virtually a plateau. The island stands some 70m above sea level. The Teenui-Mapumai constituency has a voter population of 51 people.



HON. JAMES VINI BEER – MURIENUA, RAROTONGA CONSTITUENCY

Due to being useful for a variation of community activities, the Kavera Clinic is required to be kept in maintenance. The floor of the clinic has needed to be completed, and therefore materials are essential to be bought from Arorangi Timberland. These materials include cement, paint supplies and fastening supplies, bringing the cost to a total of \$1,998.20. An amount of \$1,018.13 will be covered by the Murienua Social Responsibility Funds constituency; hence an outstanding balance of \$980.07 is owed to Arorangi Timberland. A funding request was made regarding the amount of \$980.07 to the The Cook Foundation in order for the balance to be paid off.



Kavera is situated in the district of Murienua, Arorangi. Arorangi is one of the five districts that make up the island of Rarotonga in the Cook Islands. The Murienua constituency has a voter population of 300 people.



Kavera Clinic is a clinic that has many uses for the community of Kavera. There are health checks for babies, land meetings, community meetings held in this clinic. The clinic is also a place for local growers to sell fruit, vegetables and crafts every week on the market day.

HON. TAMAIVA TUAVERA – NGATANGIIA, RAROTONGA CONSTITUENCY

Tamaiva Tuavera is a member of parliament whose constitutional post is in Ngatangiia, Rarotonga. He is in the Democratic Party of the Cook Islands. Tuavera has made a funding request with a community group called the Ngatangiia Beautification. Ngatangiia Beautification aims to create a visually appealing community which increases property's values, attracts businesses and improves the neighbourhood's image.

The Ngatangiia Meeting House is used by the community for community land meetings and as a place to sell food for the market day. Because this meeting house is used by the community for many activities, it is expected to be kept maintained. Therefore, an amount of \$2000 was requested to the Cook Foundation, in order for Ngatangiia Beautification to paint the Ngatangiia Meeting House. The funding request will cover the costs of materials such as paint, paint appliances and paint trays.



Ngatangiia is one of the five districts that make up the island of Rarotonga in the Cook Islands.

The Ngatangiia constituency has a voter population of 315 people.



HON. TOKA HAGAI – RAKAHANGA CONSTITUENCY

Toka Hagai is a new member of the parliament whose constituency is Rakahanga, Cook Islands. Hagai is requesting funds for Poardlin Takai. Poardlin Takai is a twenty-year-old male who has suffered paralysis in the lower half of his body a few years ago, due to falling off of a tree. He has received care in New Zealand, but has chosen to return to living on Rakahanga when no further treatment could be done for him. Takai is an independent active person who, despite his paraplegic form, has continued living a mobile life and providing for himself. This is done through fishing for himself, family and others, joining in community activities freely, and assisting members of the community when able to.

Takai is able to be mobile in the community with the assistance of motorbikes, that he borrows from people in his village. The request of \$2000 has been made to the Cook Foundation, to aid the cost of a Yamaha motorcycle for Takai from Pickering Motors Ltd. This is so that Takai will not have to borrow other people's motorbikes, and be able to live a more independent lifestyle.



Rakahanga, situated in the central-southern Pacific Ocean, holds a current population of 127 and is part of the Cook Islands. It is a rectangular atoll and comprises of a lagoon surrounded by two islands and seven small islets.



HON. SELINA NAPA – TITKAVEKA CONSTITUENCY

Selina Matenga- is a member of the Cook Islands Democratic Party. Napa has requested funding to assist Papa Tamati Amoa. Amoa is an 89-year-old man, who lives by himself in a home located on the backroad of Tupapa. Amoa's current bathroom facility is positioned outside his house about fifteen meters from his sleeping quarters. Due to his old and frail condition, Amoa struggles to get to the bathroom at night. Although the current bathroom facilities were sufficient for Amoa previously, Amoa's aging condition has taken its toll and are proven incapable to serve his need. Amoa's close relative is Ura Tangaroa, who is working with Napa to fix Amoa's bathroom facility.



Titikaveka is one of the five districts that make up the island of Rarotonga in the Cook Islands. The Titikaveka constituency has a voting population of 405 people.



The funds are being requested to build an indoor bathroom facility for Amoa. Tangaroa will be supervising the building of the bathroom facility and Napa will also be monitoring the project. A grant of \$2000 was requested to cover the costs of the bathroom facility from the Cook Foundation.

HON. WESLEY KAREROA – ONEROA, MANGAIA CONSTITUENCY

Wesley Kareora has made a request for a \$2,000 grant from The Cook Foundation to assist the Vaitatei Puna Growers organisation in Mangaia.

The trailer will be used for the transportation of a small Hitachi Excavator for the Vaitetai Puna Growers. This will enable the organisation to utilise land around the island for growing local vegetables.



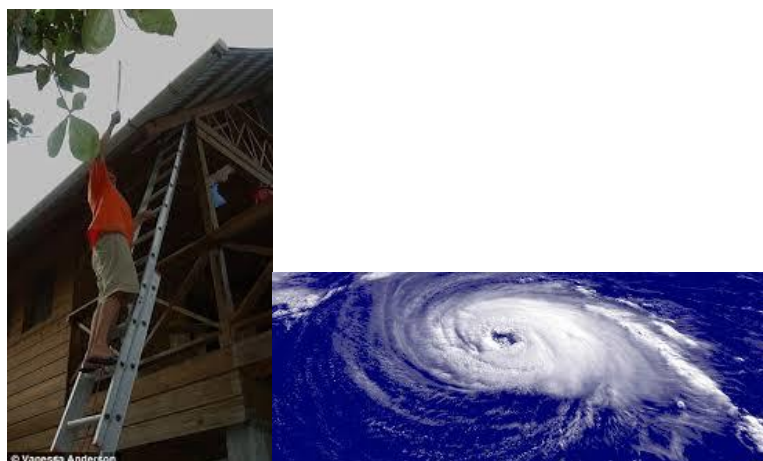
Mangaia is the most southerly of the Cook Islands and is the second largest island. It rises 4750 metres about the ocean floor and is surrounded by a sixty metre high ring of cliffs of fossilized coral. The Oneroa constituency has a voter population of 93 people.



HON. MARK BROWN – TAKUVAINA-TUTAKIMOA, RAROTONGA CONSITUENCY

Mark Brown has requested assistance from The Cook Foundation to support the Takuvaine – Tutakimoa Kumiti Oira to purchase rope to secure people's houses during the cyclone season.

The Takuvaine – Tutakimoa Kumiti Oira Committee wanted to take extra precautions to ensure the community is safe and secure. Rope would be purchased with the funds to secure the roofs of local houses during the cyclone season.



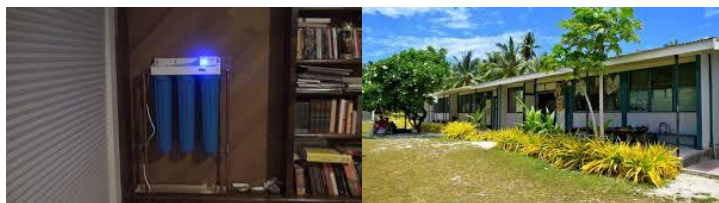
Takuvaine/Tutakimoa/Teotue villages are located on Rarotonga in Avarua district, town central with an existing population of over 1000 with about 329 households.

The village is located very close to the shore line facing the Avarua Harbour but also with a distance of 300 meters to the base of the closest mountain, the furthest inland area of about 3km.

HON. HENRY PUNA – MANIHIKI CONSITUENCY

Henry Puna applied for funding from The Cook Foundation for the purchase of water filtration systems for Tukao School and Tauhunu School.

There is a need for students at the schools in Manihiki to have access to clean drinking water. The systems will be supplemented by the Manihiki Islands Council and the schools will be responsible for the management of the systems.



Manihiki is an atoll in the Northern part of the Cook Islands. It comprises of 40 tiny islets encircling a 4 km wide lagoon. The Manihiki constituency has a voter population of 85 people.



*Please note that actual images of items, people and places may not be available due to accessibility of cameras and personal reasons; in these cases other images have been used to illustrate what the funds have been approved for.