



Cook foundation rolls out funding

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The Cook foundation, a charitable trust set up by United Kingdom resident George Cook, continues to roll out projects and distribute funding for a wide range of causes.

The trustees of the foundation are continuing with the programme of making grants to organisations for projects, or needs recommended by the Members of Parliament.

In December, the foundation approved funding for charitable projects recommended by finance minister Mark Brown, and MP William Heather.

Minister Brown's project was funding for the Takuvaine Tutakimoa Oire, for the purchase of supplies to allow them to go around the village and assist with cyclone preparedness by providing ropes for tying down houses.

Heather suggested funding for a safety rail at Blackrock. With the grant from the Cook Foundation and the donation of labour and other equipment, the installation of the rail can be completed.

In addition to the grants for MP-driven projects, in December the trustees identified a project with the Cook Islands Red Cross to provide funding to purchase a generator to be used in emergency situations.

In assisting to deal with the water shortage in Atiu, the Cook Islands Red Cross needed a generator. While they were able to secure a borrowed generator for this purpose, it did highlight the need to have this equipment available to deal with emergency situations.

The grant from the Cook Foundation will provide for a generator to be purchased and used in future situations for the benefit of communities in the Cook Islands.

The Cook Foundation is looking forward to continuing with its programme of grants through 2014, and is already in the process of inviting community organisations to submit proposals for funding for needs in their communities.

As part of its ongoing charitable work, the foundation will be making at least two to three grants per month of up to \$2000 each, with the hope being to continue to grow.

The Foundation is run by a group of trustees, which include parliamentary speaker Nikki Rattle.

Other charitable organisations in the Cook Islands can also apply for funding for specific needs that they see in the community.