



## **REPORT OF THE COOK ISLANDS TRUSTEES**

**AUGUST – DECEMBER 2018**

### **INDEX**

#### **COMMUNITY GRANTS**

1. Mitiaro Enuā- Adult Diapers for Papa Kimiora Tereva
2. Mitiaro Enuā-Sewing Materials for Girl's Brigade Company
3. Tupapa Constituency- Roofing Materials for Au Vaine Kumiti
4. Matavera District Committee – Water station service
5. Creative Trail Committee – Walking Trail for the Creative Centre
6. Teimurimotia Volunteer Fire Brigade – CCTV Cameras
7. Takuvaine Tutakimoa Disaster Committee – Cyclone Gear

#### **MP/ CONSTITUENCY GRANTS**

1. Mark Brown, MP for Takuvaine - Grasscutter
2. William Heather, MP for Ruaau – Water filters
3. George Maggie, MP for Tupapa/Maraerenga - Chainsaw
4. Mac Mokoroa, MP for Nikao/Panama (Rarotonga) – Sewing machines for vainerini
5. Tetangi Matapo, MP for Tamarua (Mangaia) – Install a kitchen at Tamarua Clinic
6. Selina Napa, MP for Titikaveka (Rarotonga) – Service Water Stations

## 1. PAPA KIMIORA TEREVA, MITIARO- ADULT DIAPERS

Mitiaro is a small island in the Southern group islands of the Cook Islands. It is usually referred to in a collective with her sister islands of Atiu, and Mauke as Nga Pu Toru, due to its proximity to each other (approx. 45km apart) and shared history.

Mitiaro is of volcanic origin, surrounded by a belt of makatea (raised coral), and the centre of the island is flat and quite swampy. The island boasts the only freshwater lake in the Cook Islands that teems with eels and breem. Mitiaro also harbours some stunning subterranean limestone caves and pools.

Mitiaro is home to less than 200 people with 155 recorded residents in the 2016 Census. There is very little economy in Mitiaro, with limited employment available in Government administration positions. There are some government efforts in tourism development, however. this is limited with very few intrepid visitors to Mitiaro per year. The people of Mitiaro live a subsistence lifestyle and dependent on government to provide for most of their basic needs.



This grant was submitted by a concerned community member in aid of Papa Kimiora

Tereva. Papa Kimiora Tereva is 57 year old man who lives in Atai village of Mitiaro. Papa Kimi is completely incapacitated (blind, deaf and cannot walk). His sole caregiver is his 70 year old mother, Mrs Akamoe Tereva, who is also the main caregiver for two of her grandchildren, approximately 8 yrs and 10yrs.

Papa Kimiora was independent up until a few years ago, when he became incapacitated and unable to care for himself. Papa Kimiora lays in a wheelbarrow outside his mother's house all day, as he associates the wheelbarrow with a motorcycle he used to own. He gets very anxious and upset when his wheelbarrow is moved away from his spot. His elderly mother has to move him into the house in the evenings to bed.



Papa Kimiora does not have full control over his body so he regularly soils, and wets himself throughout the day. His 70-year old mother cleans him when she can after tending to other home duties and her grandchildren. Mrs Tereva, is solely responsible for feeding, bathing and clothing Papa Kimiora with very little support. Mrs Tereva collects old age pension (\$300 per month) as well as a Government Care Giver's allowance (\$200 per month), relying on her grand-daughter who lives in Rarotonga with part-time employment, to buy adult diapers for Papa Kimi. She pays \$250 per carton and stretches its use over the span of two months.

Adult diapers are only available for sale in Rarotonga. Neither Papa Kimi's Care Giver's allowance, nor his niece's income is sufficient to cover the cost of the adult diapers and the cost of shipping them to Mitiaro. Due to this Papa Kimi has gone without adult diapers for some time. A grant was approved by the Cook foundation to purchase 8 cartons of adult diapers, each carton holding 200 diapers assist the family, and ease the financial pressure on Papa Kimi's family.

## 2. MITIARO GIRLS BRIGADE - SEWING EQUIPMENT



Cook Islands Girls Brigade

The Mitiaro girls' brigade Company have a number of young female members who are also unemployed mothers and young leaders within the organization. The young women significantly contribute and participate in all Mitiaro island initiatives and activities.

There is very little employment opportunities in Mitiaro, and these are limited to Government positions within the Mitiaro island council. There is very little economic activity or opportunity to provide employment and retain young people on the island. Despite this, the people of Mitiaro employ what little means they have to support their community and investigate initiatives that may provide them with financial means.

To this end, the Mitiaro Girls' Brigade requested funding to assist with the purchase of equipment along with sewing and painting materials. They have specifically requested assistance in purchasing:

- 2x Sewing machine

- 1x Overlocker machine

- 1x 20m plain poplin material

- 3x Thread

The Mitiaro Girls' Brigade Company intends to use this equipment to share their local knowledge and skills with women within the ages of 12-30 years, to produce crafts and clothing apparel. They also intend to teach young women to market this merchandise at markets locally, or even export them to the main island of Rarotonga.

With the approval of this grant the island of Mitiaro hope stimulate economic activity and offer more employment options. Retaining their young adults to carry on working on the Island of Mitiaro.

### **3. TE AU VAINE KUMITI – ROOFING MATERIALS**

This request for assistance was submitted by “Te Au Vaine Kumiti” a womens charitable group helping the most vulnerable in the community.

In Mid March 2018 during a heavy down pour, a home in Tupapa sustained damage from a large Pistach tree on a neighbouring section falling onto the back verandah of the house. The owner's of the house, Putara John Putara and his sister Tekura, had given the house to their family who had migrated from the outer island of Atiu, to live in as they try to make a life for themselves in Rarotonga. The outer island of Atiu has very limited economic and employment opportunities. The family consists of 6 adults (including one pregnant female and 1x destitute adult), and 3 children with a single income. They do not pay rent to the owners as they have all recently migrated from Atiu to Rarotonga for work, and need a place to live. They don't have the financial means to pay for accommodation costs.

The tree was cleared by Paul and his brother in law along with the assistance of the Member of Paliament for Tupapa, George Maggie and the Member of Parliament of Puaikura, Nooroa Baker who cleared the debris, and the remainder of the surrounding trees from the neighbouring section.

Paul (head of the family living in the house) and his brother, who is an experienced builder, were willing to do all the labour to fix the damaged roof, however needed assistance with the purchase of some materials.

Other members of the community generously assisted with electrical, plumbing and other contractual labour. The grant was approved, roofing materials were purchased and construction underway to repair the verandah of the young family's home.

#### 4. MATAVERA KUMITI OIRE – MAINTAIN/CLEAN WATER STATION



Matavera CICC Church, Location of one of the three water stations in Matavera – A central hub of the village.

The Matavera Water Station was opened on 9 Sept 2015 by the Hon. Kiriau Turepu, Member of Parliament for the village of Matavera, with the generous support of the Cook Foundation. The water station provides filtered, ultraviolet (UV) treated water safe for Matavera Village community to drink.

The village of Matavera, with support from the Cook Foundation, now boast three water stations, providing clean drinking water for the people of Matavera. The Stations are serviced regularly by a local community member and is relied on by the whole community for clean drinking water. The Cook Foundation continues to support the water stations with financial assistance to purchase replacement water filters, general maintenance and cleaning services.

The island of Rarotonga has experienced more than normal rainfall and filters have had to be cleaned and changed quite frequently to maintain quality drinking water for the community. This request for assistance approved by the Cook Foundation recognises the importance of quality drinking water for a healthier community, providing financial assistance for water filters, general maintenance and cleaning during the period January – September 2018.



## 5. CREATIVE TRAIL COMMITTEE – WALKING FOR THE CREATIVE CENTRE

The Creative Centre was founded in 2002 and is a day centre that provides care and activities for people with special needs over the age of 16. The centre aims to find pathways to as much independence as possible for people with special needs, and includes activities, lessons about various crafts and visits to events and community. The centre is necessary service, providing a positive and happy place for Cook Islanders with special needs, and is not possible without the support of sponsors, fundraising activities, and donor funding. The centre opens 48 weeks of the year and closes of the Christmas and New Year period.



A few Creative Centre Members on an outing

Walking the Te Araroa Trail for the Creative Centre, Rarotonga, Cook Islands.



After a visit to the Rarotonga Creative Centre, local resident James Talbot was so moved by what he saw he decided to put effort into raising funds to support the Creative Centre in a big way. With the support of his wife Ani, he committed to, and took on the challenge, to walk the length of New Zealand to raise money for the Rarotonga Creative Centre, specifically facilities for overnight respite care.

Talbot is an experienced hiker, who has completed many of New Zealand trails. He will walk the 3500 kilometres beginning at Bluff, the southernmost point of the South Island, and ending at the tip of the North Island, Cape Reinga (Te Ara Roa Trail) within 5 months. The trek has been named the Creative Trail and James the Creative Hiker, in honour of the Creative Centre, its students and staff.

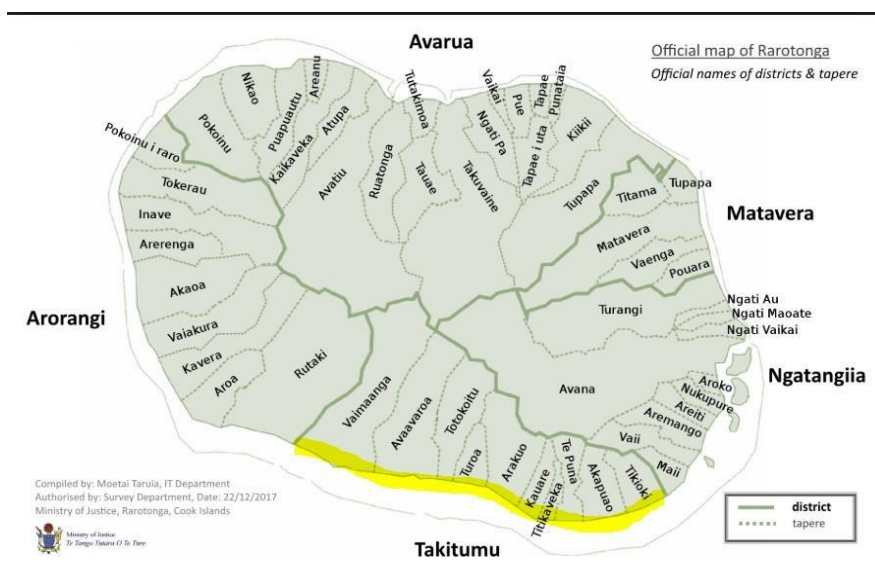
The Cook Foundation approved a request received from the Creative Trail Committee for financial contribution, towards specialised equipment, food etc to enable James fundraising venture. James had raised \$19,080 at the end of May 2019.

## 6. TEIMURIMOTA VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE - CCTV

Titikaveka is located on the south side of Rarotonga and is one of five districts that make up the island of Rarotonga. The village of Titikaveka, along with the villages of Ngatangia and Matavera, make up the Vaka Takitumu

Titikaveka, has over 1,000 residents, and is home to two colleges, Titikaveka College and Papaaroa College, as well as a number of tourism establishments. The village of Titikaveka, is considered the fruit bowl of the island, as most of the farms on the island, are in this village.

Titikaveka is traditionally known as Teimurimotia, hence the name of the Fire Station – Teimurimotia Fire Brigade. The name Teimurimotia, refers to the legend of the great fish of Tangiia (According to Cook Islands history, Tangiia is the Polynesian Chief that conquered and settled the island of Rarotonga specifically Vaka Takitumu, named for the Vaka (Canoe) that Tangiia sailed on). Teimurimotia is the tail of the fish of Tangiia, and is the only name used when referring to the village of Titikaveka, at traditional gatherings.



Village of Titikaveka or Teimurimotia (Highlighted area)  
One of three villages that make up the Vaka Takitumu

The Teimurimotia Volunteer Fire Brigade, came about when a few residents of Titikaveka teamed up, and put together their meagre resources and formed a fire brigade in response to a round of arson attacks on Rarotonga. Founding member, Mr Alistair Macquarie even mortgaged his family home to buy a small tanker to supply water to the fire truck during callouts. With the support of the community, traditional leaders and international donors, residents of Titikaveka have worked together to provide a valuable and efficient service not only to safeguard the residents of Titikaveka, and Takitumu, but also around the island during fire emergencies.

Teimurimotia volunteer fire brigade is a non-profit charitable organization that relies on a small number of volunteers to carry out their operations. Teimurimotia fire brigade gets limited aid from the government, the rest of the money comes from aid and support from charitable sources. Recently in response to a spate of burglaries, and traffic offenses in the village, the volunteer brigade extended their services to the Rarotonga Police Service providing volunteers to man traffic checkpoints on the weekends, checking for drunk or underage drivers. The checkpoints also check everyone entering the village during the hours of 10pm and 6am on Friday through to Sunday night, for repeat offenders (burglars) named on a hot offenders list (provided by the Police) entering the village, who don't live in



the village and don't have a reason for entering the village at the time of night. Checkpoints are setup on either side of the village of Titikaveka.

The Volunteer checkpoints has seen a significant decrease in night burglaries, and traffic incidents during the weekend, however, daytime burglaries are a problem particularly for the tourism industry. A potential deterrent for these day time criminals, is strategically placed CCTV cameras, and the Teimurimotia volunteer brigade sought assistance from the Cook Foundation to support this initiative.

A grant was approved, funding the purchase of CCTV cameras which are setup in 3 locations throughout Titikaveka/Muri district. The first location is at Dave rose shop which is situated in the area of Vaimaanga on one end of the village, where a 4 channel system is in place looking left, right down the feeder road to back road, and around the premises. The second location is at the Teimurimotia Fire brigade where an 8 channel system is in place, 2 looking left and right of main road, 1 looking down the feeder road, 3 outside of the fire station and 2 installed inside. The third location is the Muri police outpost which is situated

in Ngatangia, the heart of Rarotonga's busy tourist accommodation area. These cameras were setup, with the objective of reducing and deterring the incidences of burglaries, arson, and asset protection for tourist accommodation, businesses and residents, providing peace of mind while providing a safer, more secure community.

## 7. TAKUVAINA/TUTAKIMOA DISASTER COMMITTEE – CYCLONE GEAR

Takuvaine is a subdistrict of Avarua, the national capital of the Cook Islands. Takuvaine is a narrow district extending inland from the old Avarua harbour (site of the popular Trader Jacks restaurant) inland into the valley. Takuvaine is the only subdistrict without a coastline.



A grant was approved, funding the purchases of equipment to aid the people of Takuvaine in the event of a cyclone. A cyclone has not struck the Cook Islands in the past 10 years, however, climate change experts warn to be prepared for more severe weather and cyclones in the coming years.

Cyclones are large hazards especially in the Cook Islands where cyclones are a constant threat during cyclone season, and the poor condition of most old homesteads on the island. The Cook Foundation has previously supported Takuvaine/Tutakimoa with their cyclone preparedness efforts with a grant for ropes to tie the roofs of houses down.

This request for support is towards post cyclone recovery efforts with items such as safety vests, hardhats, bushknives, shovels etc.

The majority of Takuvaine is located in a valley, with a lot of old tall trees on the ridgeline and on the slopes, so the biggest risk to the people and their homes are trees felled by

the winds. The equipment will aid the people of Takuvaine both before a cyclone, to clear trees and debris that may cause damage to homes or people, as well as post cyclone, in clearing felled trees and debris that may have damaged homes, utilities, and block accessways. This aligns with the Cook Foundations' objective of, promoting safety of the public, protection of life and property, relief/assistance and protection of people who are victims of natural or manmade disaster.

## **MP/ CONSTITUENCY GRANTS**

### **1. MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR TAKUVAIN – MARK BROWN**

#### **Request for Support to purchase Grasscutter to support Village Cleaning Efforts**



The Honourable Mark Brown, is the Member of Parliament for the constituency of Takuvaine, and the Deputy Prime Minister of the Cook Islands.

The Honourable DPM, Mark Brown is currently the Minister of Finance and Economic Management, Seabed Minerals, Business Trade and Investment, Telecommunications, Sports and Olympic Committee, and Cook Islands Investment Corporation.

A grant was approved, for the purchase of two grass cutters for the roadside cleaning committee to use for the villages beautification program. Every month a different community group will have the task of carry out the program, on every roadside throughout the village. The program includes the cutting of roadside grass, clearing of rubbish or debris from public accessways and waterways. This is an on-going program since 2011 that is done to ensure the village is kept clean to reduce the amount of sickness or development of mosquito breeding sites throughout the village.

## **2. MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR RUAU – WILLIAM HEATHER**

### **Request for Support to purchase water filters – Inave Station**



William Kati Heather known affectionately to the Cook Islands community as “Smiley” is the current Member of Parliament for the constituency of Ruaau.

William Heather is a member of the Democratic Party currently in Opposition, and has previously held the positions of Leader of the Opposition, Democratic Party Whip, and when in Government held a position in Cabinet as the Minister for Transport, Infrastructure & Planning, and Energy.

The area of Ruaau is a high area that is often left without any water during the dry months; and whatever water is left in the pipes or domestic tanks, muddy and not healthy to drink. As with the rest of Rarotonga, the water from the mains, is unfiltered, and can cause sickness or disease. To gain access to filtered water residents either have to purchase clean water, or individually setup their water filters which can be costly. Access to clean water is a human right that is recognized across the globe and is in the UN's list of human rights.

The Cook Foundation has provided tremendous support towards the effort to provide clean drinking water for the Cook Islands community at large. The Cook Foundation supported the establishment of the Inave water station in the Ruaau subdistrict of Arorangi (traditionally known as Puaikura). The Cook Foundation continues to support the Inave water station with approval of a grant requested for the purchase of a 4 stage UV water filter

The total cost for the filter plus installation has a total cost of \$4,814, \$200 came from the Cook Foundation and the remainder was paid for by Ruaau Social Responsibility Funds. This project has provided clean and safe drinking water for the community

### 3. MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR TUPAPA MARAERENGA – GEORGE ANGENE Request for Support to purchase chainsaw – Village cleaning and Cyclone prep



The Honourable George Angene, affectionately known to the Cook Islands community as 'George Maggie', is the Member of Parliament for the constituency of Tupapa, and a Member of Cabinet as the Minister of Corrective Services, Culture, Business Trade and Investment, and House of Ariki.

The Village of Tupapa Maraerenga, located on the outskirts of the Rarotonga town district (Avarua), is home just over 600 residents, and arguably the most flamboyant cabinet minister in the Cook Islands. The Honourable George Angene is reportedly also one of the hardest working members of Parliament. With the campaign slogan

'Action Man', George Angene is often seen on the roadside, cleaning, trimming hedges at the homes of his constituents, or supervising whatever project is being completed in his constituency for the betterment of the resident community -

The Honourable, George Angene, sought support from the Cook Foundation to purchase a 16-inch chainsaw, to assist in the village cleaning, and cyclone preparation efforts. As cyclone season approaches, the village is preparing by cutting down trees that can be easily uprooted and trimming those that are too close to residential areas or roads. Trees are one of the biggest threats during a cyclone as branches can be thrown around damaging homes or injuring people. Damaged powerlines can also become a hazard, cutting off power to homes and becoming a danger to the rest of the community. The chainsaw will be used post-cyclone with clearing felled trees and debris from accessways all over the village.



#### **4. MEMBER OF PARLIMANT FOR NIKAO/PANAMA– VAINÉ (MAC) MOKOROA**

##### **Request for Support to purchase sewing machines in support of Vainetini**



The Honourable Vainé Mokoroa, widely known as 'Mac,' is a member of the Cook Islands Party, and the Member of Parliament for the Nikao/Panama constituency on the island of Rarotonga. newest Cabinet Ministers responsible for Portfolios: Internal Affairs, Police and Office of the Ombudsman.

Mac has extensive experience in the public sector, with previous roles as Chief of Staff, Prime Ministers Department, and Acting Secretary, of the Ministry of Infrastructure and Planning.

A proposal was received from the Pokoinu Tapere Committee in close collaboration with the Nikao CICC Ekalesia and the chairmen of the four Tapere to support a programme that would assist in building the capacity of the Nikao Vainetini.

The project proposed to encourage the women (vainetini) to take a more active role in the community, with sewing classes to teach and train other women to sew dresses, shirts and traditional bed spreads. The skill would help the women clothe their families and be a potential source of income for them.

The Cook Foundation approved funds to assist in the purchase of 8 sewing machines in support of this programme.

## **5. MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR TAMARUA – TETANGI MATAPO Request for Support to install a kitchen in the Tamarua Clinic**



Tetangi Matapo is a member of the Cook Islands Party and the current Member of Parliament for the village of Tamarua, one of three constituencies on the island of Mangaia.

Matapo was previously involved in the education sector as teacher and later deputy Principal before entering politics in 2013 where she won in her seat in a by-election.

The village of Tamarua is a small village on the most southerly island of the Cook Islands, Mangaia. Traditionally known as Auau enua, Mangaia is the second largest island of the Cook Islands.

A proposal was received, considered and approved to assist in the purchase of materials towards the installation of a kitchen sink/bench in the existing Tamarua clinic. This project is in support of ‘Te Pa Metua O Mangonui,’ The village of Tamarua’s senior citizens, who use the facilities for the meetings and fellowship events regularly.

The proposal also requested assistance with the purchase of chairs for use by the elderly when meeting at the Tamarua clinic. Cook Foundation approved support of this project, with funds towards the purchase of proposed materials.

**6. MEMBER OF PARLIMANT FOR TITIKAVEKA – SELINA NAPA**  
**Request for Support to service water stations in the village**



Selina Napa, affectionately known to the wider community as Aunt Sel, is a member of the Democratic Party currently in opposition and the member of parliament of Titikaveka, one of three villages that make up the Takitumu District on the island of Rarotonga.

Selina is the daughter of former MP, Dr Teariki Matenga. An outspoken MP, Selina is a strong sportswoman and has represented the Cook Islands in a number of international netball competitions.

The village of Titikaveka, traditionally known as Teimurimotia, is one of the largest villages on the island of Rarotonga. The village currently has three water stations that provide the resident community with clean drinking water, Papaaroa Hall in Turoa, Kent Hall in the middle of the village and Enea Manea in Tikioki. All three halls are strategically placed, to be accessible to the public, and in the most popular spots for community gatherings.

The Papaaroa hall is home to one of only two indoor basketball courts on the island, so the water station is handy for the youth who frequent this hall to play this popular sport, as well as other community events in this hall. The Kent Hall is a part of the main sporting facility in the village, with a community gym, rugby, soccer and cricket field, and netball courts nearby.

The water station at Enea Manea Hall in Tikioki, was recently established with the support of the Cook Foundation and is the home of the popular Vaka Takitumu Cultural group who use the hall for their rehearsals, as well as the site for most of the community events in the village.

The Cook Foundation approved support towards servicing, and replacement water filters for the water stations in Titikaveka.