



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

### **DECEMBER 2018 - REPORT**

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# 2018

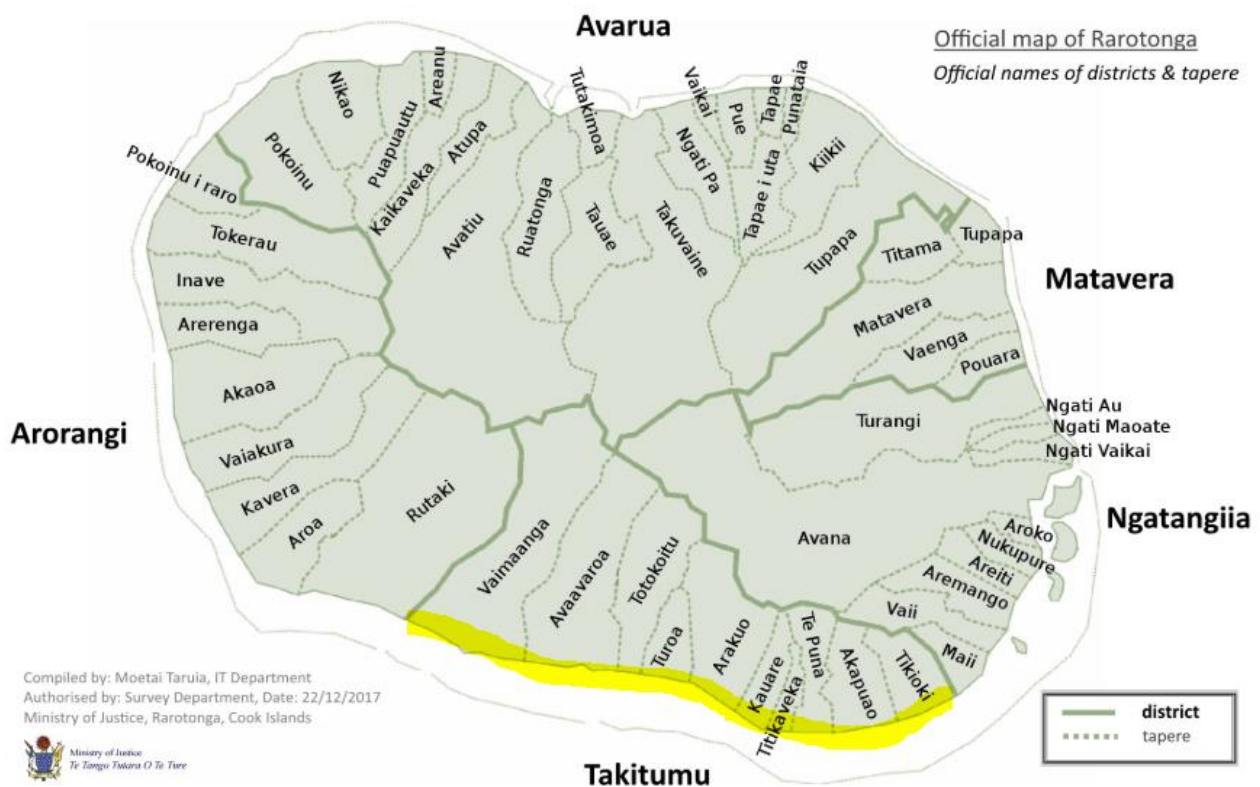
## COMMUNITY GRANTS\*

### 1. 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 Tangia (According to Cook Islands history, Tangia is the Polynesian Chief that conquered and settled the island of Rarotonga specifically Vaka Takitumu, named for the Vaka (Canoe) that Tangia sailed on). Teimurimotia is the tail of the fish of Tangia, 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.

## 2. TAKUVAINE/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.

## COMMUNITY GRANTS\*

### 1. MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR TAKUVAINE – 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 RUAUU – 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 Ruauu.

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 Ruauu 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 Ruauu 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 Ruauu 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.