



REPORT OF THE COOK ISLANDS TRUSTEES

July 2019

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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 vainetini
5. Tetangi Matapo, MP for Tamarua (Mangaia) – Install a kitchen at Tamarua Clinic
6. Selina Napa, MP for Titikaveka (Rarotonga) – Service Water Stations

COMMUNITY GRANTS

1. NUKUTERE COLLEGE – INCLUSIVE EDUCATION UNIT RESOURCES

Nukutere College is a Roman Catholic secondary school located in Avarua, Rarotonga, Cook Islands. It is the only Roman Catholic secondary school in the Cook Islands. The college was established in 1975 (44 years ago) by Bishop John Rodgers SM, Bishop of Rarotonga.

There is also a Government-funded Special Needs Unit which was opened at the college in 2007 and this is, still to this day, the only unit of its kind on the island. This year there are 11 students under the responsibility of the Inclusive Education (IE) Unit; however, they have not been able to get the required number of teacher aides (TA) to support the education model of 1 to 1 for IE students so they have to make do with 1 TA to 2 students.



The college's mission statement is as follows: Nukutere College empowers students to achieve the best of their ability: Spiritually, physically, socially and culturally. The college tries their best to stand by this statement and, as you can see above, they gave an IE student (Elijah Nootai) an opportunity to represent the school on stage during an inter-school culture festival in April 2019.

A grant was approved for the purchase of resources (stationary and assistive technology) for the Inclusive Education Unit. These resources include a printer with toners, paper and drums, stationary, art supplies, craft materials and office supplies. Support was also requested for the materials to fix the bathroom door which was not closing properly.

The objective of purchasing these resources is to assist the staff of the Inclusive Education Unit with advancing the education of the more challenged students while also providing a safe and secure environment for them.

2. CELEBRATION ON THE ROCK INC – COMMUNITY PLAYGROUND

The Cook Islands has always been a very spiritual nation with a number of churches in every village. These churches include but are not limited to the following: Cook Islands Christian Church (CICC), Catholic Churches, Apostolic of God (AOG) and Seventh Day Adventists (SDA).

Celebration on the Rock church has been operating in Rarotonga for over 10 years and is located across the road from the Rarotonga Airport. As part of their contribution towards the community, they provide free services for children and young people; weekly Sunday morning children programs and weekly Friday night youth and young adult program (both programs involving spiritual and personal development and social activities), and weekly after school tutoring for primary school children with core academic subjects.

Celebration Church believe that it is important to support the families in the community so that the children in the community have strong foundations for the future. They also wanted to provide a safe facility that encourages physical activity for children.

A grant was approved, it contributed to the funding for materials for the building of a community playground behind the Celebration Centre Church. The vision for the community playground is to create a community hub where families can gather, socialise and children can play safely and take part in physical activity to enhance their physical and mental wellbeing.



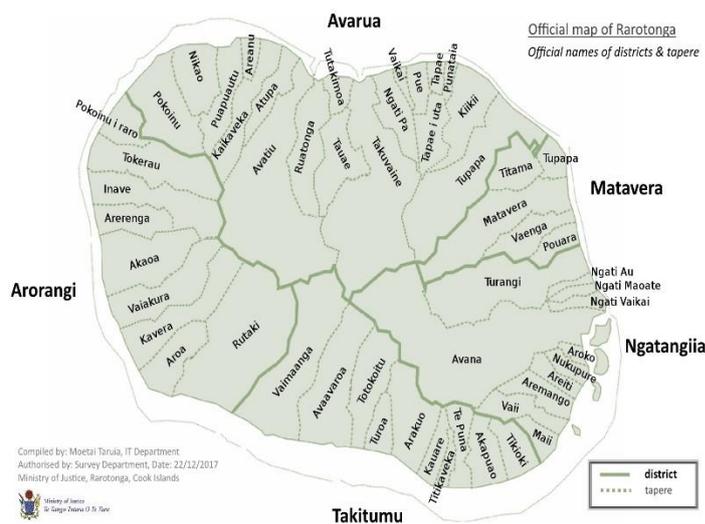
3. POKOINU TAPERE COMMITTEE – GRASS CUTTERS

A tapere is a subdivision of a district which is headed by a district chief. Historically, tapere's were almost always wedge-shaped - the boundaries beginning at defined points on the outer reef and running inland to enclose an ever narrowing strip of land until converging at a point in or near the center of the island. By this type of allocation, any one tapere included every category of soil type and land surface of the island, from the typically mountainous interior, where forest products were collected, through fertile valleys where the major food crops were grown, across the rocky coastal strip of elevated fossil coral, out to the lagoon and fringing reef.

Pokoinu Tapere is a part of the Avarua District of Rarotonga. It lies towards the west of Avarua (by the airport), close to the border of the Arorangi District. Pokoinu Tapere requires tools/equipment to maintain the grounds of the community areas of the tapere.

The Pokoinu Tapere Committee chairperson is Noopii Tearea. Noopii oversees the needs for the Tapere of Pokoinu, and for the improvement of the people within Pokoinu.

A grant was approved, funding the purchase of 2 grass cutters to maintain the grounds of the Pokoinu hall and for the cleaning of the grounds for the Nikao Ekalesia Church. The equipment was also to be utilised to cut and maintain the lawns for Apii Nikao.



4. ST THERESA YOUTH ASSOCIATION, MITIARO – SOUND SYSTEM

Mitiaro is part of the Southern Groups of the Cook Islands and had a population of 155 people as of the census 2018. Mitiaro is just 6 kms (4 miles) across at its widest point and is surrounded by a belt of razor sharp, fossilised coral six to nine metres (20 to 40 feet) high. The island boasts the only sizeable freshwater lakes in the Cook Islands. Rotonui (Big Lake) and Rotoiti (Small Lake) are a little way inland on the eastern side of the island. The larger is about half the size of the whole island, and between them, the two lakes account for about two thirds of the island.

St Theresa Youth Association is a member of the Mitiaro Islands Youth Group and are a backbone support to the island community activities.

St Theresa Youth Association have a vision to develop and empower the youth of Mitiaro to become future leaders for the island, in order to participate in the community and islands development programmes.



A grant has been approved, for the purchase of a sound system (amplifier, speakers, microphones and ancillary). The objective for this sound system is to assist youth and community activities in relations to fund raisers, concerts and staging village and church events with clarity.

St Theresa Youth Association is keen to develop their outreach, fund raising and hosting arrangements as time goes on. This system will definitely help achieve this goal as it will provide more clarity in the presentation of these events to those who attend, including music concerts and shows by the youth to the island residents.

Also, the more successful these event are, the more confidence the youth of Mitiaro will gain. This, in turn, will provide Mitiaro with confident leaders for the future.

MP GRANTS

1. MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR PUKAPUKA – TINGIKA ELIKANA

Request for Support to purchase Chainsaw, Grass Cutters and Tools to Support Pukapuka Island Cleaning Program

Pukapuka is one of the most remote places on earth. It has its own language and customs and other Cook Islanders say its main asset is beautiful girls. It's also the most densely populated part of the Cooks (approximately 390 people per square kilometre).

The Island's name is usually said to derive from the puka tree which grows all over the place. But Puka-Puka itself means 'land of little hills', and others say that's the real origin of the name which was given to the island by the first Polynesians who came here thousands of years ago. Some know it as 'Danger Island' because of an 8km submerged reef - Te Arai - and dangerous rip tides around it to the west.

Living on Pukapuka is like being in a commune. The islanders practice traditional conservation which calls for entire villages to move from atoll to atoll for periods of time. This is not a nomadic existence, it's more of a seasonal lifestyle with a focus on maintaining the delicate ecological balance. Culture and traditions like palm weaving (below) have remained unchanged for centuries.



Hon. Tingika Elikana (Left)

The Honourable Tingika Elikana, is the Member of Parliament for the island of Pukapuka/Nassau and is also part of the Finance Minister Support Office. He has requested for support to fund tools to support the cleaning of the island.

A grant was approved, for the purchase of 2 chainsaws, grass-cutter and other assorted tools for the community to utilise for the cleaning program of Pukapuka reserved land and island. This will allow the villagers to be able to continue to maintain a more traditional and community oriented way of life with a bit more ease.

2. MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR THE MURIENUA CONSTITUENCY – PATRICK ARIOKA Request Support to Purchase Tools for Trimming Hazardous Trees

As with all the islands in the Cook Islands, Rarotonga has been exposed to many forms of climatic extreme weather even to an extent of a tropical cyclone. For the constituency of Murienua, and like many other constituencies, from time to time there has been destruction which has come from these cyclones.

Murienua constituency is located on the south side of the island of Rarotonga and is made up of the Kavera tapere, Aroa tapere and Rutaki tapere. The community of Murienua have always tried to support and assist each other during such times.

The Honourable Patrick Arioka, is the Member of Parliament for the Murienua Constituency and is also the Associate Minister of Agriculture. He has requested support to fund tools to assist with trimming hazardous trees close to the homes in the Murienua community so that they may be safer during cyclone season.

The Murienua Community have established a working committee made up of representatives of the Kavera, the Aroa and the Rutaki tapere; they identified dangerous trees in the area which needed to be removed to make the houses safe from the unforeseen weather patterns during cyclone season and obtained household consent to have those said trees trimmed.

A grant was approved, for the purchase of tree trimming equipment for the Strengthening Community Resilience Project. This includes two chainsaws, extra chains, a petrol blower and two face protection visor kits. These tools will permit the Murienua Community to continue to be of assistance by helping to make the houses of the area safe of the risk from fallen, overgrown and hazardous trees.



Hon. Patrick Arioka (left)



3. MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR AITUTAKI – TEREAPII MAKI KAVANA
Request Support for Purchase of Water Tank for Mama Taranga Joseph

Aitutaki, also traditionally known as Ara'ura and Utataki, is one of the [Cook Islands](#), north of [Rarotonga](#). It has a population of approximately 2,000 and is the second most visited island of the Cook Islands.

The Honourable Tereapii Maki Kavana, is the Member of Parliament for the island of Aitutaki and is also the representative for Arutunga, Reureu and Nikaupara. He has requested support to purchase a water tank for an old age pensioner on the island of Aitutaki.

Mama Taranga Joseph is and 79 year old pensioner living with her 40 year old son and 7 year old grandson. She had a badly damaged 6000L water tank which could no longer store any water and the family had to walk about 300 meters from the home to the village community hall to collect filtered water every day.

A grant was approved, for the purchase of a 6000 litre water tank for Mama Taranga Joseph and this water tank will also be of use for the neighbourhood and the community.



Hon. Tereapii Maki Kavana (left)