Dear Members, Partners & Friends,

With the silly season fast approaching, we are working hard to wrap things up for 2012 before it disappears. Whilst Christmas-time is filled with fun and family, it can be a pretty sad time of the year for Mother Earth. With all the eating and parties and wrapping paper, it is easy to forget about the reality of what happens once all the crackers have been popped and stale jokes thrown out. This issue, we have included a few tips to help you have a greener Christmas. Kia orana e kia manuia rava i teia KiritimiTIS family and friends. See you in the New Year.

TIS at the Punanga Nui Market

During the ever busy Vaka Eiva competition in Rarotonga, TIS exec and volunteers were busy raising the profile of the organisation at the Punanga Nui Market. Jolene and Carrina spoke with stall holders, gauging their interest in different environmental issues affecting their business. The response was overwhelmingly positive for the proper use of recycling bins and biodegradable packaging. Jacqui, Teresa, Tamara, Luana and call-in Matt spent the morning encouraging people to join TIS, speaking to visitors about the Marine Park and doing activities with the littlies.

A big meitaki maata to Elmah Mcbirney who allowed TIS to have a spot under the shady band rotunda for the morning.

And a friendly reminder for those of you who haven’t renewed 2012 membership, please find attached to this email individual membership form for your consideration.

Jacqui Evans, Marine Park Programme Manager at the TIS stall

Kids at the Punanga Nui Market enjoying some eco-themed colouring in at the TIS stall.
Establishment of Sub-Committees

Our volunteer base is growing and to keep everything running smoothly, we have established three sub-committees that members can volunteer on. These are: Biodiversity, Waste Management, and Eco-Sustainable Development. If you want to get more involved and join a sub-committee, please contact us.

Conservation International Grant

TIS has received a grant from Conservation International (CI) for ‘Supporting the Establishment of the Cook Islands Marine Park (CIMP)’. This grant is to provide TIS with capacity to have input in the design and implementation of the CIMP. This includes two consultations in Pa Enua (in Mauke and Aitutaki).

This grant agreement is six months in duration from 1 August 2012 to 31 January 2013.

Suwarrow trip postponed

The rat eradication trip planned to leave for Suwarrow late 2012, has been postponed until April 2013. This is due to delays in the arrival of the rat bait and review of the operational plan. Baiting at this time of year also minimizes impact on bristle-thighed curlew.

TIPS FOR A GREENER CHRISTMAS:

- Wrap your presents in reused paper, then recycle the wrapping your presents are in for next year
- Save on paper and send e-cards (it saves on postage too!)
- Get creative- make your own decorations and leave the plastic ones in the shop. Get the kids involved as a fun craft activity
- Take your cloth bag when doing the Christmas shopping
- Remember to recycle. With lots of family around, we are bound to use more packaging- remember which bins to put everything in!