Dear Members, Partners & Friends,

Welcome to the November newsletter of Te Ipukarea Society. It has been a busy month for TIS, with many activities taking place. Here are some highlights.

TIS awareness day at Punanga Nui Market

Executive members Sabine Janneck and Inano McMurchy organized a TIS awareness morning at the Market on Saturday 22 November. They provided a demonstration on using waste materials to weave handicrafts as a very effective activity to attract the passers by. They raised awareness on the TIS projects, won a few new members and showcased the products made out of plastic wrappers. The display also had the honor of a visit by Tom Marsters our Queens Representative. Some children learned to make the wallets...and many others are going to tell their teachers and schools what they can do to reduce the plastic in our landfill!!! Great work ladies!

Queens Representative Tom Masters, Sabine Janneck, and enthusiastic recycling weavers at the Punanga Nui Market (Photo Inano MacMurchy)

IUCN World Parks Congress (WPC), Sydney

Though we were unsuccessful in securing IUCN funding for a TIS delegate to attend the WPC, we were very fortunate that four TIS members made it.

From left to right, Teina Mackenzie, who sailed the whole way to Sydney as a crew member of the Marumaru Atua, participating in an historic opening of the WPC with the 4 traditional sailing vakas (from Samoa, Fiji, NZ, Cook Is.) sailing under the Sydney Harbour Bridge (photo below). Kelvin Passfield was funded as regional steering committee member for the IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management. IUCN regional councilor for the Pacific Islands, Ana Tiraa attended the IUCN global Council Meeting in Sydney and stayed on for the WPC. TIS President, and also President of the Cook Islands Voyaging Society, Ian Karika, funded his own travel to join the Marumaru Atua on the leg from the Gold Coast to Sydney for the historic event, joining in for the WPC.

Marumaru Atua leads the Mua Voyage fleet under Sydney Harbour Bridge, and under the protection of God (Photo: Stuart Chape)
The World Parks Congress itself was reported to have over 6,000 delegates, and the Pacific Islands Pavilion was easily the most popular and entertaining of all the pavilions. IUCN Oceania staff and friends did a magnificent job at raising global awareness of our environmental issues. The crews from the voyaging canoes were there to bring the message to the world about the value and global significance of our Pacific Ocean and our islands, in a climate-challenged planet. Our future lies in protecting and carefully managing our large natural areas that provide life sustaining ecosystem services to sustain the Pacific islands and the world for future generations.

Update on Tanga’eo Mangaian Kingfisher project.
Jason Tuara and Carrina Langsford traveled to Mangaia and facilitated a workshop in Oneroa village for traditional leaders, the Island Council, landowners and other key stakeholders on Thursday 27th November. This included useful discussions for ongoing conservation plans for the Tanga’eo. Invasive species including rats, pigs, and myna birds were identified as an issue for future work. Mangaia TV recorded an interview with Jason aimed at raising local awareness of the project.

Birdlife Partnership Meeting and EU Birdlife Invasive Species Technical Advisory Group meeting
As a member of Birdlife International, TIS attends the annual Pacific Birdlife Partnership meeting. This year, the meeting was held in Farino, in the middle of the mainland of New Caledonia, and was attended by TIS president Ian Karika and Technical Director Kelvin Passfield. Other Pacific Birdlife partners that attended were Palau Conservation Society, Société Calédonienne d’Ornithologie, Nature Fiji, Forest and Birds NZ, Birdlife Australia, Ornithological Society for French Polynesia. Potential new birdlife affiliates for the Pacific, Vanuatu Environmental Advocacy Network (VEAN), and Solomon Islands Community Conservation Partnership (SICCP), also attended the meeting.

The participants were informed that at the last Birdlife Council meeting it was agreed that the membership category of Birdlife under which TIS falls, the partner designate, is likely to be abolished, leaving just the affiliate and the full partner categories. A decision will be made on whether designates, such as TIS, will graduate to full partner.

The EU TAG meeting was then held in Touhou, another village of New Caledonia on the north east Coast. At that meeting we reviewed progress on our Suwarrow Invasives project, and learned about progress for the other partner’s projects projects

As we are expecting a one year no cost extension till the end of 2105, we also developed a draft workplan for next year at the TAG meeting.

Work starts on Mitiaro Maroro Tu documentary
A team from TIS was in Mitiaro late October early November to begin work on the flying fish spawning documentary. More on this in the next newsletter.

Until next year - wishing you all a very happy festive season from the team at Te Ipukarea Society (TIS). And remember when buying and wrapping your Christmas presents, think of the potential impacts on the environment, and maybe buy your family a compost bin or worm farm, gift wrapped in old newspapers, which can then be composted :)

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