Dear Members, Partners & Friends,
Welcome to the October newsletter of Te Ipukarea Society. As you will see, the staff and Executive Committee have been busy the past couple months on some exciting projects.

Plastic fantastic! Making fashion from tita
As we highlighted in last month’s newsletter, Sabine Janneck, TIS Exec Member has designed a hands on way to tackle our growing plastic waste issue. Using the packaging from chip, cookie and ice cream packets, Sabine makes these stunning bags, clutches and boxes complete with a zip. “Every piece of plastic which doesn’t end up in our landfill is a success towards keeping our island clean!” says Sabine who many of us know as a lover of the environment.

As a TIS member, you can support Sabine’s efforts by collecting your old chip packets and dropping them off to the TIS office for this project and encouraging your local shops, schools and offices to hold on to old foil packaging for Sabine’s project.

These fabulous bags are available from Sabine for purchase at $45 each.

Membership
Meitaki Maata to all of our members who have paid your fees this year already however, there are still a few outstanding memberships. If you’re not sure whether you’ve paid or not, give Mary Raui at TIS a call on 21144.

Membership forms can be collected from the TIS office or by emailing info@tiscookislands.org

Membership fees are $5- students , $20- adults or $50 for the family

By having a strong and diverse membership base, TIS can continue to be a watch dog and an advisory panel on environmental issues affecting our oceans, land, animals, air and trees.

If you have a particular area of interest or skillset you’d like to use in your capacity as a TIS member, please let us know. All members are welcome to join TIS subcommittees on various issues including youth, biodiversity, ecologically sustainable development and waste management.
TIS family celebrates graduation
Te Ipukarea Society youth subcommittee member Teuru Tiraa Passfield has just graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Marine Ecology from Auckland University. The family were there to congratulate her (apart from Sieni who was a bridesmaid at a wedding in Rarotonga). The Tiraa-Passfields hope to have more graduates rolling off the production line in the coming years. Congratulations from all of your TIS anau Teuru!

The Tiraa-passfield family celebrating yet another scientist in the family!

Corporate Sponsorship
Corporate membership fees are also now due. Remember you have an option to support TIS at one of three levels:
GOLD- $1000 per year
SILVER- $500 per year
BRONZE- $150 per year

Being a Corporate Member of TIS, we feature your company on our website as a sponsor, you receive our monthly newsletters and Gold and Silver members receive adverts in the newspaper naming you as a partner (6x for gold, 2 x for silver).
Visit http://tiscookislands.org/donate.php

Whilst we do receive project funding from time to time, TIS relies mainly on our membership fees and corporate sponsors to ensure we can continue to do the work we do in our community. If you own a business, please consider becoming a corporate sponsor of our organisation.

Protecting our environment
Part of our role as TIS is to identify issues affecting our islands and act on them through political pressure, group action and campaigns. We rely on our active members to let us know if there is an issue they’re concerned about. If you have any questions or concerns about something you see happening in our environment, please let us know.

Until next month- Kia Manuia from the team at Te Ipukarea Society (TIS)