

December Issue # 12 Climate Change Cook Islands Office of the Prime Minister 2014

RauTi Para Tablet Training Project – Mangaia



Mama Oiaua Pukeiti, Mama Arumetua Toko and Mama Ngariki Adams of Mangaia too obsessed with their tablets to smile at the camera 27 – 31 Jan 2014 (Photo by Celine Dyer)

The SPC EU GCCA: PSIS Rauti Para project in partnership with SRIC Adaptation Fund and Telecom Cook Islands kicked off in Mangaia on the 27 January. On arrival to Mangaia the team of five checked into their accommodation then went to the training which was to start at 11am that morning. When the team arrived at the training hall they were surprised to be met by a mixture of people with ages ranging from 20 to 75. Since the hall could only seat 15 people so the workshop was restricted to that number. However, the SRIC focal point informed us that there were others who were still calling him and wanting to enrol.

The excitement amongst the participants was obvious as they patiently waited for the class to begin. The next three days of the training, we noted that participants were arriving half an hour early to the classes and as soon as Pua Hunter the trainer arrived on site they were in the room looking for their tablets and started working on it. Pua reported that she was very impressed with the enthusiasm and keenness of the participants to learn to use the tablet even with

the many questions they asked. Whilst we conducted our door to door questionnaire in the other two villages of Ivirua and Tamarua people were telling us they wanted to go to the training but didn't have any transport. This made us realise that we need to consider this for the next islands.



Pua Hunter (ICT - OPM) teaching in Mangaia at the Rauti Para tablet training 27 – 31 Jan 2014 (Photo by Celine Dyer)

Due to the plane schedule we could only do three days of three hours with the first day of five hours but even then people were staying back after class asking questions and to continue working on their tablets. According to Pua, she was blown away at how quickly the participants learnt and with the intensity of concentration that even when Pa Epi the SRIC focal point walked into the class to make an announcement no one even lifted their head up.



The class in full concentration 27 = 31 Jan 2014 (Photo by Celine Dyer)

Mangaia island is the first to receive the training and at the onset with our radio advertisement listeners were confused between the tablet and the medicinal

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tablet. Pa Epi in his ingenuity explained to enquirers his version of the tablet "it is something like a big mobile phone but similar to a computer" which we thought was a classic description for the tablet and will use this example in our promotions for the upcoming islands.



Papa Titangi George, Tearapiri Teaurima, Peia'a Teinangaro hard at it!! Mangaia tablet training 27 – 31st Jan 2014 (Photo by Celine Dyer)

Although there were some hitches with the internet connections, but at the end of the training participants were confidently manoeuvring their way around the tablet and looking at different websites including the Rauti Para site and facebook page which they all liked.



Pua Hunter answering a question that was posed to her in class (Photo by Celine Dyer)

At the end of the training participants were presented with certificates which they were overjoyed to receive. The Climate Change team leader Dr Teina Rongo did a presentation on climate change which was received with enthusiasm and much questioning. He also presented four tablets to the Telecom office in Mangaia for the participants so they can continue practising their newly acquired skills and access information on the net.



Mayor Teremoana Arariki, Inangaro Papatua, Ngametua Toko still focused on their tablets, Mangaia 27 – 31st Jan 2014 (Photo by Celine Dyer)



At the end of class is the only time participants look into the camera! Mangaia 27 – 31st Jan 2014 . Pua Hunter with mama O'iaua Pukeiti and Alanna Smith (Photo by Celine Dyer)

They created their own email addresses and facebook page which was a thrilling exercise they all loved.

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Handing over the tablets from team leader Dr Teina Rongo to Rima Herman Telecom Cook Islands on Mangaia 31st Jan 2014



Group photo of Mangaia graduates at the Rauti Para Tablet Training Project 27 – 31st Jan 2014 (Photo by Celine Dyer)



Climate Change team on arrival from Mangaia 31st Jan 2014 Rarotonga Airport.

Photos from the Mangaia tablet training will be posted on the Rauti Para facebook page with the list of participants names.

Finally, we wish to thank the SRIC Focal Point of Mangaia, Mr Pa Epi Mana, the Mayor and Island Council, the Executive Officer, Traditional Leaders, all the participants of the workshop and the people of Mangaia for their beautiful smiles with their warm generosity and hospitality that was extended to us. We also thank the chefs for feeding us with the many delicious delicacies of Mangaia. Meitaki ngao!.

We also acknowledge the loan of the camera equipment from the Are Ariki and Koutu Nui which made it possible for us to film the interviews as well as with significant areas of Mangaia for our documentary and our final report.

A documentary with a final report will be produced at the end of the project with the results of the research to assist us in planning to address climate change issues in our islands. The report will also be distributed to all the islands involved in the training. TANGIKE!

USP EU GCCA: Project Report

The in-country coordinator, Vaine Wichman has been working with the Cook Islands National Council of Women members in the Pa Enua and Rarotonga to conduct the project's regional survey on understanding the level of traditional knowledge used to counter or address climate change issues occurring throughout our islands.

Generally the survey results will establish the baselines of islander knowledge used in disaster preparedness and management and when coping for the onslaught of changes in climate patterns now a reality throughout the islands. So far the islands of Aitutaki, Mauke, Mitiaro and Atiu have been covered in this survey. The results expect to assist key stakeholders involved in addressing climate change in their planning and adaptation efforts going forward.



Taputu Mariri (right) after completing an interview in Aitutaki, December 2013

Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change Project- Cook Islands (PACC - CI)

Paul Maoate is the PACC Co-ordinator for Cook Islands and filed this report.

The PACC project supports the integration of climate change risks into policy frameworks and the implementation of community based adaptation measures throughout the Pacific.

The Cook Islands PACC project is focussing on coastal management on Mangaia by climate proofing the harbour. Mangaia has lacked a harbour since it was damaged by cyclones in early 2005. Hence, PACC is working on to restore and strengthen the existing harbour. PACC CI is also incorporating current and future climate change impacts to make the harbour stronger and better able to withstand future cyclones and storms. The work on the Mangaia harbour has already started and intended to be completed this year.

The project is funded by GEF-Special Climate Change Fund and AusAID and implemented by the Ministry of Infrastructure and Planning in partnership with SPREP. This project is set to reduce climate induced degradation and erosion of coastal areas and infrastructure.



Mangaia harbour (Photo by PACC_ CI)



Kura Kuriri

The Climate Change team consisting of team leader Dr Teina Rongo, ICT Director Pua Hunter, Celine Dyer, Alanna Smith with Ted Nia will be in Mitiaro from 3 – 7th Feb to conduct the Rauti Para training and research on climate change issues.

Dr Teina Rongo will be joining the marine park team for the Northern Group consultations from the 17th Feb to 3rd March.

Climate Change Director Ana Tiraa is off to attend a meeting in Samoa.



Till next time - KIA MANUIA!