

# News

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## WHAT'S NEW ON RAPA NUI

### Chilean national commerce, services and tourism agency aims to implement training for tourism workers on Rapa Nui

(As reported by soychile.cl, published online 16 March 2012). Representatives from the Cámara Nacional de Comercio, Servicios y Turismo de Chile (CNC) met with the Mayor of Rapa Nui, Luz Sasso Paoa, and Mahina Lucero Teao, the president of the Cámara de Turismo y Comercio de Rapa Nui (Tourism and Commerce Agency of Rapa Nui) in February to discuss education and training for workers in the tourism sector on Rapa Nui. The president of the national agency, Carlos Eugenio Jorquiera, discussed the intention to assist with the formal development of tourism in collaboration with technical education providers in order to improve the quality of services offered by tourism operators and workers on the island. According to Jorquiera, the national agency is committed to improving development on the island by offering scholarships and educational tools to Rapa Nui's inhabitants in order to aid professional development in tourism.

### Rapa Nui's "Eco Hare" is set to be the first public sustainable building

(As reported by Francisco Rodriguez, published by La Tercera online on 8 April 2012). The "Eco Hare" or "Eco Casa" (eco house) will be ready in August and will be the first building entirely made of recycled materials, including tires and plastic and glass bottles. Construction began in March and is scheduled to be completed in August, when the building will house the offices of the Unidad de Gestión Ambiental (Environmental Management Unit) of the island's municipality. The building is constructed using tires as a foundation and glass bottles as an aggregate for mixing with cement. The new center will feature a collection point as well as gutters that are designed to carry rainwater to a pond in order to be recycled for use in toilets and sinks. As Project Manager Ana Gutierrez notes, "La idea es demostrar a la comunidad que es posible reutilizar la basura de diversas formas y no mirarla simplemente como desecho" (the idea is to show the community that it is possible to reuse waste in several ways and not just to look at it as waste). Based on the amount of recyclable waste that is generated by residents and visitors to the

island, it is estimated that enough material is generated to produce over 10 eco houses annually. The project will cost US\$49 million and is funded by Coca-Cola Chile, the Subsecretary of Regional Development, the Ministry of Energy, and the island's municipality.

### US\$490,000 in government funding given to stabilize area of 'Orongo ceremonial village

(As reported by El Mercurio Valparaíso on 25 April 2012). The Chilean government will donate US\$490,000 to the conservation of the area of Mata Ngarau surrounding the 'Orongo ceremonial village. The announcement came after Cecilia Morel, the wife of Chilean President Piñera, met with the Intendent of the Region of Valparaíso and CONAF personnel to inspect the area, and found that a high number of petroglyphs are in danger of being lost due to cliff top erosion. Morel also announced the addition of US\$206,000 to provide a written and 3D register of the archaeological resources in the area.

## What's new at the MAPSE

The Museo Antropológico Padre Sebastián Englert hosted a number of exhibitions and events in recent months. In November 2011, the museum participated in the annual celebration of the Día de la Lengua Rapa Nui (Rapa Nui Language Day). A new exhibition entitled " $I + I = I$ " featured the photography and sculptures of local artists Stephanie Pauly and Karlo Hucke and was open to the public from January to March. The museum also hosted a number of workshops in recent months, including a *kai kai* workshop and an ancestral mask-making workshop for children, as well as two workshops on the art of weaving palm fronds.

## WHAT'S NEW IN OCEANIA

### Mangareva celebrates the restoration of the Cathédrale Saint-Michel

(As reported by Graeme Lay and published by www.stuff.co.nz on 19 November 2011). The restored Cathédrale Saint-Michel (Cathedral of Saint Michael), which is located in Mangareva's sole town of Rikitea, was scheduled to be unveiled in December 2011. The restoration drew from fundraising and corporate sponsorship and was supervised by two

French heritage architects. The cathedral, which can accommodate 2000 people, was commissioned to be built by the Catholic missionary Father Honore Laval, who brought Christianity to the islands in 1834. The cathedral's construction includes stones from the island's *marae* as well as additional coral slabs that were quarried by the islanders, and is a testament to Laval's 37-year stay on the island, when he banned traditional beliefs while also recording a great deal of information about indigenous customs and language.

## 20 ancestral Māori heads repatriated to New Zealand by France

(As reported by *The Telegraph*, published online 23 January 2012).

A total of 20 Māori heads (*mokomokai*) that were collected as cultural curiosities from the 19<sup>th</sup> century until as recently as 1999 were repatriated by France in January. Frederic Mitterrand, The French Culture Minister, and New Zealand's ambassador attended a ceremony at Quai Branly Museum in Paris before the return of the 20 *mokomokai*. These ancestral heads comprise the largest single repatriation and will ultimately be returned to local *iwi* groups or will be held at New Zealand's national museum, Te Papa, if their *iwi* affiliations cannot be determined.

## Wa'a Wayfinders still making waves around the Pacific

(As reported and updated periodically online at [www.pacificvoyagers.org](http://www.pacificvoyagers.org)). The seven *vaka* have been back in the water since January 2012. After winterizing their canoes in San Diego, CA, they sailed down the west coast of the Americas, to the Galapagos Islands, then travelled on to the Tuamotus and Tahiti before arriving in the Cook Islands in May. They are on track to arrive to the Solomon Islands to attend the Festival of Pacific Arts in July after also stopping by Sāmoa and Fiji in June. More information is available at <http://www.pacificvoyagers.org>.

## 11th Festival of Pacific Arts to be held in the Solomon Islands, July 1-14, 2012

"*Culture in Harmony with Nature*" is the title of the 11<sup>th</sup> Festival of Pacific Arts, which will be held in the Solomon Islands on July 1-14, 2012. The festival brings together around 2500 artists, performers, and cultural practitioners from 27 territories and countries, including Australia, the Cook Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Guam, Hawai'i, Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, Nauru, New

Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Norfolk Island, the Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Pitcairn, Rapa Nui, Sāmoa, the Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, and Wallis and Futuna. More information about the festival can be found at [www.festivalofpacificarts.com](http://www.festivalofpacificarts.com).

## Tattoo Honolulu Exhibition opening at the Honolulu Museum of Art

A new exhibition entitled "*Tattoo Honolulu*" will open on 14 June 2012 and will run through 13 January 2013 at the Honolulu Museum of Art (formerly known as the Honolulu Academy of Arts). The exhibition features the work of 10 tattoo masters and also explores the art of tattooing in both a contemporary and historical context. As the museum's website explains, "by linking the past – through works such as 19th-century prints by Jacques Arago depicting tattooed Hawaiians – with the present, the museum hopes to expand cultural awareness not only about the art of the tattoo, but also the rich cultural traditions it is based on." Further information is available at [www.honolulumuseum.org](http://www.honolulumuseum.org).

## WHAT'S NEW ELSEWHERE

### Collectors' banknotes called "Rongo" printed

On 1 September 2011, a series of collectors' banknotes were printed by the British American Bank Note Co, Ltd. The notes have no monetary value, but feature famous imagery from the island and come in denominations of 500, 1000, and 2500 "Rongo". These can be found on eBay and other online retailers, and more information can be found on [www.banknotes.com](http://www.banknotes.com).

