

# 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