

galleries may include articles that range from news to festivals and dance, education, military history, and island stories and remembrances. Waka Photos founder Ben Bohane, an Australian photo-journalist, author and TV producer, notes that the goal is to introduce the world to local photo-journalists in the Pacific Islands who can provide information about what is happening in the region beyond the idyllic postcard images and provide a deeper understanding of Pacific life. Visit www.wakaphotos.com.

Emeritus Professor Geoffrey Irwin receives Elsdon Best Medal

(As reported on the Polynesian Society's Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/ThePolynesianSociety>). On July 24, 2013, Professor Geoff Irwin was invited to give the Elsdon Best Memorial Lecture entitled "The lake village of Kohika and archaeological approaches to the study of Māori settlement patterns in the north." Professor Irwin also received the Elson Best Medal at the gathering. The medal is awarded periodically to honor extraordinary contributions to Māori research.

WHAT'S NEW ELSEWHERE

Minamisanriku Moai- Japan

The Japan Daily Press and the Santiago Times reported a newly-carved *moai* statue that was unveiled in May in the small Japanese fishing town of Minamisanriku, Miyagi Prefecture, located approximately 10,000km from Rapa Nui. The statue was a gift, sculpted by islanders Bene Tuki Aukara and his father, and was presented to the town by the Chilean Government as a gesture of hope and encouragement as the town rebuilds from the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami. Interestingly, the town was sent a *moai* in 1991 to mark the original connection between Minamisanriku and Rapa Nui; the 1960 earthquake that originated off the coast of South America sent waves across the Pacific, causing a tsunami in which 142 townspeople lost their lives. The Chilean Government sent over the first *moai* to form an alliance between the Japanese town and the Chilean Government. Unfortunately, the original *moai* was destroyed in the 2011 tsunami. The new *moai* was first exhibited in Tokyo in March; it symbolizes Chile's efforts to keep the connection between Rapa Nui and Minamisanriku alive. Town officials were grateful for the *moai* and for the gesture of friendship from the island; the statue has become a powerful symbol for the small town. Students raised funds from selling *moai* badges to purchase a new bus for the town. There has also been a scholarship program, funded by the Chilean Government and businesses, which has helped a group

of students from Minamisanriku to study in Chile. A news segment from TV Nacional de Chile called *Un moai para Japón – A moai for Japan* tells the story of the *moai* and can be viewed on YouTube at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AtdVaRcsX5o>.

El Legado de Fritz Felbermayer-Chile

(As reported by www.explora.cl and islasdelpacifico.wordpress.com). A presentation on "The Legacy of Fritz Felbermayer" took place in June as part of the series "Culture + Science Friday" organized by the Partnership Project EXPLORE Valparaíso Region and the Fonck Museum in Viña del Mar. The exhibition was commissioned by the Biblioteca Rapanui at the Fonck Museum, with Librarian Ana Betty Haoa Rapahango and Tania Basterrica Brockman, of the Universidad de Playa Ancha, Director of Projects at the Fonck Museum and Chairman of the Tacitas Group giving the presentation.

The discovery of a previously unknown audio tape and photographs in a closet at the Fonck Museum last year was the starting point of an investigation of the legacy of Austrian Fritz Felbermayer. The tape contained 32 recordings of old Rapanui songs and legends, and songs from the Catholic Mass; and Haoa and Basterrica discovered that these items originally belonged to Fritz Felbermayer, an Austrian who lived in Chile and was enamored with the culture of Rapa Nui.

FONDART funds were used to undertake the research. The team contacted Australian ethnomusicologist Dan Bendrups and collaborated with him on the project. To study the songs without risk of damaging the material, the tape was copied to a CD. Haoa was able to identify some of the singers, including Kiko Pate and Maunga Pakarati. The talk included an audiovisual presentation showing images of Felbermayer's trip to the island, along with songs from the original audio tape that had been played through an aged Telefunken machine, also found in the closet. The presentation can be viewed online at: <http://new.livestream.com/exploravalpo/viernesdeculturayciencia-28062013>. A sample of one of the songs, Opa Opa, can be heard online at: http://www.emol.com/videos/magazine/indexSub.asp?id_emol=11032.

Dates set for the 9th Conference on Easter Island and the Pacific in Berlin

The 9th Conference on Easter Island and the Pacific will be held in Berlin, Germany from June 21-25, 2015. More information about the conference will be published in the *Rapa Nui Journal* in 2014. For additional details, please visit the official conference webpage at <http://9th-eip-conference.org/>.