

ecosystem as close as possible to what it might have been when the first people arrived on Rapa Nui.

The creation of a working group was one of the first stages of the project. A steering committee was established that includes Francine Cousteau, President of the Cousteau Society; Eduardo Vial, Executive Director of CONAF; and Aida Baldini, Forest Manager at CONAF. The committee put together a technical team and provided guidelines. The team is composed of a multidisciplinary group of Chilean and foreign professionals and will be responsible for the implementation of various activities. CONAF will be responsible for the technical aspects of reforestation and soil restoration, and the Cousteau Society will be responsible for activities related to environmental education, communication, and awareness at local, national, and international levels. Vial noted that the activities on the island will help to reach a balance that will benefit not only the environment, but also the local community. Francine Cousteau added that one of the fundamental pillars for the success of this project is to raise awareness and educate the local community and the thousands of visitors who come to Rapa Nui, attracted by its natural and cultural beauty. An international campaign has been launched to raise funds for the effort. Cousteau emphasized the importance of protection and sustainable management of the landscape, not just for tourism activities, but also for future food security for the islanders on both the land and in the surrounding ocean.

Other news of interest

Kathi Merritt reports that the roads to both 'Orongo and Ahu Akivi have been paved. The soccer field at the corner of Avenida Policarpo Toro and Avenida Te Pito o te Henua is being remodeled. Planting of native vegetation on Poike is taking place with the help of CONAF and SAG as part of an ongoing anti-erosion project.

WHAT'S NEW AT THE MAPSE

Apuntes del Museo newsletter released

MAPSE has begun publication of a digital newsletter, *Apuntes del Museo*. The first issue was published in late 2012. Articles may be submitted in English or Spanish. The first issue contains articles by Brigid Mulloy, *Bill Mulloy, The Backstory*; Cristián Moreno Pakarati, *Soldados Rapanui en la Guerra Pacífico? Estudio Preliminar*; José Miguel Ramírez Aliaga, *Confirmado: Exploradores Polinesios Llegaron al Sur de Chile, Hace Unos Mil Años*; Jimena Ramírez González & Camila Zurob Dreckmann, *La Administración Civil*

en Isla de Pascua; and Ana Maria Arredondo, *Historia de la Educación en Isla de Pascua; Primera Parte 1864 – 1956*. Anyone wishing to receive the newsletter can request a copy through the MAPSE website at: <http://www.museorapanui.cl/Biblioteca/newsletter.html>

MAPSE events

In March, the William Mulloy Library at the MAPSE hosted the launch of the new book *Vistiendo Rapa Nui*, edited by Andrea Seelenfreund of Universidad de Chile; the book was presented by textile artist Clara Alarcón Pakarati and Ana Maria Arredondo, Professor of History. In May, the Día del Patrimonio Cultural, Te Ono te Kainga, the Ancestors of Rapa Nui, was celebrated with a full day of activities including guided tours of the museum and the William Mulloy Library for both tourists and locals. It also featured an underwater photo exhibition, *Mata Ika*, and a presentation by the Escuela de Música Infantil de Rapa Nui. In August, a Día del Niño at the Centro Cultural Tongariki was held and included a photographic exhibition prepared by the children with the assistance of their parents and the MAPSE staff. There was also a presentation by environmental biologist Lua Alvas from the Universidad de Chile to promote awareness about the historical value of the island's natural resources, to highlight current environmental problems, and to offer alternatives to help with these issues.

WHAT'S NEW IN OCEANIA

Newly renovated Pacific Hall re-opens at Bishop Museum

On September 21, 2013, the permanent exhibition space of Pacific Hall (formerly Polynesian Hall) re-opened at the Bishop Museum in Honolulu, Hawai'i after a major multi-million dollar renovation that took nearly four years to complete. The hall showcases objects from the museum's cultural and archaeological collections, many of which were recovered from archaeological sites across the Pacific by Bishop Museum archaeologists. The permanent exhibition features thirteen objects from Rapa Nui, including stone fishhooks, an obsidian *mata'a*, and various wooden objects, including a *rapa* (dance paddle), a *reimiro*, and a *rongorongo* tablet.

Pacific Photo Archive launched

Based in Vanuatu, the Pacific's first photographic and media agency, Waka Photos, has been launched and provides access to thousands of colorful images depicting various island cultures of the Pacific. Photo

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/>.