

From there, LAN Chile flew the Rotaloos onto Easter Island, also free of charge, in a joint ongoing effort with International Help Fund Australia to help save Easter Island's drinking water supply.

The Rotaloo Maxi 2000 is to be installed in the new visitors centre at 'Orongo, one of the most scenic locales on the island and one that is on every visitor's agenda.

The extreme distance and cost of sending anything to Rapa Nui was alleviated by the partnership with Air Tahiti Nui and LAN Chile, both companies supporting initiatives for a clean and green Pacific Region. In a rare action, the Chairman of Air Tahiti Nui, Eric Pommier, and the Director of LAN Airlines in Tahiti, Alan Scotti, released a joint press communiqué from Faa'a International Airport. Both greeted the toilets in person en route to Rapa Nui. Pommier said that "Air Tahiti Nui is fully supportive of these environmental actions and on behalf of Air Tahiti Nui I am proud to be able to cooperate". Alan Scotti agreed: "It is a pleasure for us to help in this matter, providing free transportation for these units from Pape'ete to Easter Island".

EASTER ISLAND FOUNDATION NEWS

GREETINGS FROM BAYWOOD PARK!

THINGS ARE STILL IN A STATE of flux around our little office. The park-like area next to the office is becoming a reality, complete with a fountain in the center! From our doorway we have a great view of the bay and sand dunes. During the past year, several generous EIF members donated items that are of interest to Rapanuiphiles. We have a few nicely-carved *moai* in wood and stone, as well as a set of salad servers with carved bird handles. Prices vary; see the items on our website: www.islandheritage.org. We also received some Tapati Rapa Nui posters from years past. Many contain the wonderful artwork of Cesar Aguilera, proprietor of Hotu Matua's Favorite Shoppe. These posters are rare items and we are asking \$50 each. Images of each poster can be viewed on our web site. Our most recent publication is Georgia Lee's memoir, *Rapa Nui. Island of Memory*. If you have not yet seen it, we highly recommend it as a journey back in time to the way the island was 25 years ago. It is illustrated with black and white and color photographs as well as Georgia's own pen and ink drawings. It's a fun and interesting read!

By press time, we will have copies of Shawn McLaughlin's revised edition of *The Complete Guide to Easter Island*. It is even more "complete" than the original version, which sold well over 1000 copies. Shawn returned to the island in 2007 and updated the book with the latest information on hotels, *residenciales*, restaurants, and sites, as well as much new background information relating to our favorite island. The new book is more profusely illustrated than the first edition, including color plates. Even if you aren't planning a trip in the near future, it's a very worthwhile book to have on your Rapa Nui bookshelf! Before the end of the year, we hope to publish *Prehistoric Rapa Nui*,

by Christopher Stevenson and Sonia Haoa, with contributions by Paul Wallin and Helene Martinsson-Wallin, Joan Wozniak, Linda Scott Cummings, Matthew Bampton, and Pernilla Flyg. This important new book concerns ancient agricultural practices on Easter Island. Also coming out soon is a new book by Rhys Richards, *Easter Island 1793 to 1861: Observations by Early Visitors Before the Slave Raids*. Check our website for the latest information about when these exciting new books will be available for purchase. As always, we have copies of used and rare books about Easter Island and other Pacific Islands for sale. A few of our publications are nearly out of print (*Easter Island Archeology*, for example) and will not be reprinted, so if you are thinking about adding it to your book collection, now is the time! We always have slightly damaged copies of certain books that we sell at a discount, so feel free to ask us for a list.

We have copies of T.A. Barron's new children's book, *The Day the Stones Walked*, for \$17. The books were generously donated by the author, so the EIF receives 100% of the proceeds. Beautifully illustrated by William Low, the book is aimed for readers 9-12. The story carries a message for Easter Island and for planet Earth.

Finally keep an eye on your *Rapa Nui Journal* address label for the expiration of your membership. We really appreciate it when our members renew on time. If you have any questions about your membership, are missing any back issues, or if you have any other queries, please let us know!

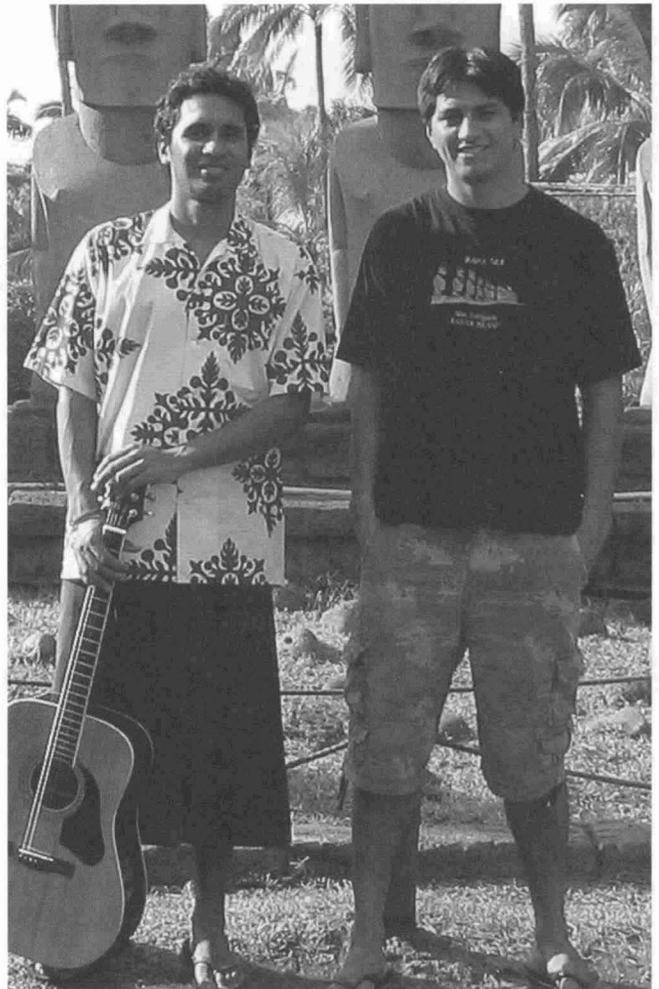


A bevy of beauties at the Gotland conference! EIF's Marla Wold, chairman of the Scholarship program, with four charming Rapanui *vahines*: Melinka Hucke, Tahira Edmunds, Tiare Aguilera Hey, and Susana Nahoe. Both Tahira and Tiare are EIF scholarship award recipients. Photo: Paul Horley.

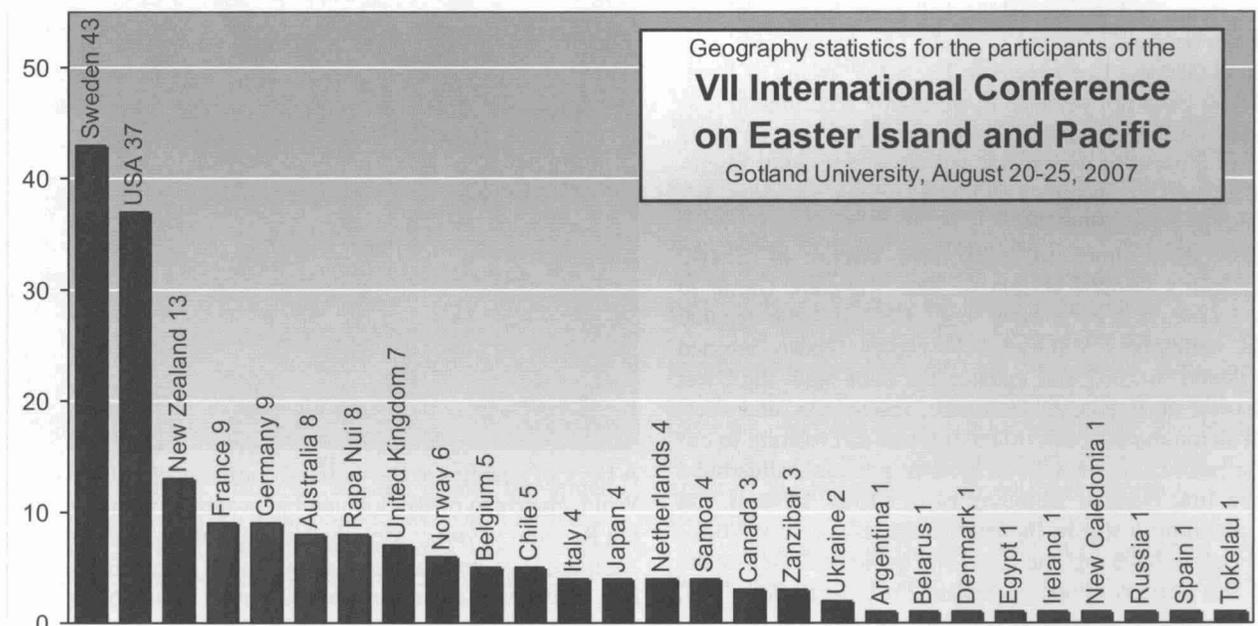
WE WOULD LIKE TO SHARE WITH OUR READERS a recent letter from Scholarship recipient Ioan Soler:

Dear EIF: I would like to take this opportunity to thank both the Easter Island Foundation and the Wiegand Foundation for the financial help provided to me for the last 4 years of my education. I consider myself very fortunate to receive support from these institutions, which helped me to pursue my academic goals. Things have changed in the past year: I moved from crowded Southern California to the peaceful island of Oahu to continue my studies at Brigham Young University. I plan to graduate in December of 2008, along with my Rapanui cousin, Ito Pakarati, who has been attending this institution for 2 years. Since 1960, BYUH has been running the Polynesian Cultural Center, a top tourist attraction in Hawai'i, providing employment to Polynesian students from Samoa, Tonga, and New Zealand, among many others. The PCC portrays the cultures and arts and crafts of Polynesia. My cousin and I work part-time in the Rapa Nui exhibit to help support ourselves. Living in Hawai'i resembles Rapa Nui in the sense that the Polynesian spirit is everywhere and we feel welcome and a part of it. We are proud to represent Rapa Nui and be recognized by foreigners, local and tourists who have a great respect for our island.

It is people like you who make our world better and help us accomplish our goals so that we may encourage more students to study abroad, and we hope to share our experiences with them. Without financial help it would have been almost impossible to reach the goals that I have set and I likely would not be here today, writing this letter. Hopefully we can encourage more candidates to apply for the scholarships so that they can take advantage of such opportunities. I will be spending the summer of 2007 doing an internship on Rapa Nui and I look forward to seeing my family and spending time with friends and using my knowledge to help the Rapa Nui people. Once again, I am very grateful for the grants that I have received in the last four years. Sincerely yours, *Ioan Soler Hotus (Laie, HI, June 2007).*



Ioan Soler Hotus (right) with his cousin Ito Pakarati at the Polynesian Cultural Center, Hawai'i. Ioan, one of the EIF's Wiegand Foundation scholarship award winners, studies at Brigham Young University, HI. The recreated Easter Island *ahu* with *moai* is one of the Cultural Center's replica Polynesian villages.



Graph courtesy of Paul Horley