

News

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WHAT'S NEW ON RAPA NUI

CONAF reforestation efforts continue on Rapa Nui

(Published by La Tercera online, 30 May 2011). From now until 2016, CONAF (Corporación Nacional Forestal) plans to reforest seven sectors of the island with native trees and plants of Polynesian origin. The project is a continuation of a pilot study that was carried out from 2006-2010 in 15 hectares on the Poike Peninsula. During the next 5 years, CONAF plans to reforest Poike (70ha), Ovahe (10ha), Puna Pau (50ha), Orito (20ha), Maunga Toa (10ha), Rano Kau (100ha), and Maunga Terevaka (200ha) with toromiro (*Sophora toromiro*), makoi (*Thespesia populnea*), hau hau (*Triumfetta semitriloba*) as well as six other native species, mostly of Polynesian origin. They plan to produce 20,000 plants in the Rapa Nui National Park nursery and to transport these plants to areas around the island. The project is funded by private and public contributions from France (including the National Forestry Office of France) and the Chilean government, and will involve community volunteers.

Plans for a marine reserve continue

(As reported by el Morro Cotudo online, 8 June 2011). In June, various government officials, including Pablo Galilea, the Subsecretary of Fishing, travelled to Rapa Nui to meet with local government officials to discuss plans to develop a marine reserve of 85 hectares in the Hanga Roa Otai sector. The reserve seeks to protect the ecosystem and endemic biodiversity in the area. In particular, the establishment of the proposed marine reserve aims to replenish stocks of lobster and *pure* (cowrie shellfish). The preliminary request was put forth by local fishermen, the Department of Tourism, and the Oceana Foundation.

New eco-sustainable office opened by LAN Airlines

(Published online by El Mercurio, 14 June 2011). LAN Airlines celebrated the launch of a program entitled “Cuido mi destino” (Care for my destination) on Rapa Nui in June. With the help of local high school students on the island, they worked to improve the quality and appearance of various venues in Hanga Roa. For example, they installed public trash cans near the church (pictured below). A lecture series about the value of cultural patrimony on the island was also organized. The events coincided with the grand opening of the airline’s new eco-sustainable office on the island.



Photographs of the new trash cans in front of the church. (Photos by Kathi Merritt)

Nine out of twelve land claims resolved

(Published by La Segunda online, 28 July 2011). Following the land disputes that were initiated in March 2010, the government agreed to give different types of compensation to nine families. In three of the cases (known as Museum, Beacon (Navy), and Emaza), Carlos Llancaqueo, who is the presidential delegate for Rapa Nui, ordered the restitution of land to enable families with claims to those areas to settle and live in the disputed areas. In the other six cases, families will be compensated through fiscal land located in the Vaitea area in the interior of the island. Three cases, which include the Tahai area, the Civic Center, and the Cultural Center, are still under evaluation, as is the Hito family’s claim for the land occupied by the Hanga Roa Hotel, which is not listed in the Land Register and is being heard in court.

October marks the 19th anniversary of the reconstruction of Ahu Tongariki

(As reported by María Elizabeth Pérez, published by La Tercera online, 12 September 2011). October 2011 marks the 19th anniversary of the reconstruction of Ahu Tongariki,

which was undertaken in 1992 by Chilean archaeologists, international collaborators from Japan, as well as the Rapanui community. As Pérez explains, despite the reconstruction efforts, much information is still unknown regarding the ceremonial center and village at Tongariki. Her interviews with Ninoska Cuadros Hucke (the provincial director of CONAF) and Enrique Tucki (who was a member of the reconstruction team as a member of CONAF) highlight the fact that much information about the culture-historical evolution of the area is based on isolated information, and that there is an interest to return to this area to learn more about the dynamic history of this village.

300 tons of trash and vehicles to be sent to mainland Chile for disposal

(As reported by Danny Aulestia M., published on www.lun.com on 7 July 2011). An initiative known as “Limpiemos Rapa Nui” (Let’s clean up Rapa Nui) has initiated efforts to send approximately 300 tons of trash to mainland Chile with the help of the recycling firm Gerda Aza, who provided a trash compactor to assist with the project. More than half of the trash consists of old vehicles, including cars, trucks, tractors and motorcycles. The recycling firm has plans to assist with the removal of plastics and electronic waste in the future.

What’s new at the MAPSE

The Museo Antropológico Padre Sebastián Englert hosted a number of exhibitions and events in recent months. In May, an exhibition entitled “*Pierre Loti: Etnografo de Ayer, Memoria Viva de Hoy*” (Pierre Loti: ethnographer of yesterday, living memory of today) was launched and explored the life and work of Pierre Loti, who was a French writer on board the ship *La Flore*, which anchored off Rapa Nui on 3 January 1872. The exhibition included writings and sketches from Loti’s visit to the island. Also in May, Veronique Gervais, a physical anthropologist from the ministry of exterior relations of France, gave a presentation entitled “*Modificaciones corporales antes de la cirugía estética*” (modifications to the body before plastic surgery). Over 200 people helped to put together a celebration for the “Semana del Patrimonio” (week of heritage) in May as well. The celebration included a number of events, including guided tours of the collections, exhibition visits, the projection of photographs and documentaries, and a presentation by the children’s cultural orchestra of Rapa Nui. In June, a documentary entitled “*122 años – 122 imagenes*” (122 years – 122 images) was screened. In July, a *kai kai* workshop was held and was well-attended by boys and girls. The launch of the new book entitled “*La Compañía Explotadora de Isla de Pascua*” was held at the museum in July as well. The museum also supported the Terevaka.net

Archaeological Outreach program and a presentation by its assistant director, Dale Simpson Jr., was given at the museum in July. It was entitled “*La Contribución del Capitán A.W.F. Fuller a la Colección Rapa Nui del Field Museum (Chicago, Illinois)*” (the contribution of Captain A.W.F. Fuller to the Rapa Nui collection at the Field Museum). In August, a new exhibition featuring the artwork of Melinka Cuadros Hucke, entitled “*Ma’ea Tapu: Petroglifos de Rapa Nui*” (Sacred Stone: Petroglyphs of Rapa Nui) was launched. The exhibition featured the documentation of petroglyphs from archaeological sites throughout the island and recorded oral traditions about them. It sought to rescue, care for and preserve the oral traditions of the ancestors as reflected through the figures comprising petroglyphs. Also in August, entomologist Jut Wynne presented the results of his team’s research that was carried out in the Roiho sector in 2009. A presentation on “*Aves de Rapa Nui*” (Birds of Rapa Nui) was presented by Nicolás Amaro from the Asociación de Observación de Flora y Fauna Silvestre de Chile (the association of observation of the wild flora and fauna of Chile). This month, the museum will launch an exhibition entitled “*El Universo de la Luz*” (The Universe of Light), which has been shown in 26 locations throughout South America and will have its final display on Rapa Nui.

WHAT’S NEW IN OCEANIA

Wa’a Wayfinders making waves around the Pacific

(As reported by Colin M. Stewart for the Hawaii Tribune-Herald and published online, 15 June 2011; also reported and updated periodically online at www.pacificvoyagers.org)

A group of Pacific Islanders from many nations have come together to sail across the Pacific in *vaka* or *wa’a* (traditional canoes). The seven canoes are guided by crew members from New Zealand, the Cook Islands, Fiji, Samoa, Tahiti, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, Tonga, Hawai’i, and Vanuatu. The project began when ecologist Dieter Paulmann met with Nainoa Thompson and the late Master Navigator Mau Piailug in 2008 and decided to fund a project that would honor the ancestral navigators of Pacific Island cultures and the Pacific Ocean itself. Their mission is to educate people about the importance of the ocean to Pacific Island cultures. As Kalepa Baybayan, the navigator in residence and interim Associate Director at the ‘Imiloa Astronomy Center in Hilo, Hawai’i, has noted “Their purpose is driven by an environmental mission. They’re spreading the word and looking at the pollution of the ocean and how it is affecting all communities globally... Canoes have provided such a powerful background for telling stories about environmental change and how islanders have been successful in island environments. It’s a rediscovery and restoration of tradition through navigating and voyaging skills” (as interviewed by Stewart 2011). The canoes left