

# News

Compiled by Antoinette Padgett

## WHAT'S NEW ON RAPA NUI

### “Manu Iri” Heritage Education Workshop

(As reported by MAPSE; [www.museorapanui.cl](http://www.museorapanui.cl)). A new educational program, “Manu Iri” (Guardians of Heritage) is being carried out in conjunction with the MAPSE and the Technical Secretariat of Rapa Nui Heritage with the mission of encouraging younger members of the Rapanui community to care for their cultural heritage through various programs and educational activities. A preliminary workshop was launched in May during the celebration of the “Dia de Patrimonio Cultural,” and activities will take place throughout the year. The goal is to maintain a continuous and cumulative process of bringing learning capabilities and comprehensive knowledge to Rapanui youth. Activities include fieldwork, trips, coastal cleanups, lectures, and crafts, among others. The methodology involves learning from local experts in different fields (preservation, toponymy, Rapa Nui language, ecology, history, archaeology, etc.), who have pledged their support and knowledge to the program for future generations.

### Toki Rapanui Music School

(As reported by Mahani Teave, Helen Williams and Pilar Huilcaleo Mateluna).

Toki, an NGO, founded by young Rapanui professionals, including Mahani Teave and Enrique Icka, has begun to fulfill their dream to create a center on Rapa Nui where they can share knowledge of such diverse things as music, language, oral histories, spirituality, medicinal plants and traditional crafts and technologies. A *toki* is the stone tool which gave life to the *moai*; to the organization, a *toki* represents the rebirth of Rapa Nui and a tool with which to build a better future.

Toki chose the music school as its first project, because music is an innate part of all Rapanui people. Founded in 2011, the music school has provided 70 children with the opportunity to study piano, cello, violin, ukulele, and music theory free of charge; but there is a long waiting list of other children who would like to participate. Children currently practice in shared or borrowed spaces with no secure place to store their instruments. Toki’s goal is to offer children tools and self-fulfilling activities in different areas that enable them to make wiser decisions about their lives. Through music, for example, children learn discipline, teamwork,

self-esteem, respect, and responsibility, and these traits affect all of their school work. Children with healthy interests are less likely to become involved with alcohol and drugs, problems that currently plague Rapa Nui.

The founders of Toki include Mahani Teave, Director of the Toki Music School and internationally-known concert pianist, Enrique Armando Icka Tepihe, singer-songwriter and construction engineer; Hineva Schmidt Tuki, lawyer; Poki Pakomio Bahamondes, student of architecture; Vairoa Ika Goldman, engineer; Juan Luis Pakomio Bahamondes, doctor; Mario Tuki, student of administration of ecotourism; and Nunu Fernández Paoa, commercial engineer and dancer. Teachers include Ximena Cabello, piano (from the Conservatorio de Música de la Universidad Austral de Chile); her husband Héctor Escobar Muñoz, cello (former director of the Conservatorio); Marisol Medina (violin); and Beto Tepano (ukulele) who teaches ukulele classes in the Rapanui language.

Héctor Escobar Muñoz also directs the mini-orchestra, scheduled to debut at the Toki Music School inauguration on Rapa Nui on December 17. Mahani will be performing Grieg Concerto in A minor with the Orquesta Sinfónica de Chile.

The cost of living on Easter Island is 3 times that of mainland Chile, and the salaries that Toki pays its four teachers and two staff members are very low; Toki raises the money through fundraisers, donations, and grants. Instruments are donated.

Currently, the most pressing needs are to fund the music classes on a permanent basis, to purchase land for the entire Toki project, and to build the music school. The school will be built in a natural amphitheater that opens to the ocean; this will mitigate the impact of large structures and provide enough space to ultimately have music, dance, and art classrooms and a concert hall. Two hectares of land have already been generously donated by a member of the group, but additional funds are needed to purchase the remaining land.

The music building is to be a daisy-shaped self-sustainable Earthship that can be built in stages. In November, 70 volunteers from all over the world will join 35 Rapanui for a hands-on Earthship-building workshop led by Michael Reynolds and his team of experts. Reynolds is the founder and principal architect of Earthship Biotecture in New Mexico, a company that designs and creates sustainable architecture. Repurposed tires, nylon sheets, glass and plastic (PET) bottles, uncrushed aluminum cans and bales of paper and cardboard will be used in construction. The completed building will be totally self-sufficient with



solar panels, water reutilization systems, rainwater collection, and natural heating and cooling.

During a recent fundraising campaign, Toki raised over \$60,000 towards building the first phase of the school, which will help pay for the shipping of solar panels from the United States to Rapa Nui, bring Earthship's team from New Mexico to the island, purchase tools and construction materials for volunteers and the local community, and will host Earthship's Biotechnology Academy, where participants will be taught sustainable building techniques. The remainder of the school will be built with volunteer labor under the supervision of one of Michael's team and two Rapanui who have already helped build an Earthship structure in Argentina. This will be the first Earthship music school and the second Earthship building in South America. EIF supports the educational mission of Toki and we congratulate them on their efforts thus far. For more information, or to make a donation, please visit: [www.tokirapanui.org](http://www.tokirapanui.org) or <https://es-la.facebook.com/EscuelaDeMusicaDeRapaNui>.

## Update for the transfer of Vaitea lands to the Rapanui people

(As reported by Riet Delsing, Santiago, September 2014). As mentioned in the May issue of the *Rapa Nui Journal*, in the section "What's New on Rapa Nui," a public consultation was held on Rapa Nui to ask the Rapanui people about the restitution of Vaitea farm land, in compliance with Convention 169 of the International Labor Organization, ratified by Chile in 2008. These consultations are not binding in Chile. They can thus only be seen as an opinion poll.

A commitment to reconstitute Rapanui land – declared to be Chilean public land in 1933 – was made in the Ley Indígena of 1993. This law determines that only people of Rapanui descent can own land on Rapa Nui. In this context, 1,500 hectares (3,700 acres) were returned to

the Rapanui people during the term of the Government of Chile's president Eduardo Frei Ruíz Tagle in 1998. Since then, a prolonged discussion about the virtue of individual private land tenure versus collective private land tenure has taken place. The Chilean State has been transferring plots of land to Rapanui individuals, over the years, through its Ministerio de Bienes Nacionales, while other Rapanui have been resisting the idea of individual private land ownership.

The consultation about the fate of 1,051 hectares of the emblematic Vaitea farm took place on 26 January 2014. This is the largest amount of hectares put up for redistribution simultaneously, since the 1,500 hectares returned in 1998. Only a small percentage, 391 out of 3000 of eligible Rapanui responded to the invitation to vote, since the Parlamento Rapanui and other Rapanui organizations called the consultation fraudulent and advised not to vote at all. An important voice on the picket line was Rapanui pianist Mahani Teave.

The results of the consultation were published by the Ministerio de Bienes Nacionales. It consisted of two basic questions. The first one was divided into two parts: a) if the voter agreed that the Ministerio de Bienes Nacionales would continue to execute the plans for land restitution to the Rapanui people, and b) if the voter agreed on the division of 1,051 hectares of the Vaitea farm between 262 Rapanui families, divided into plots of 2.5 hectares each.

A total of 84.14% of the voters answered "yes" to the first part of the question and 52.94% answered "no" to the second part. This is quite an interesting result. Since Rapanui organizations had advised to vote against participation in the consultation, it was to be expected that most people who did turn up to vote would be in favor of privatization of the Vaitea lands. Nevertheless, the "no" vote won.

The second question offered five alternatives for what to do with the Vaitea lands, in case their privatization was denied. I will only mention the three options that received the most votes: a) to give land to Rapanui families in other

parts of the island in order to protect the archeological resources and the Vaitea landscape (33.56%); b) to give a communal use to the land via a non-profit organization that protects the Vaitea farm and allows for the development of Rapanui culture (21.58%); c) to give smaller plots of land in order to cover the demand of the families (20.21%). The consultation seems to indicate then that there is a need for land amongst families living on Rapa Nui, but also that the Rapanui want to protect their archaeological and cultural heritage.

The 30-page report was barely in press when the Ministerio de Bienes Nacionales announced last April that they were taking into account the complaints about illegitimacy of the January consultation, that they are committed to a democratic process, and that they will organize a new consultation.

In order to prevent the Chilean Government and the private sector from further stimulating the privatization process of Rapanui lands on their own terms, it seems urgent that the Special Statute for the Special Territory, created in 2007, be approved promptly or, alternatively, that a new Chilean Constitution offer other possibilities which will allow the Rapanui people to make their own decisions about their land and territory.

### **National Digital Library now accessible at the Mulloy Library on Rapa Nui**

(As reported by Memoria Chilena, Biblioteca Nacional de Chile; [www.memoriachilena.cl](http://www.memoriachilena.cl)).

On Thursday, August 7, the National Digital Library ([www.bibliotecanacionaldigital.cl](http://www.bibliotecanacionaldigital.cl)) opened an access point at the William Mulloy Library on Rapa Nui; the third access point to be opened in the country. In recent months, residents of Antofagasta and Valparaíso have been able to consult more than 167,000 records available through the digital platform; now this platform is accessible on Rapa Nui as well. Access

points to be opened in the near future will include the cities of Copiapó and Coyhaique.

The opening ceremony, held in the William Mulloy Library at the MAPSE, was attended by authorities and teachers from the island, as well as other special guests such as Roberto Aguirre, Head of Digital Collections at the National Library of Chile.

That same afternoon, Aguirre taught a workshop in Biblioteca William Mulloy about the National Digital Library (NDL), its various components, and its potential as a tool for dissemination and preservation of knowledge.

The NDL represents a unification of the various digital services offered through the National Library such as Librarian Online, the library catalog, and Chilean Memory, the portal that offers a selection of original documents and content related to the key issues that shape cultural identity.

The William Mulloy Library houses 8,000 books and documents of various kinds, 33,000 photographs, slides and negatives (20,000 of them already in digital format), a complete archive of news releases from the year 1840 onwards, 234 videos and 1,100 musical records from Rapa Nui. As part of the Digital Library of Rapa Nui, these items will be accessible in the future from anywhere in the world.

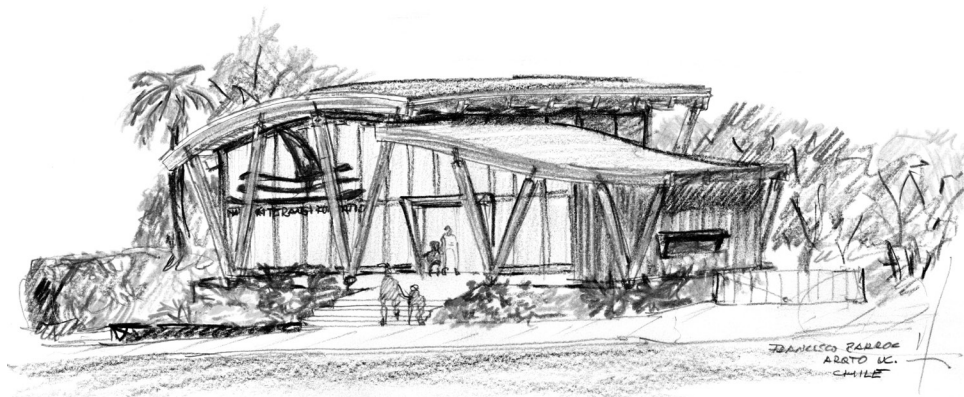
Another aim of Aguirre's visit was to advise the team of the William Mulloy Library in the construction of this digital repository, the issues involved in its development, and to develop and prepare an assessment of the current library collection (both analog and digital).

### **New "Pacific Center – Rapa Nui" planned for Hanga Roa**

(As reported by Sonia Haoa Cardinali).

The Mata Ki Te Rangi Foundation plans to build a new cultural center in Hanga Roa. The two-story building is planned for the space opposite the post office on

#### **PACIFIC CENTER - RAPA NUI**



Avenida Te Pito o te Henua. The center will include a permanent exhibition space, a laboratory, a café and shop, as well as office space, a conference center, and storage facilities.

## WHAT'S NEW IN OCEANIA

### *Hōkūle'a Mālama voyage*

(As reported by KHON2.com and nakawailaa.org). In June, using traditional non-instrumental navigation techniques, members of the Polynesian Voyaging Society embarked on a multi-year journey around the world on board Hawai'i's legendary *Hōkūle'a* canoe. As they travel, they plan to meet with people from diverse cultures to inspire them to connect with the natural world, their ancient ways, and with each other. The message for their journey is *mālama* – to care for the Earth, the natural environment, and all humankind.

In September, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon sailed aboard *Hōkūle'a* with island leaders in celebration of the International Year of Small Island Developing States in Apia Harbor, Sāmoa. Ban Ki-moon presented Nainoa Thompson (president and master navigator of the Polynesian Voyaging Society) and his crew with a message in a bottle stating that he is honored to be part of *Hōkūle'a*'s worldwide voyage, and asked them to carry it as they circle the globe. Thompson stated that “Hokulea threads together stories of hope as she voyages across the world's oceans,” and noted that Ban Ki-moon inspired them by coming together on *Hōkūle'a*'s deck with other island leaders to rally around their shared values of preserving and protecting the oceans.

*Hōkūle'a* and sister vessel, *Hikianalia*, had been welcomed earlier in Sāmoa by the Head of State of Sāmoa as the Patron of the Aiga Folau o Sāmoa (Voyaging Society of Sāmoa) during a traditional ceremony that was attended by island leaders, dancers and performers from the Apia community.

*Hōkūle'a* and *Hikianalia* were set to travel to Tokelau and the Phoenix Islands, but had to change plans due to inclement weather. At the request of the Sāmoan community, they instead sailed to Swains Island, a pristine, uninhabited island north of Sāmoa. Swains was formerly inhabited by the Jennings family who had a copra industry there. Family members, who now live all over the Pacific, returned to the island to welcome *Hōkūle'a* and *Hikianalia*; some had not been to Swains since they were children. Thompson noted that the family is committed to protecting Swains and that *Hōkūle'a* could help by telling its story.

The mission of the Worldwide Voyage is to “navigate toward a healthy and sustainable future for ourselves, our home – the Hawaiian Islands – and our

Island Earth through voyaging and new ways of learning. The canoes are heading to Pago Pago in American Sāmoa to finish the first of three legs of the voyage.

### Rarotonga whale tagging program

(As reported by Emmanuel Samoglou, Pacific Islands Report website – pidp.org and Travis Horton on megaptera14.blogspot.co.nz/).

In August, Nan Hauser, Director of the Center for Cetacean Research and Conservation, was joined in Rarotonga by Travis Horton of the University of Canterbury in New Zealand, Alex Zerbini of the National Oceanic and Atmosphere Administration and sharp-shooter Federico Sucunza of Brazil to carry out a program to tag humpback whales to track their movements. As a result of their efforts, seven whales are now being followed via satellite by Hauser's research team.

Hauser noted that the data will provide a spatial reference of the whales' movements by tracking their travels through the ocean. The team will also be looking at the predictability of the whales' migration routes and their research will complement existing knowledge about whale genetics and singing abilities. Results thus far indicate that some whales have been traveling in a direction other than what would normally be expected, and some whales travel at slower speeds than normally thought while swimming close to the island; results may also provide information on differences between migratory and non-migratory behaviors.

## WHAT'S NEW ELSEWHERE

### Rapa Nui wins 29 medals in the World Taekwondo Tournament

(As reported by elcorreodelmoai.com and easterislandtraveling.com).

In July, a team of Rapanui taekwondo students of Professor Cristian Marinao, as part of the Chilean ATA Taekwondo delegation of Master Claudio Sotomayor and Professor Victor Rodriguez, traveled to Arkansas, USA to participate in the World Taekwondo Tournament. Not only was this the first time anyone from Rapa Nui had participated in this tournament, but the team won a total of 29 medals (14 gold, 6 silver, and 9 bronze) in Formulas, Fight, Gun, and Extreme Martial Arts events. Marinao has been teaching martial arts on Rapa Nui for 3 years and has had the support of many island individuals, families, and businesses. Classes are open to anyone age 4 and above. The next goal is to graduate the first generation of Rapanui black belts in Taekwondo to represent Rapa Nui in the Pan American Championship in Chile in 2015.



Sotomayor and Marinao were pleased with the results and plan to prepare for future challenges such as the Pan American tournament to be held in the city of Florianópolis, Brazil in October.

Rapa Nui was recognized as a cultural ethnicity of Chile, and was the only group to participate in the events with ancestral face painting (*kiea*). Four students received a special gift from Grand Master In Ho Lee, the current president of Taekwondo ATA / STF Worldwide.

Respect, sacrifice, humility, honor, perseverance, honesty, sincerity, discipline, loyalty, and courage were some of the words used by the Rapanui youth who were interviewed to describe what they enjoyed about the competition. We congratulate the team and all who supported them for their amazing accomplishments!

### Rapa Nui manuscript font available

In conjunction with the Easter Island Foundation, Paul Horley designed a special font with the letters of Rapanui alphabet following the handwriting of three manuscripts identified with the name of Pua Ara Hoa 'a Rapu. The remaining letters were designed to match the same style. The symbols used in modern Rapanui spelling were added, including long vowels with macrons, letter eng for velar nasal, and the IPA symbol for the glottal stop. To enhance versatility, the font was completed with the letters of major European alphabets. As almost every known Rapanui manuscript includes lists of *rongorongo* signs (in most cases copied after Jausen's list), the outlines of 42 *rongorongo* glyphs were carefully traced from the copy of Jausen's list appearing in Manuscript B, which is also signed with Pua Ara Hoa's name. To achieve better reproduction quality, please bear in mind that Rapanui manuscripts feature large handwriting. Therefore, using a font size of 16 or 18 points will provide a proper line thickness in print, creating an illusion of writing with a quill pen and ink. We hope that the Rapanui Manuscript font



will be helpful for adding a beautiful touch of Rapanui handwriting to your documents. The font is available at no charge from the EIF. Please contact the EIF office for a copy.

### “Running after Routledge” celebrates the centennial anniversary of the Mana Expedition

Running after Routledge, a journey to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the 1914 Mana Expedition to Easter Island, started earlier this year in Darlington, U.K., Katherine Routledge's birth place. Susie Stephen, also from Darlington, began the first of the journey's





three stages by completing a 13 day ultra run from Darlington to Southampton in February. Next, Susie connected parts of the *Mana's* route by cycling across South America, and finished the journey on Rapa Nui itself by completing a circumnavigation of the island, on foot. Running after Routledge also raised funds that will be directed to the EIF's educational scholarship program for Rapanui students currently enrolled in undergraduate degree programs. To read more, see [www.longrunenergy.com/running/running-after-routledge/](http://www.longrunenergy.com/running/running-after-routledge/).

### **Santi Hitorangi advocates for decolonization of Rapa Nui at the UN Forum on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**

(As reported by Forest Wade Young, Pacific Islands Report website – pidp.org).

In May, Santi Hitorangi, special advisor to the President of Rapa Nui Parliament – Leviente Araki – advocated for the political decolonization of Rapa Nui from the State of Chile during the “Decolonization Dialogues” at the 13th annual United Nations Forum on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in New York City. The event was sponsored by the General Board of Church & Society of the United Methodist Church, the World Council of Churches, and members of the Decolonization Alliance organization. Over 100 people were in attendance.

Hitorangi was joined by fellow members of the Decolonization Alliance for the Pacific Islands Menase W. Kaisiepo and Rosa Moiwend from West Papua and Leon K. Siu from Hawai'i. Theological perspectives of decolonization were discussed by clergy and others from the World Council of Churches, Drew University, the Seneca Nation, the United Methodist Church General Board, and the Indigenous Peoples Reference Group to the World Council of Churches.

Both political and theological decolonization were discussed during the dialogues, with the emphasis being that decolonization must engage cultural minds, social bodies, and state governments.

Hitorangi's presentation traced Chilean colonial history in Rapa Nui to late nineteenth and early twentieth century, when the terms of an 1888 political treaty were violated. The treaty, meant to protect Rapanui land and people and keep Rapanui chiefs and the Chilean State on good terms, has long been considered to have been translated improperly and signed under fraudulent circumstances. Not long after the treaty was signed, the Chilean State violated the terms when it leased the island to the Compañía Explotadora, who took away the Rapanui people's rights and confined them for years to a small part of the island. In 1933, all island land was registered as a Chilean territory without consulting the Rapanui people regarding their rights to their land, resources, and self-determination.

As a founding member of the Decolonization Alliance, Hitorangi emphasized that members are striving to develop a “coordinating structure” to access the UN's decolonization process by assisting colonially-occupied nations with the process of becoming listed on the UN list of Non-Self Governing Territories. This would be a fundamental step towards political decolonization that can initiate formal referendums for the peoples of the Non-Self Governing territories to vote on options for self-determination.

A recent study by Pacific Caucus leader Valmaine Toki on decolonization in the Pacific Islands highlighted that “decolonization in the Pacific does not follow the precedent set by Asia, Africa and the Caribbean” and envisioned “clear grounds” for the justification of further decolonization in the Pacific Islands region. Toki emphasized that “Chile maintains control over Easter Island (Rapa Nui)” and noted that Rapanui people have recently become criminalized while “peacefully demanding that their human rights be respected.” Toki's study encourages the UN to consider “convening an expert group meeting on the decolonization of the Pacific.”

Hitorangi's advocacy for the Rapanui decolonization alliance comes after years of engaging with Rapanui social movements for self-determination and struggling against the colonial policies and unsustainable development projects of the Chilean State on the island. During the period of violence on Rapa Nui in 2010, Hitorangi shared the plight of the Rapanui with Congressman Eni Faleomavaenga of American Sāmoa, who then informed the U.S. Congress. Hitorangi also helped develop the 2011 International Observers Mission to Rapa Nui that led to the publication of an International Work Group of Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA) report on the Human Rights of the Rapa Nui People on Easter Island. Hitorangi's goal is to develop an international framework for the Rapanui people to realize their human rights to self-determination.