



Vaka Eiva 2008

NEWSLETTER



STEINLAGER VAKA EIVA 2008 COUNTDOWN - ISSUE 2

Vaka Eiva 2008 is a month away and it's time for you to start planning what to do when you're not on the water.....!!Travel to the outer islands, experience our vibrant culture or why not just sit under a coconut tree on one of our beautiful beaches....

Kia Orana Tatou Katoatoa!

Of course you will all be busy paddling your hearts out for the big races, but we give you some time off to ensure you have time to enjoy the Cook Islands from a non-paddling perspective (popular with non paddling family and friends who accompany you!)

Where do we start..... a cross island walk, a leisurely drive around the island, a trip to the Punanga Nui Cultural Market, game fishing, a trip to the outer islands, shopping for a beautiful black pearl to take

home to loved ones or why not just spend the day at one of our pristine beaches under the shade of a coconut tree.....?? So many choices, so little time...

You can do as little or as much as you want, but we know that most of our visitors love to immerse themselves in our vibrant culture.

It is time to enjoy our laid back lifestyle and don't forget - slow down!



In this issue we highlight our Bronze Sponsors. Meitaki Ma'ata for you support!

A MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF THE COOK ISLANDS.

"Oe Vaka has made an impact on the sports scene in the Cook Islands and with many sports codes vying for members from the same pool of people, this sport continues to grow in membership. The Vaka Eiva Festival has become one of the major international draw-card events for the Cook Islands and we, the Government of the Cook Islands are proud to support and be a part of it. Congratulations to all the sponsors, competitors, spectators and the Organising Committee for coming together in the true spirit

of fun and competition and making this event the success that it is! We wish all teams, all the best for this year's competition.

Kia Orana e Kia Manuia" – Hon Ngamau Munokoia, Minister of Internal Affairs (incorporating Youth and Sports), Government of the Cook Islands



JUNIOR PADDLING

2006 – Allan Rasmussen brings two U19 crews from the Sunshine Coast to compete against two of our local U19 crews.

2007 – the first official Vaka Eiva supported by Pacific Resort saw the Sunshine Coast and local U19's joined by crews from Aotearoa. Just under one hundred U19's compete with local crew Ngakau Toa Juniors taking out the overall U19's mens trophy and the Sunshine Coast taking the U19's women's overall trophy by just 4 seconds (over two races totaling 25km). Some say that was some of the most exciting racing they had seen! The NZ crews were outstanding in the sprints, in particular Nga Hoe Horo who had a time that many of the open and master crews would have been proud of!

2008 – Once again the Sunshine Coast and Te Tupu and Ngakau Toa juniors will be joined by crews from NZ and for the first time, Pirae juniors from Tahiti will compete. They are also competing in the open

division and are expected to give the open crews a run for the money! Juniors from Aitutaki (150km north of Rarotonga) will compete for the first time after a successful day at our recent Vaka Iti School Regatta.

The U19's will compete in a 10km and 15km open ocean race. For the first time, we have a mixed U14 division and U16 boys and girls division. The U14's will race 2km and 4km and the U16's will race 4km and 6km – all of those races will be in the safety of Muri Lagoon. Almost 150 juniors will compete this year. The fastest growing division of Vaka Eiva – O'e vaka's future looks bright!

We encourage all paddlers to go out and support the junior races and we can look forward to some exciting competition if last years races are anything to go by!



TRAVELING TO THE OUTER ISLANDS

Southern Group

Regular air services connect Rarotonga, Aitutaki, Atiu, Mauke, Mitiaro and Mangaia in the Southern Group. AIR Rarotonga are pleased to offer 10% discount on all flights including day trips to Aitutaki. For reservations email bookings@airraro.co.ck

Aitutaki

Legend claims that the island was settled by Polynesian chieftain, Ru, in 900 AD. The main island has a stunning pale turquoise lagoon and 14 motu (islets). Arutanga is the main settlement, located on the eastern side. There is superb snorkeling around the reef, as well as sailing, swimming, fishing and cruises.



Atiu

Atiu is one of a number of islands in the Cooks whose geology features raised coral cliffs (makatea), caves, mounds and pinnacles. Despite the rugged terrain, sections of the island are very fertile. Atiu is known for its spectacular limestone caves with some good dive locations, abundant birdlife and secluded beaches. The dense native rainforest also hides ancient bush trails.



Mangaia

Mangaia (pronounced Mahng-aia) is the southernmost of the Cook Islands. The outer rim consists of ancient makatea boasting remarkable rock formations and numerous caves, some several kilometres in length. The spectacular scenery makes hiking or driving around the island an unforgettable experience. Activities include cave tours, rock climbing, snorkeling, trail bike riding and horse riding.



BRONZE SPONSOR



Island Car & Bike Hire has been involved with Vaka Eiva since 2005 starting as a 'Friends of Paddlers' Sponsor then growing our sponsorship level to Bronze as the festival grew & the returns to the company grew with more & more paddlers & supporters hiring cars & scooters from us during the Vaka Eiva week.

We are very happy to continue our association with Vaka Eiva as a proud Sponsor supporting one of the most exciting & entertaining outrigger canoe festivals in the Pacific.

[Contact Air Raro](http://www.airraro.com)

phone: 22888

website:

www.airraro.com

BRONZE SPONSOR



Cook Islands News splashes out!

"The canoeing association has proven itself as one of the best organised sports codes in the Cook Islands, and their annual festival is by far the most impressive event here in terms of expertise, attention to detail and professional administration," says Woods.

As part of its bronze sponsorship, Cook Islands News is publishing a new-look official programme and helping with printing of the annual Vaka Eiva Calendar.

Cook Islands News will be publishing its annual Vaka Eiva supplement just before the festival. This year's feature is expected to be a 24-page tabloid which will be distributed to all readers as part of the daily newspaper, but extra copies will be supplied free in all Vaka Eiva competitor registration packs.

CINews works closely with event photographer Harvie Allison, and will be drawing on Harv's magnificent collection of oe vaka photography for all of its outrigger paddling publications. Check out local oe vaka coverage on the newspaper's website – www.cookislandsnews.com



CICA'S CHOSEN CHARITY FOR VE08

Each year for Vaka Eiva, we choose a local charity that will be the recipient of donations from the Trader Jacks Charity Swim. In addition, a number of overseas crews have been incredibly supportive in the past and have fundraised for either money or resources for our chosen charity. A particular mention must go to the ladies from Pacific Dragons in Australia who last year managed to fundraise for over 40 kilos of art and craft materials for the Disability Action Team for our Creative Centres in Rarotonga and the Outer Islands - a fine effort! This year our chosen charity is Hospital Comforts Committee (see letter from the president below) and the Pacific Dragons are already in the throes of fundraising for



A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT OF HOSPITAL COMFORTS COMMITTEE

The Hospital Comforts Committee is a non profitable charitable organization that has been in operation for the last fifty years in the Cook Islands. The members of this committee are from both the local community and the expatriate women that are living here in Rarotonga

Hospital Comforts have been involved in raising funds not only for the hospital here on Rarotonga and all outer islands in the Cooks, we are also involved in assisting any unforeseen disasters that our helping hands are required like food and medical/clothing distributions. We are always getting requests from the local community for wheelchairs, crutches, walking frames and commodes to help make life a little easier for our people who find it hard to purchase these items for themselves.



We are also looking after the disabled center on the island of Mauke by supplying food parcels and donated clothing every month to help feed and clothe the children and adults that use the center.

Our Organization is funded by our own fundraising efforts and any donations we get from friends and visitors to our shores.

Kia manuia
Betty Bailey
President

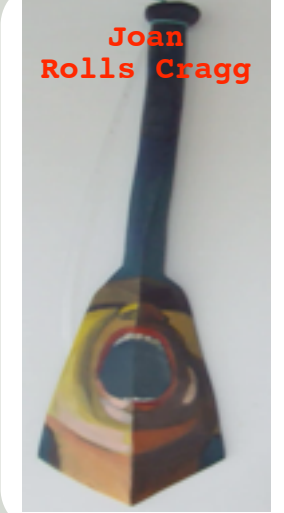


THE VAKA EIVA EXHIBITION @ THE ART STUDIO

**Mahiriki
Tangaroa**



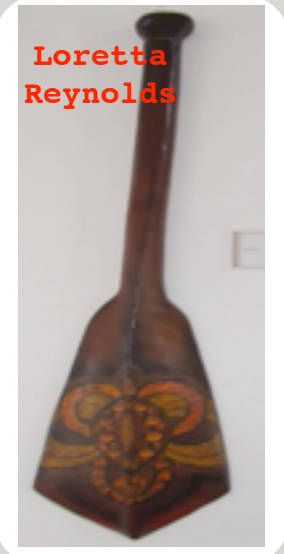
**Joan
Rolls Cragg**



**Tuanie
Teiti**



**Loretta
Reynolds**



Once again the Vaka Eiva Exhibition is upon us and this is the 4th year The Art Studio will host an exhibition supporting the festival. The Art Studio is a great advocate of paddling because of the health and well being and its focus on family participation. Also The Art Studio has family and friends who are keen paddlers.

The highlight of the show is the paddles that take up the main wall in the gallery with more happening in the next room. The paddles are made specifically for the show; they are handed out to established artists, emerging artists as well as a small number of well known personalities on Rarotonga.

There is no need for a brief, as the form of the paddle is sufficient and so is the starting point; the rest is up to the artist. The rest of the gallery includes the works by the following artists Loretta Reynolds, Varu Samuels, Krik Barraud, David Teata, Sylvia Marsters, Kay and Ian George

The artworks are on a wide variety of materials such as stretched and unstretched canvas, board, cotton and handmade paper. The opening of the show is Monday 17th November -from 6pm-8pm, and will run for two weeks. Those involved with the Vaka Eiva Art Exhibition are always thankful for the sponsors of this show Air New Zealand, Pacific Resort, Cook Island Liquor Supplies and the ANZ Bank.

TE WAI-O-TAIKI CULTURAL GROUP



Kia Orana to the Nga Uri a Te Wai-o-Taiki Cultural Group from Glen Innes, Aotearoa. Although the

group have performed throughout New Zealand, this will be the first time that they have performed Internationally. They will perform at the Opening Ceremony of VE08, at the Punanga Nui Cultural Market and will also be sharing their culture with students from local schools. Their Mission Statement....

To continue to carry on the traditions that of our Tipuna through Tikanga Maori, Waiata, Haka and other activities that acknowledge our heritage.

Kapa Haka plays a strong focus of participation and is used as our common form of education.

Tikanga Maori is taught through such forms as Karakia, Waiata, Haka, Korero, traditional story telling and participation in Marae activities.



SHOP TILL YOU DROP!



Punanganui Market

Early Saturday morning is the best time to visit the market, and you will find plenty of bargains from arts and crafts, pearls and clothing to cooked meals, fresh fruit and vegetables. The market is also a great place to sample some of the local dishes, including home-baked coconut rolls, eke (octopus) and ika mata (marinated raw fish). It closes at 12 noon.

Traditional Crafts

Handcrafts are highly prized in the Cook Islands. Among the best-known souvenirs are the lacy coconut fibre rito hats, brightly coloured pareu, local art, tivaevae (hand-stitched quilts), wood carvings, shell craft, pottery and tapa. Tapa is the original bark cloth of the islands that is still used in traditional garments for traditional events such as investitures. It is currently enjoying a revival in popularity, although Atiu is the only island in the Cooks where it is made. The cloth is produced from the laborious process of beating the bark, then decorating it with traditional cultural patterns.



Shopping Fact File

- Shopping hours are 8am to 4pm during the week, and from 8am to noon on Saturday.
- Some resort and village shops/stores are open during the evening and on Sunday, and the airport shops/stores are open for all international flights.
- Bargaining is not an accepted custom in the Cook Islands.

BRONZE SPONSOR

AIR NEW ZEALAND IS PROUD TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH VAKA EIVA WITH WHAT IS BECOMING THE PREMIER SPORTING EVENT ON THE ISLAND EACH YEAR. THIS EVENT INVOLVING ONE OF THE OLDER TRADITIONAL SPORTS IN THE ISLANDS HAS GROWN YEAR ON YEAR TO THE POINT THAT THE FIFTH VAKA EIVA WILL BE THE BIGGEST YET. AS THE MAJOR AIRLINE FLYING INTO RAROTONGA WE ARE PLEASED TO BE ABLE TO OFFER OUR SUPPORT AS A SPONSOR AND BE PART OF WHAT IS ALWAYS AN EXCITING WEEK OF COLOURFUL AND HIGH PROFILE PADDLING. WE CURRENTLY HAVE A NUMBER OF OUR STAFF INVOLVED IN PADDLING AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING THEM AND OTHERS PARTICIPATE IN YET ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL VAKA EIVA THIS YEAR



BRONZE SPONSOR

From the early stages of forming this event, Club Raro has been at the waterside of the start & finish line, welcoming the paddlers home from their gruelling Round Raro Race with their very best Cook Islands Traditional Drummers. Our friendly staff are on hand to offer Tropical Fruits and Cool Nu (Young Coconut) for all competitors.

Last year we involved two local schools - Avatea Primary School and Arorangi Primary School - in selling their Coconuts and Fruit to Club Raro Resort for the event. All the students brought 1 or 2 Coconuts each to school on the day for the Club Raro Resort Vaka Eiva Day, as we call it. In return for the Coconuts, Club Raro provided the two schools with funds to purchase educational resources.





THE **BEACHCOMBER** LTD
PEARL MARKET
 RAROTONGA · COOK ISLANDS

Beachcomber...an unforgettable Island destination...



Our remarkable history

Experience the romantic ambience of Beachcomber. Constructed in 1845 by the London Missionary Society, our landmark, historic building is a rare living gem. Submerge yourself in our tropical garden & The Beachcomber Courtyard Cafe. Indulge in a fabulous espresso made from locally roasted coffee beans & an island inspired menu.

Take home your own true piece of paradise...



Contemporary Art

See the very best of Cook Islands Contemporary Art. For over 7 years, Beachcomber has been home to a remarkable art collection, representing international artists from throughout the Pacific region. The gallery proudly supports art development projects that have given rise to a vibrant new contemporary art movement. Witness the very best original work and limited edition prints. Inquire as to our upcoming domestic and international exhibition schedule.



Polynesian Wedding Bands

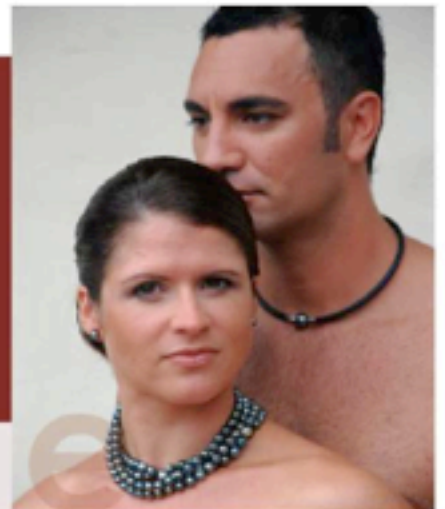
Exclusive to Beachcomber Pearl Market, fall in love with our romantic range of traditionally inspired Polynesian Wedding Bands with Island motif. Choose 'Love', 'Happiness', 'Faithfulness', 'Co-operation' & 'Unity'.

Available in yellow, white and rose gold.



Pearl Market

Be truly inspired by nature & choose from our collection of beautiful Cook Islands Black Pearls. Renowned for their stunning colours, shapes and size, Cook Islands Black Pearls are our national gem. Select your very own precious black pearl & then decide how you would like it set from our 'ready to wear' collection of silver & gold settings.



Lifestyle Giftware

Unique pacific inspired giftware. Choose from our beautiful home & giftware collection sourced locally and from the pacific rim, a true memento of your journey to the heavenly Cook Islands....



Love...

Main Road
 Uptown Avarua
 Opposite CICC Church
 Phone: 682 21939
 Email: lukeb@oyster.net.ck

BRONZE SPONSOR



Budget is proud to support Vaka Eiva for the first time in 2008. As well as offering special rates for paddlers and supporters attending Vaka Eiva, our brand new Budget Mahimahi Vaka will be blessed and raced for the first time during Vaka Eiva. The Budget canoe has been gifted to local club Te Tupu o te Manava to help them with their youth development programme. Good luck paddlers!

COOK ISLANDS CULTURE.....

Song and Dance - The heart of Cook Island's culture

What most defines the Cook Islands and leaves a lasting impression on tourists is the grace, art and skill demonstrated in song and dance – particularly a traditional dance known as the Ura.

Unlike most western dancers, the islanders tell a story with their bodies that matches the words of the song. The dancing, accompanied by highly rhythmic drumming is taken very seriously, with each island having its own unique songs and dances that are practiced from an early age.

The Cook Islanders are considered amongst the finest Polynesian singers and dancers. And there are many competitions throughout the year where the competitive spirit between each island comes to the fore. Regular international awards are a testament to this phenomenal talent.

BRONZE SPONSOR



Vaima Water has been involved with Vaka Eiva since its inception. We have seen and been involved with its growth and are pleased this year to continue our support with one of the islands most well organised events.

We believe that the success of Vaima Water and Vaka Eiva is attributed to "bloody" hard work, positive relationships with business partners, and respect for our community and environment.

Good Luck to all involved with Vaka Eiva 2008 - paddlers and supporters!



You will have the opportunity to see a Cook Islands Cultural Group at the Opening Ceremony of Vaka Eiva 2008

HISTORY AND PEOPLE

Cook Islanders look upon themselves as true Polynesians, with a proud heritage that connects directly with the finest seafarers of the vast Pacific. Voyaging on handmade canoes with none of the sophisticated navigation tools of today, they made their way fearlessly across vast tracts of ocean in search of new lands and beginnings.

According to tradition, the first voyagers to arrive in the Cook Islands landed on Rarotonga around 800 AD. These people had set sail from Tupua'i in what is now French Polynesia. Continuing the Polynesian habit of seabound exploration and migration, Cook Islands tradition also has it that the great Maori migrations to New Zealand began from Rarotonga as early as the 5th century AD.



The first written history of the Cooks began in 1595, prompted by the sighting of Pukapuka by the Spanish voyager Alvaro de Mendana. It took almost 150 years for the British to arrive, beginning again with a sighting of Pukapuka in 1764. Subsequently, the infamous Captain Bligh and his ship the HMS Bounty landed on Aitutaki in 1798.

1821 saw the arrival of the first Christian missionaries. Their influence spread quickly throughout the Cook Islands. But whilst the arrival of Christianity did alter many aspects of traditional island existence, the people of the Cook Islands have been able to preserve their proud Polynesian heritage alongside their Christian faith.

Cook Islands Canoeing Association

Contacts:

President:	Tina Newport	Email: ellisons@oyster.net.ck
Vice President:	Josh Mitchell	Email: joshm@oyster.net.ck
Secretary:	Gail Townsend	Email: gail@oyster.net.ck



PRESENTING PARTNERS



PREMIER BUSINESS PARTNER



GOLD SPONSORS



Silver Sponsors



Next Issue.....

Due out the week prior to Vaka Eiva.....

- Final Crew List
- Sneak preview of new V6 Pacer which will be launched at Vaka Eiva
- Cook Islands Maori key phrases
- Friends of Paddlers Programme
- Highlighting our Volunteers
- Registration Procedures

Important Dates:

Fri 14 Nov – Blessing & Registration
 Sat 15 Nov – OC1 Iron Races & Opening Ceremony
 Mon 17 Nov – V6 Iron Races
 Tues 18 Nov – Junior Races
 Wed 19 Nov – Muri Sprints
 Thurs 20 Nov – Junior Races
 Fri 21 Nov – Round Raro Races
 Fri 21 Nov – Closing Ceremony & Official Steinlager Paddles Up
 After party at Trader Jacks

Contact:

VICTORIA DEARLOVE
EVENT COORDINATOR
www.vakaeiva.com

Victoria@oyster.net.ck

