

## III. Relevant Organisations

---

### 1. Governmental organisations

#### MINISTRY OF CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT - Rarotonga

##### Field of concentration

Performing Arts

##### Advisory body

The Ministry of Cultural Development does not have an ICH advisory Body as such. The MOCD Act allows for the establishment of an Arts Council with the purpose of acting in an advisory capacity. This has not come to fruition since the inception of the Ministry of Cultural Development for a number of reasons namely cost.

In 2006 the establishment of a National Arts Council under the Ministry of Cultural Development Act was repealed.

The Ministry establishes a series of Committees which advise on Performing Arts namely the Te Maeva Nui Competition.

In the months leading up to the celebrations, a committee is formed comprising of representatives of groups participating in the competition. These representatives are usually the team leaders who are the composers of some if not all of the items that the group will perform. Their expertise in the performing arts is unparalleled and considered the best in the country.

The committee scrutinizes the criteria for judging, make recommendations for the judging panel and advises on the overall organisation of the performing arts segment of the celebrations. At the completion of the event the committee recommends the guidelines for the upcoming festival and the theme to be applied.



Ute by the Penrhyn Island Dance Team – Te Maeva Nui 2005

#### Project details

**Title: Te Maeva Nui Cultural Competition Dance Competition**

#### Purpose:

This is an annual dance competition which features groups from the various communities in the Cook Islands showcasing performances that are composed around a given theme. Held the last week of July, the competition is programmed to help celebrate the commemoration of Internal Self Governing on August 04<sup>th</sup>. Community dance teams from the outer islands travel to Rarotonga to participate with funding assistance from the Government.

Over the past 3 years the competition has transformed to a festival at the request of the community groups. They felt that the competition format was standardizing the performing arts and disregarding the diversity of each island group. Each participating group currently receives a monetary reward based on their effort at the end of the festival.

Groups are required to perform 4 items; drum dance, action song, chant, and ute from their respective communities. The festival encourages new compositions for each item.

This includes composing lyrics, music, drum beats, choreography, costumes and props. The groups number up to a hundred that includes performers as well as supporters. The undertaking is a mammoth task. Organisational skills and patience are stretched to its limits. The final product is nothing short of amazing. The sounds and scenes that emanate from the National Auditorium during the festival are remarkable.

**Result:**

The Ministry of Cultural Development records all performances during the Te Maeva Nui festival and produces a set of DVD's for sale. But more importantly, the DVD's serve to preserve this extraordinary cultural heritage of the Cook Islands.



Drum Dance by the Vaka Takitumu Dance Team – Te Maeva Nui 2005



Jnr Girl performer from the island of Atiu – Dancer of the Year 2005

**Title: Dancer of the Year competition**

**Purpose:**

The Dancer of the year competition is an event to select the best male and female dancers in the country. There are five categories competed, the juniors age up to 12 years old, intermediate 13-17 years old and the open section which are young adults 18 years and over. There is a category for the Golden Oldies 40 years and over as well as a novelty category for visitors including expatriates.

Champion dancers from the outer islands travel to Rarotonga to compete, however this is usually limited because of the high cost of travel.

**Duration:**

The competition is held the first week of April and lasts for a period of one month ending in the first week of May. There is a series of eliminations and finals for each category which is held intermittently on separate days throughout the month. The grand finale held on the first Thursday of May is the open men and women's national finals.



**Result:**

The results are winners from each category being pronounced as national dance champions. The event in its entirety is recorded and DVD's produced for sale. The dance is preserved and develops over time on DVD. Children are trained to become performers at a very young age and become confident in exhibiting their culture.



Open Men performer representing the island of Rakahanga – Dancer of the Year 2005

**Title: Mire Atu Competition (Composers Competition)**

**Purpose:**

The Composers competition was created initially for well-established composers to compose songs in the local vernacular to a given theme. The use of archaic language, chants and wise sayings integrated into the songs are encouraged. The criteria have been altered recently to include new composers to encourage compositions in the Maori Language by developing artists.

**Duration:**

The event takes place between February and March of each year. The competition itself is staged on one night.

Results:

The event is recorded and DVD's produced. Promotion and awareness of traditional forms of language use in modern compositions is enhanced in this competition.

Person in charge

Mr Robert Ioaba, Manager, National Auditorium karioi@oyster.net.ck ph:20-725

In general Mr Ioaba manages events staged in the National Auditorium organised by the Ministry of Cultural Development as well as those arranged by other parties.

Supported by the Auditorium Assistant and the Performing Arts Officer, Mr Ioaba assembles the organising committees for Te Maeva Nui, Dancer of the Year, Te Mire Atu and coordinates the stage crew that will provide technical support to participating teams.

The Auditorium Manager also oversees the production and marketing of Ministry DVD's as well as marketing of the events



The National Auditorium, Ministry of Cultural Development

## **HOUSE OF ARIKI - Rarotonga**

### Field of concentration

Customs and traditions of the Cook Islands.

### Advisory body

There is no advisory body that serves to support the House of Ariki in decision making. The House of Ariki has the function of operating as an Advisory Body to Government and other stakeholders on matters of customs and traditions.

### Project details

#### Title: Investiture of Chiefs

##### Purpose:

The investiture of a Chief in the Cook Islands is a very rare event. Once invested the title remains with the Chief permanently until they pass on. In this case a new chief is selected and invested to the title.

There are no guidelines on how a chief shall be invested in the Cook Islands. Each tribe oversees the investiture process of their local chief based on knowledge gained from their ancestors and what has been common practice for that tribe. The ceremonies include incantations, chants that are specific to the Chiefly title, warriors carrying the chief on a platform and dancing when the formalities are completed.

Each tribe is unique in its ceremony however there is a customary “biting of the ear of a pig” in the ritual that is universal to all tribes in the Cook Islands. One tribe cannot dispute another tribe’s ceremony. Once the ceremony is completed with no objections then the chief applies to be inducted into the House of Ariki. The House of Ariki does not have any jurisdiction over the tribes and cannot pass judgement on the authenticity of the investiture. It can give advice to the tribes, but its authority is limited to the members and affairs of the House of Ariki.

##### Duration

The investiture ceremony varies in length depending on the procedures that are customary to that tribe. An investiture ceremony on the island of Aitutaki starts as early as 1:00am in the morning with the gifting of food for the celebrations from each village, and ends in the late afternoon with dancing and feasting.

### Result

The investiture ceremonies have an essential function in maintaining social order through endorsing a legitimate leader for the tribe. Since the chants are reserved for such a rare occasion the sacredness and authenticity remains intact.

### Person in charge

Tou Travel Ariki, President, House of Ariki, Phone 26-500

The President of the House of Ariki is elected for a term of two years by the Members of the House of Ariki. This constituted body acts in an advisory capacity to Government regarding issues relating to Cook Islands customs and traditions.

## **NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT SERVICE - Rarotonga**

### Field of concentration

Traditional knowledge and practices in the environment.

### Advisory body

National Environment Council

### Project details

#### Title:

Raui project – establishing this traditional system of marine terrestrial conservation throughout the Cook Islands

#### Purpose

Raui is a traditional system of conservation for both land and marine systems. When a Raui is imposed by the Chief or traditional leaders, boundaries are established and harvesting of food sources within the boundaries is forbidden. Parts of the lagoon are blocked and left to Marine seafood and fish are left to multiply and rejuvenate itself.

The rationale for instigating a raui is the need for large quantities of food in times of huge festivities ie: the investiture of a chief, or hosting of large groups.

#### Duration

The duration of a raui ranges from 6months to 7 years.

#### Results



Person in charge

Vaitoti Tupa

Manager

NES

Reference materials

- project report, explanation note, photos

► Non-governmental organisations

**COOK ISLANDS VOYAGING SOCIETY – TUA PITTMAN**

Field of concentration

Traditional navigation and voyaging

Advisory Body

Cook Islands Voyaging Society Executive Committee

Project Details

Title: San Diego travels

Purpose

Duration

Results

Person in charge

Name

Job description

Telephone

Fax

Email

Reference Materials



## **COOK ISLANDS CHRISTIAN CHURCH – NGA MATAIO**

### Field of concentration

Imene Tuki and Imene Reo Metua

*Traditional Hymns*

### Advisory Body

The Cook Islands Christian Church is governed by the decisions made in the Biennial Conference. The organisation has an Executive Committee which is the other decision making body of the Church. With regards to the Imene Tuki and Reo Metua there are no Advisory Bodies established for the purpose of safeguarding this intangible cultural heritage.

### Project Details

Title: Imene Tuki and Imene Reo Metua

Purpose

Duration

Results

### Person in charge

Name

Job description

Telephone

Fax

Email

### Reference Materials

Project report

Explanation note

photos

## **TE KORERO MAORI CULTURAL DANCE TEAM**

### Field of concentration

Performing Arts

### Advisory Body

Te Korero Maori Cultural Dance Team Executive committee

### Project Details

Title:

Purpose

Duration

Results

Person in charge

Name

Job description

Telephone

Fax

Email

Reference Materials

Project report

Explanation note

Photos

► Intangible cultural heritage preservation associations

## **MANGAIA HISTORIC SOCIETY – MANGAIA**

Field of concentration

- 1) Covered intangible cultural heritage item
  - domain: traditional craftsmanship, performing arts, social practices, rituals & festive events, oral traditions and expressions
  - item name, information, etc.
- 2) Information regarding tradition bearer/holders
  - name, position, field, contact details
- 3) Financial support
  - government subsidy, finances, etc.
- 4) Advisory body
  - ICH experts, advisory committee
- 5) Person in charge
  - name, job description, telephone, fax, email, etc.
- 6) Public events
  - title, purpose, date, venue, context, participants, report book, etc.
- 7) Reference materials
  - e.g.) project report, explanation note, photos, promotional materials