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Time capsule holding voices of our Cook Islands youth

Over 150 letters holding the dreams and hopes of young Cook Islanders were buried in a time at the launch of Cook Islands National Sustainable Development Agenda 2020+.

The letters from children attending six different schools across the Cook Islands were collected for the time capsule that will be unearthed in 100 years-time in line with achieving our 100-year vision of wellbeing.

14-year-olds Teuraarii Macquarie and Emma Papalii of Nukutere College read their letters at the launch of the Cook Islands National Sustainable Development Agenda 2020+.

“My hopes for the Cook Islands in the next 100 years is to try and stay COVID-free. I hope that our country can stop always relying solely on our tourism for our economy,” read Ms Teuraarii Macquarie a student at Nukutere College.

“I hope that our island doesn’t sink due to climate change. I hope that before learning other cultures that we first focus on learning our culture and language.”

The time capsule and the letters commemorate the start of a new journey of the Cook Islands guided by the newly launched Te Ara Akapapa’anga Nui 2020 – 2021, our 100-year vision, Te Ara Akapapa’anga Uki 2021 – 2046, our generational plan and Te Ara Akapapa’anga Iti 2021 – 2026, our five-year scorecard.

Launched by Hon Mark Brown, Prime Minister of the Cook Islands at the special event on 8 December, the letters underscore our next journey as we navigate our future towards this 100-year vision of wellbeing.

“Our future generation have a voice, and we wanted to ensure our youth had a key role in our launch,” said Ms Valery Wichman, Director of the Central Policy and Planning Office of the Office of the Prime Minister.

“The letters shared within the time capsule capture both the hopes and dreams of a future Cook Islands, as well as shares their stories about how they see the world, and the Cook Islands today. All that we are doing is for a better future for our people for which our young Cook Islanders play a huge role.”

Three schools in Rarotonga and three schools from the Pa Enea contributed letters for the time capsule which is buried at the Office of the Prime Minister. The plaque was unveiled, and the time capsule was lowered into the ground as part of the special ceremony.

“My hopes and dreams for our nation is for our reo maori culture and tradition grow even stronger in the next 100 years – “no te mea e ngaro atura nei to tatou reo maori e to tatou peu tupuna””, read Ms Emma Papalii, of Nukutere College at the launch event.

“to translate that into English “because our maori language and traditions are fading away.” People these days need to know that if they want to speak a different language they have to speak te reo, or else the generation after them will ask “mum, whats may-ta-key?”

The opening ceremony also featured a welcome statement from the Chief of Staff of the Office of the Prime Minister Mr Ben Ponia and Ms Valery Wichman.

The time capsule is placed at the Office of the Prime Minister and will be unearthed in 2121.

To access your digital copies of Te Ara Akapapa'anga Nui 2020 – 2021, our 100-year vision, Te Ara Akapapa'anga Uki 2021 – 2046, our generational plan and Te Ara Akapapa'anga Iti 2021 – 2026, our five-year scorecard please visit www.pmooffice.gov.ck.

For more information please email cppo@cookislands.gov.ck

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