

insofar as the Navy is concerned because Santiago belongs to the same Naval Zone as Valparaíso.

*El Mercurio de Valparaíso, June 6*

IN ANOTHER CONFRONTATION, strong words were voiced by the regional Intendente, Ivan de la Maza, against the mayor of Easter Island, Petero Edmunds, when asked what effect this new arrangement (of “special territory”) would have. Both the Intendente and the mayor reacted with vehemence concerning the assignment of local resources. De la Maza said, “...there is money available from the Region that the Mayor has not used for the stated purposes. This is a bad quality operation.” And he added, “...[this money] was not used because there wasn’t the opportunity, nor the rapidity, nor the efficiency to carry out good projects... and, proportionately, Easter Island has received infinitely more than the rest of the provinces of the region.” And he agreed that giving the island a special status was a good thing. In response, Mayor Edmunds stated, “...the Intendente, being able to do many things for the island, has not done them and is not doing them, and goes about the region lying to people. The only two times that he has come to the island he lied to everybody. I recorded on television the things he said he was going to do and that never were done. I have presented the projects as he requested, and I never received a yes.” Under the former Intendente, Luis Gustavino, two emblematic projects for the island, the improvement of the municipality and a rehab of the gymnasium, were recommended by the Regional Government, but Gustavino never provided the money. In 2006, the scholastic community told de la Maza it needed a gym, and was informed that the money would be forthcoming. But nothing happened.

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RAPANUI ARCHAEOLOGIST Sonia Haoa has been appointed as the island representative for the National Council of Monumentos of Chile. Congratulations to Sonia, whose excellent archaeological research on the island is gaining world recognition.

## 1941: WHAT WAS NEW IN THE PACIFIC -- WORLD WAR II<sup>1</sup>

THE TEMPO OF LIFE AFLOAT CHANGED somewhat for the sailors on the Canadian armed merchant cruiser, *Prince Robert*. Their course was set for Auckland when new orders arrived from the New Zealand Navy Board. Intelligence reported that a Japanese vessel was tied up at Los Angeles and was loading spare engine parts for a damaged German raider in the Pacific. It was thought that the enemy supply ship would rendezvous with the raider in a secluded cove at Easter Island.<sup>2</sup> *Prince Robert*’s task was the familiar “Seek out and destroy”. She immediately took on fuel and sailed east. Guns’ crews were exercised vigorously on passage, while following weather pushed her along to her destination 24 hours ahead of schedule. Easter Island was sighted at 0600 7 August 1941. The ship went into action stations,

closed and circumnavigated the island. All coves and possible anchorages were thoroughly investigated, but no ship was seen.

Captain F. G. Hart, with his navigator, the Sub-Lieutenant (Special Branch) for intelligence duties and an interpreter changed into plain-clothes and went ashore to look around. They found no enemy – only the Island’s new Governor, Commandante Pasquale Reid, a Chilean of German descent, and the Catholic priest Father Sebastián Englert, a German of course but, as he stressed, no Nazi. The last ship that was seen on the island had been there nine months earlier – the once-a-year visit of the single vessel that came regularly to the Island. This intelligence was believed, and was indeed accurate. The Canadians found the Rapanui very friendly and respectful, though curious — and they formed the opinion that they were essentially pro-British. They would probably have seemed friendly still, just as nosy – and pro-German – had the German disguised raider *Komet* arrived instead of *Prince Robert* to relieve their distant, tranquil monotony.

By 1300 *Prince Robert* was underway again. On the chance that the original information had confused the identity of the island reputedly harboring the German raider, she set course for Sálas y Gómez, a barren rock in the ocean to the northeast of Easter. But they quickly saw that no vessel could possibly anchor there. The *Prince Robert* sailed to Talara, Peru, to refuel before returning to Auckland.

<sup>1</sup> Source: The Prince Ships 1940-1945: CFHQ Report Number 5 (October 31, 1965). Our thanks to Shawn McLaughlin for excavating this bit of history.

<sup>2</sup> By coincidence (for the message which sent *Prince Robert* on the Easter Island mission was a false hunch) the German raider, *Komet*, did happen to be approaching Easter Island, and was a thousand miles to westward on 7 August.



## A dry composting toilet for the UNESCO– listed Rapa Nui National Park at ‘Orongo

*By Petra Campbell*

*CEO, International Help Fund Australia*

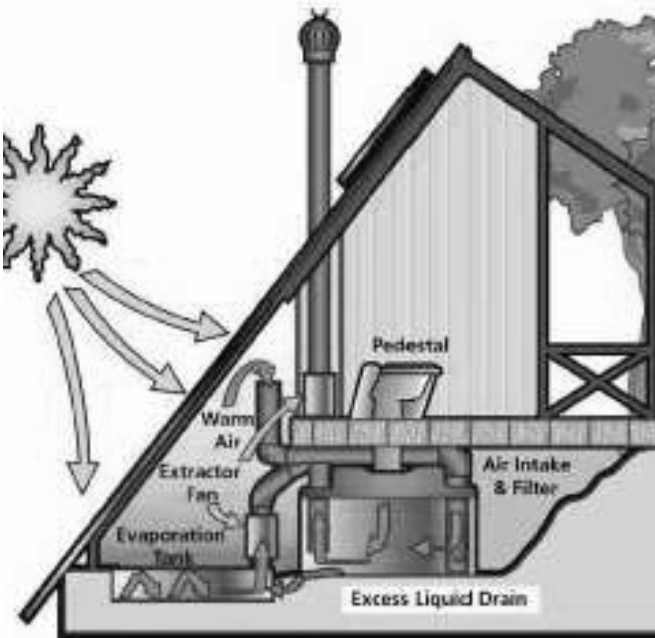
NINETY FIVE PERCENT OF ALL TOILETS in Rapa Nui are pit latrines. That is to say, raw untreated sewerage is released straight into the ground without any form of treatment. Only a few hotels have septic tanks. Tourism grew by 900% over the past eleven years and it is projected to reach 100,000 shortly after 2010. In addition, the current resident population of 3,765 is growing by 3.5% a year. This represents an ecological time-bomb. Chilean authorities have expressed great concern over the impeding contamination of Rapa Nui’s drinking water supply as a result; the fresh water aquifer at the National Park of ‘Anakena Beach has already been closed to human consumption for this reason..



A typical Australian Rotaloo public toilet in Victoria's Cape Woolamai, Australia.



Petra Campbell with Ricardo Crisostomo Henriquez of CONAF, and the newly-arrived toilets on Rapa Nui.



Basic Function of a Rotaloo Maxi 2000. The sun is heating the north-facing evaporation panels.

Australians know what it is like to be unconnected to urban water treatment plants. It's a big country. The historical remoteness of Australia has led to the development of some of the best technology in the world for the onsite treatment of waste water in small and isolated communities. One such technology is the dry composting toilet.

Rotaloo dry composting toilets are waterless, odorless and chemically free self-contained onsite units which compost human waste in a chamber under the toilet, so no transportation to treatment plants is required. Under the larger public units, such as the Rotaloo Maxi 2000, sits a turntable containing eight bins. As each bin becomes full, the turntable is rotated, and the next bin begins to fill. Over a period

of about seven months, the waste in the first bin returns to the beginning having been transformed into a soil rejuvenating humus which can be emptied into nature or folded into one's garden beds. Unlike a septic tank which smells because anaerobic bacteria are formed when too much water or liquid is mixed with urine and fecal material, Rotaloos are odorless. There is no flushing water and the solids are trapped by Geo-textiles separating them from urine. Decomposition is therefore aerobic. A solar or wind powered fan pulls air through the system and up an exhaust pipe, removing any remaining odors, and along with natural heat from the sun, assists in the evaporation of the segregated urine from its evaporation chamber. The Rotaloo is accredited by the Australian Environmental Protection Agency and the Australian Ministry of Health.

In April 2005, International Help Fund Australia invited CONAF's Chief engineer, Enrique Tucki, to visit Australian national parks in Victoria to see whether the composting toilets we widely use in our national parks would be appropriate for the UNESCO listed world heritage Rapa Nui National Park.

Enrique was taken to five different national parks where the Rotaloo composting toilet is already installed, convincing Enrique that the technology was appropriate for Rapa Nui. In his report Enrique wrote, "From the point of view of the Rapa Nui National Park, the introduction of this technology into protected areas is very positive, because it definitively resolves the problems of the treatment of human waste from public amenities in the park, but also because it can serve as a model to replicate not only in other parts of the park but on the island in general".

The Easter Island Foundation provided the funds to purchase the first Maxi Rotaloo 2000 for the Rapa Nui National Park. The Australian company Environment Equipment also donated a domestic model Rotaloo 950 for trial as a solution to waste water management in homes in some areas of the Island which do not have access to water for flushing.

On the 11<sup>th</sup> of October 2006, Air Tahiti Nui flew the two toilets facilities from Sydney to Tahiti free of charge.

From there, LAN Chile flew the Rotaloos onto Easter Island, also free of charge, in a joint ongoing effort with International Help Fund Australia to help save Easter Island's drinking water supply.

The Rotaloo Maxi 2000 is to be installed in the new visitors centre at 'Orongo, one of the most scenic locales on the island and one that is on every visitor's agenda.

The extreme distance and cost of sending anything to Rapa Nui was alleviated by the partnership with Air Tahiti Nui and LAN Chile, both companies supporting initiatives for a clean and green Pacific Region. In a rare action, the Chairman of Air Tahiti Nui, Eric Pommier, and the Director of LAN Airlines in Tahiti, Alan Scotti, released a joint press communiqué from Faa'a International Airport. Both greeted the toilets in person en route to Rapa Nui. Pommier said that "Air Tahiti Nui is fully supportive of these environmental actions and on behalf of Air Tahiti Nui I am proud to be able to cooperate". Alan Scotti agreed: "It is a pleasure for us to help in this matter, providing free transportation for these units from Pape'ete to Easter Island".

## EASTER ISLAND FOUNDATION NEWS

### GREETINGS FROM BAYWOOD PARK!

THINGS ARE STILL IN A STATE of flux around our little office. The park-like area next to the office is becoming a reality, complete with a fountain in the center! From our doorway we have a great view of the bay and sand dunes. During the past year, several generous EIF members donated items that are of interest to Rapanuiphiles. We have a few nicely-carved *moai* in wood and stone, as well as a set of salad servers with carved bird handles. Prices vary; see the items on our website: [www.islandheritage.org](http://www.islandheritage.org). We also received some Tapati Rapa Nui posters from years past. Many contain the wonderful artwork of Cesar Aguilera, proprietor of Hotu Matua's Favorite Shoppe. These posters are rare items and we are asking \$50 each. Images of each poster can be viewed on our web site. Our most recent publication is Georgia Lee's memoir, *Rapa Nui. Island of Memory*. If you have not yet seen it, we highly recommend it as a journey back in time to the way the island was 25 years ago. It is illustrated with black and white and color photographs as well as Georgia's own pen and ink drawings. It's a fun and interesting read!

By press time, we will have copies of Shawn McLaughlin's revised edition of *The Complete Guide to Easter Island*. It is even more "complete" than the original version, which sold well over 1000 copies. Shawn returned to the island in 2007 and updated the book with the latest information on hotels, *residenciales*, restaurants, and sites, as well as much new background information relating to our favorite island. The new book is more profusely illustrated than the first edition, including color plates. Even if you aren't planning a trip in the near future, it's a very worthwhile book to have on your Rapa Nui bookshelf! Before the end of the year, we hope to publish *Prehistoric Rapa Nui*,

by Christopher Stevenson and Sonia Haoa, with contributions by Paul Wallin and Helene Martinsson-Wallin, Joan Wozniak, Linda Scott Cummings, Matthew Bampton, and Pernilla Flyg. This important new book concerns ancient agricultural practices on Easter Island. Also coming out soon is a new book by Rhys Richards, *Easter Island 1793 to 1861: Observations by Early Visitors Before the Slave Raids*. Check our website for the latest information about when these exciting new books will be available for purchase. As always, we have copies of used and rare books about Easter Island and other Pacific Islands for sale. A few of our publications are nearly out of print (*Easter Island Archeology*, for example) and will not be reprinted, so if you are thinking about adding it to your book collection, now is the time! We always have slightly damaged copies of certain books that we sell at a discount, so feel free to ask us for a list.

We have copies of T.A. Barron's new children's book, *The Day the Stones Walked*, for \$17. The books were generously donated by the author, so the EIF receives 100% of the proceeds. Beautifully illustrated by William Low, the book is aimed for readers 9-12. The story carries a message for Easter Island and for planet Earth.

Finally keep an eye on your *Rapa Nui Journal* address label for the expiration of your membership. We *really* appreciate it when our members renew on time. If you have any questions about your membership, are missing any back issues, or if you have any other queries, please let us know!



A bevy of beauties at the Gotland conference! EIF's Marla Wold, chairman of the Scholarship program, with four charming Rapanui *vahines*: Melinka Hucke, Tahira Edmunds, Tiare Aguilera Hey, and Susana Nahoe. Both Tahira and Tiare are EIF scholarship award recipients. Photo: Paul Horley.