

LäjeRotuma News Report, June 2019

- Completed surveys for 165 households across Rotuma. This was a 2 year activity. Thank you Marie for volunteering to synthesize the data and help with the report.
- Island wide organised clean up at Itumuta by Rotuma Youth Council and Health inspector, resulted in 8 garbage bags of collected litter that was then sorted and recorded before buried in pits. This is part of the #youthdrivensolutions challenge since our session in February.
- LRI new website near ready to be live.
- Session on stewardship & environmental ethics in Apr: 21 youth leader participants representing the 8 island clubs (more in its report).
- A needs assessment of women on Rotuma quick study and report were produced (be made available online soon). This was supported by Fiji women fund and hopefully the RWA activity can start by July with release of funds.
- Inaugural session with District chiefs & famor 'es ho'aga on 29-30 May: 6 of the 7 chiefs attended held at Rocky Point. My highlight for that day: chiefs agreed to meet on a monthly basis starting in June by taking turns to host their sessions with a goal to tackle social change issues in a revival to promote and protect cultural heritage. LRI will provide financial and administrative support for transport & printing of last meet's minutes ready for next session. Similar to our ongoing support for Rotuma Women Association. The 2 part session also targeted famor 'es ho'aga but with a low turnout at Itumuta hall (8 out of the expected 35 famor 'es ho'aga attended). As a result of internal village politics and lack of communication between chief and his subjects led to this issue for 6 out of the 7 districts. With a leap of faith this initial collaboration to support our leaders as chief stewards of our Rotuman heritage positively contribute to our vision and objectives. Look out for more targeted work in this space this year.
- Photographer's 2 week trip in May. As a result of more than 50 hrs spent capturing people portraits and places, we've managed to have a collection of some 135 high res pictures to begin shaping this "Rotuma in Transition" exhibition planned sometime in Oct-Nov. Showing soon after launch out on our new website.

For the next few months, our plan of action will involve restoration of Paptea freshwater ponds by youth volunteers, follow up with the 4 primary schools on the Adopt-a-habitat awareness outreach as well track progress on tackle a challenge to collect refuse glass bottles for proper waste removal; World Ocean day celebrated at Maka Bay with students (Environment Club for Rotuma High) and volunteer youth conducting the annual survey of seagrass beds which is a critical habitat for our marine biodiversity and way of life. There is the annual children EcoCamp planned for term 2 break, 11-14 August.