



Kia Orana

Welcome to Punarei!

April has been a solid month of hype and activity.

The Punarua Heritage Trust and Punarei Cultural Tour partnered with the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) and held the first Blue Light course for students aged between 12 & 18 years in Aitutaki.



During the 6 intensive days the NZDF Blue Light students learnt how to work as a team; overcoming physical challenges as well as overcoming their own personal battles with life skills teaching from Thomas Tarurongo Wynne, who is the local Guidance Counsellor at Anaura College. Thomas taught the students about the importance of our vaka voyaging history.



Later during the week the NZDF Blue Light students participated in the Punarei Cultural Tour and helped plant Rauti (Cordyline – part of the Asparagaceae family) as part of the Punarua Heritage Trust program.



At the end of the week, the NZDF Blue Light students graduated their course and on ANZAC day, 26 April 2016 - a remembrance day for those who fought in the WWI, WWII, and Vietnam, Gulf and Afghanistan wars, the students took part in the celebrations and marched alongside the local returned servicemen and the local boys and girls' brigades.





During the month, a large group of tourists mainly from Europe and the US passed through Aitutaki and recently took part in the Punarei Cultural Tour learning about the Aitutakian culture.



Recently, the Punarua Heritage Trust members presented at the Cook Island Tourism Stakeholders Forum in Aitutaki they presented on cultural integrity.



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Metaki Atupaka

Ngaa Kitai Taria Pureariki