



MARCH

Sat 24th **V 12 Oe Vaka Corporate Race**

March **BUSINESS HOUSE SQUASH SEMI/FINALS**

APRIL

Fri 6th **Good Friday** (Public Holiday)

Sat 7th **Easter Saturday**

Sun 8th **Easter Sunday**

Mon 9th **Easter Monday** (Public Holiday)

Thur 12th **Te Mire Ura** – (National Dancer of the Year)
 Rarotonga Sections Elimination
 Cook Islanders have a passion for dance and each year there's a keenly fought competition to find the best dancers from across the Islands.
 Events are held for juniors, intermediates, seniors and "golden oldies". The National Auditorium in Rarotonga is the usual venue for the final and it's a spectacularly noisy and colourful event not to be missed.

Fri 20th To Mon 7th May
 End of Term 1
School Holiday Begins (2weeks)

Mon 23rd **Te Mire Ura** – National Dancer of the Year Competition
 Te Akauroa (Papaa – Expats, Visitors) and Golden Oldies
 Masters & Golden Oldies Finals

Thur 26th **Te Mire Ura** – National Dancer of the Year Competition
 Juniors and Intermediate National Finals
 (Including Participants from the Outer Islands)

Wed 25th **ANZAC DAY** – Public Holiday



April **Air NZ Anzac Golf Tournament**

MAY

Thurs 3rd

Te Mire Ura – National Dancer of the Year Competition
 Open Senior National Finals
 (Including Participants from the Outer Islands)
 National Auditorium

Mon 7th

To July 20th
 End of School Holidays
School Term 2 Begins

Thurs 10th

Te Mire Ura - International Dancer of the Year Senior Finals
 National Auditorium

Tues 22nd

To Sat 26th
Oceania Masters Squash Tournament

JUNE

Sat 2nd

To Nov
Rugby Union 7's & 15's (22 weeks)

Golf Tournament (Turama House)

Mon 4th

Queens Birthday (Public Holiday)
Kumete Sports

June

Kite Surfing
 NEW IN 2011: INTERNATIONAL KITESURFING COMPETITION
 In June, kite surfers from all over the world will compete in the second kite surfing competition of its kind in the Cook Islands on the stunning waters of Aitutaki lagoon.

June

Canoeing – National Distance Series



JULY

Mon 2nd

to Sat 9th OTF 14's & 18's
East Pacific Qualifier Tennis

Fri 6th

“Ra o te Ui Ariki” (Public Holiday)

Thur 19th

Cook Islands Ministry of Education Careers Expo 2012

Fri 20th

To Tues 7th August
 End of Term 2
School Holiday Begins (2 Weeks)

July

Squash – Club Tournament

July

Sailing – National Class Champs – Aitutaki

July

Golf Michigan Shout out/Palm grove – Open Tournament

July

Canoeing – National Distance Series

Thurs 26th

“TE MAEVA NUI CELEBRATIONS”

Opening Ceremony

Main Theme – **TE REO O TOKU ENUA/MATAKEINANGA**

Cultural festival of music and dance, and celebration of the constitution)

The most important event in the Cook Islands calendar is the annual celebration of self rule, granted in 1965. Formerly called the Constitution Celebrations, it was renamed in 2001 because the Prime Minister of the time wanted a Cook Islands Maori name to capture the essence and joy of the annual festival. "Te Maeva Nui" translates as "the major or most important celebration".

Each year, performing artists from Rarotonga and the outer islands gather at the National Auditorium in Rarotonga to present new dances, songs, drum beats and costumes expressing the cultural theme chosen for that particular year. THE THEME for this year's celebration is **TE REO O TOKU ENUA/MATAKEINANGA**

ENUA/MATAKEINANGA

Teams from the outer islands will also be selling crafts and other produce from



their home during island days throughout the festival. This year's celebrations are the biggest for many years and mark the 46th anniversary of the Islands gaining independence. Other events during the festival include coconut husking, and a Maori food festival.

Fri 27 th	Te Maeva Nui Celebrations Float Parade
Sat 28 th	Te Maeva Nui Market Day (Punanga Nui Markets)
Sun 29 th	Te Maeva Nui Choir Competition Imene Tuki (Traditional Singing)
Mon 30 th	Te Maeva Nui Island Trade Day Cultural Performances
Tues 31 st	Te Maeva Nui Island Trade Day Cultural Performances
<u>AUGUST</u>	
Wed 1 st	Te Maeva Nui Island Trade Day Cultural Performances
Thur 2 nd	Te Maeva Nui Island Trade Day Cultural Performances
Fri 3 rd	Te Maeva Nui Cultural Performances
Sat 4 th	Te Maeva Nui 2012 Celebrations Market Day Tangi Kaara Competition



AUGUST

Prize Giving / Awards
 Official Closing Ceremony
 Reception for TE MAEVA NUI TEAMS

Sat 4th To Sat 6th
Te Maeva Nui Rugby 7's Tournament

Mon 6th **COOK ISLANDS NATIONAL SELF GOVERNING
 COMMEMORATIVE DAY – PUBLIC HOLIDAY**

Tues 7th To 5th October
 End of School Holidays
School Term 3 Begins

Mon 20th To 18th Dec
Rarotonga Main Football Season (11-A-Side)

Aug **Canoeing** – National Distance Series

Aug **Squash** – National Champs

SEPTEMBER

Sun 1st **Fathers Day**

Sept **Canoeing** – National Distance Series

Sat 22nd **Rarotonga Club 15's Grand Finals**

Sat 22nd **ROUND RARO ROAD RACE (main race)**

OCTOBER

Fri 5th To Mon 15th
School Holidays Begins (1 Week)
 End of Term 3



OCTOBER

Thurs 11th

Te Mire Tama 2012 - Maine Tiare & Tama Aito Competition

National Auditorium

Miss Tiare Pageant & the Young Warrior Competition

Crowning of Miss Tiare 2012/2013 & the 2012/2013 Young Warrior

The crowning of the new Miss Tiare is the finale of the annual Tiare festival,

Which this year begins in October. And as if to prove there is equality in the islands, a new feature of the event was introduced last year for the young men.

They'll compete in the Young Warrior (Tama Aito) event. The young women also have to choose a flower that best represents them, while the young men pick a plant or tree. And all have to recite a speech and showcase their own personal talent.

Oct

Edgewater Women's & Men's Cricket Competition

Mon 15th

To Fri 14th December

School Holiday Ends

Term 4 Begins

Fri 26th

National Gospel Day – Public Holiday

Cook Islanders are very religious...but who says religion can't be fun?! Gospel days are public holidays for celebrating the arrival of Christianity. Events are organised by the Cook Islands Christian Church (CICC) and the churches themselves compete against each other to put on the best show. Islanders dress up, stage elaborate dramas or "nuku", sing, dance, play music and generally have a great time

Tues 30th

Rarotonga Primary Schools Mixed Rippa Rugby Championships.

Wed 31st

U15 College Rugby 7's Championships

Oct

Canoeing – National Distance Series



OCTOBER

- Oct **Squash** – Cook Islands Open
Club Raro Cook Islands Squash Open, so get ready for some of the hottest squash action in the south pacific.
- Oct – Dec **ANZ Mini Tennis Program**

NOVEMBER

- Thur 1st **Turama** – All Souls Day
Graves may not be everyone's idea of a tourist attraction, but on Rarotonga they're a spectacular sight on 1st November each year when islanders decorate them with flowers, and candles (real and solar powered!) which burn throughout the night.
- Turama is a an ancient Roman Catholic celebration of All Souls Day (2nd November) when people gather at gravesides, laugh about happy times and tell stories of their departed loved ones.
- On the evening of the 1st, the church holds a requiem mass at the cathedral in Avarua. The priest blesses holy water and takes it to the nearby cemetery at Panama, close to the airport. He sprinkles it on the graves as a symbol of the water used at baptism as a sign of the promise of eternal life. After a short prayer service, and as the sun sets, people light the candles.
- Thur 1st To Sat 3rd **Cook Islands International Rugby 7's Tournament**
Also known as 'Sevens In Heaven', rugby 7s is fast becoming one of the most sought after 7s competitions in the Pacific.
- Fri 16th To Friday 23rd **VAKA EIVA** – Paddling/Canoeing Festival
Vaka Eiva has been referred to “the most fun event on the paddling planet!” and that would just about sum up the weeklong festival which has the largest number of International Paddlers.



DECEMBER

Sat 1 st	Te Mire Tiare 2012
Tues 4 th	National Senior/Vets Tennis Championships
Tues 4 th	to Sat 9 th National Junior Tennis Championships 2012
Wed 5 th	Flora Decorated Government & Business Properties
Fri 7 th	Flora Decorated School Properties
Fri 14 th	End of Term 4 School Holidays Begins
Dec	Rotaract Christmas in the Park
Tues 25 th	Christmas Day – Public Holiday
Wed 26 th	Boxing Day – Public Holiday
Thur 27 th	Christmas Day – Public Holiday
Dec	Squash – Christmas Tournament

The Calendar of Events is provided courtesy of **Cook Islands Tourism Corporation.**

Dates of events are provided to Cook Islands Tourism Corporation and are subject to change without notice. Visitors are advised to confirm event dates with Cook Islands Tourism Corporation on phone (682) 29 435 or via email: lydia.nga@cookislands.gov.ck