

UNMISSABLE EVENTS



Cook Islands Calendar of Events for 2013

JANUARY

- Tue 1st **New Years Day**
Kia Orana & Welcome to the New Year
- Wed 2nd **New Year Day** (observed public holiday)
- Mon 28th **School Term 1 Begins (12 Wks)**
To April 19th
Primary Schools, Private Schools, Colleges commences here on whole of the Cook Islands. Term 1 proceeds for a 12 week period and ends on the 19th April. School Holiday is for 2 weeks and is due back on the 6th of May.
- Thur 24th To March - **M.Kajer Junior Tennis Development Program**
Cook Islands Tennis Association Tournaments are held in Nikao

FEBRUARY

- Feb Canoeing – Sprint Season (Oe Vaka)
- Feb **BUSINESS HOUSE SQUASH COMPETITION**

MARCH

- Sat 2nd **Triathlon** – Business House Team Relay (200m Swim, 8kg Cycle, 2km Run)
- Sun 3rd **International Women's Day**
- Thur 7th **Te Mire Atu** – (Song Composers)
Theme: **OPEN THEME**
National Composers Competition – National Auditorium

UNMISSABLE EVENTS



Sat 9 th	Triathlon – Women Only (600m Swim, 16km Cycle, 4km Run)
Sat 23 th	V 12 Oe Vaka Corporate Race
March	BUSINESS HOUSE SQUASH SEMI/FINALS
Fri 29 th	Good Friday (Public Holiday)
Sat 30 th	Easter Saturday
Sun 31 st	Easter Sunday
APRIL	
Mon 1 st	Easter Monday (Public Holiday)
Sat 6 th	Tennis Open – (Nikao Tennis Grounds)
Thur 11 th	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.
Thur 18 th	Te Mire Ura – National Dancer of the Year Competition Te Akauroa (Papaa – Expats, Visitors) and Golden Oldies Masters & Golden Oldies Finals
Fri 19 th	To Sun 5 th May End of Term 1 School Holiday Begins (2weeks)
Sat 20 th	Tinman (held in Tikioki)

UNMISSABLE EVENTS



Wed 24 th	Te Mire Ura – National Dancer of the Year Competition Juniors and Intermediate National Finals (Including Participants from the Outer Islands)
Thur 25 th	ANZAC DAY – (Public Holiday)
April	Air NZ Anzac Golf Tournament
MAY	
Thurs 2 nd	Te Mire Ura – National Dancer of the Year Competition Open Senior National Finals (Including Participants from the Outer Islands) National Auditorium
Mon 6 th	To July 26 th End of School Holiday's School Term 2 Begins
Thurs 9 th	Te Mire Ura - International Dancer of the Year Senior Finals National Auditorium
Thurs 9 th	INTERNATIONAL TRIATHLON WEEK Trader Jack's Boiler Swim
Sat 11 th	AIR NEW ZEALAND RAROTONGA TRIATHLON
Sun 12 th	Triathlon Award Dinner
Mon 13 th	Hash House Harries
Tues 14 th	Turtles Tour de Raro Cycle Race
Wed 15 th	Matutu Mile (Fun Run)

UNMISSABLE EVENTS



Tues 21st

To Sat 25th
Oceania Masters Squash Tournament

May

Veterans Tennis Champs

JUNE

Sat 1st

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

Mon 3th

Queens Birthday (Public Holiday)
Kumete Sports (BCI Stadium)

June

Kite Surfing – New in 2011 : International Kite Surfing Competition
In June, Kite surfers from all over the world will compete in the second kite Surfing competition of its kind in the stunning waters of **Aitutaki** lagoon.

June

Canoeing – National Distance Series

JULY

Mon 1st

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

Sat 6th

"Ra o te Ui Ariki"

Mon 8th

"Ra o te Ui Ariki" (Public Holiday)

Thur 18th

Cook Islands Ministry of Education Careers Expo 2013

Fri 26th

To August 12th
End of Term 2 - **School Holiday Begins** (2 Weeks)

July

Squash – Club Tournament

July

Sailing – National Class Champs – Aitutaki

UNMISSABLE EVENTS



July	Golf Michigan Shout out/Palm grove – Open Tournament
July	Canoeing – National Distance Series
Thurs 25 th	“TE MAEVA NUI CELEBRATIONS” Opening Ceremony Main Theme – TE RAKEI O TOKU MATAKEINANGA/ENUA 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 RAKEI O TOKU MATAKEINANGA/ENUA 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 26 th	Te Maeva Nui Celebrations Float Parade
Sat 27 th	Te Maeva Nui Celebrations Market Day (Punanga Nui Markets)
Sun 28 th	Te Maeva Nui Celebrations Choir & Imene Tuki (Traditional Hymns)
Mon 29 th	Te Maeva Nui Celebrations Island Trade and Food Day & Cultural Celebrations

UNMISSABLE EVENTS



Tues 30th

Te Maeva Nui
Island Trade and Food Day
Cultural Performances

Wed 31st

Te Maeva Nui
Island Trade and Food Day
Cultural Performances

AUGUST

Thur 1st

Te Maeva Nui
Island Trade and Food Day
Cultural Performances

Fri 2nd

Te Maeva Nui
Island Trade and Food Day
Cultural Performances

Sat 3rd

Te Maeva Nui 2013 Celebrations
Market Day
Tangi Kaara Competition
Constitution Day Ceremony
Prize Giving/Awards
Official Closing Ceremony
Reception for the **TE MAEVA NUI TEAMS**

Sat 3rd

To Sat 10th **Constitution Rugby 7's Tournament**

Mon 5th

**COOK ISLANDS NATIONAL SELF GOVERNING
COMMEMORATIVE DAY – PUBLIC HOLIDAY**

Mon 12th

To 11th October
End of School Holidays
School Term 3 Begins

Mon 19th

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



August	Canoeing – National Distance Series
August	Squash – National Champs
<u>SEPTEMBER</u>	
Sun 1 st	Fathers Day
Sept	Canoeing – National Distance Series
Sat 21 st	Rarotonga Rugby Club 15's Grand Finals
Sat 21 st	ROUND RARO ROAD RACE (main race)
<u>OCTOBER</u>	
Sat 5 th	Rarotonga Club 7's (4x weeks in October 5 th , 12 th , 19 th & 26 th)
Thurs 10 th	Te Mire Tama 2013 - Maine Tiare & Tama Aito Competition National Auditorium Miss Tiare Pageant & the Young Warrior Competition Crowning of Miss Tiare 2013/2014 & the 2013/2014 Young Warrior 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 15 th	To 14 th December End School Holiday Term 4 Begins
Fri 26 th	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

UNMISSABLE EVENTS



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

Tuesday 29th

Rarotonga Primary Schools Mixed Ripa Rugby Championships.

Wed 30th

U15 College Rugby 7's Championships

Oct

Canoeing – National Distance Series

Oct

Squash – Cook Islands Open

Club Raro Cook Islands Squash Open, 4 -8 November, 2013. So get ready for some of the hottest squash action in the **South Pacific.**

Oct – Dec

ANZ Mini Tennis Program (Nikao Tennis Courts)

NOVEMBER

Fri 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 7 th	To Sat 9 th 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 15 th	To Friday 22 nd 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.
Nov	National Tennis Champs (Nikao Tennis Courts)
December	
Tues 3 rd	National Senior/Vets Tennis Champions
Tues 3 rd	to Sat 7 th National Junior Tennis Championships 2013
Wed 4 th	Floral Government Decorated Properties
Thur 5 th	Flora Decorated Business Properties
Fri 6 th	Flora Decorated School Properties
Sat 7 th	Te Mire Tiare 2013
Fri 13 th	End of Term 4, School Holidays Begin
Wed 25 th	Christmas Day – (Public Holiday)
Thur 26 th	Boxing Day – (Public Holiday)
Thur 26 th	Boxing Day Touch Tournament
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

