

## The 2010 University of Canterbury/EcoCARE Pacific Trust National Science Competition.

In 2009 Professor Paula Jameson and Russell Taylor established the University of Canterbury/EcoCARE Pacific Trust National Science Competition in Tonga and in November 2009 Prof. Jameson, Hon. Dr. Tevita Palefau (the Minister of Education in Tonga) and Mr. Taylor presented prizes for the three best science projects from the 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> form students in Tonga. One of the winning students of the 2009 science competition was Emma Puloka from Tonga High School, the current recipient of the College of Science Pacific Scholarship.

This year we received approximately 30 science projects for assessment for the 2010 University of Canterbury/EcoCARE Pacific Trust National Science Competition. These were marked by Prof. Jack Heinemann, Dr. Sharyn Goldstien and Dr. Chris Glover from the School of Biological Sciences.



Dr. Sharyn Goldstien, Tatafu Tatila from Tonga High School, Lupi Tukia from the Queen Salote College, Russell Taylor and Maketalena Male, from Tonga High School.

The Hon. Dr. Tevita Palefau (Minister of Education in Tonga), Dr Sharyn Goldstien and Mr. Russell Taylor presented the three prizes to students during a ceremony held at Tonga High School. Each prize package included a compound microscope (Geology Department), a dissection microscope (SBS), a dictionary (International Office) and a novel (gifted by University Book Shop). This year, Nautilus Minerals Tonga created the Nautilus Minerals Science prize in recognition of the importance that they feel the science competition offers students. The Nautilus Minerals Science Prize includes TOP\$200 for each of the teachers of the winning students, TOP\$500 for each of the students and TOP\$7900 for a container of educational equipment; one third of which will be distributed to each of the schools with winning students.

Once again we were impressed by the quality of projects that were presented and continue to be encouraged by the desire of students to take up this opportunity.

Thanks must go to those that continue to support this initiative especially SBS, Geology Dept., the International Office, the Ministry of Education in Tonga and Nautilus Minerals Tonga.

A special mention must go to Prof. Paula Jameson who has supported these initiatives from day one.