



## **Nautilus Minerals Continues its Support of the Study of Science in the Pacific**

December 20, 2010. Nautilus Minerals is furthering the study of science in Tonga by continuing its sponsorship of the University of Canterbury's EcoCARE Pacific Trust National High School Science Competition.

In 2008 the University of Canterbury and EcoCARE Pacific Trust established the University of Canterbury/EcoCARE Pacific Trust National Science Competition to help stimulate scientific endeavour on the part of students and teachers in Tonga and encourage further study at a tertiary level. The focus is on biological and environmental research.

This year 25 science projects were entered by high schools from all over Tonga. The winning entries each received a prize of TOP\$500 and were:

- From Tonga High School: 'Eliesa Tonga Ma'u, Title; 'Phototaxis and Kinesis Responses in Blow fly Maggots (Calliphora).
- From Vava'u High School: Sulia 'Asikia, Title; 'Effects of Different Colours on Corn Seedling: Phototropism in Corn Plant' and 'Asena Toivaha Foliaki, Title; Chemotropism Responses of Zeamays (corn plants) Roots.

The winning schools will also receive computers, science books and dictionaries, desks and chairs and numerous other resources (donated by the EcoCARE Pacific Trust). The new science equipment will be shared between the winning schools. In recognition of the tremendous achievement by the schools' science teachers, Nautilus Minerals will provide TOP\$8,500 that will be put towards freight of the science equipment from New Zealand. Each student's science teacher received TOP\$200 for his/her contribution to furthering the study of science in Tonga. A special mention prize, (new for 2010) of TOP\$50 was awarded to Fisi'inukunuka Talanoa of Ha'apai High School for his Form 5 independently initiated project on 'Water Availability, Asage and Management'.

The awards were formally presented to the three winners during a ceremony at the Tonga High School, in November 2010. The EcoCARE Pacific Trust is a non-profit organisation set up by alumni from the University of Canterbury to address health, education and environmental issues in the Pacific Region. This is the second year that Nautilus has supported this initiative with its donation of TOP\$10,000.