

**To Become a Member of PIRI or Inquire about our Island Explorer Expeditions please fill in and mail to us or email: Lynn@islandexplorer.org Mahalo!!!**

PIRI is a tax exempt organization under IRS Code Sections 501(c)(3), contributions are tax deductible

#of	Donation	Total
<input type="checkbox"/> Memberships	\$100	
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Are you interested in one of our special fund raising Island Explorer Expeditions to benefit the

**Pacific Islands Research Institute ???**

**Explore the Marquesas, Raivavae, Easter Island or Papua New Guinea w/ veteran researchers, Check out our web page,**

**island explorer link**

**www.islandexplorer.org**

**Or**

**Email: Lynn@islandexplorer.org**

## PIRI Founders Edmundo Edwards and Lynn Danaher

Edmundo has spent the last 40 years living on Easter Island and researching the culture and prehistory of the Pacific Islands. Lynn spent 35 years living in Alaska & Hawaii, where she studied Pacific Island cultures and history. For the past several years they have both worked aboard expedition ships as lecturers, guides and naturalists. They collaborated to create the PIRI to further advance their joint interest in the unique cultures and environment of the remote islands of the Pacific. In 2006 they completed an expedition to Raivavae to research the ancient archaeological sites. In 2008 Edmundo led an expedition to PNG. Lynn plans to join the 2009 expedition to PNG.

Both are members of The Explorers Club ([www.explorers.org](http://www.explorers.org)) an international organization devoted to charting new places, documenting remote cultures and investigating the outer limits of our world with healthy curiosity and scientific methodology.



## Pacific Islands Research Institute

Research & Education Fund

Dedicated to the study, understanding & preservation of the unique cultural heritage & fragile environment of the islands of the Pacific Ocean



### Pacific Islands Research Institute

501c3 non-profit corporation

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# Pacific Islands Research Institute

## Past and future projects include:

### Raivavae, Austral Islands, French Polynesia

- \*Accurately locate and map the numerous archaeological sites with GPS.
- \*Promote the preservation & appreciation of the archaeological history to the islanders of Raivavae through educational programs.
- \*Develop a donor/volunteer program for students & interested individuals to maintain sites
- \*Create a film & photographic record of Raivavae culture & archaeological sites.

### Easter Island (Rapa Nui) Chile, SE Pacific

- \*Create a photographic & film record of the archaeological sites, culture & environment.
- \*Develop a donor/volunteer program for students and interested individuals to be involved in the creation of this photographic archive.

### Papua New Guinea, Upper Karawari Region

- \*2008 Established our camps & contacts with the local people of the region so we can better access the remote tribe we plan to study. Also completed a study of the cave paintings in the area.
- \*2009 we plan to return to a more remote valley to study the Meakambut tribe of hunter-gathers, Our plan is to record & film their rituals, cave paintings & the every day life of this pristine culture & environment.

### ISLAND EXPLORER EXPEDITIONS

Develop a donor/volunteer program for students and interested individuals to be involved in further study and research of some of the most remote places on earth.



Raivavae, Austral Islands, French Polynesia



Easter Island (Rapa Nui), Chile, SE Pacific



Papua New Guinea, Upper Karawari Region

## The primary goal of the PIRI

is to impart knowledge of these special environments, history and cultures to all interested parties. We plan to accomplish this through a varied series of educational programs including lectures, slide shows, a documentary film and exhibits. These programs will be offered to schools and the general public. We hope to convey a sense of appreciation and understanding for these very special and unique environments, history, and cultures.

We also offer on a very limited basis; Island Explorer Expeditions, to the Marquesas, Raivavae, Easter Island and Papua New Guinea to raise money to continue our research. Our work on Easter Island is an ongoing series of projects.

As a result of our 2006 expedition to Raivavae, a documentary film about the important archaeological sites and current life on Raivavae has been completed. Several lecture/slide shows have been presented to clubs, school and organizations.

In 2008 an expedition to Papua New Guinea was completed to study cave paintings/rock art in the upper Arafundi Region, Sepik Province.

In 2009 we plan to return to a more remote area. We have established our camps and made important contacts with the local people of the region so we can better access the remote tribe we plan to study. In the future these camps can be available to graduate students and scientists.

It is urgent that we return to study the Meakambut tribe, probably one of the last hunter gatherers groups on earth, which still live in complete isolation in the Upper Arafundi region, and with whom we established a "first contact" during our 2008 expedition. they still make the cave paintings as part of their practices, ceremonies and rituals.

Our plan is to record and film both their rituals and the every day life of this pristine culture people. The Upper Karawari and Arafundi people have been largely ignored by government and donor agencies for over thirty years, due to their geographical isolation and low population. Recently they have become vulnerable to illegal logging. Next April we have planned to go and live with them the time necessary to record and document on video this remarkable culture and their unique way of life. To be able to finance these research projects, we hope to raise funds through the publication of books and video documentaries of this expedition. The help you can provide to attain these goals is deeply appreciated.