



**Ecofilms artistic** director Lucia Rikaki (left) with 'The Rainbow Warriors of Waiheke Island' scriptwriter and researcher Renske de Zwart.

## Eco warriors keep up the fight

**Like the heroes** of Suzanne Raes's documentary "The Rainbow Warriors of Waiheke Island," the Ecofilms team continues to fight for their values in unfavorable times. It hasn't been an easy year, but lack of money didn't take the shine off the screening program, which included gems in all categories. As the festival's artistic director Lucia Rikaki told Athens Plus, "Content is our strong point." Rikaki welcomed a last-minute sponsorship deal with state-run betting company OPAP, which contributed the sum of 35,000 euros to the 2010 festival.

The funding gap remains critical, however, and Ecofilms must seek other forms of support. The organizers have considered skipping a year and holding the next festival in 2012, which would maintain its presence on the cultural horizon while lessening the immediate pressure.

One plan is already afoot and, if all goes well, will be run in conjunction with the Education Ministry. The aim is to tour the highly successful EcoKids, the children's edition of the festival, around five provincial cities so as to forge partnerships and help raise money.

With its light, flexible structure, Ecofilms is what Culture and Tourism Minister Pavlos Geroulanos termed – in the greetings he sent on the opening of the festival – "a model for other festivals" in Greece. Rikaki hopes to hold the minister to that observation.