

## Chair's Report

### Extended Pacific Greetings to Everyone

The Tautai Contemporary Pacific Art Trust is currently celebrating its seventh year and would like to welcome all current, new and supporter members for 2003. The Trustees continuing on the Board for this year are Ron Brownson, Colin Jeffery, Niki Hastings-McFall, Jean Clarkson, Gina Cole and myself as Chairperson.

The Trust would also like to introduce the newest Trustee - Ema Tavola. Ema is of Fijian island descent, and it is her background as a Fine Arts student at Manukau Institute of Technology that made her an ideal nomination to the Board. Her insight and networking skills will contribute greatly to the working dynamic within the current Board.

Introductions also to Itania (Itty) Nikolao who is the new Arts Manager for the Trust. Itty is of Samoan descent, and has exhibited in various artist shows. She has a background in public relations, office management and

administration, and this is key to the integral position she will hold within the organisation.

With stability and growth with the Trust - the core programmes and activities for this first quarter are well in hand. The upcoming calendar features the Tautai Trust at Pasifika 2003; supporting the MIT group exhibiting at Lopdell House; the Niuanse show at the Edge; John Ioane and Andy Leleisi'uao at the Paremoremo art workshops; PAA Conference in June and the Fresh Horizons Emerging artist workshop in Christchurch and participation in the Auckland Festival in September.

The Tautai Trust is committed to nurturing the development of Pacific arts and artist communities, and it is with the continued support of the artist member networks that will ensure that the Trust will prosper and succeed for another seven years.

la Manuia  
Lily A Laita Chairperson



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**autai**  
Tautai Contemporary Pacific Arts Trust

Board of Trustees 2003: Fatu Feu'u (Patron), Lily A Laita (Chair), Ron Brownson, Jean Clarkson, Gina Cole, Ema Tavola, Niki Hastings-McFall, Colin Jeffery

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# Awards for Tautai Artists

Tautai artists Johnny Peninsula and Richard Cooper were honoured at the inaugural awards presented last December by the Pacific Arts Committee of Creative New Zealand. The Senior Pacific Artist Award went to Johnny Peninsula and the Pacific Innovation and Excellence Award went to former Tautai Board member Richard Cooper.

Marilyn Kohlhase, chair of the Pacific Arts Committee said the awards celebrate the valuable contribution of Pacific arts to the richness and diversity of the arts in New Zealand, to the country's international reputation and to its appeal as a tourist destination.

Johnny Peninsula came to New Zealand from Samoa in 1962 and has been a practicing artist for 30 years. He works with stone, bone, steel, fibre glass and wood. "Whatever's available", he said. His work can be found in collections in New Zealand, Australia, the United States and England.

Johnny acknowledged Tautai's support at the award ceremony. "My main aim is to

promote Pacific Art. In particular I want to inspire our youngsters to learn about their artistic heritage. There's a lot of talent out there and hopefully, I can find a way to point them in the right direction."

As a part-time tutor at Southland Institute of Technology since 1989, he has encouraged and worked with hundreds of artists.

Richard Shortland Cooper (Ngati Hine, Nga Puhī, Cook Island), lives and works in South Auckland. He has won numerous awards and was the first New Zealand sculptor to be invited to the 2002 International Sculpture Competition in France.

His work has been exhibited throughout New Zealand, in the United States, France, Australia and the Pacific. Richard is working on his Doctorate in Fine Arts at Elam.

The emerging Pacific artist award went to filmmaker Peter Panoa; while opera singer Benjamin Fifita Makisi received the Enari Memorial Award.

# Postcard from The MADD Gallery

Dear Tautai,

It was great having Lily Laita here at the MADD Gallery for three weeks last December 2002. Somehow, the 3 weeks felt like 3 days as time didn't give us much chance to goss, and catch up.

I am embarrassed to say that I had a "seawall" for a rival, because you see; the hotel Lily stayed in was fronted by a seawall. Perhaps there was magic on that wall, and Lily was most certainly ensnared by the ambience of it all – sea, sky, moon and wall. What was on that wall must have had a great aesthetic appeal to her, as only an artist of her calibre would know.

Lily certainly filled her days at the Gallery in artistic ponderings, producing in-depth studies of star mounds, birds, colour, bird-men/women, politics, cultural musings, and mythology. I have a certain feeling that she quietly unearthed some of those colourful 2D spirits. Somehow, they became vaporized into free radicals that made me very ill for 4 days prior to her departure. Just a freaky coincidence Lily, your plane left at 1.30, and that was the exact time my baseball bat (like I have been whacked above the neck by a baseball bat) headache left me.

Thanks for sharing time with us at MADD Lily.  
Till next time, Alofa Momoe and Titi



Images from Momoe von Reiches Motivational Art Dance Drama Gallery  
Mottotua, Apia, Western Samoa

# Johnny Penisula



"Pili & Moo III"  
Weathered Bone  
230mmx780mm

When Johnny Penisula received the prestigious Senior Pasifika Art Award last year in Auckland, it was a momentous occasion in that it came exactly 30 years after his first exhibition in Southland in 1972.

The life of an artist was not Johnny's first choice when he arrived in Auckland from Western Samoa in 1962, and like many immigrants from the Pacific Islands, Johnny went to work in the local freezing works (in Invercargill) to support his wife and family.

Although his first show was of oil paintings produced in his spare time from his workshop at home, it wasn't until the early 1980s that he actually started to become interested in carving with bone and then later wood. During the later part of the 1980s Johnny was enrolled at the Southland Polytechnic as a 3D design student, and was a part-time tutor of the Mural Painting

Programme. He later taught himself to develop the techniques and skills required for argillite and pounamu, where the fineness of his finish is often associated with the quality of a Master Carver.

Despite the isolation of being based in the southern most city in New Zealand, Johnny Penisula has successfully, yet humbly, maintained an international profile as a sculptor. He has also participated in most of the national sculpture symposiums and has held workshops and tutorials on his work and methodology here and overseas.

"I enjoy the finish product of hard stone...its almost as old as I am...but I prefer hard stone like argillite and pounamu because that's the challenge...and it will last another millennium"

Johnny plans to use his Senior Pacific Artist Award monies to buy much-needed tools and equipment to continue working, with the added possibility of either research or study for the remainder of 2003.



"Taufa'atu"  
Flower Jade  
250mmx125mm

# Emily Mafile'o



Emily Mafile'o is one of the artists featured in the upcoming Emerging Artists exhibition at Lopdell House in West Auckland. Emily is currently completing a Bachelor of Visual Arts at Manukau Institute of Technology majoring in photography. In addition, Emily has almost completed a primary education teaching degree.

As a photographer, Emily documents her surroundings. Her work has made a recent development from the extensive documentation of the growth of her son, Emil, towards the observation of Tongan youth. Her most recent collection of work comments on the difference of growing up female versus male within urbanised Tongan societies in New Zealand. She photographs her subjects in their own environment, normally focussing on their domestic surroundings. Supporting these works is the artist's objective: to create awareness of identity issues experienced by urbanised Tongan youth redefining themselves in Aotearoa.




Emily speaks extensively with those she photographs. Her approach is sensitive yet raw, compassionate but somehow distant. Her works carry a strong narrative element in an effort to expose her subjects in all lights, essentially to illustrate more of the story. She explores areas beyond the facade. A goal for Emily is to exhibit her photographs on billboards around Auckland. She considers this approach more powerful and entertains the thought that this would be a medium that would be more accessible to Tongan youth.

Emily is no stranger to the Pacific art scene. She won the Pacific Art Awards in 1999 and has since entered and gained Highly Commended recognition two years in a row. In December 2002 Emily was awarded an Achievement in Art award from the To'utupu Tonga Trust Annual Excellence Awards. She plans to go to Tonga in June to extend her works focussing on Tongan youth.

## Pasifika Festival 2003

This year Tautai will have its own area and workshop tent adjacent to the Arts Arena. All members are encouraged to come along and participate in the activities there during the day. Festival goers will be encouraged to meet and speak to trustees and artist members about Tautai and its programmes and services.

Tautai activities at Pasifika needing your support will include:

-  A children's colouring-in activity
-  The Tautai Trust 'Arts Pasifika' video
-  Tautai artists working throughout the day
-  The construction of a Giant Lei that will encircle the Tautai area

Public participation in the construction of the Giant Lei is encouraged and will be led throughout the day by member artists.

Excitement is building with the buzz of a publicly constructed Lei, so start collecting clean recyclable rubbish from home. Bring your brightly coloured shopping bags, bread bags, chip packets, lolly wrappers and ice cream containers to the Tautai Trust area, situated next to the Zoo carpark entrance at Pasifika 2003 on Saturday 8 March at Western Springs Park.

Please contact Itty at the office for more details of how you can be involved in the day.

### Tautai Xmas Umu and AGM 2002

### Grey Lynn Festival 2002



PO BOX 44-224, PT CHEVALIER, AUCKLAND



### Past and Upcoming Events & Exhibitions

Terry Klavenes Koloamatangi  
– combined show

Wilma van Heeswijk  
– combined show  
Lurlene Christiansen – exhibition

Kulimoeanga Stone Maka  
– exhibition  
Sylvia Marsters – exhibition

Fatu Feu'u – combined show

'Tiaho Mai'  
Nathan Homestead  
70 Hill Road, Manurewa  
**3-24 February 2003**  
'4 Corners' - Art Station  
**4 -22 February**  
'Catch the Wahine and Win'  
(Re-addressing the Polynesian Body)  
Lurlene Christiansen Xspace Gallery,  
Auckland University of Technology  
**15-23 February**

Uxbridge, 35 Uxbridge Road, Howick  
**Opening 24 February to 28 February**  
'Pacific Blooms'  
– Morgan Street Gallery  
**5.30-7.30pm to 12 March**

'Ranges of Inspiration II'  
Celebrating the 30th anniversary of The  
Waitakere Ranges Protection Society  
**Exhibition Dates: Friday 21st February**  
**– Sunday 30th March**

**Auction: Sunday 30th March at 4pm**  
Venue: Corban Estate Arts Centre,  
426 Great North Rd, Henderson,  
Waitakere City

Tautai Members:

'VAhine' – Lane Gallery,  
O'Connell St, Auckland  
Lily Laita, Lonnie Hutchinson,  
Niki Hastings-McFall  
**Opening: 4 March at 5.30pm**  
**To 21 March**

'the rim' – Ten artists  
Whitespace Gallery  
1 Morgan Street, Newmarket  
**15 February to 13 March**

Emerging Artists

'Nuance' – Aotea Centre, Auckland  
**Opening: 18 March to 4 April**  
'Pacifica'

MIT Emerging Artists

- Lopdell House Gallery, Titirangi  
Featuring: Loloma Andrews,  
Adi Helagi, Emily Mafiel'o, Maka  
**Opening: 20 March, 6pm –8pm**  
**To 13 April**

Niki Hastings-McFall

Lopdell House, Titirangi  
**Opening: 20 March, 6pm-8pm**  
**To 27 April**

Tautai Members

'Shi.Ane'  
Shigeyuki Kihara and John Ioane  
Whitespace Gallery, 1 Morgan St,  
Newmarket  
**Opening: 17 May 2003**  
**1-3pm to 6 June 2003**

### New Range of Tautai T-Shirts

A variety of new styles are being printed and can be purchased at 'Pasifika'. The T-shirts will also be available for order by contacting the Tautai Trust Office after the 8 March 2003.

### A warm welcome to Milania Vaikalafi Cairns!

Best wishes are extended to Dagmar Dyck and Lyle Cairns as we congratulate you both on the birth on 17 December 2002 of your daughter Milania Vaikalafi Cairns.

### Members Gathering

Saturday, 8 March 2003 @ 3pm at

## PASIFIKA

An invitation is extended to all Tautai members and supporters, to come together and share afternoon tea in the Tautai Tent located in the Arts Arena of Pasifika at 3.00pm. Food will be provided and we hope you can make it and meet your fellow Tautai artists and supporters. (Please note that alcohol is prohibited at Pasifika).