

Extended Greetings

Welcome to the spring edition of the Tautai Newsletter for 2003. The seasonal effects of growth and development are a strong theme for this quarter with new projects, new staff, new exhibitions and new opportunities for our member and supporter networks. In June the Trust was represented at the International P.A.A. 'Repositioning Art' conference in Christchurch, and then hosted the Artist Gathering at the Centra on the final night. The Tautai 'Fresh Horizons' workshop was also held in Christchurch and was the first of its kind in the southern region to promote the development of emerging Pacific arts.

Also in terms of management, the Trust has initiated

Chair's Report

the first of a series of semester internships to assist the Arts Manager in her administration role, and also to provide vocational experience to a Fine Arts student.

The breadth of member exhibitions this quarter has also increased, ranging from the VSA display of which many members contributed, to International residencies and exhibition associated performance works on Karangahape Road.

In association with the 2003 Auckland Festival organisers, the Tautai Trust will also have a prominent presence with the 'Niu Dialogue' artist workshops. Invited artists and advocates will be on site at Aotea

Square throughout the 20th-26th September, and will be working in four tents in a variety of media - as well as participating in the long awaited second Tautai artist video production.

With the stakeholder activities steadily growing, the Trust is also appreciative of the advice from Creative New Zealand of success in the last funding round which supports the stability of the organisation and enables the Trust to progressively grow the core and specialised programmes for our Pacific Arts communities.

Fa'afetai tele. Ia Manuia

Lily Aitui Laita - Chairperson



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Tautai Contemporary Pacific Arts Trust

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Postcard from Cook Islands



Kia Orana and Greetings from Rarotonga!

My senses are tingling, touch, taste, sight, sound and scent. Breathing in the heady fragrance of Tiare Maori, frangipani and gardenias, I can't help but sigh.

The women have a lovely custom of wearing fresh flowers in their hair. Whether its a frangipani tucked behind the hair or a full head ei (the local garland).

The flora is astounding. Hibiscus hedges, wild frangipani and many more exotic species. The land is kept meticulously encouraging abundant growth.

The colours vibrate. The clarity of the luscious landscape against the bright blue sky. The freshness of white flowers against green. The rich, rich reds and pinks of hibiscus. Stunning sunsets over the open ocean. Intense blues of the lagoon and out beyond the reef. I feast my eyes.

Taste sensations of fresh pawpaw, passionfruit and limes. Barbequed fish, smoked marlin and grilled parrotfish. Bananas, chicken and taro smothered in fresh coconut cream. Best eaten hands on. Feeling through the different textures.

In the background the comforting rhythm of the waves against the reef. The constant caw of roosters rounding up their charges. Occasionally hearing the roar of planes bringing in more friends and family, invited to experience the sensuality of the Cook Islands.

Kia manuia - Sylvia Masters

Volunteer Services Abroad Association



Sylvia Masters



Glenda Vilisoni



Richard Shortland-Cooper

'A Forest of Many Flowers' opened on 13th August during The Pacific Forum at the Town Hall, Auckland 2003. The show featured work by artists, members and supporters of Tautai. The exhibition was an initiative by Volunteer Services Abroad Association to celebrate the important contribution that has been made by New Zealand based Pacific artists to Aotearoa's society and culture.

Lonnie Hutchinson



Artist Lonnie Hutchinson has always been interested in the arts. As a child of 10 growing up in the Mt Roskil suburb of Auckland, her earliest creative memories are of making things in her fathers workshop.

Aside from modelling, part time acting and working in a screen printing firm where she developed her own T-shirt label, Lonnie's first introduction to arts industry came when she entered the Tui tui design awards in 1993 and received the highly recommended arts package prize. A chance meeting with an arts lecturer at the awards then encouraged her to apply to Unitec where she enrolled in the four year fine arts degree course majoring in sculpture.

Lonnie credits Warren Viscoe, Mark Braunius and Linda Tyler as proactive, inspirational and supportive tutors who helped her to extend her formal and conceptual skills to investigate and inevitably participate in the

various intellectual debates as an art student and research assistant. "...Nothing gave me the same sense of drive as the visual arts, and this was a real growth and transition period because I developed a more clearer focus of what I wanted to achieve in art..."

In 1996 Lonnie participated in the first Tautai Sculpture Symposium at the Maritime Museum on the Auckland Viaduct. Here she met and formed alliances with practising artists who also shared similar Pacific Island and Maori backgrounds.

To further her professional skill base, Lonnie went to Christchurch College of Education in 1999 to complete the diploma in Secondary teaching. However, despite a brief stint working in Auckland, the experience further confirmed her initial resolve to be a practising artist.

The following year she returned to Christchurch to take up the coveted McMillan Brown residency at Canterbury University. The opportunity to work full time without the external pressures meant that Lonnie was able to develop good working habits that would help establish herself as a career artist.

Since basing herself in the tiny Banks Peninsula port of Lyttelton, Lonnie has supplemented her art income with cooking.

"...Chefing and art share many of the same creative issues like colour and form. Also the social interchange of chefing helps to balance the equilibrium between the isolation of studio work...and at the end of the day, you

gotta eat and I knew that I'd have at least 4-5 free meals a week..."

In 2001 Lonnie was part of the PACE trial for the artist wage in the Christchurch region. This unique benefit recognises the specialised skills of artists and refers art related jobs like short-term contract teaching or workshops to registered artists.

Although the artist wage is not inclusive of other emergency benefits, the assigned case workers encourage artists to develop their professional records, assist with tax advice and relevant business courses that will in the long term make them self sufficient.

"...Asking myself do I have what it takes?..." is Lonnie's well worn mantra. Generating enough income from art to sustain the basics and being careful not to splurge with large amounts by planning for the quarter and "...lining up jobs in advance to create stock..." is a temporal reality of being a practising artist in New Zealand today. As a result, this has been a notably busy year for Lonnie; six national group exhibitions (two as the curator and artist), two international exhibitions, and later this year she will take up the 'Communion' residency at the Banfs University Alberta Canada.

Lonnie's advice to emerging artists is as pragmatic as her approach to life; "...You've got to have a real big heart and a lot of passion - because it [art] will totally consume you... You also need to be physically and mentally fit for the challenge..."

emerging artist

Fono McCarthy

Fono was born in Apia, Samoa and moved to Aotearoa to be with his family to further his education. He now resides in Manukau City, Auckland and is currently completing a diploma in Maori, Pacific and Indigenous Art at Te Wananga O Aotearoa.

He draws on Pacific Island and New Zealand influences in developing contemporary art in a variety of media. His work emphasises his love and respect for family values and weaves together his life's influences of past, present and the future.

His work has featured in a group exhibition at the Te Wananga O Aotearoa/University of New Zealand, and the Lush Design Gallery. He was invited to exhibit at the Functional Art Gallery in America and represented New Zealand/Pacific at the Absolute LA International Biennial

Art Invitational festival in Los Angeles, USA.

Fono, talks about his desire to return back to his passion 'art' and recalls the internal conflict he faced in withdrawing from his Business Degree. He has not looked back and acknowledges that this is his true passion and aims to share his work in the hope of igniting passion in others. Recently he exhibited work in his first solo show, supported by the Pacific Business Trust at the Flagstaff Gallery in Devonport and his worked can be viewed on their website www.flagstaff.co.nz.

Currently Fono is planning for his visit to Samoa where he will be hosted by the BEN Academy School of Fine Arts in the first week of September. He aims to revisit his culture with a purpose to research the three 'tapas'.



'The Mango's Kiss'

Albert Wendt's novel 'The Mango's Kiss' was launched at The Auckland University Marae on Monday, 4 August 2003. It is set in 19th-Century Samoa and has been 16 years in the writing that originally evolved from the short story, 'Daughter of the Mango Season', first published in 1984.

'A Mango's Kiss' is an evocative family saga of colonial-era life in Samoa and depicts the conflicts of fa a Samoa life and the allurements of new beginnings. Wendt recreates historical figures, such as Leonard Roland Stenson,

renowned Scottish author and Apia resident and American anthropologist Doctor Mardrek Freemeade, who's sexual doctrines about Polynesian life remain pertinent to Samoa's colonial past.

Wendt highlights the value of aiga in Samoan culture and explains that the novel follows one family's complexities and social dilemmas, whilst capturing the tranquillity and beauty of Samoa and it's many sided and many textured people.

Members Gathering

The next Members Gathering will be on Friday 26th September in Auckland, following the Tautai Arts Symposium. Kujha Lounge, Level 3, 536 Queen St, Auckland from 6pm - 10pm. All members and supporters are welcome to come along and meet with members who are joining us from outside of Auckland for the Auckland Festival.

Tautai Arts Symposium - AK03

2003 Tautai Arts Symposium takes a new direction with the sculpture work being produced to hand size or small sculpture works. The decision to work to this smaller scale aims to give the public an opportunity to visit an artist working space that is inviting and possesses a more intimate atmosphere. Artists and visitors to the Tautai arena are able to create dialogue and interact within the market place setting of the Aotea Square.

The Tautai Arts Symposium was favourably selected by AK03 to feature as a part of their programme, with funding assistance from the Pacific Business Trust.

Tautai will arrange participation by up to 15 emerging and established artists from a pool of 25-30 people during the event. Also, Tautai will provide the opportunity for the public to have contact with the artists, a forum presented by the Pacific Business Trust for the public and artists attendance as well as a Video Resource where Tautai will select up to three artists who specialise in film and media to document the Art Symposium. The documentary will be edited by an



Simon Praast and Fatu Feu'u

artist member of Tautai and will provide an educational video and website resource.

Trust Patron, Mr Fatu Feu'u ONZM, will be Ambassador for the Art Symposium and his presence will contribute to the profile of the symposium both nationally and internationally.

The theme of the Symposium will be 'Niu Dialogue.' It will be an Art Symposium where established artists will



work in a collegial studio workshop situation to develop works that discuss, debate and define the role and function of contemporary Pacific Island arts in Aotearoa.

The theme of the symposium refers to the important customary function of a market place as a place of meeting, where people meet to discuss and exchange information. The market place is an integral part of everyday Pacifica community life and artists will aim to reflect the Aotea market place and use 'Niu Dialogue' as the voice/mouthpiece to question, communicate and educate within the mass cultural event.

How far can you travel?

A show of Pacific Art, far, far away from its origin was held in Lithuania between June and August 2003, at the Contemporary Art Centre in Vilnius. This centre is the biggest and most interesting contemporary art space in Eastern Europe. *IKI and thanks for all the IKA* included artists Ani O'Neill, Lisa Reihana, Ava Seymour, Filipe Tohi, Natalie Robertson, Jim Vivieaere, Reuben Paterson, Damon Fepuleai, Graham Fletcher, John Pule, Lonnie Hutchinson, Veronica Vaevae, Craig Fasi, Niki Hastings-McFall, Emi Tamua, Rohan Wealleans and Francis Uprichard and was organised and curated in Auckland by the director of ARTSPACE, Tobias Berger.

IKI in Lithuanian means good bye or 'so long' and IKA is the Maori word for fish. Together 'So long and thanks for all the fish' comes from the title of Douglas Adam's last book of the Hitchhikers Guide through the Galaxy series. The idea of realizing a Pacific Art exhibition in Lithuania seemed as strange and wonderful as Adam's masterwork of late 20th century science fiction but besides presenting a great variety of art, this exhibition asks questions about the divisions of locality, artistic relevance, generic art practice and global exhibitions.

IKI and thanks for all the IKA does not intend to exhibit an exotic viewpoint or promote tourism fantasies. It presents a very unique, 'pacificity', art practice and method. The exhibition was not curated by ethnicity but guided by a diverse type of a pacific feeling, found

in New Zealand artists from all ethnicity.

Due to limited funding, this exhibition required all artworks to fit into two suitcases and taken on board as taken as luggage, giving the exhibition a conceptual and literal nomadic quality.

IKI and thanks for all the IKA will travel this November to the Cook Islands Museum and there the translation of IKI means to 'change position!' The exhibition will then go to ARTSPACE in Auckland, opening February 2005. Included in the ARTSPACE installation will be artworks by Lithuanian artists, completing the idea of travel and translation and creating a truly international experience.

Talofa lava Tobias Berger - ArtSpace



Andy Leleisi'uao and I were invited to work with a cluster of Paremoremo inmates led by a komiti of their respected members, spearheaded by artist/educators Robyn Hughes and Jean Clarkson.

To experience the opportunity to work with inmates turned out to be the most inspiring encounter.

The site specific project had already begun months ago. The idea to create murals for the new children's hospital concluded with a month-long workshop with two artists from Tautai Trust. Our theme was of the rites and rituals of Tatau. The merge of the Samoan Pe'a and Maori Ta moko attained the significance of a gift in the form of mana, and healing (the cloak of healing in both prison and hospital) for our sick children.

Success in that month is an understatement. The inmates became mates in search for healing and a longing for a home. When the character Peseola in Albert Wendt's play 'Songmakers Chair' says "the ancient religion had enormous power over our people..." we witnessed this with our men as they navigated their swim back to magic shores of our forbear's in times of adversity.

We would like to thank Tautai Trust, Jean Clarkson, Robin Hughes, Itty Nikolao and the West Wing brothers, for sharing their creative gifts, stories, laughter, compassion, love and solidarity in our personal journeys.

la manuia lava - John Ioane

The work of John and Andy was funded by the Tautai Trust as part of an outreach programme between the Paremoremo art group and the trust. Paremoremo has a long standing art programme run by Robyn Hughes, artist and lecturer at Elam School of Fine Arts, helped by Tautai board member and AUT tutor Jean Clarkson. Robin and Jean acknowledge Tautai for their support.

TAUTAI INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME 03

Malo e lelei ko m'eku hingoa ko 'Amelia Tuuakilaumea' Ahosivi. Nae fa'elei pe au 'I Niusila ni' 'I Okalani ki he ongo matua pe. Koe fika tolu au 'I he fanau 'e toko ono pea 'oku ou 'ako foki fekauaki moe Fine Arts 'I api ako Elam pea ko hoku tau faka'osi eni. 'Oku mahuinga kiate au 'eku ngaue ko 'eni pea 'oku ou faka amu kei fai hoku lelei taha. 'Oku fakafiefie foki kiate au 'eku ngaue fakataha mo Itania, pea koe polpole 'oku ma feohi mo ia he 'aho kotoa pe 'oku ma fai homa lelei taha.

We would like to welcome Amelia Ahosivi as she completes a three-month Internship Programme with Tautai. Born in Auckland, Amelia is Tongan and is in her final year at Elam University of Fine Arts where she is studying multi-media. A part of the Programme will see Amelia work with Veronica Vaevae in completing the next Arts Pasifika Video. Tautai will be able to utilise the Pasifika Video as an educational resource.



PAA CONFERENCE from Dr Karen Stevenson

The 7th International Symposium of the Pacific Arts Association, Repositioning Pacific Arts: Artists, Objects, Histories took place in Christchurch 23-26 June 2003. 225 delegates comprised of artists (30), arts workers (33), academics (50), museum personnel (35), students (55), and other interested parties came from 25 countries around the world including 12 Pacific nations. PAA is grateful for the funding/sponsorship that we were able to obtain and would like to specifically acknowledge Creative New Zealand, the Pacific Business Trust, and Tautai. This funding enabled the PAA to involve artists in the Conference and support the 12 galleries in the city who held Pacific exhibitions in June. The Conference would have been a very different entity without this support, and in particular the presence of many artists.

Key to the artist's participation were the 2 Artist Forums facilitated by Anton Carter and Fatu Feu'u. This was the opportunity for the artists to debate a number of issues currently at the fore of relationships between artist, institution, writer, and consumer. These led to quite vigorous discussions, which remained hot topics throughout the Conference. Artists were also involved as 'hosts' at the 12 Pacific exhibitions on view. 2 exhibitions were curated specifically for the Conference; these being 20/20 Sight Spacific (at CoCA) and Te Ata Ou (from the Cook Islands at Gallery O) from which artwork was purchased, and a residency, commission and exhibition have been developed from these interactions. There was an amazing energy generated at the Conference. The interaction between scholar, artist, and student created a constant dialogue unsurpassed at any previous PAA conference. It is very difficult to quantify a feeling of good will, positive interaction, and exciting debate; but 2 months later people are still talking. We thank you for your participation.

AUCKLAND FRESH HORIZONS WORKSHOP

20-21 November 2003 - Tautai will facilitate a second Fresh Horizons workshop for 2003, to be held at the Visual Arts Depart, Manukau Institute of Technology on 20-21 November 03. Expressions of interest are being sought from Secondary Schools who wish to register their students for the workshop. Tautai has organised an integrated programme and is assisting to cover the costs of travel, meals and materials. This will be a unique opportunity for students as not only will they have access to established artists but will also be producing work during this two day intensive that will show at the Tautai Arts Arena during the Pasifika Festival 2004.

Secondary Schools can contact the Tautai office Ph: 376 1665 or email Tautai_trust@paradise.net.nz.

VISITS TO ELAM AND UNITEC

On 17 July and 12 August Tautai Trust visited with those Pacific artists currently studying at Elam University of Fine Arts and Unitec Institute of Technology. Students were able to share afternoon tea and had the opportunity to view the Arts Pasifika Video. Also, students were informed of the Tautai Internship Programme and those interested were invited to apply for a role that would enhance their professional practice relevant to their area of study. It is with pleasure that Tautai Trust welcomes those students who joined Tautai as a result of these meetings.

Thank you, to Elam and Unitec staff who made it possible to book venues and diarise these meetings.

Past and Upcoming Events & Exhibitions

Pacific Business Trust Seminar - Aim: To assist with Funding Formats. Albert's Bar Conference Area, The Edge, Auckland. 24th Sept @ 3pm.

Emily Mafileo & Stone Maka - combined show. Tongan Youth Trust Onehunga Community Centre, 83 Church Street, Onehunga. 22 Sept - 26 Sept 03

Shayne Tuffery. 'Sifi Taavale fale'. The Lane Gallery, 12 O'Connell St, Auckland. Preview: 11 Nov 03 @ 5.30pm until Friday 28 Nov 03

Chris Chateris. 'Toki'. FHE Gallery, 2 Kitchener St, Auckland. 9 Sept - 9 Oct 03

Leafa Wilson - combined show. 'Coasting'. Platform01 Gallery, Second Floor, Railway Building, 67 Victoria St, Hamilton. 3 Sept - 8 Sept 03

John Ioane, Yuki Kihara, Andy Leleisi'ua, Nick Netzler. 'The Other Day in Paradise'. The Den, 348 Karangahape Rd, Auckland. Until late Sept 03

Albert Wendt. The Songmaker's Chair. Bookings: Maidment Theatre Thurs 11 Sept - 27 Sept 03

Richard Shortland-Cooper. 'Public Works' - Art on seven buses. Te Wananga O Aotearoa, Canning Cres, Mangere. Previews: 23 Sept 03 @ 6pm

Niki Hastings McFall. Bartley Nees Gallery, Level 2, 147 Cuba St, Wellington. Tuesday, 16 Sept 03 @ 5.30pm until 11 October

Andy Leleisi'ua, Nanette Lelaulu. Salamander Gallery, Arts Centre, Heresford St, Christchurch. Tuesday, 16 Sept 03 @ 5.30pm until 5 Oct 03

Arts Symposium- Auckland Festival AK03. 'Niu Dialogue'. Aotea Square, Queen St, Auckland. 20 Sept - 26 Sept 03. Participating Tautai Artist Members are: Yuki Kihara, Lurlene Christiansen, Siu Moeakolia, Leafa Wilson, Johnny Penisula, Nooroa Tapuni, Ian George, Siligia Setoga, Faafetai Amitanua, Stone Maka, Filepe Tohi, Jim Vivieaere, Fatu Feu'u, Veronica Vaevae, Andy Leleisi'ua, John Ioane, Amelia Ahosivi, Richard Shortland-Cooper, Niki Hastings-McFall, Fono McCarthy, Lily Laita, Ruta Tagia-Laban, Loloma Andrews

Loloma Andrews. Mark Meyer Window. Lister Building, 17 Victoria St, East, Auckland. Window Exhibition.

Fono McCarthy. 'Aloima'. Flagstaff Gallery, 25 Victoria Rd, Devonport, Auckland. 8 Aug - 20 Aug 03. 8 August @ 5pm.

An exhibition organised by the VSA (Volunteer Services Abroad). 'A Forest of Many Flowers'. Town Hall, Queen St, Auckland. 13 - 16 August 2003. Richard Shortland-Cooper, Sarah Dutt, Fatu Feu'u, Stephen Gwaliasi, Daniella Hulme, John Ioane, Sylvia Masters, Albert Wendt, Leafa Wilson, Vanya Taulealo, Sheyne Tuffery, Glenda Vilisoni, Isabelle Staron-Tutugoro

Iosefa Leo. 'Vai manino - Clear water'. Judith Anderson Gallery, 1st Floor, 28 Lorne St. Auckland. 27 July - 15 Aug 03

Albert Wendt. Five NZ Poets - Pacific Eyes. TV One Pavilion, Victoria Square, Christchurch. 27 July 2003 @ 5pm

John Pule. 'New Etchings'. Papergraphica Gallery, Christchurch. 24 June - 12 July 03

Andy Leleisi'ua. 'The umu collection of book titles'. Whitespace Gallery, Morgan St, Auckland. 28 June - 18 July 03

'Sheyne Tuffery' Paintings. Salamander Gallery, Christchurch. 26 Aug - 14 Sept 03

Vanya Taule'alo. 'Va tapuia'. Campbell Grant Gallery, Christchurch. 12 July 03

John Pule & Sofia Tekela-Smith. 'Na'. Jonathon Smart Gallery, Christchurch. 29 June 03

Gallery



'The Other Day in Paradise' previewed on Saturday, 2 September 2003 at 348 Karangahape Rd and will run until the end of September 03. A multi-media art exhibition at the Den Store on K Road featured participating artists John Ioane (Curator), Andy Leleisi'ua (Cuator), Nick Netzler, Shigeyuki Kihara and Filepe Tohi with performances from Dusky Geisha, Filepe Tohi and short film documented by Makerita Urale.

Design and layout of the Tautai Newsletter



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