

Ministry of

# Pacific Island Affairs



A Magazine for Pacific Communities

n e w s l e t t e r

APRIL 2005



*Porirua Early Childhood Centre opens*

*Working for Families – What it means*

*Saving the Niuean Language*

*Celebrating 45 years of Public Service*

*Human Rights and Consumer Affairs – New Protocols*

Social and economic prosperity for Pacific peoples



*“Whenever the conversation turns to the future of the New Zealand economy, or to the need for New Zealand to be innovative and active in identifying new economic directions, an underlying assumption is that these challenges lie outside the capacity of most Pacific peoples to contribute.*

There are many examples of Pacific economic success in New Zealand, but these successes lie within a range that may be seen by some as defining Pacific peoples’ talents to only sports, song, music, performing and visual arts.

Pacific peoples should rightly celebrate these achievements but should be open to other possibilities. If, as many modern economic commentators suggest, New Zealand needs to learn to rely less on its traditional economic base (e.g. agriculture, forestry and manufacturing) and more on knowledge-based industries then the question arises, “Where do Pacific peoples fit in that economic direction?”

The answer today is: “They don’t.” There are simply not enough Pacific people engaged in the knowledge industries. We still want our children to become doctors and lawyers when the world is looking for more scientists and technology-focused economic leaders of tomorrow. However, before we start getting fussy about the direction our children should take in tertiary education, a lot more work is needed in increasing the success rate of Pacific children in the compulsory education sector.

There are huge opportunities in the trades. New Zealand is already in the grip of a skills shortage in a wide range of trades. Not enough Pacific peoples

either know about or are interested in pursuing these opportunities. The short to medium term future for New Zealand is that these skills will continue to be in heavy demand. Ironically, it is in the trades where there is the greatest opportunity for Pacific peoples becoming self-employed or employers of others.

The Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs is committed to stimulating and encouraging Pacific peoples to take the steps now which will provide the means by which future generations can take their place in the ranks of the economic leaders of this country. The first step is to awaken the awareness of Pacific peoples to the true extent of the opportunities that are available to them today in New Zealand. The next step is to establish pathways towards success in those opportunities.

The Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs is sponsoring a second significant conference later this year in late October or early November. Its first conference, Pacific Vision, held in July 1999 was an outstanding success in re-energising the enthusiasm, commitment and collaborative efforts of Pacific communities, politicians and the New Zealand Public Service towards reducing social disparities between Pacific peoples and other New Zealanders and moving forward

to greater social independence.

This second conference will be entitled “Pacific Prosperity” and seeks to spark a Pacific peoples-wide commitment to greater economic self-reliance and becoming leaders in New Zealand’s economic future.

Conference registration dates and details will be made available on our website in the near future.

The recent PACIFICA Women’s Conference was held in Auckland. I would like to congratulate Diane Mara in her appointment as President.

I would like to finish by adding my sincere sympathies to the family of former long-serving Porirua city councillor Jasmine Underhill who passed away recently. I have known her as a passionate advocate and a dedicated hard worker for the Pacific Community. Cook Islands born, Mrs Underhill was elected to the council in 1986 and three years later was elected deputy mayor of Porirua, a position she held until 2001.

la Manuia.”  
**Fuimaono Les McCarthy**  
**Chief Executive**



**Fuimaono Les McCarthy – Chief Executive.**

## in this issue...

- 2 Chief Executive’s foreword**
- 3 Minister of Pacific Island Affairs**
- 4 45 years of Public Service Honoured**
- 5 Pacific Women Tackle the Hard Issues**
- 6-7 Pacific Success Story: Samoan Church Takes a Collective Approach on a Journey to Prosperity**
- 8 New Protocol Agreements signed**
- 9 Super School to Save Languages**
- 10 More Support for Families**
- 11 Skilled Pacific Leaders wanted for Nominations Database**
- 12 Pacific Prosperity TAPAstry Kicks off at the Pasifika Festival**



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Gabriel Tagi pictured at Pasifika 2005.

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**“Kia orana, Ni sa bula, Taloha ni,  
Fakaalofa lahi atu, Malo e lelei, Halo olaketa,  
Kam na mauri, la orana, Kia ora, Talofa lava  
and warm Pacific Greetings to you all.**



*Hon Phil Goff.*

## **Making a strong relationship with the Pacific even stronger**

A series of meetings and fono are helping to underline the importance the government places on further strengthening an already-close relationship with the Pacific, and on fully developing the potential of New Zealand's Pacific communities.

In mid March, the first-ever Joint Ministerial Consultations between New Zealand and Samoa were held in Apia under the Treaty of Friendship. Our delegation comprised myself, Minister of Immigration, Labour, and Corrections Paul Swain, and Associate Pacific Island Affairs Minister Taito Phillip Field. Prime Minister Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi headed Samoa's delegation.

The consultations were an opportunity to build on a number of initiatives that we are working on with Samoa to strengthen the Treaty of Friendship. They also helped give a more modern expression to the Treaty, reflecting how much the relationship between the two countries has grown and evolved since the Treaty was first signed.

Immigration was a key focus of the talks. New Zealand has recently made a number of changes aimed at assisting eligible job seekers to find and take up

work here under the Samoan quota, and there was a positive recognition from the Samoan side to the efforts we are making, in keeping with the spirit of the Treaty of Friendship.

Other topics covered during the talks were police co-operation, trade, and quarantine issues, regional trade integration and development of the Pacific Forum's Pacific Plan.

Just a week later, Prime Minister Tuilaepa traveled to New Zealand to meet with Prime Minister Helen Clark and several other Pacific leaders to discuss a draft of the Pacific Plan, which is to be presented to Forum leaders when they meet in Port Moresby later this year.

The Plan's objective is to increase the pace of regional development by pooling resources and aligning policies on economic growth, sustainable development, good governance and security so that all Forum member countries benefit.

Co-operation is the biggest challenge for the region if we are to keep pace with international development. The Pacific Plan recognises this – that the key

lies in identifying areas where a co-ordinated, unified approach will add value to efforts to address issues such as health, education, transport and fisheries.

At the end of March, I led a 75-strong delegation of business people, MPs, academics, NGOs, a cultural group, officials and media on a five-day trip to New Caledonia, French Polynesia and Rapanui.

Taking a delegation to the Pacific each year helps introduce New Zealand opinion makers to the region, and to increase their knowledge and understanding of the issues it faces.

This year's trip strengthened relationships at several levels. It was a valuable chance to get to know the new governments in New Caledonia and French Polynesia, at a time when both territories are seeking a closer engagement with New Zealand and their other Pacific neighbours.

It was also an opportunity to do business and reinforce existing, and highly valuable trade relations with the region. The business delegation, which held a two-day trade show in Tahiti, gained immediate export orders of \$2.2 million and lined up contracts worth a further \$16 million over the next two years.

Important links were made on a people-to-people level too. We were accompanied by the Whitireia cultural group made up of Maori and Pacific artists, whose performances made a huge impact with all our hosts. Their performances were vibrant and entertaining, and a tangible reminder of the cultural heritage that New Zealand shares with countries in the Pacific.

Kia monuina  
**Hon Phil Goff**  
**Minister of Pacific Island Affairs**



*Hon. Phil Goff at Pasifika 2005 with members of the Samoan Pacific Expressions Dancing Group.*



# 45 years of Public Service Honoured

*Imagine starting work 45 years ago. You would have been around when the Treaty of Samoa was signed in 1962 and your pay would have been about £600 per annum.*

That was the reality for Louisa Kea who was honoured by Chief Executive Fuimaono Les McCarthy and Ministry staff on April 15. Louisa was presented with a framed certificate signed by the State Services Commissioner, Dr Mark Prebble, and she received flowers and a bracelet in celebration and recognition for her near half century of commitment to the Public Service.

In her acceptance of the certificate Louisa gave special thanks to her mother and family for the support and the opportunity to work in the public service and the many talented and skilled people she has been blessed to work with over the years.

Louisa who migrated to New Zealand in the 1950's, had attended secondary school at Tereora College in Rarotonga. She joined her mother in New Zealand to further her education. Louisa defied the convention of the day to study 'home sciences' at Wellington Technical College and instead chose to specialise in commercial study, particularly shorthand typing. "I had my eye on an office job in those days," she reflects.

Louisa's first job was as a shorthand/typist for the then named State Advances Corporation. Although Louisa will say that she has spent most of her working life 'typing' she has spent great chunks of time in government departments in shorthand/typing or supervisory roles, has been a personal assistant to various Chief Executives for 20 years and has been at the cutting edge of some significant changes in New Zealand society.

Some of these she remembers as significant highlights in a long career in the public service. "I was involved in the currency changeover from Pounds, Shillings and Pence to Dollars and Cents in 1967 while I was with the State Advances Corporation."



*Louisa with the State Services Certificate of Recognition.*



*Louisa surrounded by her proud family.*

Also during her time with the Inland Revenue Department, Louisa was involved with the Crown Law Office Crown Counsel working on a Privy Council case and also in several special assignments. Two that stand out for her were participating as a member of a support group for the International Monetary Fund delegation and the Study Group on Asian Taxation Administration and Research, hosted by New Zealand.

Louisa has also had two three month 'stints' in 1965 and 1968 in the Cook Islands during the time it was becoming a self-governing nation in free association with New Zealand. She used her skills to report on the proceedings of the Legislative Assembly.

As you can imagine, Louisa has seen many changes in her 45 years as a Public Servant to the profile of Pacific issues in the Public Service and how government has grown in responding to the development of Pacific policies.

Louisa joined the Pacific Affairs Policy unit at Internal Affairs in 1985 when it had three staff. "We then moved to Pipitea Street and in 1988 were able to open a Karangahape Road branch which brought our numbers to seven people," she says.

Louisa was also there on July 1, 1990 to see the creation of the fully fledged Pacific Affairs Ministry; in 1992 the transfer of the Tagata Pasifika Unit from the Ministry of Maori Development to the Ministry as an operations division and then in 1997 the refocusing of its Auckland based operations division and the small Wellington policy arm of the Ministry into the Ministry of today.

"I have the greatest admiration for and give credit to our parents and our community leaders who had the vision, foresight and lobbying which led to the creation of a Pacific Affairs Portfolio."

Since 1990 Louisa has seen the growth in the Ministry from seven staff to now more than 50 people. She is a respected 'mama' of the office and has some good advice for those working anywhere, particularly in the public sector.

"There's value in treating people the way that you expect to be treated," she says. "It is how I like to treat people and how I like to be treated, it works well."

## Pacific Women Tackle the Hard Issues at P.A.C.I.F.I.C.A Conference

*In February of this year the Auckland branch of P.A.C.I.F.I.C.A organised a national conference focussed on issues impacting on Pacific children.*

"We chose the theme 'Our Children, Our Future', because Pacific children and youth make up over 50% of the Pacific population and we wanted to address issues which impacted on their security, development and future leadership," says Auckland branch President Esther Cowley.

The two and a half day event held at Fale Pasifika begun with an opening address from Family court judge and host branch member Ida Malosi. This was followed by a series of family and health based workshops from SKIP, Pacific Heart beat, Tupu services and Counties Manukau District Health board (CMDHB).

From KIDZFIRST, Middlemore Hospital Paediatrician Dr Teuila Percival brought tears to the eyes of many conference delegates when she gave a 'highly charged' presentation and national overview on child abuse and neglect.

"Child abuse and neglect is an issue that so often gets swept under the carpet or put into the too hard basket," says Esther.

"We felt it had to be addressed in a forum where we heard the facts by people in the field. We wanted to discuss these problems and make informed decisions about how to resolve them within our families and as an organisation of women," she says. "Our Auckland branch motto is – 'be part of the solution – not the problem'."

The highlight of the conference was the inaugural P.A.C.I.F.I.C.A Smokefree Hibiscus Awards hosted by entertainer Jackie Clark. This was attended by Prime Minister Helen Clark, Associate Minister of Pacific Island Affairs Taito Phillip Field and MPs Mark Goshe and Luamanuvao Winnie Laban.

The Smokefree Hibiscus Awards recognise and celebrate the achievements of Pacific women who are Smokefree in their different fields of endeavour. Winners included: Film animation student Merita Wi Kaitaia; Niuean Community Worker Lineahi Lund; Volunteer worker Theresa Chugsum; and Under 21 New Zealand netball representative Dejoles Pereira.

Conference feedback showed the event was a success and achieved it's objective of stimulating debate and discussion on issues pertinent to the well-being of children.

"The highlight for me was seeing everyone having such a great time, and not being able to hear a pin drop during Teuila Percival's presentation on the abused children that she had dealt with as a paediatrician," says Esther. "I was struck by the emotion in the room as people were listening to Teuila and I thought yes – they are really, really listening."



*MP Taito Phillip Field and Jackie Clark surrounded by conference members.*

## Menz B Campaign Underway in Wellington

*The high profile Meningococcal B vaccination campaign will begin in the wider Wellington region on May 9.*

From that Monday, school age children will be able to receive their vaccinations by Public Health Nurses. Pre-school children and babies and youth who have left school and are under the age of 20 can be vaccinated for free at their local GP clinic.

The Ministry has had a close working relationship with the Pacific Health Service in Wellington and nationally to ensure that issues from Pacific communities are heard in the process of rolling out these vaccinations.

The Ministry has also advised and been involved in some of the community awareness programmes.

These programmes have been active for some time at churches, local groups and flea markets. Brochures, information pamphlets and radio programmes have also targeted Pacific communities.

The Hutt Valley District Health Board Pacific Team had a chance to be interviewed by the Mayor of Wellington, Kerry Prendergast on radio. This pre-recorded program has been on air (Access radio) several times and also on the Good Morning TV show.

All Pacific community groups will be targeted separately as part of the emphasis placed on the problems about the spread of Meningococcal B in the young population.



*Mayor Kerry Prendergast with Pacific Women Health promoters of Menz B.*



### Early Childhood Centre – Built on partnership between Church and Government Agencies

**The message from the pulpit at the Porirua Congregational Christian Church of Samoa Resurrection Day church service was inspirational and straight to the point – church and government partnerships will make the difference for Pacific communities.**

The church service followed by a ribbon cutting ceremony and culminated by a Pacific lunch and entertainment celebrated the opening of the Aoga Amata Porirua EFKS (AAPE) new 1.1 million dollar early childhood facility.

Reverend Nove Vailaau affirmed the message of partnership and the importance of faith in building confidence and perseverance for adversity and the unknown which the congregation experienced.

“For our church to celebrate the completion of our project ends difficult struggle in our history whereby members of this church went through a soul searching journey,” explained Rev Nove.

“A journey which tested our capability, our capacity to deliver, our ability to be transparent and accountable – in fact it tested the quality of leadership and decision making this church has developed through the years.”

“For our church the opening of this new centre for early childhood is the opening out of our community, the opening out to new responsibilities, the opening out to new challenges and the opening out to new opportunities to serve God more.”

The church formed partnerships with the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Housing and the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs.

The church congregation raised \$120,000 to purchase the state houses and in addition purchased resources and paid for the development of car park area for 14 vehicles. The government, through the Ministry of Education contributed \$971,603 to the building and refurbishing of the two ex-housing New Zealand properties on Waihemo Street.

Manager, Early Childhood Education with the Ministry of Education Merren Dobson says the centre is an example of how collective responsibility can lead to increasing children’s life-long educational opportunities when participating in quality early childhood education programmes.



*From Left: Reverend Nove Vailaau, Mayor Jenny Brash, Rosie Galin, Alice Foster, Caroline Mareko, Merren Dobson and Luamanuvao Winnie Laban.*



*The Aoga Amata Porirua EFKS new facilities.*

“The new centre will be able to double its enrolments from those in the past. Parents, management and the qualified teachers will together focus on providing high quality education for local children in a high quality education environment,” says Merren.

“The management, staff and parents of the centre need to be acknowledged for their vision and commitment to providing the best early education for their very young children.”

Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs CEO Fuimaono Les McCarthy addressed the congregations and government guests at the lunch acknowledging the work of all involved, and in particular the leadership of Reverend Nove.

“Rev Nove was always someone who lead from the front and demonstrated innovation, vision and a really modern way of looking at the assets of a community,” said Fuimaono.

“His dream was to find some way for the collective wealth of the community to be harnessed and be made of use to everybody and today is another example of success in this area.”

The Aoga Amata is not the only service on site. The church believes that education makes the difference and that churches can be part of this process. Part of the community of learning is the study skill centre run in the evenings, the women’s handicraft programme and the health programme.

### Study Centre – A Crucial Bridge for Educational Success

**The study programme is designed to support and mentor students from primary through to tertiary level. The study centre which has operated for several years on volunteers and donations has proven to be an important factor in significantly increasing the number of University entrants from the church.**

“In the late 90s, there was only one university student,” recalls Reverend Nove. “Today we have just over ten of our children in University. We are seeing a new breed of students who are there because they are genuinely driven to succeed and this is a very significant achievement for our community.”

# ACCESS STORY – Approach on a Journey to Prosperity

18 year old aspiring lawyer Vili Feiloivao agrees and says he has grown in a church environment that has taught him to strive for educational success.

“The study centre is my space away from home but it also supports us with resources,” says Vili. “I come to the study centre and I know I can get my hands on the latest study books for each subject, do research on the internet, but mainly, it provides us with good tutors who are also university students and that’s motivating.”

The study centre has been running consistently since 1998 and has done so with the support of the Aulavavou (youth) body of the church and its volunteers led by registered teachers and University graduates of the church.



*Aspiring lawyer Vili Feiloivao (right) with friend at the EFKS Porirua Study Centre.*

## Health Programme – A Crucial Bridge for Wellbeing

**An important component of this churches journey towards prosperity has been keeping in good health.**

Young members of the church Suivaiaia Vailaau – a recent graduate, and registered nurse Sera Tapu said they knew that as young educated women of the church they saw it as their role to initiate a healthy way forward for their people.

“We saw how we could help our people and many were not in good health and so we just started to plan out how we could do it,” says Suivaiaia.

The outcome of all the planning coupled with the funding they secured with Capital Coast District Health Board and PHARMAC eventuated into a three pronged twenty week health project open to all members of the public. This includes a:

- health screening – where all participants weigh in, get their blood pressure measured and sugar levels checked out;
- 50 minute Pacific workout with Pacific music and movements and the last component of the programme;
- series of six workshops on health issues led by Samoan health practitioners with specialised knowledge in the areas of diabetes, nutrition and cardiovascular care to name but a few.

Exercise instructor for the programme Sarah Tumai says the experience of exercising with the members of the church and the community is thoroughly enjoyable.

“What makes it is the Samoan music, the movement and the fact that they all love it. It’s a very unique experience compared to other such projects and it’s an exercise experience you could never find in a gym – their passion is beautiful.”



*Health Programme Leaders Sera Tapu and Suivaiaia Vailaau.*

## Collective Model Produces Jobs

**During the seven years Rev Nove has been with the Porirua church, he has established a licenced preschool programme generating employment for twelve fully contracted teachers, two supervisors, one receptionist, one cook, one caretaker and one Programme Manager – a total of 18 jobs that did not exist seven years ago.**

Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs Senior Policy Analyst Lafaele Lupo has worked closely with the church and is excited about what the church has achieved. He points to Rev Nove’s leadership.

“We have been in constant dialogue with the Reverend Nove. He was one of many key people who mobilised the Pacific community when the Pacific Capacity Building project begun in 2000,” says Mr Lupo.

“This is an excellent example of a church community building collective wealth – not just financially but also in terms of human resources needed to make such projects happen.”

The liberating and holistic model of this church provides an indication of what a collective effort, partnership and faith can do to better future generations of a willing community.



*Rev Nove (centre) surrounded by teachers and kids on their first day in the new early childhood centre.*



# New Protocol Agreements signed

*Pacific Communities will benefit from newly signed Protocols with Ministry of Consumer Affairs and the Human Rights Commission.*

The protocol is aimed at helping Pacific peoples access information about consumer products and problems as well as monitoring how consumer issues impact on Pacific peoples.

“This Protocol takes Pacific peoples another step closer to understanding their rights as consumers,” Fuimaono says. “With the sharing of information and regular meetings between the two Ministries, we can ensure that the needs of Pacific peoples are included in Consumer programmes.”

As part of the Protocol, Consumer Affairs intends to initiate a telephone hotline for Pacific callers who need information and advice about buying products or who are having problems with things that they have bought.

Consumer Affairs will also establish a Pacific Island Reference Group. This group will be able to identify suitable participants for the Ministry of Consumer Affairs Consumer Representation Network and focus on issues affecting Pacific peoples in South Auckland.

Similarly, Pacific people will hear more about the work of the Human Rights Commission following the protocol signing with the Human Rights Commissioner Jories De Brees.

A joint work programme between the two agencies will focus on education programmes specifically for Tagata Pasifika about human rights, the New Zealand Human Rights Act and various Human Rights Commission projects.

The Human Rights Commission will provide more information in Pacific languages as well as increase its’ profile in wider community activities including business, education, social services, health and cultural and sporting events and the arts.

The Ministry will contribute to this protocol by providing information that will assist the Human Rights Commission to contact key Pacific communities, provide information on issues affecting Tagata Pasifika and provide advice on various issues that affect communications with Pacific communities.



*Head and General Manager of Consumer Affairs, Liz MacPherson and CEO Fuimaono Les McCarthy.*

## New Acting Chief Executive for Pacific Business Trust

*An Acting Chief Executive has been appointed to the Pacific Business Trust for the next four months by the Trust’s Board.*

Pacific Business Trust (PBT) Chair Pauline Winter says Inoke Vala, the current Business Development Manager, will function as Acting Chief Executive. This follows former CE, Jim Mather’s, departure to head Maori Television. As Business Development Manager, Inoke is responsible for managing the expanded PBT Business Advisor network in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch.

“For the next four months Inoke will also oversee the Trust’s strategic direction and work closely with the board to ensure a smooth transition,” says Ms Winter.

Vala holds a political studies degree from Auckland University and worked for the Tonga Development Bank in Tonga for 10 years. He has just completed Level 2 of his Henley MBA degree and has one more year to go before completing it. He says he is looking forward to building on the work done by Jim Mather and the Board.



*Inoke Vala – Acting Chief Executive*



*CEO Fuimaono Les McCarthy and Human Rights Commissioner Jories DeBrees and Chief Commissioner Rosslyn Noonan holding the Race Unity poster.*

# Super School to Save Languages

*Ko e koloa uho e vagahau Niue, taofi mau ma e atuhau tupuhake.*

If you are Niuean and you cannot read the sentence above, it means – ‘the Niue language is a treasure, hold fast to it for your future generations.’

Don't feel bad if you cannot read it, you are not alone. It is well known in language circles that a language can be lost within one generation.

The Niue language, alongside Tokelau and Cook Islands were identified in Census Statistics in 1996 and 2001 to be most at risk of being lost. It is estimated that 60% of the NZ Pacific population have been born in and have grown up in NZ. This is one reason contributing to the decline of Pacific languages.

To combat this possibility, in 2003 focus group consultations in the Niue, Tokelau and Cook Islands communities were held. Feedback showed that there were serious concerns from all three groups about language retention. All agreed that the majority of their NZ born populations could not speak their mother tongue and of those who could speak it, a large proportion were not fluent speakers.

This resulted in the development of a Ministry pilot project entitled ‘Mind your Language – looking at the Future of Pacific Languages in New Zealand.’

From ‘Mind Your Language’ came Ministry support for a project facilitated by Niu Development Inc in South Auckland aimed at helping people of Niue descent learn their language. “This community group had already begun to develop a plan of language preservation,” says Lafaele Lupo, Senior Policy Analyst for Special Projects.



*From Left to Right – Alice Letts, CEO Fuimaono Les McCarthy, Mali Erick and Lulu Lafaele Lupo, Senior Policy Analyst.*

“So it was a great opportunity to take their plan one step further. What we learn from this pilot will help other communities develop similar programmes for the Tokelau and Cook Islands languages.”

Aorere College kindly co-operated with Niu Development to have a weekly Niue language class in its evening school. “We began in February with 20 young people around 17-19 years of age and we are achieving results,” says Pefi Kingi a supporter of the project.

According to Pefi it is not unusual to hear a young person say excitedly that they can now speak to their parents in vagahau Niue (the Niue language).

Five local ‘Matatua’ (elders) visit the class to provide support, conversation and to “keep the class warm so to speak.”

The weekly language lessons go from semester to semester and it has not been difficult to fill them up. Already there is interest in a central city language course and Niu Development is “*very excited about it*” according to language expert Tutagaloa Tutose Tuhipa.

“I am thankful to the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs for allowing us to have the opportunity to make a meaningful difference in the lives of our young people,” says Mali Erick, Niu’s Chairperson.

Pefi also gave thanks to the hard work of language experts and course teachers Lima Drysdale and Tina O’Halloran.

**If you are interested in finding out more about the course, contact Niu Development Inc on (09) 529 1492.**

## Pacific Language Retention Rate

*The retention, maintenance and revitalisation of Pacific languages is a growing challenge for all Pacific communities in New Zealand. The Cook Islands, Niue and Tokelau languages are currently at risk of becoming extinct within the next 30 years.*

The following table shows the proportion of New Zealand-born people, aged five years and over, who identify themselves as being of Pacific descent and who can hold an every day conversation in their mother tongue.

### Percentage of NZ Born Pacific language speakers

Pacific Ethnic Groups	1996	2001
Cook Islands	6 percent	6 percent
Niue	15	12
Tokelau	38	30
Fiji	24	28
Samoa	46	47
Tonga	39	42

*(The figures are taken from the 1996 and 2001 Census)*



## Important Enrolment Election Information

2005 is election year, and the Electoral Enrolment Centre, with advice from the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs is encouraging all eligible Pacific voters to register on the electoral roll.



On Monday May 2nd everyone who is already on the electoral roll will be sent their personalised Enrolment Update Pack in the mail. When you get yours, please check that all the information is correct, especially your name and address. If the details are correct you do not need to do anything, but if they are wrong, you need to fix them and send the information pack back in the envelope provided.

"If you or someone in your household or family does not get the pack then you are not enrolled," says Murray Wicks, National Manager of the Electoral Enrolment Centre. "People should get their packs in the first few days of May. If they haven't got one it is easy to enrol."

To enrol you can get an enrolment form from any PostShop; or you can call 0800 ENROL NOW (0800 36 76 56); or freetext your name and address to 3676. You can also visit [www.elections.org.nz](http://www.elections.org.nz) to enrol and update your details on line. To find publications about voting in Pacific languages – Samoan, Cook Islands, Tongan, Niuean and Tokelauan, please visit <http://www.elections.org.nz/pandr/publications.html>. Another publication, 'Everything you need to know about enrolling to vote' is available in Samoan, Tongan and Cook Island languages. These can be requested via the 0800 number and posted to you.

By calling the Enrol Now phone number you can also get help on how to complete your enrolment form. The Electoral Enrolment Centre is also making a plea to anyone who gets an Enrolment Update Pack for someone who does not live in the house anymore, to send it on. Mr Wicks says if that happens to you, please pass it onto the person, or, if you do not know where they are, to write on the envelope 'return to sender' and send it back in the post.

## More Support for Families

*Family Support increased this month to \$25 per week for the first child and \$15 per week for each other child. This change also means Family Assistance becomes available to more families with children.*

"The working for families package will enable many of our low income Pacific families to receive extra income that would have not otherwise been available to assist with the expenses of raising a family," says Heker Robertson, a Senior Policy Analyst for the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs.

The Ministry has been working with the Ministry of Social Development (MSD), which manages 'Working for Families', to ensure that the needs of Pacific families were considered in the package.

MSD hopes that this increase, alongside several others which have been introduced since October last year, will help to make it easier for people to work and raise a family.

The changes will affect many people, as families who were not entitled to Family Assistance may now be eligible to receive it, and people already receiving Family Assistance can earn more and still receive their entitlement.

There are four types of Family Assistance payments and families may qualify for one or more, depending on their personal circumstances. Families that feature in the shaded area in the chart below are likely to be entitled to some extra money.

More payment options are also available for those receiving Family Assistance. Families can now choose to receive payments weekly, fortnightly or instead, to receive a lump sum after the end of the tax year.

As part of Working for Families, many families are also entitled to extra help with housing and childcare costs from Work and Income. These entitlements are available to people who are working as well as people receiving a benefit.

Some families on a benefit will have part of their payments transferred to their Family Support. This will affect their benefit but they will still be better off overall with the increases to Family Support.

No. of children	1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>Annual income (year beginning 1 April 2005)</b>						
\$38,300						
\$49,100						
\$59,800						
\$70,600						
\$81,300						
\$92,100						

**Note: Families with more than six children or a child 13 years or older can earn more and still be entitled to Family Assistance.**

People who already receive Family Assistance, Childcare Assistance or Accommodation Supplement do not need to do anything to get increases under the Working for Families package – payments will be adjusted automatically.

**People who are interested in finding out more about Working for Families should visit [www.workingforfamilies.govt.nz](http://www.workingforfamilies.govt.nz)**

# Skilled Pacific Leaders wanted for Nominations Database

*Have you ever wondered if there is equitable representation of Pacific people on New Zealand's Trusts, boards and advisory councils?*

In line with the government's wish for greater diversity of representation on Crown boards, the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs is working to increase the number of Pacific people eligible to be selected for these high level decision-making boards. That means thinking about whether you or a respected person in your community should be registered on the Ministry's Nominations database. The Nominations database is confidential and contains the details of people who could be called on to represent Pacific interests on the boards of public sector organisations.

The Ministry currently has more than 140 Pacific people who are qualified and available, registered on its Nominations database. They have the managerial, legal and business skills, experience and expertise needed to represent Pacific interests on boards such as District Health Boards, the Local Government Commission, the Health Research Council and government advisory groups as well as many others.

People who are interested in being considered for this database, can get a copy of the Nominations Database Form from their nearest office of the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs, or they can email: [nominations@minpac.govt.nz](mailto:nominations@minpac.govt.nz) for an electronic copy.

When the Ministry receives the completed Nominations Form, the information is then fed into the database and matched with nomination requests from different agencies.

The Ministry regularly receives nominations requests from government agencies for the various boards within their areas of responsibility. If your name is being considered for a board, the Ministry will contact you first to check that you are interested in the position before your name is put forward for consideration for appointment.

For more information contact:  
[nominations@minpac.govt.nz](mailto:nominations@minpac.govt.nz).

## Pacific Governance Course

*A two day Pacific Governance Course is being held in Wellington on 26-27 May. Organised in partnership between the Institute of Directors and Niu Vision Group Ltd, the course is designed to strengthen the pool prospective and current Pacific people who are interested in professional training at a governance level.*

The course will cover topics such as corporate governance, commercial and company law, financial reporting, human resources, board dynamics and an overview of the Treaty of Waitangi and why this is relevant.

Presenters include Richard Westlake, Karen Martyn, Professor Don Trow and Simativa Perese. Contact Kim Vercoe (04) 499 0076 or Viliamu Leuga (04) 471 0226 for further information.

Early registration is recommended as the two previous courses were over-subscribed.

## News In Brief

### Wanted – more Justices of the Peace

New Zealand has only one Tongan, two Fijian, nine Samoan and no Cook Island JP's. This is out of a total of 312 Justices of the Peace throughout New Zealand.

JP's as they are known are important in our communities. They perform valuable tasks such as witnessing important documents and signing some legal documents.

To become a Justice of the Peace in New Zealand a person must be nominated by their local Member of Parliament who forwards the nomination to the Associate Minister of Justice for processing. Appointment is on the basis of need for JPs in the area and the involvement of the nominee in their community.

Many nominees come from a community organisation feeling that one of their members would make a good JP and arranging a meeting with the relevant MP. For more information visit <http://www.jpfd.org.nz/who.html> where you can find a copy of the Minister's guidelines on appointment as well as a copy of the *Code of Ethics* for JPs.

### Pacific Health - Research For Change

The 2005 HRC Pacific Health Research Fono is a two-day event to be held on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of June. The conference will include local and international plenaries, workshops and concurrent sessions on health research for Pacific peoples. In addition to promoting research to students and the community, the conference aims to address outcomes of research for Pacific peoples and changes that are required in research processes, policy and practice to make a difference in Pacific health. The HRC will also launch its "Pacific Strategy" for health research.

All fono proceedings will take place at the Langham Hotel (previously Sheraton Towers & Hotel) in Auckland.

For further information, or to register, visit [www.hrc.govt.nz](http://www.hrc.govt.nz) or contact the Pacific team on (09) 303 5201.

### Pacific Student wins Scholarship

Statistics New Zealand has named winners of its scholarships for Maori and Pacific Students. Otago University student Margaret Leo won the Pacific Peoples scholarship. The scholarships are worth \$3500 a year for three years.



## Pacific Prosperity TAPAs try Kicks off at the Pasifika Festival

*The orange and blue Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs stall at the Pasifika Festival, was the hive of activity for hundreds of festival goers.*

While other stalls sold food, crafts, more food, clothes, the Ministry stall gave out free information and engaged in deep and meaningful conversations with festival goers to find out what Pacific prosperity means to Pacific people.

A 12 month national campaign was launched at the Pasifika Festival. Named *'Life is a Journey – Social and Economic Prosperity'* the campaign aims to get Pacific people thinking about ways they contribute to a prosperous and economically self-sustaining future for themselves, their families and their communities.

One of the key activities at the tent was the signing of the *'Tapastry of Prosperity'*.

"We got people at the Pasifika Festival to write their thoughts on pieces of material that will be collated in June and sewn together to form a colossal, colourful, unique tapestry of thoughts and visuals to represent Pacific Prosperity," says Community Advisor for the Ministry Iga Mokole. "Prime Minister Helen Clark was among the first to sign."

Everyone who visited the Ministry stall had the opportunity to view a large visual display which highlighted key messages in the areas of health, education, justice, social development, culture and housing. "The Ministry seeks to assist Pacific peoples achieve full social and economic participation in New Zealand," says Iga.

"Obviously a great outcome of this is prosperity and by gaining Pacific ideas and thoughts about how this is viewed, will help the Ministry in providing high quality policy advice to government."

The 'Life is a Journey' campaign display will be shown in Christchurch and Kaikohe in April and will continue to be displayed around New Zealand at major events attended by the Ministry during the next 12 months.



*Prime Minister Helen Clark (centre) and Members of Parliament visit the MPIA tent at Pasifika Festival.*

## New Staff

*This year the Ministry has seen several talented new faces join the National office in Wellington.*

Angie Enoka from the Samoan village of Togafu'afu'a graduated from and worked for the Manukau Institute of Technology before she came to the Ministry. She has a Bachelor of Applied Communications and is a Communications Advisor for the Ministry.

Joining us on contract from the Community Employment Group of the Department of Labour is Sue Lytollis, Senior Communications Advisor.

Niuean Roman Kingi is from the villages of Avatele and Hakupu. He graduated from Auckland University with BCom and joined the Ministry as a Policy Analyst in the Monitoring Team with responsibilities for the Health, Housing and Immigration sectors.

Melanie Pero, is Cook Island, Ngatangia and Matavera and also of European Descent. She is currently studying towards a Bachelor in Applied Science, Majoring in Psychology and Pacific Studies and is Personal Assistant to Director Monitoring, Sai Lealea.



*From right to left are Sue Lytollis, Matelena Leaupepe, Justina Leaupepe-Higgs, Angie Enoka, Theresa Fabricius, Roman Kingi, Jon Siakimotu. (not pictured Melanie Pero)*

Jon Siakimotu is Niuean and has a Bachelor of Law from Waikato University. He joins the Ministry as a Policy Analyst with a responsibility for the Justice portfolio.

Theresa Fabricius, is a New Zealand born Samoan and graduate of Auckland University with a Bachelor of Arts with a double major in Anthropology and Political Science. She joined the Ministry as a Policy Analyst, covering the Labour Market and Women's Affairs portfolios.

Matalena Leaupepe, is Samoan and from the village of Fasito'o Uta Upolu. She is a graduate of Victoria University of Wellington and now a Policy Analyst focussing on Early Childhood and the Compulsory Education Sector.

Justin Leaupepe-Higgs, from the Samoan villages Tanugamanono and Faleafu has joined the Ministry while receptionist Lisa Debondt-loane is on maternity leave.