



TIARE AHURIRI



Napier Branch of P.A.C.I.F.I.C.A. Inc

Kia orana, la orana, Talofa lava, Malo e lelei, Bula Vinaka, Taloha ni, Fakaalofa lahi atu, Kia ora, and Warm Pacific Greetings.

We are a new PACIFICA branch formed in the beginning of 2008. This branch came about through five Pacific women sitting around a table talking about, learning about, passionate about PACIFICA. A number of names for our new branch was suggested but, we settled on Tiare Ahuriri because we felt it best reflected us. Tiare means "Flower" in the Pacific, and Ahuriri is the Maori name for the area in Napier where the lagoon is situated. What we love about our name is that as flowers come in different colours, shapes, sizes, fragrances, and flavours, - so do we.

We have nine members:

Names:

President: Maryanne Marsters

Secretary/Treasurer: Caren Rangi

Members: Diane Mara
Berry Rangi
'Ilaisaane 'Unga
Erika Wellgreen
Mabel Fatialofa
Rose Fatialofa
Moiria McGarva

Our **mission** is to develop strong and successful Pacific women through supporting, promoting, and strengthening Pacific women and their communities in Hawke's Bay. Our **objective** is to have fun, as we support one another, support our Pacific community, provide a Pacific women's viewpoint in Hawke's Bay, and reach out to our sister branches in Hawke's Bay, and nationally.

What are some of the fun things we have done?

We were involved in the sPACIFICally PACIFIC week long event that was held in August 2008.

How were we involved?

- Members attended each day.
- We created flyers informing people of who we are, why we are here, what we do, and where we are. Included on this flyer was a section providing contact details for women wanting to know more about PACIFICA.
- Were judges at events.
- sPACIFICally PACIFIC committee member.

We promoted

We promoted and put our branch out-there by making ourselves visible. This was accomplished by placing our flyers at different stalls, wearing our Tiare Ahuriri & PACIFICA name tags, mingling and socialising with people, and having our branch promoted by our Minister for Pacific Island Affairs,

the Honourable Luamanuvao Winnie Laban in her official opening speech. We were honoured and humbled by the Minister's words.

Web Address to the Minister's speech:

<http://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/navigating+pacific+pathways+creative+sector>

Raising awareness of the achievements of our Hawke's Bay Pacific people

Tiare Ahuriri member Dr Diane Mara composed and sent a letter to the editor of the local newspaper, the Hawke's Bay Today. This letter congratulated and acknowledged the organisers and participants of sPACIFICally PACIFIC on a successful and amazing event. Well done Dr Diane Mara! This speech was published and can be viewed on Tiare Ahuriri Blog.

Tiare Ahuriri Blog Address: <http://tiareahuriri.blogspot.com/> Also attached as an appendice.

Communicating via a Blog

As our Pacific women are busy women we felt we needed a virtual space where we can keep members and our wider community informed. It would also allow our members and non-members to respond to anything we had written by leaving a comment. It also enabled us to include an upcoming events calendar, and links to our PACIFICA Inc website, Northern region bebo page, and other relevant links.

Tiare Ahuriri Blog Address: <http://tiareahuriri.blogspot.com/>

Supporting Breast-screening

Tiare Ahuriri member Berry Rangi has been doing some great work through her involvement with Pacific breast-screening initiatives in the Hawke's Bay region, and has organised a meeting this month for Pacific women who are not active in the breast-screening process, and those who are. Continuing to raise awareness to the importance of breast-screening.

Branch Support

Tiare Ahuriri members Dr Diane Mara, Maryanne Marsters, and Francis Gifford of the Hastings branch travelled to PACIFICA Northern Region Mini Conference in Tokoroa on the 12 July 2008. This conference was also attended by Anita Marsters (21 years) and Paige Drever (17 years) from Tauranga who since the conference have been asking about a Tauranga branch.

Keynote Speaker at LIANZA Conference 2008

It is really great to have our own Dr Diane Mara invited to be a Keynote Speaker at the Library and Information Association of New Zealand Aotearoa (LIANZA) "Out of the Box" Conference 2008.

Diane's topic will be on Pacific people and Information Technology.

Web Address to LIANZA and Dr Diane Mara's abstract:

<http://www.lianza.org.nz/events/conference2008/programme.html#mara>

Web Address to LIANZA and Dr Diane Mara's Profile:

<http://www.lianza.org.nz/events/conference2008/keynotes.html>

Graduations

Congratulations to Tiare Ahuriri President Maryanne Marsters for completing her Masters of Library and Information Studies at Victoria University, Wellington. Well done!

Looking forward to PACIFICA AGM

Finally, we are so looking forward to attending PACIFICA AGM 2009 in Auckland, and we are working towards ensuring the all members are able to attend.

Letter to the Editor

PACIFICA Inc president, and member of Tiare Ahuriri branch, Dr Diane Mara sent the following letter to the editor of Hawke's Bay Today.

PACIFIC SHOWCASE BENEFITS US ALL
(Hawke's Bay Today, 18 August 2008, p. 6)

Dear Editor

The Hawke's Bay sPACIFICally Pacific programme has just finished for another year. I was privileged to attend the opening at the King's House Church on Sunday 10th and the final Cultural Explosion evening at Pettigrew Green Arena on the Friday night. In both cases the venues were packed out. Congratulations for this wonderful exposition and celebration of Pacific youth are due to the organisers, in particular Mr Talalelei Taufale and Rose Fatialofa and members of the sPACIFICally Pacific Hawke's Bay Charitable Trust. The enthusiasm and commitment of the young people from seven Hastings and Napier secondary schools as they performed dances and items from a range of Pacific cultures was a joy to behold. The hours of preparation and the support of school staff, parents and the wider Pacific communities including the churches resulted in polished, precision performances, beautiful costuming, and inventive choreography and staging that would rival any of the performances at the annual secondary school's Polyfest held in Auckland. All of the week's events, thanks to sponsorship, had free admission so there was no barrier to anyone in our community attending and witnessing such talent. In contrast to much of the negative profile given to our youth in the media the positive creativity of this week needs to receive greater attention and a wider appreciation across the region. As the population of Pacific youth of this region grows they will become increasingly engaged in and indeed, increasingly shape the cultural life of Hawke's Bay. sPACIFICally Pacific demonstrates what can be achieved when we support youth to celebrate their cultural heritages and their changing identities so that all our community benefits. Our cross-cultural future is in good hands if events like sPACIFICally Pacific continue to be encouraged and that is up to everyone in our community.

Yours sincerely

Dr Diane Mara
Tiare Ahuriri Branch
PACIFICA Inc.(Pacific Women's Council)