



PACIFICA Manukau Report

Introduction:

PACIFICA Manukau was officially launched on 8th March 2013 on International Womens Day at a Special Breakfast held at Auckland University of Technology (AUT) Manukau campus. Tagaloatele Prof Peggy Fairbairn-Dunlop, National President welcomed the guests and MP Asenati Lole-Taylor, the only Pacific women in Parliament gave the key note address. Close to a hundred women attended the event.



Caption: PACIFICA Manukau Breakfast Launch, 8 March 2013, AUT Manukau campus.

Meetings/Membership

In our first meeting held in March the following were elected:

Pacifica Manukau Executive:

President, Bernadette Pereira
Vice-President, Onesene Simeki-Ikitule
Secretary, Malia Tua'i Manuleleua
Treasurer, Julie Segi
Youth Rep, Melissa Bell
Committee Rep, Litiuingi Ahio
Communications/Media, Gladys Shingles

The Branch has met six times since its establishment, with meetings scheduled on the third Thursday of every month. We have been very fortunate to have through Tagaloatele Prof Peggy Fairbairn-Dunlop, Auckland University of Technology (AUT) Manukau campus as the main venue for our meetings and events to date. We have had several guest speakers come in to share their expertise and contribute to the dialogue and mission of the group. We currently have a membership of **37 financial members** comprising of 2 MPs, public servants, social workers, teachers, psychiatrist, journalist, PHd students and 3 high school students. Ages of the women range from 17 to 60 years plus of Cook Islands, Niuean, Tongan, Samoan, Māori ethnicity. We have set up a Facebook page to publicise our events and activities and interest is growing.



Caption: PACIFICA Manukau Meetings held 3rd Thursday of the month

Projects/Activities

1. July-Nov 2013 Tutoring Project with James Cook High, Manurewa

This project provides support to aspiring Pacific students at James Cook High with Maths, English, Science, Geography, and helpful tips on studying for exams. The members of our Branch are rostered to provide tutoring every Saturday for 3 hours. The Project commenced in July and currently has a role of 15 students and growing.



Caption: Launch of James Cook High School Manurewa, Tutoring Project

2. August 24 2013: Meet the candidates Event

In the lead up to Auckland's 2013 local body elections, PACIFICA Manukau hosted a breakfast event on 24th August at AUT Campus Manukau. The event achieved its 3 main objectives:

- ❖ To provide the opportunity for the communities of South Auckland to engage with the candidates and ask questions on what they stand for, key issues and how they would deliver to communities.
- ❖ To highlight the importance of participating in local body elections, and to vote in light of low participation rates.
- ❖ To align with one of the Branch's key focus areas -to support and encourage the participation of Pasifika women at the political level.

Speakers at the forum included: 5 Mayoral candidates, 2 District Health Board candidates and 8 candidates standing for Local Boards in South Auckland and 1 from Waitakare. Of the 15 candidates, 12 were Pacifica. Close to a hundred people attended and the event was covered by Tagata Pasifika, Radio NZ and Pacific Media Network. Our members contributed a wide range of healthy delicacies that well-served the guests.



Caption: Meet the Candidates Breakfast, August 24, AUT Manukau campus

3. April-May 2013 School Governance Board (SGB) Elections

The Branch campaigned actively to Pacific parents especially women to stand for the SGB in May. Three women including (Branch Secretary) were successful in getting onto local school boards for 2013-2016.

4. Power UP for NCEA workshops for Parents + Community Trainers

The Branch supported above programme for students and communities of Manurewa and Clendon through participation of two of its members.

5. Our Branch Secretary presented on School Governance Boards at the Advance Pacifica workshop at AUT Manukau campus in August.

6. Future Projects

- ❖ Pink lei Project
- ❖ Women –governance & leadership
- ❖ Xmas project – Grocery Hamper
- ❖ Health project

7. December 2013: Our group donated money and groceries for a xmas hamper which was presented to one of our members at our Xmas function in Otahuhu last year.

8. March 8 2014, International Womens Day: A special breakfast is being organized to celebrate International Womens day. Flyers and invites have gone out and we expect a big crowd to attend particularly with the guest speaker being our new Minister of Pacific Island Affairs, Hon Peseta Sam Lotu-l'iga.

9. New Branch – North Shore: Manukau Branch is supporting the establishment of new Pacifica branch in the North Shore region. Susana Mangisi is key contact and currently working with Manukau Executive in getting group established

10. April 2014: Our AGM is planned for April and election of offices will take place.

11. Conclusion:

Pacifica Manukau continues to grow its membership, activate its projects and fundraising events and participate in initiatives that enhance quality of life for its communities and its members.

Bernadette Pereira
President PACIFICA Manukau