

# Chair's Report

## Extended Pacific Greetings for 2004

This year marks a significant milestone for Tautai, as we celebrate the individual and collective art achievements of the last eight years as a charitable trust. The proliferation of the core programmes and advanced enterprise of the last twelve months has resulted in a greater need to consolidate and codify the organisational base of the organisation.

As covered more fully below, a restructuring of management was initiated with the forethought of the Art Manager Itania Nikolao. Itty continues as Tautai Manager and now has a more formal structure to enable her to draw on others to assist her with implementing Tautai activities.

Another indication of growth is the appointment of Jim Vivieaere and Sheyne Tuffery to the Board. The wealth of knowledge and experience which they bring will further enhance and develop the governance of the trust.

The later part of last year saw the biennial Tautai Art Symposium held in Aotea Square as a featured and very successful event in the AK03 Festival. Developments continued on the Tautai website to further enhance this as an important source for information on contemporary Pacific art. Creative Communities funding enabled a second Fresh Horizons for 2003 to be held. This was directed at talented art students at secondary schools across Auckland and

continues a focus on assisting and establishing contacts with young and emerging artists.

With the dawning of a new Year with new staff, new Board members, and new and exciting prospects on the horizon, it seems somewhat apt that the first Tautai exhibition for the year will be 'Niu Dialogue' and the video launch of the six day workshop at Aotea Centre. Excusing the paltry attempt at alliteration, to all of the Tautai members and supporters – Happy Niu Year, cheer and flair.

**Fa'afetai tele, Ia Manuia  
Lily Aitui Laita - Chairperson**

## Strengthening Management

The expansion of Tautai activities during the past year has led to consideration of how to more effectively handle the diversity of roles and available resources. Arts Manager, Itania Nikolao, drawing on her experience as the sole fulltime employee of Tautai for the last twelve months, provided trustees with a proposal for a changed management and operations structure for this year.

The proposal was welcomed and the Board has adopted it for 2004 as it will :

- strengthen the ability to deliver more opportunities to Tautai member artists
- give flexibility in providing the Tautai programmes and daily operations
- use the wide background, skills and employment diversity within Tautai
- retain the knowledge and involvement of the current Tautai Arts Manager

Itania Nikolao is continuing in the role of Tautai Manager on a contract basis in conjunction with her other consultant work. Christina Ah Ling has been employed as the Tautai Administrator and will be based part time in the Tautai office, and Christina Jeffery has been appointed to the Tautai Communications role.

The various Tautai Events during the year will be organised by people contracted as manager for each of the specific activities. The first of

these events under this new structure will be held in March, with Tautai Manager Itania Nikolao arranging for Lina Samu to take charge of Tautai's presence at the Pasifika Festival and for Jim Vivieaere to bring together the Niu Dialogue workshop and exhibition.



Itania Nikolao



Christina Ah Ling

Christina Jeffery

## Strategic Business Plan

Professional expertise has been used to assist the trustees with preparation of an updated Business Plan for Tautai. The Board is grateful to Creative New Zealand for providing the funding required to enable the formal analysis processes to be carried out. Views are being sought from a wide range of people from both within and outside of Tautai Trust, and some of you may have been contacted by Helen Whitehead of Solutions Management to obtain your input.

The Business Plan is aimed primarily at developing strategies for putting in place on-going development and future opportunities for

Tautai Trust. Strengthening the management is a focus of the review and this has already been responded to with the changes implemented at the beginning of this year. Further ways in which the existing and proposed services and assistance to Tautai members are delivered and the wider Tautai objectives met are being examined.

This new Strategic Business Plan with its Strengthened Management structure will be the foundation for the next application to Creative New Zealand to be prepared shortly for 2005 annual funding.

Annual funding from  
  
 ARTS COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND TOI AOTEAROA

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**autai**  
 Tautai Contemporary Pacific Arts Trust

**Board of Trustees 2004:**  
 Fatu Feu'u (Patron), Lily A Laita (Chair)  
 Ron Brownson, Jean Clarkson Gina Cole,  
 Ema Tavola, Colin Jeffery, Sheyne Tuffery,  
 Jim Vivieaere

**Tautai Office:**  
 Itania (Itty) Nikolao (Tautai Manager)  
 Christina Ah Ling (Tautai Administrator)  
 1B Ponsonby Road, Ponsonby. PO Box 44-224  
 Pt Chevalier, Auckland. Ph: 09-376 1665  
 Fax: 09-376 1825 • Mob: 021-373 402



TAUTAI OFFICE - 1B PONSONBY ROAD, PONSONBY

# emerging artist Samiu Napa'a

Samiu Napa'a's photo-realistic portraits are cross-cultural studies mapping the acclimatisation of Tongans in New Zealand. Samiu is the youngest in his family; he travelled with his mother from the village of Fua'amotu to Auckland in 1997 to join the majority of his family already settled here. From seventh form painting with Ian George at Hillary College in Otara, Samiu went on to complete a Certificate of Art & Design at Whitecliff College which later progressed to a University of Auckland Bachelor of Visual Arts, where he is currently in his final year.

The concept of portraiture suggests a measure of respect and grandeur that is captured so stunningly in the portrait painted of his mother, Mele Napa'a. The detail of her aged face, the locked gaze and the halo-like glow around her head accents the dignified process of portraiture.

Samiu's application of traditional portrait painterly technique to contemporary images of young Tongans in New Zealand echoes his perception of their displacement in a foreign society. They stand as a proud validation of traditional Tongan values fused with Western ways of life. He enjoys this relationship and plans to develop his studies of Tongan youth culture. His work is featured in the upcoming "Niu Dialogue" exhibition at the Aotea Centre opening on March 1.



## Grey Lynn Park Festival



Tautai was back at Grey Lynn park last November for the annual festival. This community event has grown into a highly-successful day of great music, delicious food and stalls selling a wide variety of goods.

Tautai uses the day as an opportunity to raise our profile and let people know what we're about. We also sell a good number of our T-shirts, books, cards and posters.

Fa'afetai Amituana'i, an artist member, had a spot by us with a friend selling paintings and sculptures, confirming this venue as an excellent opportunity for the sale and promotion of Pacific artwork.

We also participated in the children's area with drawings by artist member Andy Leleisi' uao providing the basis for a colouring activity for the kids. A big thanks to Jessica Ofa and Toto luli who put in the hard work and long hours manning this hugely popular activity.

The festival was very well-organised; the set-up, our location and general flow of the day were smoother and more enjoyable than past years.

The rain held off and the festival ended with the mellow reggae grooves of Katchafire on the nearby stage. We look forward to the 2004 event.



# Pasifika

Saturday 13th March 2004  
Update from Lina Samu, Event Manager

Tautai will be at Pasifika again this year on Saturday 13 March from 9am until 6pm at Western Springs Park. Our two marquees will be in the same place as last year – in the Arts Arena by the Zoo car park. We are looking forward to meeting many Tautai members and supporters. A number of our artists will be spending time at the marquees and the art work from the Fresh Horizons Auckland workshop will be on display. Of course we will also have special activities for the children organised by the fabulous energetic and enthusiastic Jessica Ofa. We look forward to seeing you there.



## Niu Dialogue at AK03

Tautai this year held its biennial Arts Symposium in Aotea Square Auckland. Held over seven days in September, twenty-six member artists participated with the support of several Tautai volunteers. It was a part of the Auckland Festival and the venue generated a lot of contact with the large audience which turned out for AK03. Tautai is grateful for the financial assistance from the Pacific Business Trust and the Auckland Festival Trust which enabled this big event to be staged.



|                     |                          |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| Chris van Doren     | Lisi Luamanu             |
| Fatu Feu'u          | Lonnie Hutchinson        |
| Filepe Tohi         | Lina-Jodi Vaine Samu     |
| Faafetai Amitanuai  | Lurlene Christiansen     |
| Fono McCarthy       | Metuanooroa Tapauni      |
| Jessica Ofa         | Niki Hastings-McFall     |
| Jim Vivieaere       | Rochelle Stebbings       |
| John Ioane          | Richard Shortland-Cooper |
| Johnny Peninsula    | Shigeyuki Kihara         |
| Kulimoe'anga Maka   | Siulolovao Moeakolia     |
| Leafa/Janice Wilson | Siligia Setoga           |
| Lily Aitui Laita    | Tui Hobson               |
| Loloma Andrews      | Veronica Vaevae          |



"Making art in a public space, is a little like making out in a public space, everything you do

is being scrutinised by passers by. They are either bewildered or intrigued. Niu Dialogue for me as an artist, in the middle of Aotea Square, pretending to be a statue of a Samoan Taupou, was exactly that. A new dialogue or conversation with a new audience, not to mention the privilege of working alongside some of the most gifted artists in Aotearoa. With the comforts of our Tautai aiga, all working, laughing and eating together in Aotea Square, we were made a part of Auckland city. As the largest Pacific population in the world, I believe that Tautai was able to communicate to Auckland and her visitors, that Pacific artists have become part of the vital signifiers of the diverse nature of Aotearoa and the dialogue that Pacific artists in the 21st century have with Tangata Whenua and the rest of the art world. After my time in the Square, hanging out with Sir Dove Myer Robinson and scaring little kids by blinking, I can say that Tautai's Sculpture symposium left a vivid impression on the minds of those who ventured in to see the gifted Tautai sculptors at work, but also it has left an impression on us in a fresh and NIU way."

Leafa/Janice Wilson

## Fresh Horizons Auckland

This was held in November 2003 and was the second emerging Pacific Artists workshop for Tautai last year. Thirteen Auckland Secondary schools nominated 30 of their year 10 students to attend the workshop which was held at the Manukau Institute of Technology.

The tutors, Lily Laita, John Ioane, Sheyne Tuffery, Lurlene Christiansen and Niki Hastings-McFall, lead the students through a variety of disciplines including print-making, jewellery,

ceramics, wood cut and painting. Tautai was also pleased to be able to employ Student Artist Assistants (Vea Mafileo, Samiu Napa, Loloma Andrews, Reagan Samoa) to enhance the Fresh Horizons Programme and also enable the assistants to gain valuable mentoring and support skills themselves.

The theme of the workshop was 'Lapita' and began with a visit to the Auckland Museum where Fuli Pereira, Assistant Curator Ethnology

talked about Lapita culture, its design and composition. Work produced during the workshop will be on display at the Tautai Arts Arena at Pasifika.

Tautai is grateful to the Creative Communities Projects of Auckland City, Manukau City and Waitakere City Councils for their support and funding for this event.





PO BOX 44-224, PT CHEVALIER, AUCKLAND

# Continuing Niu Dialogue

## NEW EXHIBITION GOING OFF AT THE EDGE

Using words to exploit double meanings has an interesting effect, not only humour but in this particular case we have the adjective indigenising the object. NIU DIALOGUE is the working title of the 2004 annual art exhibition held at The Edge Aotea Centre, in the Aotea Gallery on level 4. The opening function will be on Monday 1st March 2004 at 6pm - 8pm. All Tautai members are most welcome to attend and support this event. The exhibition is open to the public for the duration 2nd March to 27th March.

The thrust of the exhibition comes from the work of the artists that were involved in the Niu Dialogue Tautai Arts Symposium which was located in the Aotea Square as part of

the Auckland Arts Festival AK03 in September last year. The other important component will be the work of emerging artists that have recently graduated or currently enrolled at various Auckland art institutions.

I have been contracted to manage this event and am pleased to be able to use the discernment and knowledge of Ema Tavola and Emily Mafileo to assist me. The exhibition NIU DIALOGUE intends to celebrate the Pacific Islander presence in the Auckland Arts Community in the same manner as the annual Pasifika Festival.

**Jim Vivieaere. Event Manager.**

### Past and Upcoming Events & Exhibitions

**Paradise Now? Contemporary Art from the Pacific.** Asia Society Museum, New York. Includes work by Michel Tuffery, John Ioane, Niki Hastings-McFall, Sofia Tekela Smith, John Pule. **18 Feb - 9 May 04**

**Chris Chateris.** G2 Gallery, Kitchener St, Auckland. **Until 4 March 04**

**Edith Sagapolu 'Ruthless'.** Anna Miles Gallery, 4th Floor, Canterbury Arcade, High Street, Auckland. **Until 28 Feb 04**

**Jason Hall.** G2 Gallery, Kitchener St, Auckland. **From 6 March 04**

**IKI and thanks for all the IKA!** Artspace, K'Road, Auckland. Includes work by Ani O'Neil, Filipe Tohi, Jim Vivieaere, Niki Hastings-McFall, John Pule, Lonnie Hutchinson, Veronica Vaevae. This exhibition travelled to Lithuania and the Cook Islands - and now in Auckland - with additions. **Until 13 March**

**2nd Auckland Triennial.** Public/Private Tumatuanui/Tumataiti. 39 artists' projects will be presented at the Auckland Art Gallery, the Gus Fisher, the George Fraser, Artspace and other galleries. These are leading and emerging artists from New Zealand and 11 other countries including Lonnie Hutchinson, Emily Mafileo and John Pule. **20 March - 30 May 04**

**Sons and Daughters of Polynesia.** Uxbridge, Uxbridge Road, Howick, Auckland. Artists will paint in response to a poem written by Rev. Mua and Feleti Strickson-Pua. Includes work by Fatu Feu'u together with his two sons Ivor and Tuiteva. **18 Feb - 17 March 04**

**Pacific Rim - Contemporary New Zealand Medallion Sculpture.** Medialia - Rack & Hamper Gallery, 335 West 38th Street, New York. This show is curated by Fatu Feu'u and has shown in New Zealand and London before opening in New York. Includes work by Niki Hastings-McFall, Ian George, John Ioane, Richard Shortland-Cooper, Stephen Gwaliasi and Fatu Feu'u. **1-30 April 04**

**Fatu Feu'u "Vaipouli".** An exhibition of paintings. Warwick Henderson Gallery, Parnell. **From 11 May 04**

Stephen Gwaliasi has opened a gallery/shop in the main street of Hokitika. **Bonz 'n Stonz. Go visit.**

**Marriage between Lily Aitui Laita and Faaafetai Toa Taoai. Ia Manuia.** **27 December 2004 at Henderson**

# Postcard from Fiji

Tautai board member Ema Tavola didn't forget us while she was at home for the Christmas holidays:

**Bula vinaka!**

Having spent six idyllic days in the Polynesian-tiare-scented island of Rarotonga, I find myself back in my hometown of Suva city with its familiar and unique urbanity. Being off the beaten tourist track, the smell of fresh roti and curry is infused with diesel bus fumes and rotting mango seeds - and man, mango season has well and truly set in! I actually missed the muggy humidity and torrential downpours... you see, in Suva we are "blessed" with the daily dousings that refresh the senses and cleanse the mind, or so I like to think...

Void of resorts, Suva is a melting pot of the Pacific with its embassies, regional organisations, tertiary institutions and thriving commercial centres. But somehow, the big city hustle bustle doesn't really fit the landscape of this peninsula city. Downtown, the streets throbbing with

boom-box-taxi-cabs playing Bombay hits fade east into a backdrop of karmic ocean against quiet mountains and west towards Nukulau - Suva's 'Alcatraz'.

As appealing as Raro's vibrant tourist hangouts were, I find rummaging through the age-old racks of Suva's Lace Bazaar like hunting for hidden treasure. And of Suva's bustling streets - a visual melee of Indo-Fijians, Fijians, Chinese and those with bits of all-sorts, intermingling and hyena-style laughing - I can sit and watch all day - under the big tree in Sukuna Park or relaxing on the sea-wall.

Contradicting the concept of 'Fiji Time', I can hardly keep up with the pace of Suva's development: buildings mushrooming to the sun, hire purchase for everyone! Birkenstocks and hipsters, text messaging and skinny-milk-latte - internet for just eight cents per minute!

Bubbling with opportunity, Suva provides an inspiration to the creative mind.

**Moce,  
Ema Tavola**

## Niu Dialogue Exhibition

Opening Monday 1 March 2004 at 6pm  
At The Edge/Aotea Centre, Auckland.  
See you there!

Design and layout of the Tautai Newsletter



**CONTACT: TAGI COLE**  
43 Selbourne Street,  
Grey Lynn, Auckland  
Ph: 09-376 3889  
Fax: 09-376 3969  
Mob: 027-482 6302  
desktopgraphics@xtra.co.nz