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INTRODUCING THE MACMILLAN BROWN CENTRE FOR PACIFIC STUDIES

The Macmillan Brown Centre for Pacific Studies opened in April 1988 when its first director started work. The Director, Dr Malama Meleisea, and his family were welcomed officially by the University at a Powhiri performed by the Maori Student Association of the University of Canterbury and representatives of the Maori community and the Ngai Tahu of Christchurch. An 'ava ceremony was also performed by Samoan community on behalf of the Pacific Island community of Christchurch. The Samoan Students Association at the University entertained the guests at the end of the formal welcome.

The Centre is financed with money from the Macmillan Brown Trust. Professor John Macmillan Brown, one of the founding Professors of the University of Canterbury and a

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Professor MacMillan Brown's wishes, as expressed in his will, were for the Centre to encourage and facilitate the "investigation and the research of the history, traditions, customs, laws and ideas of the peoples of the Pacific generally" Accordingly the Centre

plans to concentrate research both on the past and present societies and cultures of the indigenous populations of the Pacific, including New Zealand. The Centre will respond to the concerns expressed and problems faced by Pacific people through a programme of applied and pure research.

The Centre will also be involved in the teaching of courses on the Pacific, both in conjunction with other departments of the University and eventually, it is hoped, on its own.

It is also intended that the Centre will operate a modest publication programme for papers and monographs from its research programmes.

At present the Centre is staffed by the Director and Secretary (part-time), Ms Ann Carver. Apart from pursuing his own research, currently in oral and documentary history related to land tenure and migration, the director is responsible to the Board of the Macmillan Brown Centre for Pacific Studies for the running of the Centre. The Board is appointed by the University Council and

consists of twelve members and the Director:

The Board comprises the nominees of the Professorial Board on the recommendation of the Faculty of Arts; Dr Richard Bedford, Department of Geography (Chairman); Professor William E Willmott, Department of Sociology; Dr Anne Parsonson, Department of History; Dr Ian Campbell, Department of History; and Mr Johnathan Mane, Department of Fine Arts. Also, the Head of the Department of Maori Studies, Dr Margaret Orbell; members of the Maori and the Pacific Islands communities in Canterbury; Rev. Aotofaga Lemuelu and Mrs Aroha Reriti-Crofts; the University Librarian Mr Dick Hlavac, and Mr Max Broadbent, the Librarian in charge of the MacMillan Brown Collection (co-opted); and the two Advisory Trustees of the Macmillan Brown estate Mr Robert Erwin and Dr Peter Simpson MP.



ACTIVITIES DURING 1988

The Macmillan Brown Memorial Lectures

The Macmillan Brown Memorial Lecture series has been shared between the four older universities (Auckland, Victoria, Canterbury and Otago). Each University takes turns in the annual presentation of the lectures on any topic related to those of the late Professor Macmillan Brown's academic interests. Last year the Lectures were given by the Director on the topic "The Seeds of Change: Political Development in Western Samoa" on the 14, 21 and 28 of September. They are being prepared for publication in 1989.

Visiting Fellows

The Centre was pleased to welcome two Visiting Fellows to Christchurch during 1988.

In August Professor Futa Helu, from the Atenisi University in Tonga, gave talks and lectures on social and political changes in Tongan society and his views on education both in Tonga and in the Pacific region.

In September Professor Albert Wendt, from Auckland University, spoke on Pacific Art and some aspects of his own work as a writer, and chaired the second lecture in Macmillan Brown Lecture series.

As well as speaking and lecturing to groups of the University community, both visitors attended more informal evening gatherings

Advisory Services

The Director was requested by a number of New Zealand government agencies to be involved in aspects of their programmes.

The Botany Division of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR) at Lincoln, and the Centre is jointly producing a video of the Division's Botanical display and additional pictures on how Maori and Pacific island societies utilised some of the traditional plants which were displayed.

The Department of Social Welfare and the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs asked the Centre, through the Director, to advise in some of its programmes which involve Pacific Islanders.

The Curriculum Unit of the Education Department requested the Centre, through the Director, to

The Centre has been actively involved with the Pacific Island communities in Christchurch

Teaching

The Centre contributed to the teaching of two courses on the Pacific offered by the History department.



CENTRE PLANS FOR 1989

Teaching

The Centre and the History Department are jointly offering an honours level course on Pacific Studies. The course will be based on seminars and will enable students to work on the topics of - Land Tenure; Development Philosophy and Practice; Traditional and Introduced systems of Authority; and Religion. This is a trial run and changes will be made to topics and course contents if necessary.

Research Fellows

Two scholars have accepted the University's invitation to be the Centre's Research Fellows this year. They are Professor Ron Crocombe from the Cook Islands and Dr Rajesh Chandra from Fiji.

Professor Crocombe is working on a long term project examining in detail the relationships between the Pacific Island countries and the metropolitan countries of the

Dr Chandra will be working on Industrialisation in Fiji and the Pacific during his period of attachment to the Centre from May to July.

Both Fellows will conduct seminars and contribute to teaching while they are with the Centre. Details of

Research

The Centre has agreed to assist in sponsoring and supervising Ms Margaret Ross' research in Western Samoa. Ms Ross is a PhD student in Sociology and her research topic is "The Impact of 'Development' on Womens Health

in Western Samoa".

The centre will also assist in funding and supervising Raymond Newnham's research on "The Impact of the Cultured Pearl Industry on Manihiki in the Cook Islands". Mr Newnham, a Cook Islander, is enrolled in a Masters programme.

The Director will lead a programme of interviewing Pacific Island migrants who have been living in New Zealand for over 20 years. The



Conference on Land Tenure and Development

The Macmillan Brown Centre for Pacific Studies is planning a conference on Land Tenure and Development in the Pacific Islands. The conference will address the dilemmas presently faced by the people, governments and other

Papers are being invited on the following topics:

*The contemporary function of customary land tenure systems.

*The exercise of traditional land rights and usages of customary land within modern economies.

*Credit schemes, commercial agriculture and development within the framework of customary tenure.

*The operation of land courts and tribunals.

*New directions in land development policies.

The conference will encourage in-depth discussions of the issues involved and the Centre expects to bring out a publication of high

standard which would be useful for practitioners in the field of land tenure, development and related issues. The organizers of the conference generally support the various indigenous groups in the Pacific area working for justice in land rights, but do not intend the conference to be a political forum for the airing of such concerns.

University of Canterbury,
Christchurch 1,
New Zealand.



The conference will bring together land officials from the countries of the Pacific Forum, and researchers on land issues in the region. Because of the considerable practical significance as well as intellectual interest in the issues associated with land tenure and development in the South Pacific, participation is anticipated from a broad spectrum of disciplinary perspectives, from international agencies and from lands departments and organisations in the region. Scholars interested in attending or participating in the conference are requested to write to the Director for further information.

The conference will be at the University of Canterbury in Christchurch, February, 12-16, 1990.



Visiting and Research Fellowships 1989-80

The Centre welcomes proposals from scholars for prospective Visiting or Research Fellowship awards to the Centre.

Awards will be made, subject to the availability of funds, on the basis of merit and relevance to the Centre's orientation.

Enquiries should be made to:

The Director,
Macmillan Brown Centre for
Pacific Studies,