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## THE MACMILLAN BROWN CENTRE FOR PACIFIC STUDIES

### NEWSLETTER

No. 3, April 1990



### Review of the Centre's work in 1990

This Newsletter marks the end of the second year since the Centre was established at the University of Canterbury. The Centre is funded from a bequest by the late Professor John Macmillan Brown, to encourage and facilitate the "investigation and research of the history, traditions, customs, laws and ideas of the peoples of the Pacific".

The past year has been spent on research, establishing teaching programmes, working with community organisations, and providing advisory services for various agencies. The Centre's principal objective of research is being realised through post-graduate research, and a programme of grants and research fellowships.

In May last year the Board farewelled its foundation Chairperson, Dr Richard Bedford, who left the University of Canterbury to take up the Chair in Geography at the University of Waikato. The Director and Board of the Centre wish to thank Professor Bedford for his dedicated and pioneering work in the planning and establishment phases of the Centre.

They also thank Rev. Aotofaga Lemuelu, who resigned from the Board in 1990 to go a a new Parish in Auckland, for his work on behalf of the Centre.

The new Chairperson of the Board is Dr Ann Parsonson of the Department of History of the University of Canterbury.

The Board also welcomed two new members, Mrs Rangi Oberg, who will represent the Pacific island community of Christchurch, and Dr Garth Cant, of the Geography Department. The Centre also has a new secretary, Ms Cathy Bourke, who replaced Ms Ann Carver who moved to Australia last November.

The Centre, working in conjunction with the History Department, offered an honours course in Pacific Studies in 1989, which will continue in 1990. The Centre is also offering a course in Pacific Studies through the Liberal Studies programme of the University of Canterbury.

The Centre's research fellows in 1989 were:

Professor R.G. Crocombe of the Institute of Pacific Studies at the University of the South Pacific. Professor Crocombe revised the fifth edition of his book The South Pacific: An Introduction and worked on his research project on New Zealand and the other Pacific islands.

Dr Rajesh Chandra of the Department of Geography, University of the South Pacific. Dr Chandra worked on his research project on Industrialisation in the South Pacific.

Mr Raymond Newnham, whose research was funded by the Centre and jointly supervised by the Department of Sociology, successfully completed his MA thesis "Pearls and Politics in the Cook Islands".

The Centre continues to respond to requests from a variety of agencies for assistance in the following areas.

The Director provided professional advice for the writing and promotion of Pacific History in New Zealand and Pacific Islands schools. This involved the running of workshops on the writing and teaching of local and regional History.

In September the Director helped to run a regional workshop for teachers and curriculum officers from Vanuatu, Kiribati, Tokelau, Western Samoa, Tonga, Cook Islands, Fiji and New Zealand. The workshop was held in Tonga with funding from the New Zealand Ministry of Education, Unesco and the Government of Tonga.

The Centre has also provided advisory services on a consultancy basis to the Christchurch Housing Corporation, the Department of Social Welfare, the Ministries of Pacific Island Affairs and Foreign Affairs, and the National Museum.

The Centre, together with the Social Science Research Funding Committee, co-hosted a seminar in August 1989 which examined the relevance of alternative cultural approaches to development. The views of conference participants were presented in a paper to an international meeting in Christchurch of the Association of Asian and Pacific Social Science Research Councils.

The basis for a publication programme was established by the Centre. Several manuscripts have been submitted to the Director and the Board has set up a Standing Committee on publications.

A proposal for an interdisciplinary MA programme in Pacific Studies to begin in 1991 has been prepared for approval by the Arts Faculty. A number of students from the University of Canterbury and other universities have expressed interest in carrying out research on Pacific-related topics with supervision from the Centre.

### Research Fellows in 1990

Professor R.G Crocombe returned to the Centre in February for three months to continue work on his current research project, and to contribute to the teaching of the Honours and the Liberal Studies courses.

Dr Kerry James began a six months fellowship with the Centre in late March. Dr James is writing a book on social change in Tonga.

Other grants and fellowships this year have been awarded to: Dr John Robinson, who will do research on climate changes in Pacific Island countries; Professor M.C. Spencer, who is researching the Kanak culture of New Caledonia; Ms Wendy Pond and T.P. Kaho, who are writing a book on Tongan Oral Traditions; Mr P. Gathercole, who is researching Polynesian Anthropology and Archaeology; Mr D. Small, who is researching educational policy in New Caledonia; Dr. Langi Kavaliu, who is writing on Tongan Education; Rev. Leuatea Sio, who is writing on the Pacific island Churches in New Zealand. A grant has also been made to the Ngai Tahu people for historical research.

### Conferences on Pacific History

1990 will be a good year for Pacific History, with two nationally oriented and one regionally oriented conferences taking place.

A Samoan History Conference was held in Wellington on the 10th of February, 1990. It was planned to encourage maximum participation from the Samoan community of New Zealand and many of the workshops and addresses were in the Samoan language.

The convenor was Galumalemana Alfred Hunkin of the Samoan Studies unit at the University of Victoria. The Keynote speakers were Dr Malama Meleisea, who spoke on problems of writing Samoan history, Manuka Henare, who spoke on the significance of the Treaty of Waitangi, Aiono Dr Fanaafi Le Tagaloa, who spoke on the history of Western Samoa's education system, and Rev. Leuatea Sio, who spoke on the history of the Christian churches in Samoa.

The Fourth Tongan History Conference will be held on May 13-20 at the Pacific Islanders' Educational Resource Centre. The convener is Mr Edgar Tu'inukuafe. c/-PIERC, P.O. Box 46-056, Auckland 2, New Zealand.

The Pacific History Association Conference will be held in Guam this year, on December 4-7. The

conference theme is: Micronesia: Intellectual Images and Historical Discourses, but the organisers will not exclude papers on other regions of the Pacific. The convener is Dr Donald H. Rubinstein, Director of the Micronesian Area Research Centre of the University of Guam. The proposed sessions are:

Interpreting Contact - organised by Dr Robert Underwood, Acting Vice president for Academic Affairs, University of Guam, Mangilao, Guam 96923.

Gender Images and Constructions - organised by Dr Laura Souder, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Guam, Mangilao, Guam 96923.

Island Historiography - organised by Dr George Boughton, Department of History, University of Hawaii, Honolulu, HI, USA 96822, and Dr Karen Nero, Director, Micronesian Field Studies Project, Department of Anthropology, University of California at Irvine, Irvine, CA, USA 92717.

Geopolitical and Regional Perspectives - organised by Dr Robert Kiste, Director, Centre for Pacific Island Studies, 180 East-West Road, Room 215, Honolulu, Hawaii 96822.

Preservation versus Development in Micronesia - organised by Scott Russell, Deputy Historic Preservation Officer, Division of Historic Preservation, Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950.

New Historical Movements - organised by Fr. Francis X Hezel, SJ, Director, Micronesian Seminar, Truk, Federated States of Micronesia, FM 96942.

### **Conference on Land Tenure and Development in the Pacific Islands**

The Macmillan Brown Centre for Pacific Studies will hold a conference on Land Tenure and Development in the Pacific Islands at the University

of Canterbury in Christchurch, November, 12-16, 1990.

The conference will address the dilemmas presently faced by the people, governments and other agencies of development in the Pacific region relating to land ownership and land use. It is anticipated that the conference will be of both scholarly interest and of practical relevance and significance to the Pacific Islands region.

Papers are invited on the following themes:

\*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 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.

Dr Malama Meleisea  
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