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NEWSLETTER

Macmillan Brown Centre for Pacific Studies

University of Canterbury
Christchurch, New Zealand

UNIVERSITY OF CANTERBURY

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LIBRARY

The Centre's third year of operation has been a satisfactory one. The Research Fellow programme has attracted researchers of repute in their fields. Good progress has been made with our publication programme, and the Centre continues to co-teach two courses with the History Department. The Centre also continues to provide advisory services for government departments and other organisations, and the Pacific Island community in general. The highlight of the Centre's activities in 1990 was the successful hosting of its first major international Conference on "Land Tenure and Development in the Pacific".

PROGRAMMES

Research

Professor Ron Crocombe has completed the manuscript of the book on New Zealand's relationship with other Pacific Island countries. The draft of the manuscript is being processed for publication.

Dr Kerry James has been a research scholar at the Centre for a total of 11 months. Dr James has written a number of articles and chapters for journals and books. She is also working on the manuscript of a monograph on "Social Change in Falahola" (a small Tongan island where she has been doing field work).

Dr John Henderson was awarded a 9 month research scholarship to work on the development and future of Parliamentary Systems in the Pacific.

Dr Howard Van Trease has a 12 month award to do research on Political developments in Vanuatu and Kiribati. His research includes coverage of the general elections in these two countries in the second half of this year.

Dr Bruce Harding is working on a critique on the life and writings of Keri Hulme. His award is for 3 months; June - September.

Mr Terry Duval is compiling a Dictionary of Maori-Gainwords. This is a long term project and the Centre will provide assistance for it where possible.

Mr A T Reedy is researching and writing about the works of a well-known tohunga from the Ngati Porou tribal area in the North Island.

Mr Mahe Tupouniua (first Director of the South Pacific Bureau for Economic Co-operation) has been offered a scholarship for 9 months to work on two projects.

The Director is working with **Rev Leuatea Sio** (one of the longest serving Pacific Island missionaries in New Zealand) on an Oral History Project on Rev Sio's work amongst the Pacific Island community in New Zealand.

Mr David Riley is working with the Director on a project to research the effects of the current economic recession on Pacific Island communities in New Zealand. The

study aims to cover the five main urban centres in New Zealand starting with Auckland.

Wendy Pond's and Tupou Posesi Fonua's research on Oral Tradition and Oratory in Tonga is continuing.

Dr Langi Kavaliku's (Minister of Education in Tonga) project on Education in Tonga has been postponed until a suitable time for him to take up his 6 months's award is finalised.

Publications

Much progress was made on the Centre's desktop publication programme, especially after the appointment of a full-time secretary in September. Four manuscripts are now being prepared for publication - the first should be out by the end of June. The intention is to put out at least four publications before the end of 1991.

Research Assistance

The Centre provided financial assistance for the following:

Ngai Tahu:

To help finance a long-term project to record Maori traditional place names in the South Island, and identify references to the history of each name.

Samuelu Sesega:

To help finance a research field trip to gather material for an MSC project on Resource management in Western Samoa. Mr Sesega successfully completed his MSc last year.

Terry Duval:

Mr Duval, Ph.D student in the English Department, is compiling a Dictionary of introduced works in the Maori Language. The Centre financed his trip early in 1990 to work in the Mitchell Library in Sydney and towards the end of the year a further grant was made to support his research.

Brian Pay:

Mr Pay is writing a thesis on Maori-Pakeha

relations in Auckland between 1960 and 1975. The financial contribution from the Centre helped to pay for his expenses while he was in Auckland to do research for his thesis.

David Small:

Mr Small is a Ph.D student in the Education Department at this University. The field work for his thesis was to have been carried out in New Caledonia, but unfortunately the French authorities have turned down his application for a visa. The money allocated to him is being held while other options are being explored.

Land Conference

The Centre aims at hosting bi-ennial conferences on topics of interest and relevance to the countries and people of the Pacific Islands. The first international conference on "Land Tenure and Development in the Pacific" was held successfully from 12-16 November 1990. A good mixture of land tenure academics and Pacific Island practitioners attended. Participants came from Australia (Northern Territory), Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu, New Caledonia (Kanake), Niue, Nauru, Tuvalu, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Tonga, Tokelau, Cook Islands, Western Samoa, Hawaii and New Zealand (Aotearoa). Last minute cancellations were received from the Solomons and Kiribati participants, owing to circumstances beyond their control. The conference proceedings will be published later this year.

Conferences and Seminars

The Director:

- gave the keynote address for the First Samoan History Conference which was held in Wellington in February, on "Issues in Samoan Historiography";
- attended a conference on "The Role of the Private Sector in Pacific Islands Development" which was sponsored by the Pacific Island Development Programme in Hawai'i in April. It was an excellent opportunity for the Director to meet some Pacific Island leaders and senior Pacific Island public ser-

vant officials from other Pacific Studies Centres and regional institutions, and other organisations with interest in the Pacific Islands region;

- attended and gave a presentation at a conference which was organised by the Stout Research Centre in Wellington on the global context of The Treaty of Waitangi;

- was a panellist at a conference on "South Pacific Place Names" which was organised by the New Zealand Geographic Board in Wellington;

- presented a paper on "Health Issues Amongst Pacific Island Migrants in New Zealand" at the Samoan Nurses' Association annual conference which was held in Christchurch;

- attended the Pacific History Association conference in Guam and prepared a paper on pre-colonial Samoan and Tongan government;

- presented a paper on the historical background to recent electoral reforms in Western Samoa to the History Department at Massey University;

- continued as a Member of the Polynesian Society Council (based at Auckland University);

- presented two lectures on oral traditions and oral history for the Pacific Studies course run by Auckland University's Pacific Studies Centre.

Teaching

The Centre's teaching programme is aimed primarily at providing an avenue for students at the University of Canterbury and members of the community at large, to learn more about the Pacific region. At this stage, the Centre is able to provide a limited supervisory/advisory role to students who require assistance with research topics which focus on the Pacific region.

Two courses were taught by the Centre in conjunction with the History Department. The honours course "Traditionalism and Modernisation in the Pacific", which was offered for the second time this year, attracted five students from the departments of Resource Management, Geography and Political Science. Nine students completed the course "Pacific Studies" which was offered in the Liberal Studies programme. The Director also contributed to the teaching of a number of courses in the University (History, Sociology, Peace Studies, Social Work, etc).

In May the Professorial Board adopted the Faculty of Arts recommendations that the subject of Pacific Studies be introduced into the degree of Master of Arts, and that the Director of the Centre be appointed the Director of the academic programme. The Centre (which took the proposals to Faculty) intends to start the MA programme in 1992 if it goes through the "early warning" process successfully.

In addition to their own writing, the Centre's Research Fellows contributed to the academic life of the University community through seminars, public lectures and individual consultations with students who are working on Pacific related areas.

- **Professor Ron Crocombe** gave a public lecture on "The Pacific in the 21st Century" and addressed a meeting of the Christchurch branch of the New Zealand Institute for International Affairs on the topic "Crisis Points in the South Pacific".

- **Dr Kerry James** gave a seminar in the Sociology Department seminar series on "Social Change in Tonga".

- **Mr Peter Gathercole** gave a talk for the Canterbury Museum staff on "Ethnographic Storage Methods"; a lecture to the Wellington branch of the Royal Society of New Zealand on "The Marxism of Professor V Childe"; and presented a paper at the con-

ference on Taonga Maori on "Cambridge and Oxford Maori collections".

- **Professor Thor Heyerdahl**, who was in New Zealand under the 1990 "Living Treasures" programme, attracted a large crowd when, as a guest of the Centre, he gave a public lecture on the "The Beginning of Ocean Navigation", with reference to his well-known works on the Pacific.

Advisory Services

The Centre is asked quite regularly by government and non-government organisations and Pacific Island communities to provide advice and assist with projects which are relevant to the Centre's work.

The Director:

- ran three workshops for the Housing Corporation which aimed at helping its employees understand more about Pacific Island cultures in New Zealand;

- participated in a review of the Pacific Island Whanau office in Christchurch and its role in the administration of Social Welfare services to Pacific Island communities;

- was consulted from time to time by the Ministry of External Relations and Trade on matters relating to Pacific Island countries. He was consulted by the review team which looked into New Zealand's relationship with other Pacific Islands. He also briefed a number of journalists on Pacific issues in the news;

- is part of a group which is looking at the restructuring of the Pacific Island Educational Resource Centre at Herne Bay in Auckland.

Community Activities

The Director tried to play as active a part as possible in the Christchurch Pacific Island community. In 1990 he:

- was elected by the Pacific Island Community in Christchurch to be their representa-

tive on the Christchurch Polytechnic Council and he has been on the Pacific Island Advisory Committee of the Polytechnic since 1989;

- was appointed to the TrustBoard for Tagata Pasifika office (the Pacific Island section of what used to be Maori affairs);

- ran a weekly radio programme for the Samoan community in New Zealand (the programme presents local, national and international news and items of interest of the Samoan community in Christchurch);

- began Chairperson for the Pacific Island Youth Leadership Trust (Christchurch). The Trust raises funds to help finance Pacific Island tertiary students with potential who are unable to meet their educational expenses;

- tutored extra classes organised for sixth and seventh form Pacific Island students who are preparing for end-of-year exams.

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