

**MACMILLAN BROWN CENTRE FOR PACIFIC STUDIES**  
UNIVERSITY OF CANTERBURY, CHRISTCHURCH, NEW ZEALAND

# NEWSLETTER

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In mid August Dr Malama Meleisea, first director of the Centre (1988 - 1993) left for Auckland where he is to be Associate Professor and Head of the Centre for Pacific Studies, University of Auckland. We devote this issue of the newsletter to his report covering the five years of his directorship and a more personal account of his period of office which appeared in the University Chronicle (19/8/93).

Dr Meleisea was farewelled at an informal function on 5 August, when members of the Advisory Board, Scholars from the Centre, members of the local Pacific community, friends of the Centre and the Tangata Whenua rose spontaneously to make their tributes. A specially made Ngai Tahu whales tooth carving was presented by Dr Tipene O'Regan on behalf of the Board.

The University of Canterbury was most fortunate to have such a distinguished Pacific scholar to establish the Centre in the manner which is described below.

W. David McIntyre  
Chairperson,  
Macmillan Brown Advisory Board

## First five years has firmly established Centre for Pacific Studies

**Dr Malama Meleisea, the outgoing Director of the Macmillan Brown Centre for Pacific Studies, looks back over the Centre's first five years and believes it has now "put the University on the map for Pacific Studies".**

On his retirement from Canterbury College, Professor John Macmillan Brown, foundation professor of Classics and English, spent a considerable time travelling and studying the countries of the Pacific. In his will he left sufficient funds to establish, among other things, a Centre where that research could be continued.

The Macmillan Brown Centre for Pacific Studies was the first centre of its kind in New Zealand and Dr Meleisea was appointed its first Director in 1988. Because of modern political changes in the region, the Centre has developed rather differently to the way Professor Macmillan Brown had seen it. "He never envisaged Pacific Islanders becoming politically independent. So the idea was for the Centre to train New Zealand colonial officials about some aspects of Pacific culture so that when they went there they were hopefully a bit more informed." Dr Meleisea's primary aim has been to establish a centre of excellence for research.

Part of the appeal of coming to Christchurch was the challenge of setting up something new. It is not the first time Malama Meleisea has been involved in breaking new ground. When he was age 25 he was awarded a scholarship to study for a BA at the University of Papua New Guinea, the first Samoan to do so. He then went on to the Australian National University to do an Honours programme in Pacific History. Back in Samoa he was the first person to head the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture. Prior to coming to New Zealand, Dr Meleisea spent 7 years at the University of the South Pacific, Suva, in the School of Social and Economic Development. "There I was involved in lots of firsts."

Establishing the Macmillan Brown Centre was also a pioneering challenge but Dr Meleisea believes his own strong network of contacts throughout the Pacific has been very valuable. "We have got a Visiting and Research Scholar programme off the ground very nicely. Response to our advertisements for research scholars now brings in a wide range of applications of high quality." He has quite deliberately given a broad definition to possible fields of research to include countries which have influenced Pacific Island societies. "If somebody comes tomorrow and applies to write about Japanese influences in the Pacific, that's perfectly in the Centre's area of operation."

Dr Meleisea has encouraged academic scholars but it has also been his policy not to restrict the range of suitable research applicants. "If you are an old man or woman of 70 or 80, and genuinely consider yourself to be knowledgeable about whatever area or country you come from, you can apply. Such people have a lot to contribute to the study of the Pacific." He has also encouraged researchers from a broad range of disciplines and ideological viewpoints. "We have had a lively Centre as a result. I've enjoyed sitting down with scholars and debating issues from all sorts of perspectives."

A biennial conference and a programme for publishing research results have also successfully been established. "We've just got the publications off the ground in the last 12 months. We have 6 publications out already and a similar number of manuscripts at different stages of preparation in the pipeline."

Getting the Macmillan Brown Centre for Pacific Studies onto a firm footing has not left Dr Meleisea much time for his own research, but there are two areas that he has been pursuing. "I've been looking at the coexistence of different systems of authority, comparing the New Zealand with the Samoan

situation. And I've been researching how the processes of social change are related to land tenure systems in the Pacific Islands."

Dr Meleisea is leaving to take up a position as Associate Professor and Director of the University of Auckland Centre for Pacific Studies. "One of the things that makes me sad about leaving here is that my plan was to spend most of my first 5 years setting up the administration and structure, then I could get back to my research. Now I'm going to another centre where I sort of repeat the whole process."

He has greatly enjoyed his time at Canterbury and is particularly appreciative of the goodwill and co-operation of the Advisory Board. "I stated right from the beginning what I wanted to do and I've had the support of the Board for all the programmes." Dr Meleisea says it must be recognised that with lower interest rates the Centre's income has been cut. "I hope the University will see fit to support it."

Dr Meleisea established close relationships with the local Pacific Island community, giving particular emphasis to encouraging high school and university students in their studies. He also worked closely with Ngai Tahu leaders who have a valuable impact in the Centre's Advisory Board.

A new challenge beckons but he says it's been a very good five years in terms of job satisfaction and really getting something off the ground. "It was enjoyable. It was a challenge. And looking back at it now, I feel quietly happy."

Liz Grant  
Information Office  
University of Canterbury  
Chronicle 19/8/93

## **Macmillan Brown Centre for Pacific Studies (1988 - 1993)**

April 1 of this year (1993) marked the fifth year since the Macmillan Brown Centre for Pacific Studies was formally established with the appointment of the current Director on a 5 - year contract.

From the outset, the work of the Centre was planned with two main objectives in mind. The first was to ensure that all programmes were consistent with the wish of the Centre's benefactor, the late Professor John Macmillan Brown, to encourage the **"investigation and the research of the history, traditions, customs, laws and ideas of the peoples of the Pacific generally"** (including New Zealand). The second objective was to establish, from the beginning, a Centre with a reputation for high standards in its research activities and other programmes. These include teaching, community-oriented activities, consultancy, publications, advisory services and the hosting and/or sponsoring of international conferences in areas relevant to the centre's work.

## **VISITING SCHOLARS (since 1988)**

A number of scholars have visited the centre either officially (financially assisted by the centre) or unofficially (private funding but attached to the centre while at the university);

|                            |                                     |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Professor Futa Helu        | Atenisi University                  |
| Professor Albert Wendt     | University of Auckland              |
| Ms Claire Slatter          | University of the South Pacific     |
| Dr Mappa Nasrun            | Centre for Pacific Studies          |
|                            | University of Hassanuddin Indonesia |
| Dr Peter Hempenstall       | University of Newcastle             |
| Dr Caroline Ralston        | Macquarie University                |
| Professor Judith Huntsman  | University of Auckland              |
| Dr Phyllis Herder          | Victoria University (Wellington)    |
| Mr Alan Duff               | Havelock North (New Zealand)        |
| Professor Jukka Siikala    | University of Helsinki              |
| Professor Yokoyama Masaki  | Shikoku Gakuin University           |
| Dr Robert Kiste            | Centre for Pacific Studies          |
|                            | University of Hawai'i               |
| Professor Jocelyn Linnekin | University of Hawai'i               |
| Professor Donald Denoon    | Australia National University       |
| Dr Stewart Firth           | Macquarie University                |
| Professor Karen Nero       | University of California            |
| Assoc. Prof Stefan Brink   | Uppsala University                  |

In addition the Centre has hosted many more visitors from government departments in New Zealand and senior public servants and political and church leaders from throughout the Pacific region.

In September 1990 the Centre sponsored the visit to the university by Dr Thor Heyerdahl who gave a very successful public lecture on "The History of Navigation".

## **RESEARCH SCHOLARS (since 1988)**

The Research Scholar Programme has brought a variety of academics to the Centre with different research interests in the Pacific. They have all contributed through seminar presentations, giving guest lectures in the appropriate departments and providing assistance for students (both under- and post-graduate) working on papers and assignments with Pacific orientation.

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| Prof Ron Crocombe   | Relations between New Zealand and other Pacific countries                   |
| Dr Rajesh Chandra   | Industrialisation in Fiji   |
| Dr Kerry James      | Social Change in Tonga  |
| Prof T K Fitzgerald | Aspirations and Identity of Second-Generation Cook Islanders in New Zealand |
| Dr Peter Gathercole | Maori Anthropology and Archaeology  |
| W Pond & TP Kaho    | Tongan Oral Traditions  |

|                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| Rev Leuatea Sio           | Oral History of Pacific Island Churches in New Zealand  |
| Dr John Henderson         | Parliamentary Systems in the Pacific  |
| Dr Bruce Harding          | The life and writing of Keri Hulme  |
| Mr Mahe Tupouniua         | Queens Salote's Reign 1918-1965: Cultural Preservation and Development  |
| Dr Howard Van Trease      | - Two separate studies of Political developments in Kiribati and Vanuatu with emphasis on the general elections held in those two countries in 1991.<br><br>- Editing French Documents from the colonial period in Vanuatu.<br><br>- Facilitate the writing of autobiographies for the President of Vanuatu - Hon Fred Timakata, and Jimmy Stevens (1993) |
| Mr Anaru T Reedy          | Editing, Translating and annotating the writings from two Ngati Porou Tohunga   |
| Dr Peter Larmour          | States and societies in the South Pacific   |
| Mr William Tagupa         | Citizenship, Sovereignty and Civil Cultures in the South Pacific  |
| Mr Godfrey Pohatu         | The professional development and participation of native people in universities with special emphasis on the Maori of New Zealand   |
| Dr Grant Phillipson       | Revisionist work on "The episcopal career of George Augustus Selwyn" in New Zealand   |
| Afioga Tupua Tamasese     | - Samoan Funeral Rites and Rituals.<br><br>- An analysis of the Land and Titles Court proceedings in reference to the paramount title of Tuiatua.<br><br>- A critique of Samoan History writing   |
| Dr Peggy Fairbairn-Dunlop | The impact of development initiatives in Western Samoa - from a woman's perspective   |
| Dr David Routledge        | The processes of power in Fijian society  |
| Mr Peter McQuarrie        | Social, Cultural and Physical Impact of World War II on the people of Tuvalu  |
| Prof Bill Willmott        | An Historical and Sociological Analysis of the Chinese communities in the Pacific Island countries.   |

There were a number of scholars who were unable to take up their awards because of personal or work related reasons. They were:

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Dr John Robinson      | Climatic Changes in Pacific Island countries.   |
| Professor M C Spencer | Aspects of Kanak Culture  |
| Mr J D Fine           | Micronesia and Pacific Jurisprudence  |
| Dr Langi Kavaliku     | Education in Tonga  |
| Salote Fukofuka       | Adult Education in Tonga  |
| Dr John Minnerly      | Traditional Land Dispute Resolution Mechanisms in the present context Solomons and Papua New Guinea |
| Dr Margaret Chung     | Politics, Tradition and Structural Change: Fijian Fertility in the Twentieth Century                |

## GRANTS

If funding allows, the Centre generally allocates small amounts of money to encourage research by post-graduate students and others in areas relevant to its research activities. Allocations for these projects were made to:

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Ms Margaret Ross ((PhD)                          | "The impact of development on women's health in Western Samoa"   |
| Mr Raymond Newnham (MA)                          | "The Impact of the development of the Culture-pearl industry on Manihiki in the Cook Islands"  |
| Mrs A L Smith (MA)                               | Documentary sources pertaining to land claims  |
| Ms Marie Rapley                                  | Preparation of a typescript of the Schedules of Evidence, Correspondence, etc., pertaining to the Royal Commission, 1879 - 1880, known as the Smith-Nairn Commission |
| Mr David Riley (in association with Dr Meleisea) | Effects of the Economic recession on Pacific Island communities  |
| Mr Samuelu Sesega (M.Sc)                         | Resource Management in Western Samoa   |
| Mr John Luafutu                                  | Experiences of a Samoan migrant in New Zealand - Personal Account  |
| Mr Brian Pay (MA)                                | Maori-Pakeha relations in Auckland between 1960 and 1975   |
| Mr Andrew Crosby (PhD)                           | Development and Fijian Culture   |
| Mr David Small (PhD)                             | Aspects of French Educational Policies in Kanake-New Caledonia   |

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Mr Terry Duval        | Compiling of a Dictionary of introduced words in the Maori Language   |
| Ms Tracy Pennington   | Psychological and Socio-Cultural Impacts of Tourism on Members of an Indigenous Culture                                 |
| Ngai Tahu             | For two years the Centre has allocated money to assist with a place names project undertaken by the Ngai Tahu Trust     |
| Ms Christine Tremewan | Preparation of a manuscript on "South Island Maori Mythology" for publication   |
| Mrs Helen Hogan       | Production expenses for the Renata Kawepo manuscript  |
| Rev Roger Maaka       | Oral history project: 'to record the history of veterans of the 28th Maori Battalion who live in the Christchurch area' |

The Centre contributed \$4,000 towards the expenses for the regional participants at the Commonwealth Geographic Bureau conference on Indigenous Land Rights. The money helped to bring Makiuti Tongia (Cook Island), John Klaricich (Muriwhenua), Tumu Te Heu Heu (Tuwharetoa), Annie Karrakayn, Northern Territory, Australia) and Henk Rumbewas (West Papua).

## PUBLICATIONS

The publication programme finally got off the ground in 1992 with the publication of five manuscripts. These manuscripts were products of research carried out either solely under the Centre's programme or in collaboration with other individuals and institutions. I would like to thank all those members of the Board who have accepted my numerous requests to read and comment on some of the manuscripts which were submitted for publications. In particular I am grateful to Dr Garth Cant and Dr John Overton for agreeing to be the editors of our Occasional Paper Series.

|                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| Tom Davis Pa Tuterangi Ariki | Island Boy: An Autobiography<br><i>IPS, Suva &amp; Macmillan Brown Centre</i>   |
| Ron Crocombe                 | Pacific Neighbours: New Zealand's Relations with Other Pacific Islands<br><i>IPS, Suva &amp; Macmillan Brown Centre</i> |
| Malama Meleisea              | Change and Adaptations in Western Samoa<br>Macmillan Brown Lectures, 1988<br><i>Macmillan Brown Centre</i>              |
| Nigel Cooper                 | The Bougainville Land Crisis of 1969<br>Macmillan Brown Centre for Pacific Studies,<br>Occasional Paper Series No 1     |
| Howard Van Trease            | Atoll Politics: The Republic of Kiribati<br><i>IPS Suva, &amp; Macmillan Brown Centre</i>                               |

Financial assistance was given to meet some of the publication costs for;

Rhys S Richards

Samoa's Forgotten Whaling Heritage:  
American Whaling in Samoan Waters  
1824 - 1878  
The Paremata Press

## Book Launching of *Atoll Politics: The Republic of Kiribati*

One of the Centre's Research Scholars, Dr Howard Van Trease, recently completed a project which has resulted in a major publication, *Atoll Politics: The Republic of Kiribati*. Dr Van Trease was in Kiribati for the country's elections in 1991 during which time he collected data for his own analysis and at the same time facilitated the written contributions of twenty-seven I-Kiribati on various aspects and issues of politics in Kiribati, which he then edited for the book. The Director of the Macmillan Brown Centre, Dr Malama Meleisea, Advisory Board Member, Dr Ann Parsonson, and Dr Van Trease travelled to Tarawa in June to launch the book, which took place in the *Maneaba* (meeting house) of the local University Centre.

## Manuscripts which are at various stages of preparation:

|                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| R Crocombe & M Meleisea       | (eds) Land Issues in the Pacific.<br>(Papers from the 1990 conference) |
| Anaru T Reedy/Margaret Orbell | Writings by two Ngati Porou Tohunga<br>Mohi Ruatapu and Pita Kapiti.   |
| Kerry James                   | Cash and Kin: Social Change in Tonga                                   |
| Howard Van Trease             | Politics In Vanuatu  |
| Huntsman et al                | Samoa and Tonga: A comparative study                                   |
| Fa'amoana John Luafutu        | A Boy called Broke - My Story; so far . . .<br>Occasional Paper No 2   |
| Ailsa L Smith                 | Songs and Stories of the Taranaki Tribes                               |

## Articles published in Journals and Anthologies:

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| Kerry James: | "Migration and Remittances: A Tongan Village Perspective" <u>Pacific Viewpoint</u> , 32 (1): 1991, pp. 1 - 23.   |
| Kerry James: | "The Female Presence in Heavenly Places: Myth and Sovereignty in Tonga" <u>Oceania</u> , Vol 61, No 4. June, 1991, pp. 287 308.  |
| Kerry James: | "Regeneration in Heaven: The Female in Tongan Myth and Sovereignty (A brief rejoinder to Valerio Valeri) <u>History and Anthropology</u> , 1991, Vol 5, No 2, pp. 259 267. |

- Kerry James: Tongan Rank Revisited: Religious Hierarchy, Social Stratification and Gender in the Ancient Tongan Polity Social Analysis, No. 31, 1992, pp. 79 - 102.
- Howard Van Trease: "Distance Education at the University of Papua New Guinea: Issues and Developments" Papua New Guinea Journal of Education, Vol 26, No. 2 (October 1990 and Vol 27, No. 1 (April 1991), pp. 111 - 128.
- Howard Van Trease: The 1991 Election in Kiribati "The Journal of Pacific History" Vol 27, No. 3, pp. 66 - 73.
- Book Review Labour in the South Pacific. Clive Moore, Jacqueline Leckie and Doug Munro (eds) Townsville, James Cook University, 1990.
- Malama Meleisea: "The Western Samoan Migration Quota and New Zealand's Role in the Pacific" New Zealand Population Review, Vol 15, No. 1, 1989, pp. 68 - 74.
- "The Past in the Present" Sovereignty and Indigenous Rights: The Treaty of Waitangi in International Context (ed) William Renwick, 1991, pp. 130 - 135.

## SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS

The Centre Scholars and Visitors have contributed significantly to the academic life of the university through seminar presentations and public lectures. More than sixty guest lectures, public lectures and seminar have been organised by the Centre presented by its Research and Visiting Scholars. These activities are increasing as the Centre becomes more and more accepted as a legitimate - indeed necessary - part of the academic life at this university.

### 1992/93 Seminars

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| Caroline Phillips   | 'An Archaeologists view of the Maori Land Court Records'   |
| Caroline Phillips   | 'The Changing Pattern of Maori Settlement in the Last 1000 years'  |
| Malama Meleisea<br>Howard Van Trease<br>John Henderson<br>Peter Larmour<br>Western Samoa, | 'Pacific Elections: Turning Points in Democracy? A four-hour discussion and analysis of the five elections recently held in the Pacific; Kiribati, Vanuatu, Fiji, Papua New Guinea |
| Godfrey Pohatu  | 'Aspects of Maori Participation in the Modern University: 1986 - 1991'   |
| Peter Larmour   | 'States and Societies in the South Pacific' (presented to the Sociology department seminar series)   |
| Peter Larmour &<br>William Tagupa   | 'Democracy in the South Pacific'   |

- William Tagupa 'The Political Economy of Consumption and Class Formation in Early 19th Century Hawai'i' (presented at the IX PHA conference).
- William Tagupa 'Law, Status of Citizenship; Conflicts and Continuities in New Zealand and Western Samoa 1922 - 1982. (presented at the IX PHA conference).
- William Tagupa 'Cultural Relativism and Law: Cultural Relativism, Universalism, and Human Rights: The Debate' (presented to the History department)
- Grant Phillipson 'Stereotypes of New Zealand Missionaries in 1840 - 1860'
- Grant Phillipson 'The Missionaries Devolution and The King Movement'
- Grant Phillipson 'Missionaries, Assimilation and Devolution in New Zealand' (presented at the IX PHA conference) .
- Paula Niukula 'An Assessment of the Present Political Situation in Fiji'
- Howard Van Trease 'Recent Elections in the Pacific' (Presented to Staff and Student seminar, Geography department).
- Howard Van Trease 'Political Developments in the South Pacific' (presented to the Journalism Department)
- Terry Duval 'Enlarging the Lexicon: The Maori GainWord Dictionary'
- Malama Meleisea Pacific Studies Centres; Where to From Here?' Keynote address at Conference on the Future directions for Pacific Studies Centres and Institutes, Honolulu, November.
- Tupua Tamasese 'Why the Riddle in Samoan History'
- Tupua Tamasese 'Who is the Son-of-a-bitch who Drew This Map: Some Thoughts on the Writing of Samoan History' (Presented to a meeting of the New Zealand Historical Association Executive in Christchurch).
- Tupua Tamasese 'Conflicts and Continuities - New Zealand/ Western Samoan Relations' (Keynote Address at the opening of the IX Pacific History Association Conference Nov 1992)
- David Routledge 'Fiji's history: what is there still to write?'

Peggy Fairbairn-Dunlop

'Counting for Something' Measuring women's work in a semi-subsistence economy: Western Samoa!

Peter McQuarrie

'The impact of World War II on a Central Pacific Atoll'

## **VISITORS**

### **Visit of the Minister of Education (Western Samoa)**

On Friday 30 July the Centre hosted the Hon Fiame Naomi (Minister of Education Western Samoa) and James Waterhouse (Samoan Scholarship Officer) together with the university's Overseas student support officer, Ms Alison Gibbs. Individual interviews with James Waterhouse were arranged and conducted at the International Student Centre and a group interview of about 14 overseas students on scholarships both from Lincoln and Canterbury university were held in the seminar room of the Macmillan Brown Library with the Minister and James Waterhouse.

## **COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES**

An important dimension of the Centre's work (within the terms of the will) has been its involvement in ways which have contributed to the local community activities. The Director has participated and contributed to a number of community-oriented projects since he took up his position in 1988. These include:

- participation in community (mostly Pacific Islanders) seminars and meetings on health, education, and other issues which affect Pacific Islanders in New Zealand.
- providing extra tutoring for New Zealand-born Pacific Island students in senior high schools to prepare them for their national exams.
- representing the Pacific Island communities in a number of committees both at the local and national levels.
- giving lectures to local organisations on aspects of Pacific cultures and governments.

More details of the community programmes are found in the annual reports of the last four years.

The latest addition to the Directors list of responsibilities is his appointment as a Trustee of the National Library of New Zealand for a five-year term beginning from 1st January 1993. The director will take part at a panel discussion to be held at the National Library on February 19, on 'History writing in the Pacific'

## CONFERENCES

It was proposed by the Director during his first year, and was accepted by the Board, that the Centre should organise and, if necessary, sponsor international conferences on topics and themes which are relevant to the Centre's research programmes. At the end of the first five-year term, two conferences have been hosted and sponsored by the Centre.

- the first one, in December 1990, was a small (30 participants) conference on Issues in Pacific Land Tenure Systems to which only a small number of specialists in that area were invited.

- the second, a much larger one (about 150 participants) was the IX Pacific History Association (PHA) conference in November last year. The conference was a huge success both in academic terms and promoting the Centre to individuals and institutions whose research interests and programmes are similar to those promoted by our Centre. One of the highlights of the conference was the presentation made by Tupua Tamasese and his family and the Samoan community to Ngai Tahu during the Powhiri. It re-inforced and strengthened the already very good relationships between the Centre and the Pacific Islands and Ngai Tahu communities in Christchurch.

We have received several letters from the PHA conference participants to say how much they enjoyed the conference. One Pacific History Professor even wrote to our Vice Chancellor saying:

"I have been to many of these conferences, all of which have previously been held outside New Zealand, and I would like you to know that I think this one was the best yet"

## IX PACIFIC HISTORY ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

### **Samoa honour marks conference opening**

The opening of the ninth Pacific History Association Conference was marked by the presentation of special gifts from one of the four paramount chiefs of Samoa, Tuiatua Tupua Tamasese Tupuola Tufunga Ta'isi Efi.

This is the first time the Pacific History Association has held its conference in New Zealand. The Convener was Dr Malama Meleisea, Director of the Macmillan Brown Centre for Pacific Studies.

Proceedings began with a powhiri held at the Rehua Marae where all visitors to the conference were welcomed by the Ngai Tahu people. The Samoan visitors then enacted the presentation ceremony. Among the gifts from Tupua Tamasese to Ngai Tahu was a family heirloom of a 400-year-old fine-mat. Further gifts were later presented at the University and will form part of the Macmillan Brown Centre's collection of Pacific art and artifacts.

Tupua Tamasese is leader of the Samoa National Development Party in Western Samoa's Parliament. As Tupuola Efi he was Prime Minister of

Western Samoa from 1976-1982. He is currently a Research Scholar at the Macmillan Brown Centre for Pacific Studies and was the keynote speaker for the conference.

The conference was held over four days and its theme was "Conflicts and Continuities in the Pacific." Participants came from all over the Pacific, as well as from New Zealand, Australia, Indonesia, the United States and a few from Europe.

Liz Grant  
Information Office  
University of Canterbury  
Chronicle 10/12/92

Clearly the intellectual and public-relations benefits which conferences of these kinds bring to the Centre and to the university as a whole are tremendous. It is a great pity therefore that we were not able to allocate funding for a biennial conference in this years budget because of the drop in the Centres income.

## **TEACHING**

The Centre offered a Liberal Studies course, LIBST 847, for two years before it was dropped because of the general decline in numbers of students enrolled in the Liberal Studies programme throughout the University. HIST 623 was co-taught by the Centre and the History Department. A proposal for the Centre to teach/supervise an MA in Pacific Studies was declined by the early warning process mainly because of the lack of tenured staff members to provide continuity for students. A proposal will be submitted again this year which will hopefully satisfy the earlier objections.

The Centre's main contribution to teaching on campus is through guest lectures in areas relevant to the research interests of the centre's visitors and scholars, and the Director.

The Centre's achievements during its first five-year term have been very satisfactory. All the programmes which were set at the beginning of the present five-year period have been achieved. In the process much has been learned from the experiences which will be valuable in the planning of future programmes. I believe that the Centre is now in a good position to build and extend on the basis of what has been achieved so far.

The Centre is now widely known, not only in New Zealand but in the Pacific region and beyond. The next five-year period should be devoted to developing programmes which will establish the Macmillan Brown Centre for Pacific Studies as a centre of international reputation in its field.

The Centre has grown a lot and the move to the seventh floor of the James Hight building where it will be housed together with the Macmillan Brown Library is timely. The proposed move, in two or three years, to the buildings presently occupied by the Forestry Institute will be even better. Both these

moves will go a long way in solving the shortage of office space for the scholars.

The main stumbling block at present is funding. At the time when the Centre's programmes are expanding, the funding from the Trust is actually shrinking because of low interest rates. The Board needs to look very closely at the situation and explore ways to improve the Centre's income. The University Council might be approached to assist in some way.

The other difficulty with building up a research centre of this kind at the University of Canterbury is the very small number of staff members at the University with research interest in the Pacific (excluding New Zealand) currently only three. This means that only a very minute number of courses being offered have any relevance to the Pacific, which prevents students from developing any academic interests in the Pacific region. One way of addressing this problem is for the Board to recommend to the University Council that the different academic departments, through their staff recruitment policies, should consider employing new staff with academic research interests in the Pacific.

Malama Meleisea



## **OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE MACMILLAN BROWN CENTRE AND LIBRARY - 25 MAY 1993**

### **Pacific countries well represented at opening of new premises**

**Distinguished guests from around the Pacific attended the official opening late in May 1993 of the new premises for the Macmillan Brown Centre for Pacific Studies and the Macmillan Brown Library.**

The Centre has been housed in the Geography department since it was established in 1988. The Library collection has been kept for over 20 years on the ground floor of the main library building. One reason for the move has been to accommodate the expansion of work in both the Centre and Library over the last five years. However, bringing the two together has obvious advantages for the increasing number of scholars in the area of Pacific studies, so the move to the 7th floor of the James Hight building was an occasion to celebrate.

Distinguished guests included Her Excellency La'ulu Fetauimalemau Mata'afa, High Commissioner for Western Samoa; His Excellency Mr Barnabas Rongap, High Commissioner for Papua New Guinea; and Mr Apii Rongo-Raea, Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of Island Affairs.

The opening was hosted by the Director of the Centre for Pacific Studies, Dr Malama Meleisea.

Chairperson of the Advisory Board for the Centre, Professor David McIntyre (History), spoke of how the Centre was part of the vision of Professor John Macmillan Brown. At age 28 in 1874, he had been appointed as one of the first three professors (in English and Classics) at Canterbury College. Having considerable financial accumen, he was able to retire at the age of 49 with a considerable fortune.

Macmillan Brown would have first become aware of the Pacific through his seafaring father, and in his 'retirement' he pursued this interest by extensive travels throughout this part of the world. Professor McIntyre quoted Macmillan Brown as saying that "New Zealand . . . is going to play a large part in the cultural drama of the Pacific Ocean and of the world."

To advance his vision, Professor Macmillan Brown left money for four endowments to establish: a lecture series; a building to house his personal library; a sum for the annual upkeep of the library; and a school of Pacific Ocean Studies.

The Centre now offers Research and Visiting Scholar programmes which attract increasing numbers of scholars with an interest in pacific societies and cultures.

Her Excellency La'ulu Fetauimalemau Mata'afa officially opened the new premises for the Centre and the Library. She applauded Macmillan Brown's vision, noting that he had thereby helped to create the opportunity for a permanent record out of the traditionally oral recording of the culture and history of the Pacific peoples.

She noted that serious study in this area would give the world a better understanding of the Pacific. It would also give Pacific Islanders the chance for a broader vision of the world. So she saw the Centre as contributing to a more harmonious multicultural co-existence. Her Excellency paid particular tribute to Dr Meleisea's work as Director of the Centre.

Rev Roger Maaka, Head of the Maori department, spoke on behalf of Ngai Tahu, the host tribe of this area. He emphasised the importance of research as this country emerges from its colonial past, and for the need to get beyond political rhetoric. "Every serious tribal group has a vested interest in research . . . to get beyond popular misconceptions, and beyond the barriers in the academic world."

He also spoke of the need for Pacific Islanders to write about their own experience and the valuable role the Centre and Library have to play.

Mr Max Broadbent, the Macmillan Brown librarian, then invited guests to view the library before enjoying a sumptuous meal of Pacific foods.

Liz Grant  
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