

11 JUN 1992

## NEWSLETTER

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MACMILLAN BROWN CENTRE  
FOR PACIFIC STUDIES

No. 5 May 1992

1991 has been the busiest year so far. The Centre was four years old in April 1992 having started officially in April 1988. During this period, most of the goals set by the Director to be achieved during the Centre's first five years of operation have been realised. The research programme is well under way and community-oriented programmes have been well received and supported. The teaching programme has been carried out in a number of ways: a series of lectures for community groups, courses taught jointly with the History department, seminar presentations, and guest lectures for a number of departments in the University and other educational institutions (local and national). In addition, some part-consultancy work has been carried out but this was severely restricted because of time constraints. The first bi-annual conference was held in November 1990 and the second will be held from 2-5 December this year. Finally, our publication programme is under way.

## 1. PROGRAMMES

### Research

The Board approved an extra 3 months for **Dr Kerry James** (February-April 1991) to complete work which was started during her initial eight-month award. Dr James completed a number of articles while she was with the centre and three of them have been published in refereed academic journals. The manuscript for a short book on Social Change in Tonga is due in by the end of this month from her. This will be published by the Centre as part of its monograph series.



**David Riley** finally completed the Auckland component for the research project which is exploring the effects of the current economic situation on Pacific Island communities in New Zealand. During the end-of-year break the interviews for a Christchurch sample were carried by Loimata Palenapa (an MA student in Religious Studies [1992] at this university). A preliminary analysis of the material will be done as soon as a similar survey is being carried out for the Wellington and Dunedin/Invercargill regions.

**Dr Howard Van Trease** arrived in March 1991 to take up his twelve-month fellowship with the Centre. He has so far spent a significant proportion of his time in Kiribati and Vanuatu doing studies of the general elections in the two countries. He has completed a manuscript of a short book based on Kiribati elections written by I-Kiribati people themselves. Dr Van Trease is working on a similar publication for the Vanuatu elections using the same approach.

**Dr John Henderson** spent the 9 months of his award at the Centre and the Political Science department at our university. His research on Parliamentary systems in the Pacific Island states took him to Canberra and a number of other countries in the region. Dr Henderson will, as part of his whole project, produce a book about the different types of Parliamentary systems which currently exist in the Pacific. He co-ordinated a course in the Political Science department at this university on aspects of politics in the Pacific boosting the number of courses on the Pacific taught at this university by about 50%. Dr Henderson will be participating at a joint seminar this year (with two other Centre scholars) to discuss the last three general elections in the Pacific islands.

**Dr Bruce Harding** worked on the preparation of his manuscript on the "Life and writings of Keri Hulme" during his three-month award. As part of this research Dr Harding also worked with Alan Duff exploring the social context of Duff's writing in the context of Maori and other forms of literature.

**Mr Tip Reedy's** work on editing, translating and annotating the work of two Ngati Porou tohunga proceeded as scheduled. The first volume has

been completed and steps have already been taken to have the completed work published later this year.

**Mr Terry Duval's** work on A Dictionary of Maori Gainwords continues. Better progress has been achieved since part of the money which was allocated to him last year was used to buy a computer.

**Professor Judith Huntsman, Drs Kerry James, Phyllis Herder, Penelope Schoeffel** and Malama Meleisea are jointly writing a book which re-examines the previous academic notions and assumptions about differences between Samoan and Tongan societies. It is expected that a manuscript will be ready for publication by May of 1992.

The recording of Oral histories/traditions with the **Rev Leuatea Sio** of the PIC in Auckland and with some Pacific Islanders in Christchurch continue.

### **Conference**

The Centre's Bi-annual conference will be held at the end of this year when it will host the IX Pacific History Association conference from 2 - 5 December. The theme of the conference is "Conflicts and Continuities in the Pacific". Preparations for the conference are well under way. Registration forms will soon be sent out. Enquiries can be made to:

The Conference Secretary  
IX Pacific History Conference  
Centre for Continuing Education  
Private Bag  
Christchurch, New Zealand  
Telephone (03) 642-162, Fax (03) 642-162

UNIVERSITY OF CANTERBURY

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### **Teaching**

Teaching is a very important medium to increase peoples awareness of the Pacific countries and peoples and the issues which influence their societies. In this context the Centre continues to be actively involved in a number of teaching programmes: it co-teaches two courses with the History depart-

ment - LIBST 847 and HIST 623: it accepted invitations from three WEA in Christchurch last year to offer a series of lectures on the Pacific for their members (eleven lectures): it accepted requests from other teaching departments within the university to provide guest lectures on aspects of the Pacific which are relevant to their programmes. These include Sociology, Continuing Education and Political Science.

## **Publication Programme**

The first two publications from the Centre's publication programme came out in January this year - "Island Boy" an autobiography of Sir Thomas Davis of the Cook Islands, and the first in the Occasional Paper series "The Bougainville Land Crisis of 1969" by Nigel Cooper. Several other manuscripts are at different stages of production and it is expected that at least two or three more will come out before the end of this year.

## **Conferences/Seminars/Familiarisation Trips**

The Director:

\* Went on a familiarisation trip to Micronesia at the beginning of last year for about five weeks. This trip took him to Guam, Belau(Palau), Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) and the Marshall Islands for the first time. He also visited Kiribati, Tuvalu, Fiji and New Caledonia, countries which he visited before he took up the Directorship of the Centre. The contacts he made and renewed with people and institutions in these countries will be useful for future relationships between the Centre and those countries and the educational institutions there.

\*Went to the XVII Science Congress in Honolulu, Hawai'i from May 27 to June 2. He chaired and presented a paper at a symposium titled "Nationalism, Cultural Identity and Migration: Pacific Islanders in New Zealand, Australia and the United States of America". He also presented a paper at another symposium on "Leadership in the Pacific Islands; Transformations and Inventions". He stopped at the University of the South Pacific in Fiji at the invitation of the deputy Vice Chancellor to

talk to USP staff about the activities of the Centre.

\*Presented a paper on Future co-operative and collaborative options between the Centres and Institutes which specialise on the studies of the Pacific island countries and societies. The conference was hosted by the University of France in the Pacific at its Noumea campus. Papers and discussions focussed on "The Future of Higher Education in the Pacific". A visit was made to the French Pacific research institute ORSTROM and discussions were held with its Director on possible future co-operation.

\*Gave the opening address at a meeting which was called to consult South Island groups and institutions on a National Language Policy.

### **Advisory/Consultancy**

The Director is still requested from time to time to provide advice on a number of things Pacific by both government and non-government bodies including television and radio documentaries. There have been several possibilities when the Director could have been involved in a number of consultancy projects but time did not allow.

The Director was requested by the National University of Samoa in Apia, to be the external assessor for their History programme. He was able to do this in April at the time he was in Samoa to do a study of the first universally-based general election.

### **Community Activities**

The Centre continued to take part in community-oriented activities and programmes. The Director continues to run a weekly half-hour radio programme in Samoan and also helps with the two-hour weekly radio programme for the Pacific Island community in Christchurch.

In collaboration with the Christchurch Polytechnic the Centre organised extra classes last year for Pacific Island students who sat senior forms examinations, to get extra assistance for subjects in which they need extra

help. Last year was the third year in a row we have done this and the results so far have been very encouraging.

The Director continues to chair the Pacific Islands Youth Leadership Trust which awards study grants to Pacific Islands tertiary students in need.

The Director is also Chairperson of the Pacificana Trust which funds programmes to address social problems in the Pacific Islands communities.

He is a member of the Pacific Island Advisory Committee on Tertiary Education for Pacific Islanders in the Canterbury Region, the Council of the Christchurch Polytechnic and he is also a member of the University Council.

In December 1991 he formed a Samoan inter-denominational community committee to raise funds for relief after cyclone Val and organised a street appeal which raised \$57,000.

## **Visitors**

The Director hosted a larger number of visitors to the Centre last year compared to the first three years. These included senior public Servants from Kiribati, Fiji, Western Samoa; academics and diplomats from outside (Japan, Indonesia, Australia, Finland, USA, etc) and within New Zealand. The final official visit to the Centre last year was that of the Papua New Guinea Prime Minister - Hon. Rabbi Namaliu. Other visitors were:

- Prof Tom Fitzgerald, Professor of Anthropology, Greensboro University, North Carolina;
- Tuala Tiresa Maleatoa, Director USP Centre Western Samoa;
- MERT French Journalist Patrick Scrouch Fiji Times, Suva; and
- Mr Gabriel Dusava PNG Secretary for Foreign Affairs

## **Macmillan Brown Memorial Lectures**

The Macmillan Brown Memorial Lecture series for 1991 was postponed to this year. It is being hosted by Victoria University in Wellington. The series will be delivered by Dr James Belich and will be entitled "Race and New Zealand; Some History of an Idea". The 1992 series will be hosted by Auckland University and will be delivered by Professor Bruce Biggs on a topic to be advised. Prof Biggs lectures are being arranged to coincide with the centennial celebrations for the Polynesian Society.

## **Centre Accommodation**

As the Centre's programme develops, the shortage of office space is a constant problem. The Director is looking forward to the proposed move to the 7th floor of the library building, filling the space to be vacated by the Law Library. This is tentatively scheduled for January next year.

## **RESEARCH ACTIVITIES FOR 1992**

**Dr Howard Van Trease** was given an extension of his award to continue to work on his projects. Dr Van Trease's projects include general elections in Kiribati and Vanuatu, A study of the Melanesian Spearhead Group and editing a set of documents covering the period before Vanuatu became independent.

**Dr Peter Larmour - University of Tasmania** will be attached to the Centre for three months while he works on a book on States and Societies in the South Pacific".

**Dr William Tagupa - Hawai'i** is a lawyer in private practice but has been writing on a number of issues which are relevant to the Pacific. His current research examines the legal concepts of citizenship and sovereignty and how they are applied in the context of current Pacific Island societies. Dr Tagupa hopes to complete a manuscript on "Citizenship, Sovereignty, and Civil Cultures in the Pacific Islands" during the three months duration of his award.

**Mr Godfrey Pohatu - University of Otago** Pohatu's award is for six months. His research focuses on "The professional development and participation of native people in universities with special emphasis on the Maori of New Zealand".

**Mr Grant Phillipson - University of Otago** has been given a six month award to do post-doctoral revisionist work on "The Episcopal Career of George Augustus Selwyn" - the first Angligan Bishop in New Zealand.

**Mr Terry Duval** continues with his project "Dictionary of Maori Gain-words".

**Prof W.E. Willmott - University of Canterbury** An Historical and Sociological Analysis of the Chinese Communities in the Pacific Island Countries with special reference to community organisation cultural identity and inter-community relations. Prof Willmott will be making a preliminary visit to Western Samoa and Fiji in May in connection with his research.

The Board also approved financial support for research work for the following:

1. **Mr Andrew Crosby**, Nationalism, traditionalism and chiefly leadership in Fiji;
2. **Ms Tracy Pennington**, "Psychological and Socio-Cultural Impacts of Tourism on Members of an indigenous Culture"
3. **Mr Paul Royce - Auckland University** , To consult sources in the Macmillan Brown Collection and discuss with the Director his research on "The History of Telecommuncations and Electronic Mass Media in Western and American Samoa".
4. **Ms Caroline Phillips**, The Nature of Maori Settlements along the Waihou River (archaeological study);

**5. Ngai Tahu Research Project, Bibliographic Database of South Island Maori Placenames.**

**Conference Assistance** was given to:

1. The Commonwealth Geographical Bureau Workshop on Indigenous Land Rights, hosted by the Geography Department, University of Canterbury which enabled the following participants to attend:

Makuiti Tongia (Cook Islands);  
John Klaricich (Muriwhenua) NZ;  
Tumu Te Heuheu (Tuwharetoa) NZ;  
Annie Karrakayn (Borrooloola, N.T) Australia; and  
Henk Rumbewas (West Papua)

2. The Asian Peace Research Association Conference (APRA) which enabled Mr Tarcisius Kabutaulaka from the Solomons but teaching History/Politics at USP in Suva to attend.

3. The Indigenous Cultures and Technology Conference July 1992 (Suva). The Macmillan Brown Centre will be sponsoring someone from the region to attend.

**Other Projects**

- Financial assistance was given to Te Ata Toki to assist with advertising and a catalogue for the exhibition held by Maori graduates and students of the School of Fine Arts during Maori Language week -July 1991.

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