



TE HUNGA RANGAHAU MĀTAURANGA O AOTEAROA

NEW ZEALAND ASSOCIATION FOR RESEARCH IN EDUCATION

New Zealand Association of Research in Education – NZARE Pasifika Caucus Report - December 2014

NZARE Pasifika Caucus Representatives: Tanya Wendt-Samu & Rae Si'ilata

Malo le soifua ma le lagi e mama, ni sa bula vinaka vei kemuni kece

2014 has been a busy year for the Pasifika representatives and the Pasifika Caucus members. We began in March with a review of the Pasifika Symposium that was held during the November 2013 NZARE conference (Dunedin). One of the main topics of discussion at that symposium had been the challenge of building Pasifika research capability across the sector.

Building Pasifika research capacity

The development of Pacific research capacity across the Pacific was evident at the Vaka Pasifiki conference in Tonga, on 24-25 September, hosted by the Institute of Education, University of the South Pacific, and attended by approximately 300 people from a range of islands including Tonga, Aotearoa, Cook Islands, Fiji, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and others. Both Tanya and Rae attended and presented their individual research to a predominantly Pacific education researcher and practitioner audience.

Toi te Kupu Symposium – September 2014

Early in 2014 it had been agreed with the Maori Caucus representatives, that one way to begin to address the challenge of building Maori and Pasifika research capacity was to collaborate in planning a Maori/Pasifika research symposium, which was to be held prior to the NZARE/AARE conference. Our sincere appreciation and fa'amalō go to the Tumuaki of Te Wananga o Awanuiarangi, Graeme Smith, and the Maori Caucus representatives, Agnes McFarland and Rosina Taniwha, also to Cheryl Stephens, Maori Caucus members, and their whanau who hosted the *'Toi Te Kupu, Toi Te Mana, Toi Te Whenua'* symposium in Mataatua, Bay of Plenty on 26-27 September 2014.

The symposium had three research strands:

- **Toi te Kupu** – research and projects in community and education
- **Toi te Mana** – research and perspectives of Pasifika
- **Toi te whenua** – research and ongoing developments of tō tātou reo Rangatira

Tanya and Rae travelled home from the Tonga conference and drove straight to

Whakatane early on Saturday 26 September, so that Tanya could deliver the keynote address that morning. She spoke on the building of Pacific research capacity at the University of Auckland through the development of the Kainga Pasifika at the Faculty of Education.

The individual streams followed after morning tea, with the Pasifika research strand (Toi te Mana) bringing together a number of Pasifika academics, speaking on a range of topics including:

- Rae Si'ilata on Pasifika learners' success through utilisation of linguistically and culturally responsive pedagogies
- Pi'ikea Clarke on indigenous art informing the architectural design of council buildings in an Australian city
- Barbara Whyte on 'Afakasi to Academic' – personal and professional identity positioning
- Manutai Leaupepe on sustaining localized and indigenous knowledge within the Cook Islands: Identity, naming, play, and the 'tree of opportunity' in the early childhood space
- Alaimalulua Toetu'u-Tamihere on 'Kaliloa' as a Pacific research framework
- Nane Rio on teachers' perceptions and expectations of their Pasifika students
- Timote Vaoleti on Tongan 'being' and Manulua the idealised educational aim; operationalising 'ilo, poto, 'ofa, fatongia and fonua as learning frameworks for integrity and continuity
- Esther Cowley-Malcolm on the impact of alcohol on the fetal brain in utero

The Pasifika Caucus look forward to working collaboratively again with the Maori Caucus in 2015, with a plan to host a second joint symposium.

Pre-Conference Symposium – Brisbane, November 2014

The Pacific Caucus reps were pleased to be able to work with Maori, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander colleagues and counterparts in NZARE and AARE in planning and supporting the pre-conference symposium at the Brisbane joint conference of AARE and NZARE.

Although the Pasifika representatives promoted the Brisbane conference throughout their Pacific research networks in Aotearoa, it was apparent that many Pacific researchers/post graduate students were unable to attend due to financial considerations.

International appointment – March 2014

Tanya was appointed to the International Relations Committee of AERA, for a three-year term. The appointment was made by AERA President, Dr Joyce King at the AERA conference in April 2014. Tanya attended the AERA Coordinated Meeting in Washington DC in October for the first time. The appointment provides a great opportunity for raising awareness of research in our part of the world – Aotearoa/New Zealand and the Pacific Region.

Tanya was invited by Dr Joyce King to be part of a panel presentation at the Washington Coordinated Committee Meeting for AERA. The topic was 'Education and Inequality of Life Chances Worldwide'. Her 10-minute topic presentation was: Education and Inequality of life chances for Pasifika/Pacific Peoples: An Oceanic Perspective'.

NZARE representatives to AERA 2015

Tanya led a successful bid, supported by Rae Si'ilata, Alexis Siteine, and Alaimalulua Toetu'u-Tamihere for the NZARE symposium slot at the AERA conference in 2015. Their symposium is titled, '*Advancing Justice in Education for Pacific/Pasifika Peoples through Discourses of Success and Responsiveness*'.

Indigenous Peoples of the Pacific SIG – AERA 2015

A number of Pasifika researchers were also invited to join a discussion group to be held at the Indigenous Peoples of the Pacific SIG business meeting during the annual meeting of the 2015 American Education Research Association (AERA). The business meeting is a venue where selected research is 'showcased'.

The title of this business session is: *Conversations about Justice, Education Research, and Indigenous Peoples*, with the session title being: *New Scholars, New Ideas, and New Directions from the Pacific*.

The focus is in keeping with the theme of AERA's 2015 Annual Meeting — "Toward Justice: Culture, Language, and Heritage in Education Research and Praxis", particularly the emphasis on the moral obligation of researchers to "apply principles and evidence from social science research and theorizing to the problems of injustice." In particular, participants will discuss the conceptualization, conduct, and dissemination of their research and the challenges and successes they have experienced in their efforts to elevate the health and wellbeing of indigenous peoples. (Margie Maaka, IPPSIG Elder)

Invited symposium members include:

- Tanya Wendt-Samu, University of Auckland
- Alexis Siteine, University of Auckland
- Rae Si'ilata, University of Auckland
- Natasha A Saelua, University of Denver
- Pania Te Maro, Te Whare Wānanga o Awanuiārangi
- Margie Maaka, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (Chair)

Ia manuia

Rae Si'ilata and Tanya Wendt-Samu
NZARE Pasifika Caucus Representatives
November 2014