

Linita Manu'atu

On 6 December 2007, Dr Linita Manu'atu, School of Education, AUT University, Auckland was appointed by her Samoan, Tongan, and Tahitian (Pasifika) colleagues to the *Pasifika* Caucus of the New Zealand Association of Research in Education (NZARE). Respectfully, Linita acknowledges the contribution to NZARE made by the outgoing Pasifika Caucus, Dr Airini, Faculty of Education, University of Auckland over the last three (3) years. Dr Manu'atu wishes her well in her future involvement with Kuki Airini Maori, Tokelau and Niue Peoples; Tongan, Samoan, Fijian, and Tuvalu Peoples; and the Peoples of Micronesia and Melanesia (also Pasifika Peoples) who settled in Aotearoa-New Zealand.

Linita is Tongan. She was born on the island of Tongatapu, the Kingdom of Tonga. Her father, Ma'ake Manu'atu was born and raised on the northern island of Niuafo'ou. Her mother, the late Kesaia Lataisia Fangai'atu Mafile'o, hails from Faleloa, Ha'apai, Kingdom of Tonga. Linita is the caregiver for her 84 year old father in their home in Ponsonby, Auckland.

In 2002, Linita was appointed to the position of Senior Lecturer at the School of Education. She teaches in the National Diploma in Teaching (ECE, Pasifika), the Bachelor of Education and the Master of Education programmes. Recently, Linita was granted funding from the AUT's Faculty of Applied Humanities to set up the Centre of Pasifika Research. Hence, developing the Centre at the School of Education will become a priority for her in 2008.

At the NZARE Conference 2007, Linita presented a well-received paper entitled *Fonua-Whenua-Land. Conceptualising Pedagogical Decolonisation*. Linita's first task, as the *Pasifika* Caucus, was to recommend to the NZARE Annual Meeting that the co-opted status of the *Pasifika* Caucus should be reviewed by the Council and or the Membership; and that the *Pasifika* Caucus should be allocated full membership with all the rights associated with such an Office. Of course this important issue will be followed up by Linita during her appointment. Also, she will continue Dr Airini's work to promote the NZARE amongst Pasifika Peoples.