

Critiquing Pasifika Education @ the University Winter Book Launch

On the evening of 22 August 2008, the *Special Edition/Special Issue 2008 Critiquing Pasifika Education. ALTERNATIVE an International Journal of Indigenous Scholarship* was launched at the Fale Pasifika, Centre for Pacific Studies, the University of Auckland. The Special Edition was launched by the world renowned scientist, Professor Michael Walker, the Joint Director of Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga, the National Institute of Research Excellence for Māori Development and Advancement, hosted by the University of Auckland.

In April 2007, the Organising Committee of the *Critiquing Pasifika Education @ the University Conference 2007* brought together Pasifika and Māori educators, researchers and postgraduate students to exchange ideas and to learn from a broad range of educational experiences. The Committee published the papers from the 2007 conference to make the knowledge and experience brought together by the conference more widely available to academics and practitioners involved in educating and training Niue, Tokelau and Cook Islands Māori students; Tongan, Samoan and Fijian students amongst other Pasifika peoples.

An assembly of more than 40 Pasifika, Tangata Whenua and Pākehā scholars, colleagues, friends and family enjoyed the sparkling expressions by the Chair, Dr Linitā Manu'atu. The audience listened closely to the orations commending the desirable qualities of the authors by the Guest Speakers, Tui O'Sullivan and Sione Tuitahi from Auckland University of Technology and Massey University, Albany campus respectively. The audience took pleasure from the ideas on collaboration between Tangata Whenua and Pasifika peoples over generations orated by Michael Walker. The highlight of the occasion was the presentation to the authors of their copy of the *Special Edition of ALTERNATIVE* by Professor Walker. Eight of the authors - Dr Tafili Utumapu-McBride, Dr Mere Kēpa, Dr Sailau Suali'i-Sauni, Dr 'Okusitino Māhina, Judy McFall McCaffery, Semisi Mansela Prescott, Iu Tuagalu, and Alfred Refiti- were present to talk about their piece with their colleagues, friends and family over food and fruit juice.

In closing, the Conference Coordinating Committee invites you to participate in the 2nd *Critiquing Pasifika Education @ the University conference*, July 1-3, 2009 at Nga Wai Horotiu marae, Auckland University of Technology, Wellesley Street, Auckland.

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Kind regards
(Dr) Linita Manu'atu
Chair