

Niue-New Zealand artistic exchange 2014

Bio information

Further information/photos available on request – contact Jasmyne Chung

This year's cultural and artistic exchange with Niue will bring over six artists who specialise in traditional Niuean weaving, carving and performing arts.

Ligimanogi Misikea – Performing arts expert & weaver



Ligimanogi is a multi-talented and vibrant artist from the village of Hakupu. For the past 20 years, with the support of her husband Tom, she has been a tutor of traditional Niue songs and dancing tutor for Hakupu Young People Fellowship, Niue High School dancing group for Polyfest NZ, Niue High School for local dancing competition, Hakupu Council of Women that host Dancing Fiafia Nights for tourist groups. In 2010, Ligimanogi went with the Hakupu Youth on tour to Shanghai where invaluable international exposure and promotion of Niue traditional songs and dances were showcased. Ligimanogi is also a well-known weaver of fine hats (pulou) for all ages and genders, round mats, decorations for dancing costumes such as hiapo (tapa) flower hats band, ovava flowers for headbands, and sewing costumes for fashion shows and festivals.

Tamatoa Tom Misikea – traditional carver, composer & choreographer



songs and dances through international cultural events.

Tamatoa Tom Misikea hails from the village of Hakupu on the eastern side of Niue. He is well known for adhering to the Niue traditions in carving designs, songs and performances. He specialises in carving the katoua (traditional fighting weapon), and has helped gain international exposure for Niue traditional

Steward Siakifilo – carver



Steward is from Mutalau village, located at the northern end of Niue Island. A very capable carver, Steward's skills were passed on from his grandfather Tutaue Siakifilo who is a master carver. Steward's main focus in carving is Niue spears, ukulele and canoes (vaka). Each work of Steward's comes with story to explain why it was made that way and how it works.

Women master artists in the Niuean fine art of weaving:



Hana Tauekipaoa

Hana Tauekipaoa was born in Mutalau, Niue. She grew up in a family renowned for the production of some of Niue's finest handcrafts. Hana learnt from her grandmother Ahimanogi Agimatagi and her eldest sister Fitiola the art of making distinctive Niue fans (iliili) from boiled, peeled and dried coconut leaves in the village of Mutalau and Motu tribe. Hana specialises in many weaving forms, in particular fan making (traditional Niue iliili), hat making (males/females/children), basket weaving (pandanus, coconut), and mats (various – paogo, papa, tanini, tupao). In high demand, her work has been exhibited all over the world at various Pacific conferences and festivals.



Enele Kaiuha

Enele hails from the village of Liku on the eastern side of Niue. She gave up working as a teacher to concentrate on producing some of Niue's finest handcrafts. Throughout her life, Enele learnt the art of traditional Niue weaving in the forms of Niue baskets and purse-type baskets of various sizes from dried and naturally coloured pandanus leaves (*lau fā*) with handles woven with dried bark of a tree (*fou*); as well as table mats and floor mats (*potu*) woven with dried and naturally coloured pandanus leaves. Enele showcases and provides live experiences to visitors and tourists on traditional Niue weaving. She exhibited at the Natural Fibre of the Pacific exhibition of Commonwealth countries, hosted at Wellington's Massey University in 2012.



Lekei Palemia

Lekei was born in Tuapa village and lives in Makefu. She is a traditional Niue weaver using mostly traditional fibres from pandanus leaves, fou (tree bark), sinnet (from dry coconut husks) and coconut leaves to weave assorted baskets (*kato*), mats (*potu*), hats (*pulou*) and coconut leaves fans (*iliili*). She also makes decorative necklaces from used yellow rock shells (*hihi*) and dry berries (*fua puka*). Lekei embraces her work with traditional songs and hymns together with some sewing and embroidery work. She is chairperson of Makefu Council of Women where she is a weaving tutor, she is an active member of the Niue Council of Women, and was a member of the Niue arts festival group for previous Pacific Arts Festivals in Noumea and Palau.

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