

Tonga-New Zealand cultural exchange 2013

Public programme: 19-25 October 2013

Saturday 19 October 2013 (Auckland)

MANGERE ARTS CENTRE – NGĀ TOHU O UENUKU

11am – 3pm

Tongan heritage arts and community day (free)

Join Mangere Arts Centre and visiting Tongan artists for a special 'Tongan heritage arts and community day'. The day will include free workshops, demonstrations and talks with the artists who specialise in Tongan heritage artforms. All welcome.

Monday 21 October 2013 (Wellington)

MUSEUM OF NEW ZEALAND TE PAPA TONGAREWA (TE PAPA)

Te Papa tour of Pacific collection and exhibitions for visiting Tongan artists

3pm – 4pm

Meet and greet korero with local Maori/Pacific artists in Wellington

An intimate hui for local Māori/Pacific artists to meet and share knowledge with the visiting Tongan artists who specialise in Tongan heritage artforms. Invite only. Media welcome.

Tuesday & Wednesday 22 & 23 October

Art gallery visits and cultural exchange programme for visiting Tongan artists.

Thursday 24 October 2013 (Auckland)

AUCKLAND WAR MEMORIAL MUSEUM

11am – 3pm

Free public programme

Join visiting Tongan artists for a free public programme of workshops, demonstrations and talks on Tongan heritage artforms, culture and protocols. All welcome.

3pm – 4pm

Meet and greet korero with local Maori/Pacific artists in Auckland

An intimate hui for local Māori/Pacific artists to meet and share knowledge with the visiting Tongan artists who specialise in Tongan heritage artforms. Invite only. Media welcome.

Friday 25 October 2013 (Auckland)

AUCKLAND WAR MEMORIAL MUSEUM

10am – 3pm

Free public programme

Join visiting Tongan artists for a free public programme of workshops, demonstrations and talks on Tongan heritage artforms, culture and protocols. All welcome.

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Artist bio information

This year's cultural exchange with Tonga will bring over six artists that represent the three genres of Tongan arts – tufunga (material), faiva (performance) and nimamea'a (fine) arts.

Tufunga (Material Arts):

Tamale (Tonga Mohenoa) – Tufunga lalava

Tamale (Tonga Mohenoa) currently holds the hereditary title Tamale, which he inherited from his late grandfather Tamale (Pita Lolomana'ia). Tamale is the high chief of the village of Niutōua in Tongatapu, Tonga. Tamale is also one of the oldest chiefly titles, which is directly, formally affiliated to the sacred Tu'i Tonga, the most ancient dynasty in Tonga.

Tamale comes from a long line of master artists that specialised in the material art of tufunga lalava (kafa sennit-lashing). Tufunga lalava is considered the Tongan master material art because it produces all of the geometric designs that can be seen on all Tongan material and fine arts such as tattooing, tapa and fine mats. The membership of the ha'a tufunga lalava, originally as a professional class, is declining, leaving Tamale as probably the only remaining tufunga lalava master in the whole of Tonga.

Faiva (Performing Arts):

Metuliki Fakatava – Punake

Metuliki Fakatava is an established punake – a master artist that specialises in all three performance arts of faiva ta'anga (poetry), faiva hiva (music) and faiva haka (dance). He is the grandson of the renowned punake Fakatava, one of the few famous punake around the late 19th to early 20th century from the villages of Leimātu'a in Vava'u, Lapaha, Mu'a in Tongatapu and 'Ohonua, 'Eua, Tonga. Metuliki comes from a long-standing line of ha'a punake, a professional class of master artists where each individual has the knowledge and expertise to compose poetry, put it into music and then choreograph the dance movements.

Nimamea'a (Fine Arts):

Tunakaimanu Fielakepa – Tongan intangible heritage and women's fine arts

Tunakaimanu Feilakepa is renowned and greatly respected for her cultural knowledge in Tonga. A retired civil servant, she comes with a wealth of knowledge and expertise on Tonga's intangible heritage, such as protocols and etiquette surrounding Tongan women's fine arts of material wealth. She has expert knowledge and practice of preparing and presenting koloa (material wealth such as fine mats and tapa).

Tunakaimanu has a strong background in education, which began with a Diploma in Education (1956-1957) Ardmere Teachers College New Zealand. She has stood on many committees over the last five decades, and was Deputy President of Pan Pacific and Southeast Asia Women's Association (PPSEAWA) from 2007 to 2009. She is currently a Master Trainer in Pelu Koloa (folding of material wealth for presentation at various Tongan cultural contexts).

Women specialists in nimamea'a lālānga, the Tongan fine art of weaving:



Basket woven by Ane 'Ata Tupou Pongi. She makes kiekie with the same design shown on this basket.

Ane 'Ata Tupou Pongi

Ane 'Ata Tupou Pongi weaves tablemats, baskets and kiekie from only pandanus. She focuses on weaving kiekie (waist attire) worn by Tongan women as part of their formal dress. She learnt weaving from her mother and women around her community. She has participated in exhibitions and small community group work and sells her finely woven products at Langafonua.

Paea he Lotu Mailau

Paea he Lotu Mailau weaves tablemats, baskets and coasters from pandanus and fronds that are for everyday use as well as popular with tourists. She started weaving in 1984 when she learnt from her mother. She has participated in various events such as the Pasifika Festival and the Royal Agricultural Show, and is heavily involved in her community's small working group. She sells her work at the market and also at Langafonua Handicrafts Centre. Paea also works for the government at the Ministry of Infrastructure.



Basket woven by Paea he Lotu Mailau.



Kato alu woven by Teilaiti Fungatau'akipulu Lasa.

Teilaiti Fungatau'akipulu Lasa

Teilaiti Fungatau'akipulu Lasa started weaving in 1985, learning from her mother. She is very skilled in weaving the kato alu – a woven ceremonial basket that was made in Tonga as early as the eighteenth century. Teilaiti has participated in exhibitions and small community group work. She sells her work at Langafonua and at the market.

Teilaiti is from the island of 'Eua, where the kato alu are said to originate from and where the alu plant, of which the roots are used to make the basket with, grow abundantly. Kato alu are significant cultural items of exchange and presented as gifts during weddings, funerals and birthdays.