



# Pacific Nursing Section Newsletter

## Highlights from the Editor,

by Ellaine Ete-Rasch

Warm Pacific greetings and welcome to the first edition of the Pacific Nursing Section (PNS) newsletter for 2017. Trust that you all enjoyed your 2016 festive season break and spent time to celebrate the true spirit of Christmas with families and friends. No doubt the energy level is renewed and maximized preparing everyone for the commitments and engagements in 2017.

The PNS committee held its first meeting for 2017 in February at the NZNO office in Auckland. It was great to see everyone back in good health. This year marks the 7<sup>th</sup> year since the establishment of the PNS under NZNO, this is a huge achievement for Pacific nurses. While we have lost some of our pioneering, courageous nurses in our journey, we are continuously blessed with the wisdom and the commitment amongst our midst. Like the Samoan saying, 'E pa'u se TOA ae toe tu se TOA'.

I have been given the task of putting together the PNS newsletter and I look forward to serving the section in this space. The committee apologizes for the time lapsed since the last newsletter.

Enjoy the 2016 highlights and activities from some of the nurses associations, including an article on Maternal and Child Health in Samoan, co-authored by some of our members, see link on p. 5. Look forward to sharing more exciting PNS news in our next newsletter. Please contact your PNS representative on the committee or myself, if you wish to contribute to the newsletter.

## Committee Members:

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 Member: Togia'i Vaifagaloa Naseri - [vai@healthstarpacific.co.nz](mailto:vai@healthstarpacific.co.nz)  
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 Member: Anne Strickland - [anne.strickland@waitematadhb.govt.nz](mailto:anne.strickland@waitematadhb.govt.nz)  
 Member: Ellaine Ete-Rasch - [ete\\_rasch@xtra.co.nz](mailto:ete_rasch@xtra.co.nz)  
 Member: Maima Joseph - [maimajoseph@hotmail.com](mailto:maimajoseph@hotmail.com)  
 NZNO Professional Nursing Advisor: Margaret Cain



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## Word from the Chairperson



Malo e lelei, Talofa lava, Kia Orana, Ni sa bula, Taloha ni, Fakalofa lahi atu, Kia ora and warm greetings to you all! Welcome to our first Newsletter for 2017. It's been a privilege and an honour to have been your Chairperson as part of this journey.

As Chairperson, I have been Blessed by the love and caring of senior members of our respective profession, colleagues, families, and friends who have continued to support us through thick and thin during our journey. Your patience, wisdom, commitment and skills have enabled us to get to where we are today. It has been a pleasure working with each and every one of you and thank you for your support over the years. I would like to thank the committee and all members. Your commitment and passion to share and look for better ways of working together has been inspirational. Malo 'aupito.

And lastly I would like to thank Margaret Cain, Professional Nurse Advisor for her continuous support and genuine patience with us. Your thoughtfulness and understanding have given us strength to continue to serve our communities. You continue to support us to the best of your abilities, which is greatly appreciated. You have been an asset to us and we look forward to continuing work with you. May the Lord bless you all, your families and your work.

Tu'a 'ofa atu mo e hufia

'Eseta Finau

Chair Pacific Nursing Section of NZNO



## Special Tributes to Christina Atoa Tapu

November 25<sup>th</sup> 1949 – November 8<sup>th</sup> 2016



Sa'afiafiaga from Fetaomi Tapu-Qiliho, Christina's daughter,

Christina Atoa Tapu was a selfless God-fearing woman who cherished the nursing profession and all that it encompassed. She loved being a daughter to her parents, sister to all kin and non-kin affiliated folk, mother, grandmother, Anglican priest's wife, lay leader. All these roles, which she performed throughout her life's journey, she embraced effortlessly. They necessitated the extension of her person in love to care for and nurture others and exemplified her understanding of God's love for her woman and her response as a Samoan



Nursing was the natural choice of calling from God') for a woman with people and an uncanny desire acts of kindness. She had graduated from the Nursing School in Apia, Zealand in 1986. After successfully nursing, she gained NZ nursing

profession (or in her speak 'her who had an instinctive affinity to reach out to others through top of her class in the year 1968 Samoa. She migrated to New completed the Diploma in registration in 1988.

Christina was a nurse, but more importantly she was a Samoan nurse. Migration took her away from her beloved Samoa, but she carried its values and traditions with her and incorporated them into her nursing as a nurse of the Samoa diaspora. The sisterhood of the Samoan Nurses Association was a family that enabled her to share the two loves of her life – Samoa and Nursing. This was an instrumental part of her nursing and enabled her as a migrant to situate herself contextually in a profession that was universal.



The approaches to nursing that exhibited throughout her varied career were always through a fusion of her culture, faith and heritage. Being a Samoan Nurse or *Teine Tausi Soifua* (girl entrusted with the care of Life) enveloped everything that she valued about her culture and chosen profession. In a Samoan frame of reference it embodies Samoan values of *loto alofa* (desire to love), *loto fesoasoani* (desire to care), *osi aiga* (care for family), *loto foa'i* (desire to give) and mostly *ava ma le fa'aaloalo* (respect). Her diverse nursing career drew in executive leadership, clinical and community nursing roles. From Senior Leadership and Management levels at Middlemore Hospital, Otahuhu as a Health Professional to grassroots children oriented community clinics; Christina was ever the *Teine Tausi Soifua* who responded to others with *alofa* (love).

Sadly, after a brief illness, Christina left us on November 8<sup>th</sup> 2016, Ia manuia lau malaga Christina.



## Pacific Nursing Section Symposium 2016

### “WINDS of CHANGE”

Savili ma ona Suiga | Ko taimi 'oku 'ikai mohe | Tienianga Matangi  
Kua Hiki e Matagi | Cagi ni Veisau | Ko te Huiga o te Matagi

Manukau Institute of Technology, Otara Auckland  
Friday 12<sup>th</sup> August 2016

The sixth NZNO PNS Symposium demonstrated what was possible when Pacific nurses bring their expertise and creativity to the transformation agenda. 'Eseta set the pace when it was announced, and celebrated, that she has just been voted back on the NZNO Board. No mean feat for a Pacific nurse in Aotearoa. Our advocacy in policy does make a difference to decision-making and population health. This was evident in the sharing from the keynote speakers starting with Kerri Nuku, NZNO Kaiwhakahaere who reminded the participants of the importance of tino rangatiratanga, knowing who we are, when considering *Where we are now and where we plan to be*. Her challenge to PNS was, *Don't accept the status quo*'.

Margaret Cain, NZNO Professional Advisor, eloquently cautioned nurses on the pitfalls of social media and the need for prudence when posting up on Facebook, for example. When in doubt, DON'T was the message. Margaret's wisdom and professional knowledge of the legal challenges for nurses was greatly appreciated by symposium participants who plied Margaret with a diverse range of questions to keep them safe and competent in their practice.

It is imperative that we identify in our Pacific nursing organisations, and in ourselves, opportunities to strengthen and develop resilience. By promoting the voice of Pacific nursing, we can help guide improvements in the quality of health service delivery and inform health systems strengthening. Pacific nurses input into health sectors policies will help ensure that supportive work environments for practice are taken into account when policies are reformed. It is our duty to ensure that governments and policymakers understand that confident, well informed Pacific nursing leaders who understand their role in developing a workforce to meet new challenges are essential to ensure the achievements of successful health outcomes for Pacific people in Aotearoa and to meet the health challenges of the future.

All nursing associations gave a brief report on their year's work to date. A group of Bachelor of Nursing Pacific students graced the symposium with their presence, along with their senior nurse lecturer, Metua Daniel-Atutolu. With the many changing winds, the symposium brought an air of collaboration and cooperation as nursing leaders now and future leaders learnt, laughed and ate together in professional camaraderie, for the betterment of our Pacific peoples in Aotearoa. United we stand, divided we fall.

Malo 'aupito  
Eseta Finau, Chairperson PNS





## Tausi Soifua Samoa Activities and highlights for 2016.

Tausi Soifua Samoa of New Zealand (TSSNZ) continues to be an active professional nursing organisation in New Zealand by contributing to the development of the Pacific health and nursing workforce and the improvement of Pacific people's health in all areas that Samoan nurses are working in. This report highlights the activities and achievements of Tausi Soifua Samoa for the year 2016.

### 1. Tausi Soifua Samoa AGM 2016:

TSS held its 2016 AGM on November 12<sup>th</sup> in Mangere, Auckland. It was well attended by both the Auckland and Wellington members. The new national executive officers are; President: Ula Fatialofa, Treasurer: Sera Tapu-Taala and Secretary: Ellaine Rasch.



Members of the TSS at their AGM in Auckland.

### 2. Pinikiliciuos Wellington events 2016



pictured here with some of the women from the Porirua community.

We continue to support the Pinikiliciuos events raising cancer awareness in the Porirua Pacific community. Members participate as mothers in the community and health professionals providing health information and resources. Sera is

### 3. Mother's Day & International Nurses Day Radio Service

For the past 10 years, the Samoan Nurses in Auckland together with the community celebrated Mother's Day combined with the International Nurses Day service through the Radio 531PI station in Auckland. In May 2016, Rev Samuelu Ioane led the service attended by some of the Auckland members.



### 4. International Nurses Day - Pacific Nurses' celebration 2016:

The Tausi Soifua Samoa Organisation was proud to host the 2016 International Nurses Day Celebration for the Pacific Nursing Section in Auckland, on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> of May. The theme was "NURSES - A Force for Change: Improving Health Systems' Resilience" where nurses' work were

celebrated and acknowledged for being a 'force for change' in their respective areas. Approximately 130 nurses, families and friends attended the evening.

## CONTRACT PROJECTS

### 1. Whanau Ora – ‘Nurses mo a taeao’ project.

This project was funded by Pasifika Futures under the Whanau Ora program. The aim is to promote nursing as a viable career option in our communities. We work with Samoan families in Auckland to recruit 50 potential nursing students. Once enrolled in a nursing degree program, students will be mentored and provided pastoral care by the Tausi Soifua Samoa members in their first year of studies. The project started in Auckland in October 2015 with a group of senior nurses who have been active mentors for many years. Tausi Soifua nurses have promoted this project in a number of churches and community groups in Auckland and the response was very positive.

### 2. Samoan Cultural Competency Workshops for Tausi Soifua Samoa.

The Tausi Soifua Samoa association is in the process of implementing workshops on the Samoan Cultural Competency at an introductory level for its members. The purpose of the workshops is to increase member's knowledge and understanding of the basic Samoan culture including the language, values, approaches and practices in their basic forms and their applications in clinical settings when caring for Samoan patient/client and their families. This project is funded by the Pacific Perspectives.

## Members involvement in other areas.

**1. Submissions:** Sera Tapu-Ta'ala contributed to the Pacific submissions in response to the consultations on proposed changes to the Organizational structure of Capital & Coast DHB. Sera's submission was primarily highlighting the impact of the proposed changes on the Pacific Health Unit situated in the CCDHB regarding staffing and the wider Pacific workforce particularly nursing and the quality of care provided to the wider Pacific community.

**2. Pacific Leaders:** A group of Pacific leaders from Auckland attended a meeting held at the Beehive, NZ Parliament House to discuss issues pertaining to Pacific people in NZ. Christina, Taiivao, Ulufafo, Togia'i (Auckland members) and Toe from Wellington were part of the professional group representations.



Togiai Vaifagaloa Naseri, staff Ministry of health, Dr Naseri, Director General of Samoa Ministry of Health and Taiivao Siniva Cruickshank.

**3. Samoa Family Violence Training:** Taiivao Siniva, Loli Mesepa & Togia'i Vai take part in a first ever Samoan Family Violence training, which incorporates the Samoan culture and values in preventing family violence.

### 4. Research study in Samoa on Maternal & Child Health:

Taiivao Siniva & Togia'i Vai were the principal researchers and co-authors for the Maternal & Child Health Samoa study/article recently published in the *Pacific Journal of Reproductive Health*. The study was conducted in Samoa for approximately 9 months. Findings were presented at the Samoa Medical Association conference in Samoa in March 2016 and at the TAHA & PRSH conference in Auckland in November 2016. Here's the hyperlink to the article, <http://journals.sfu.ca/pjrh/index.php/pjrh/article/view/41/pdf>

## Academic and Professional Achievements



### PhD Candidate

Ellaine was awarded Health Research Council Pacific PhD scholarship, 2015/2016. Ellaine is a Doctoral student at the Graduate School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health at Victoria University of Wellington. This scholarship has enabled her to study full time. The focus of her PhD work is the high rates of ambulatory sensitive hospitalisation or avoidable hospital admissions for Pacific children in New Zealand.

### Post Graduate programmes

Juanita To'o - Postgraduate Certificate Nursing from the University of Auckland  
 Mesepa Channing - Postgraduate Diploma in Specialty Nursing - Aniva program  
 Augustina Reid - Postgraduate Diploma in Specialty Nursing - Aniva program  
 Leilani Jackson - Postgraduate Diploma in Specialty Nursing - Aniva program

TSS member students from Nursing Pacific at the MIT have completed their nursing degree and passed State final exams are:

- Moe Oeti-Samau Aoelua
- Elena Mauia
- Theresa Maree Tuilua and
- Mosolesa Falenuu Pesalelei



Ia manuia galuega,  
 Edited by Togia'i Vai Naseri

## My experience as an observer at the PNS executive committee meeting.

Malo e lelei, my name is Sisilia Finau Peini and I am Tongan. I work as a registered nurse at Rangipapa Forensic Medium Secure Unit in Wellington and have been employed in the Unit since graduated in 2009. I have had the privilege of accompanying the Wellington TNA patron, Violani 'Iolahia Willis to the Pacific Nursing Section (PNS) executive meeting held in Auckland, in February. I attended as an observer.

The committee highly anticipated an increase in the PNS membership and also advancing nurses' interest in networking and supporting each other in their pathway to success, both in their personal and professional life. My experiences from attending this meeting enhanced my commitment for this group. I thoroughly enjoyed the friendly atmosphere and the professionalism amongst the committee. The meeting was well organized and structured in a relaxing and friendly environment.

The financial support of the Wellington TNA branch enabled me to attend this meeting. This assistance allows the TNA young members to observe how the pioneers run the business effectively and hopefully follow those footsteps in the future. I strongly encourage all nurses to join and support our Pacific Nursing Section through your ethnic nursing associations. You will learn and experience the commitment, the sacrifices and the determination to succeed from the senior Pacific nurses. Most of all, the blessing of working together as Pacific nurses.

Malo 'aupito,  
 Sisilia Finau Peini





## Tongan Nurses Association Report 2016

**Malo e lelei, Kia ora and Greetings to you all!**

Tongan Nurses Association (TNA) highlights of activities in 2016 have been:

- TNA continues to hold its' monthly meeting as scheduled. Malo members for making time to attend.
- PMA/TNA SGP completed, no further fund.
- TNA members attended PNS Symposium 12<sup>th</sup> August 2016 at MIT Pasifika Community Centre. Thank you our TNA members from Wellington, Edna, Ma'u and Sisilia for attending.
- TNA would like to acknowledge PMA/PFL CEO Debbie Sorensen for their continued support. Malo also for sponsoring the catering for the day.
- TNA members also attended PMA Annual Conference 24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> August 2016. This is a significant event as they celebrate their 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of service.
- NZNO AGM/Conference Wellington, TNA members also attended and Malo 'aupito for everyone's' support.
- Eseta attended and presented SPNF Conference, Solomon Island 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> November funded by NZNO. Malo NZNO for your support.
- Maori Nurse Conference – 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> August –Malo Lataisia and Akesa for attending on behalf of TNA.
- Eseta/ Abel attended CATSINaM conference Melbourne, Australia in November, funded by PMA. Thank you PMA Board for your support and understanding.
- Congratulations Ma'u for your article on Kai Tiaki, and please share your stories with us by submitting to Kaitiaki. Malo again Ma'u.
- Part of TNA's work plan is to foster working relationship with other TNA members globally. Great to know, Ma'u met Hawaii TNA members, they wish to join us next year in our Annual Ball. Aloha Hawaii and look forward to hearing from you in due course 22 October 2016 at Rendezvous Hotel.
- Another successful Annual Ball, malo Ball Chairperson Evaloni Walters and committee for another enjoyable evening. Thank you members for your support and making this event awesome and fun.



These are significant achievements that we can all be proud of and I thank you all most sincerely for your support and commitment.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Executive Committee and members who have worked hard, with commitment during the year and so generously donating your time whenever we have needed additional support and assistance.

I would also like to acknowledge the ongoing support from Pasifika Medical Association (PMA) Board and CEO Debbie Sorrensen for their continuous support over the years and currently. It is greatly appreciated. Once again many thanks to all our members, supporters and families, we have had a amazing year and look forward to building on that success as we move into the next year.

Tu'a 'ofa atu & God Bless

'Eseta Finau ONZM  
President TNA of NZ





## 2017 PNS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date	Event	Location
17 Feb	<b>NZNO PNS Committee meeting 9am – 3pm</b>	<b>NZNO Office 11 Blake Street Ponsonby</b>
25 March	NZNO Migrant & Internationally Qualified Health Workers (IQN) Conference 9.30am – 3.30pm	Auditorium, Fisher & Paykel Healthcare Clinical Education Centre, Level 5, Auckland City Hospital, Grafton Road
12 April	Greater Auckland Regional Convention	ASB Showgrounds Greenlane
29 April	Cook Islands Health Network Association Fundraising Dinner/Ball	Waipuna Convention Centre TBC
12 May	<b>NZNO PNS Committee 9am – 3pm Planning for Symposium meeting</b>	<b>NZNO Office 11 Blake Street Ponsonby</b>
12 May	<b>International Nurses Day</b> Hosted by Cook Islands Nurses Association Aotearoa (CINAA)	TBC
15 June (Thursday) TBC	<b>Cook Islands Health Network Association TURAMA 2020</b> conference: <i>Child &amp; Adolescent Health</i>	TBC
27 May – 1 June	ICN Conference	Barcelona, Spain
5 - 7 July Rarotonga 11-12 July Aitutaki	Annual Cook Islands Health Conference Theme: <i>Child and Adolescent Health</i>	Rarotonga & Aitutaki Cook Islands
August TBC	Indigenous Nurses Conference Hosted by Te Runanga o Aotearoa NZNO	TBC
<b>4 August</b>	<b>NZNO PNS Symposium</b>	<b>TBC</b>
19 September	NZNO Colleges and Sections Day	Wellington
20 - 21 September	NZNO AGM (20 <sup>th</sup> ) & Conference (21 <sup>st</sup> )	Te Papa, Wellington
28 – 30 September	PMA conference Noumea	NOUMEA
28 October	Annual Tongan Nurses Ball Formal Wear: Glitz and Glamour	Rendezvous Hotel Auckland
<b>24 November</b>	· <b>AGM 10am – 12md</b> · <b>NZNO PNS Committee meeting 1 – 2pm</b>	<b>TBC</b>
<b>2018</b>		
<b>9 Feb</b>	<b>NZNO PNS Committee meeting 9am – 3pm</b>	<b>TBC</b>
TBC	19 <sup>th</sup> South Pacific Nurses Forum (SPNF)	Rarotonga, Cook Islands