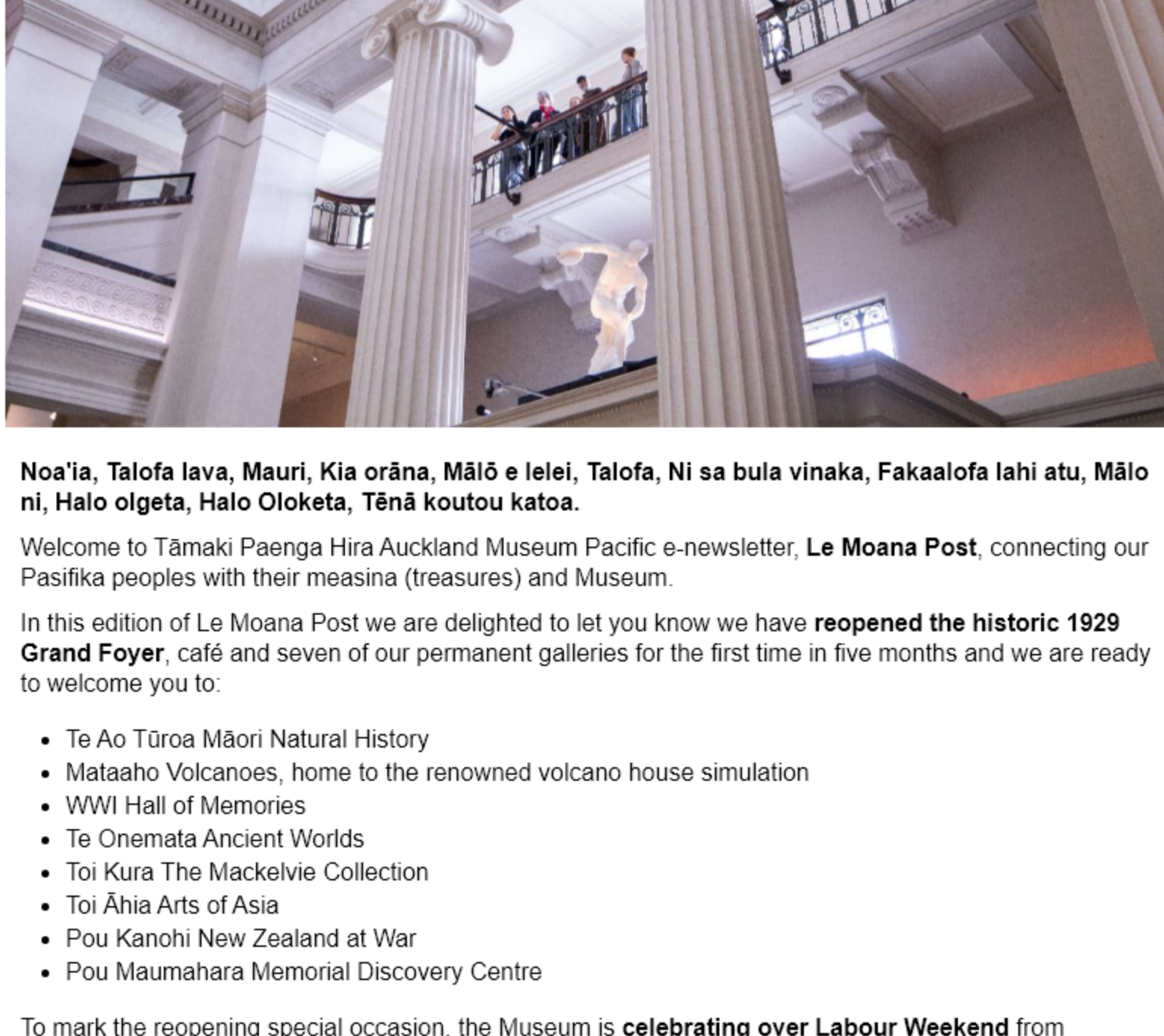




Noa'ia, Talofa lava, Mauri, Kia orāna, Māiō e lelei, Talofa, Ni sa bula vinaka, Fakaalofa lahi atu, Mālo ni, Halo oigeta, Halo Olloketa, Tēnā koutou katoa.

Welcome to Tāmaki Paenga Hira Auckland Museum Pacific e-newsletter, **Le Moana Post**, connecting our Pasifika peoples with their measina (treasures) and Museum.

In this edition of Le Moana Post we are delighted to let you know we have **reopened the historic 1929 Grand Foyer**, café and seven of our permanent galleries for the first time in five months and we are ready to welcome you to:

- Te Ao Tūroa Māori Natural History
- Mataaho Volcanoes, home to the renowned volcano house simulation
- WWI Hall of Memories
- Te Onemata Ancient Worlds
- Toi Kura The Mackelvie Collection
- Toi Āhia Arts of Asia
- Pou Kānohi New Zealand at War
- Pou Maumahara Memorial Discovery Centre

To mark the reopening special occasion, the Museum is **celebrating over Labour Weekend** from Saturday 25 to Monday 27 October with **FREE** performances, selected tours and **FREE** VR experiences for all Aucklanders to enjoy. Come along and enjoy lots of fun activities with the family!

Read on to find out more about this, plus highlights from our community events and Pacific Language Weeks.

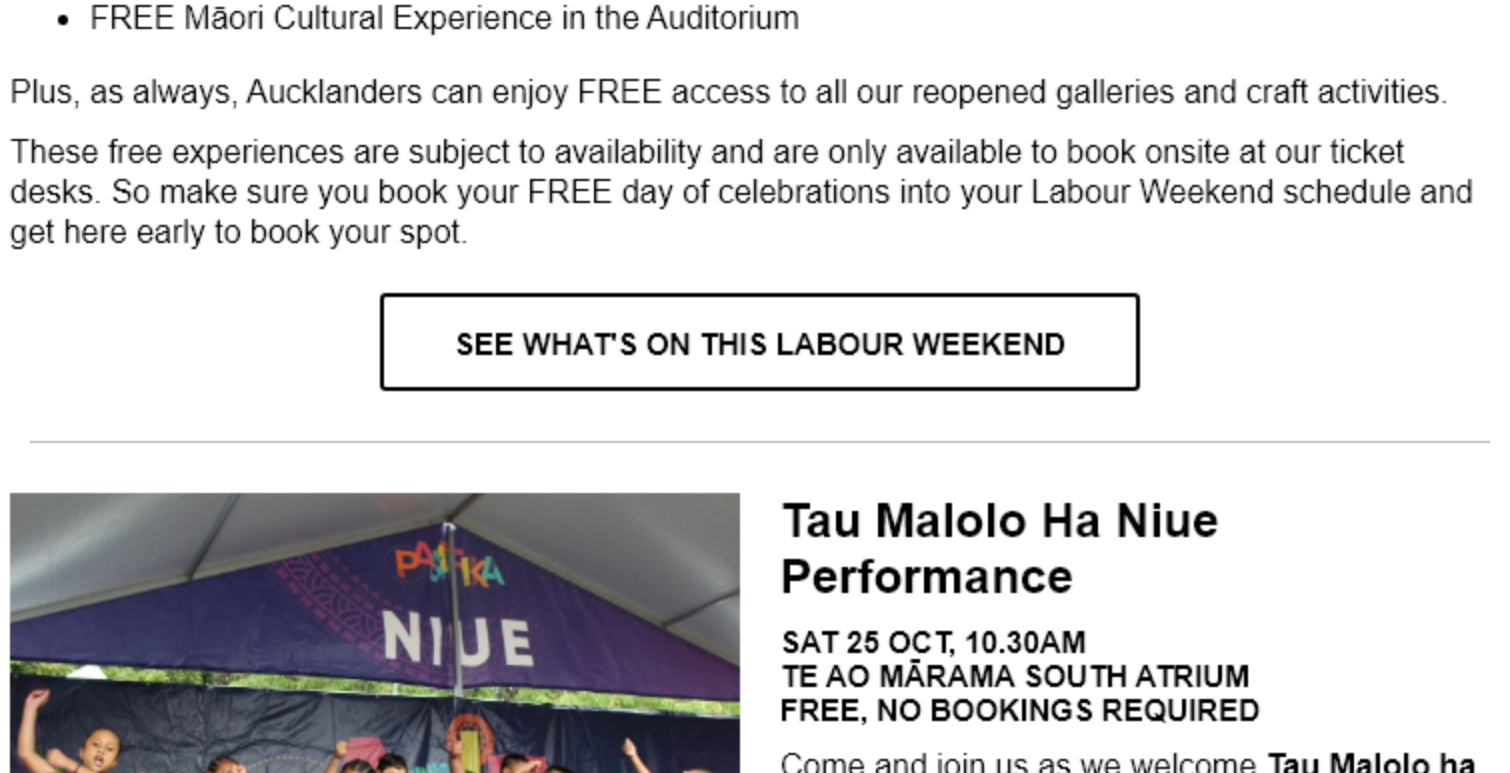
Delivering on our commitments

Matafatafa Aho (Dawn Rising) is our exciting new Five-Year Pacific Delivery Plan and we're proud to report we have completed a very successful first year!

[DIVE DEEPER](#)

If you haven't had the chance to read it yet but are curious to learn more, dive deeper into [Matafatafa Aho](#).

Our Galleries are OPEN



Labour Weekend celebrations

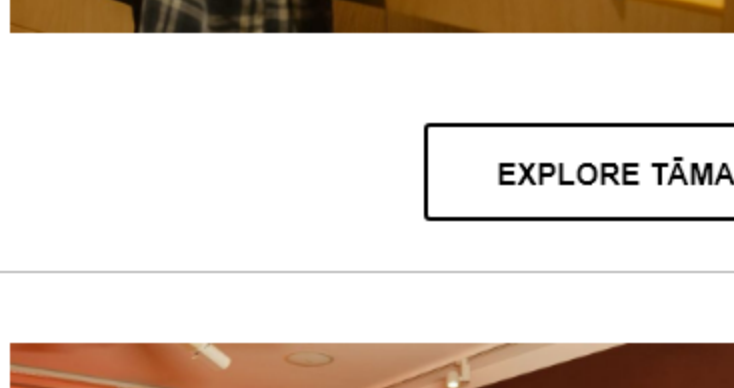
**SAT 25 - MON 27 OCT, LABOUR WEEKEND
FREE FOR AUCKLANDERS
BOOK ONSITE**

We're grateful to the Auckland community for your support and patience during our recent extended closure, so to celebrate our reopening, we're opening up performances, selected tours and VR experiences all for **FREE** for Aucklanders.

From Saturday 25 to Monday 27 October, you can come enjoy at Auckland Museum:

- FREE Museum highlights guided tours
- FREE VR experience of the Great Kimberley Wilderness, Australia
- FREE Māori Cultural Experience in the Auditorium

Plus, as always, Aucklanders can enjoy **FREE** access to all our reopened galleries and craft activities. These free experiences are subject to availability and are only available to book onsite at our ticket desks. So make sure you book your **FREE** day of celebrations into your Labour Weekend schedule and get here early to book your spot.

[SEE WHAT'S ON THIS LABOUR WEEKEND](#)

Tau Malolo Ha Niue Performance

**SAT 25 OCT, 10.30AM
TE AO MĀRAMA SOUTH ATRIUM
FREE, NO BOOKINGS REQUIRED**

Come and join us as we welcome **Tau Malolo ha Niue**, an inspiring Niuean youth group, named after a specific kind of fishing net commonly used in Niue. Tau Malolo ha Niue will be celebrating Vagahau Niue, Niuean language week through the sharing of language, music, song and dance from Niue.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

Our **Te Marae Ātea Māori Court** and the **Pacific Galleries** are closed, but there are plenty of Pasifika stories and taonga on display to experience in the open galleries and exhibits around the Museum.

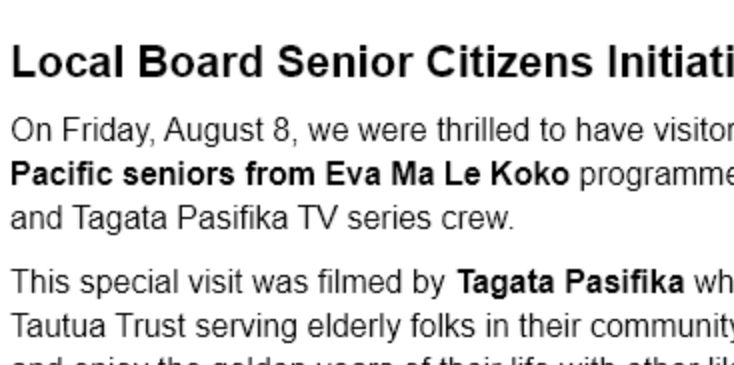
Tāmaki Herenga Waka gallery on the ground floor features many historical Pasifika stories.

For example, the TSMV *Matua* boat that many of our Pasifika families travelled to and from Aotearoa on, 1936 – 1968.

Or the Mission Bay story of our Solomon Islands missionary students.

And the Polynesian Panthers historical Know Your Rights booklet, hat and jacket.

Plus, many more stories for you to explore.

[EXPLORE TĀMAKI HERENGA WAKA](#)

Mana: Protest in Print

**SAINSBURY HORROCKS GALLERY, LEVEL 2
FREE FOR AUCKLANDERS**

Have you visited the Mana: Protest in Print exhibition yet, on now at Tāmaki Paenga Hira?

This exhibition places a spotlight on the groundbreaking newspaper that platformed Māori and Pacific voices through some of Aotearoa New Zealand's most defining years in activism.

[CHECK IT OUT](#)

Community Visits



Local Board Senior Citizens Initiative - 360 Tautua Trust

On Friday, August 8, we were thrilled to have visitors from the Ōtara-Papatoetoe local boards with **22 Pacific seniors** from **Eva Ma Le Koko** programme facilitated by **360 Tautua Trust**, local board members and Tagata Pasifika TV series crew.

This special visit was filmed by **Tagata Pasifika** who focused on the important galuega (work) that 360 Tautua Trust serving elderly folks in their community and ensuring that they have a safe space to socialise and enjoy the golden years of their life with other like-minded seniors. Auckland Councillors Lotu Fuli (Manukau Ward) and Li'amaia Lorenzo Kaisara joined us for the visit.

Our special visitors experienced a bespoke Pacific tour to enable connection and value as part of our Matafatafa Aho plan. They spent quality time in the **Mana: Protest in Print** exhibition. This was a heartfelt experience for elders as they recognised old family friends and family members in pictures displayed in Mana.

The CEO of 360 Tautua, Romana Fetu (née Autagavaia) was emotional when she found an old article on the interactive display in Mana that touched on her late father, Rev. Elder Saleatulia Autagavaia as the newly ordained Fale'au (minister) for Ekalesia Fa'apopotoga Kerisiano Samoa (EFKS) Ōtāhuhu in 1977.

The seniors also visited **Nga Mata Ngaro Tuarua** (World War II Hall of Memories) and **Atarau** (Stories of the NZ Wars) before their final stop at Tāmaki Herenga Waka, Auckland Stories. For most of the seniors it was their first time visiting a museum and they loved it!



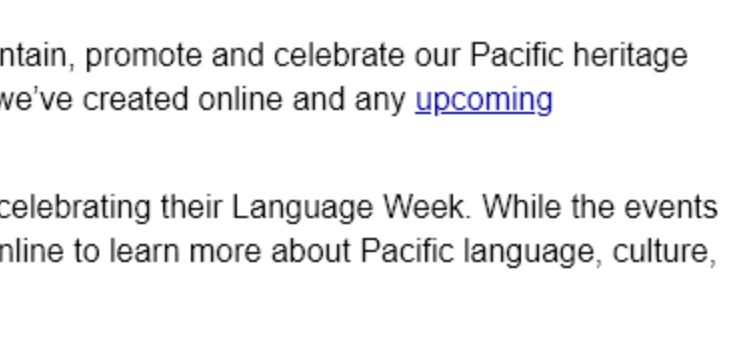
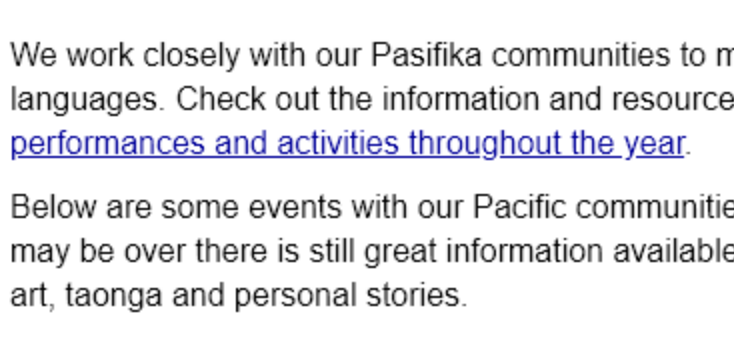
Tahiti Government Minister visit

On August the 30th the Government of French Polynesia (Mā'ohi Nui) Minister of Education and Culture, **M. Ronny Teripala** and three delegates visited the Museum to connect with their Tahitian taonga and our staff. We have an MOU with the **The Musée de Tahiti et des Îles, Tahitian Te Fare Manaha** (the national museum of French Polynesia) and this visit strengthened that relationship and invigorated connection with taonga and people.

Engaging the next generation of museum professionals

On 23rd July 2025 we welcomed students studying the **Museums 702 paper**, *Inside the Museum*, from the **Waipapa Taumata Rau University of Auckland**. This paper provides a foundation in the best practices, critical issues and the future of museology and to introduce students to a variety of museum collection-based activities through experiential education at Tāmaki Paenga Hira Auckland War Memorial Museum.

Students particularly valued the opportunity to learn directly from museum professionals, engage in hands-on and behind-the-scenes activities, and experience the course in a real museum environment. Many described the course as engaging, inspiring, and deeply informative, highlighting the effectiveness of connecting theory with day-to-day museum practice.



AUT Office of Pacific Advancement visit

On September 16th the AUT Office of Pacific Advancement visited the Museum and some of the Pacific taonga, Mana Protest in Print exhibition and our special **Te Aho Mutunga Kore** (textile and fibre knowledge exchange centre for Māori and Pasifika communities).

It was an exciting day of sharing stories and knowledge, and in return, the Museum was gifted a copy of the brand new **AUT Moanaroa Pacific Research Guidelines** to add to our publicly accessible Research Library.

Pacific Language Weeks 2025

We work closely with our Pasifika communities to maintain, promote and celebrate our Pacific heritage languages. Check out the information and resources we've created online and any [upcoming performances and activities throughout the year](#).

Below are some events with our Pasifika communities celebrating their Language Week. While the events may be over there is still great information available online to learn more about Pacific language, culture, art, taonga and personal stories.

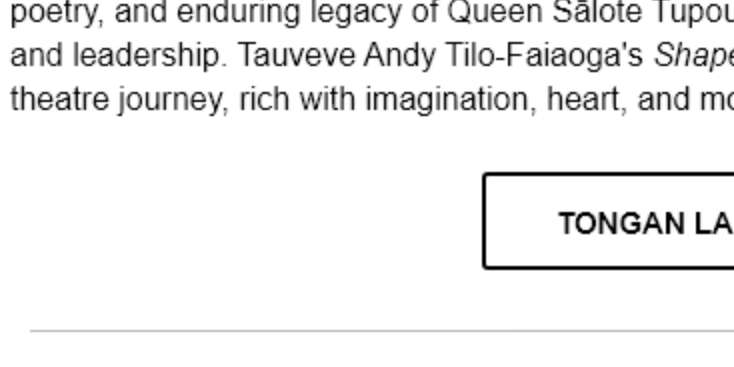
[VIEW ALL PACIFIC LANGUAGE WEEKS](#)

Vanuatu Bislama Lanwis Wik: Vanuatu Bislama Language Week

This was a very special and exciting moment for our Vanuatu community and Museum to come together to [celebrate Vanuatu Bislama Language Week](#) through a community gathering to showcase culture, language and taonga.

Well known for string bands, the evening opened with Vanuatu rhythms, song and dance, including very young Vanuatu dancers.

This was a rare opportunity to see some of the communities privately owned taonga (artefacts) and paintings, each holding a personal connection and story to their culture. Expert weavers demonstrated Vanuatu weaving techniques and invited our audience to join them. It was a wonderful time of celebration that enriched our knowledge of the Bislama language and culture, one of the three official languages of Vanuatu.

[VANUATU LANGUAGE WEEK](#)

Uiike Kātoanga'ī 'o e Lea Faka-Tonga: Tongan Language Week

On the 23rd August **TUAIAKAPAU**, a dynamic Tongan dance group from Manurewa High School of 50 passionate students deeply rooted in Tongan culture, performed at the Museum to close **Tongan Language Week**. With a shared love for **faiva fakatonga** (traditional Tongan performing arts) and **hiva fakatonga** (Tongan singing), this group showcased the richness of their heritage through powerful dance and song. Their performances feature traditional Tongan dances such as the graceful tau'olunga and the energetic mako, both of which are integral to Tongan celebrations and rituals.

Faiva at the Museum gave us all a sneak peek at two new Tongan contemporary dance works from the Pacific Dance Festival's 2025 programme. *Kuini* by Lyncia Muller, is a visually striking tribute to the life, poetry, and enduring legacy of Queen Sālote Tupou III — Tonga's beloved matriarch of arts, language, and leadership. *Tauveve Andy Tilo-Faiaoga's Shapua in the Clouds* is a vibrant intergenerational dance-theatre journey, rich with imagination, heart, and movement.

[TONGAN LANGUAGE WEEK](#)

Papua Niugini Tok Pisin Wik: Papua New Guinea Language Week

Bilum Tok Stori: A celebration of language, culture and craft an evening of storytelling and connection as we [celebrated Papua Niugini Tok Pisin Wik, Papua New Guinea Pidgin Language Week](#). Tok stori with bilum makers Jescinha Waim and Gloria Simon as they shared stories behind their bilum making practice, talking about the rich traditions, unique designs, and cultural significance of bilum making.

[PAPUA NEW GUINEA LANGUAGE WEEK](#)

Te reo Māori Kūki 'Āirani: Cook Islands Language Week

In celebration of Māori Kūki 'Āirani, Cook Islands language week, we [profiled writer, editor and politician, Nihi Vini](#) and his 1977-1978 literary contribution to the Tāmaki Makaurau newspaper, *Mana*. The 2025 theme for Cook Islands Māori Language Week was 'Ātutui'ia au ki te raurau a tōku matakeinanga – "Connect me to the offerings of my people".

Written in eight languages, the newspaper Mana was a meeting place for many communities engaged in social justice and Māori and Pacific story sovereignty.

Nihi Vini was editor at Mana from 1977-1978 and worked alongside many of the other Mana editors at the Pacific Islanders' Educational Resource Centre (PIERC). He was born in Tongareva Penrhyn, and studied in Western Samoa, Fiji, and Aotearoa.

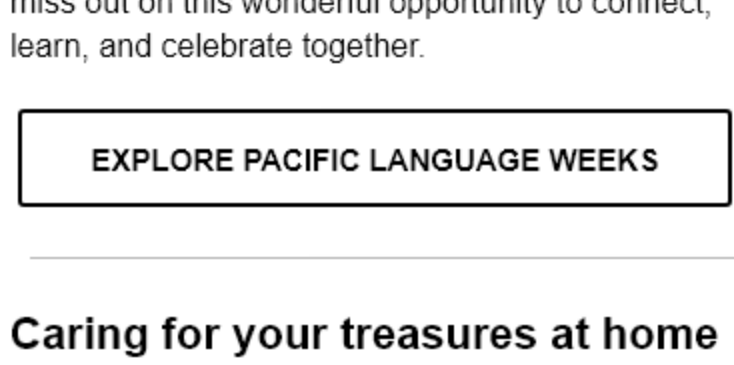
[COOK ISLANDS LANGUAGE WEEK](#)

Collections

Te Aho Mutunga Kore is our welcoming textile and fibre knowledge exchange hub for Māori and Pasifika communities, launched in 2023. The name translates to "the eternal thread", reflecting our commitment to fostering lasting connections.

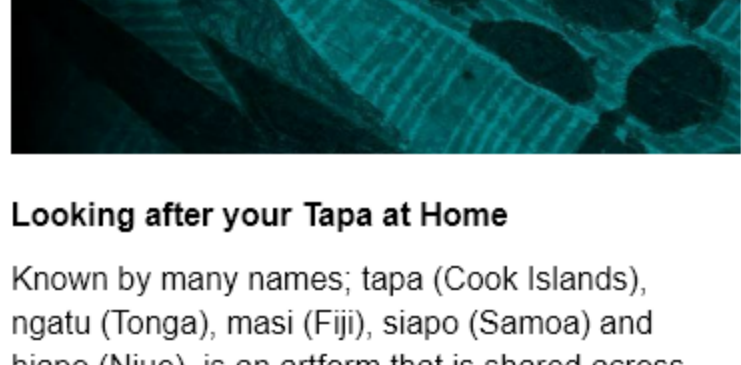
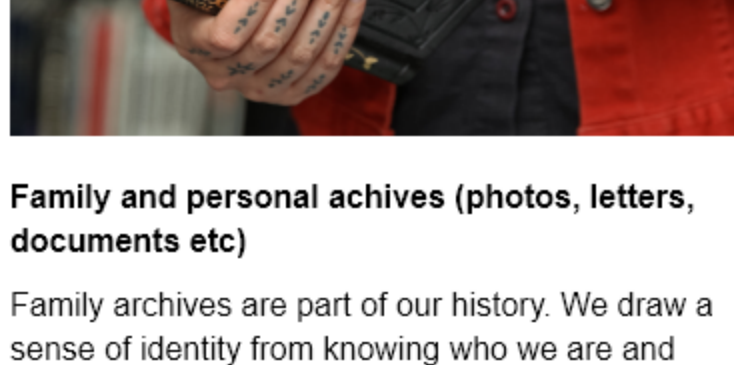
We'd love for you to join us during our community drop-in times throughout the remaining [Pacific Language Weeks](#) this year.

Be sure to make an appointment so you don't miss out on this wonderful opportunity to connect, learn, and celebrate together.

[EXPLORE PACIFIC LANGUAGE WEEKS](#)

Caring for your treasures at home

The Museum shares free [online toolkits in 9 Pasifika languages](#), Te Reo Māori, and English to help families access Museum guidelines for caring for precious items at home.



Family and personal archives (photos, letters, documents etc)

Family archives are part of our history. We draw a sense of identity from knowing who we are and where we've come from. Archives may include photographs, albums, letters, and important documents. Handling and storage of our family collections directly impacts how long they last. These guidelines will help you preserve your family archives for future generations.

This information is available in Te Reo Māori, Te Reo Kūki 'Āirani, Vosa Vakaviti, Te Taetae Ni Kiribati, Vagahau Niue, Fāeag Rotuam, Gagana Samoa, Te Gagana Tokelau, Lea Faka-Tonga, Te Gana Tuvalu.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Looking after your Tapa at Home

Known by many names; tapa (Cook Islands), ngatu (Tonga), masi (Fiji), siapo (Samoa) and hiapo (Niue), is an artifact that is shared across the Pacific. The cloth itself, made from natural fibres, is vulnerable to wear and tear, and the impacts of time. Here, we're sharing tips and tricks to help protect your precious tapa and keep it safe to be passed down through the generations.

This toolkit is available in five languages: Vosa Vakaviti, Vagahau Niue, Gagana Samoa, Lea Faka-Tonga, and English.

[LEARN HOW TO TAKE CARE FOR TAPA](#)

Stories

Update about Matafatafa Aho Pacific Artist in Residence

We have loved working with the Museum's inaugural Pacific Artist Resident, **Benjamin Work**, as part of this innovative initiative designed to cultivate profound creative engagement with our Documentary Heritage collections, **funded by Creative NZ** and on offer over three years from 2025. Benjamin has completed the three-month collections connection research phase of the residency and is now into the art making phase.

Benjamin's new art work will be **launched on the 12th November in the Research Library** Level 2 of the Museum. The library is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10am to 3pm.



Ti a bo, tekeraoi, farewell

We recently said goodbye to a long-standing member of our Pacific Advisory Group, **Charles Enoka** from the Kiribati community. We thank him for sharing all his deep knowledge, for his advocacy for Kiribati and his Pacific advice over the last four years.

Our Pacific Advisory Group (PAG) is made up of ten members from the Pacific communities of Auckland. They are diverse and provide on-going advice to the Museum on matters relating to all things Pacific, especially the Matafatafa Aho Plan.

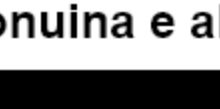
[LEARN MORE](#)

Prizes to be Won!

Remember to take a photo at home with your favourite taonga, tell us what it is called and why it is your favourite. Send it to us by email at lemonagosi@aucklandmuseum.com

A few chosen photos and personal stories will pop up on this part of the newsletter in the future. Some special prizes will be given out to names randomly drawn from those who send us their photos in December in time for Christmas.

Monuina e aho!

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