

PACIFIC ADVISORY GROUP ANNUAL REPORT

for 2011-2012





Pacific Advisory Group Members. In this photograph: standing from left Violet Ekenasio, Manuila Tausi, Fetu Ole Moana Tamapeau, Maria Solouota, Teloma Munro, Dan Kauraka, Siofilisi Tafo'ou, seated from left Martha Samasoni, Anthony Leaupepe, Tina McNicholas, Stacey Kokaua-Balfour, Mailigi Hetutu, Councillor Leonie Gill.
Missing from this photograph: Malakai Jiko and Sainimili Pouvalu

Talofa lava, Taloha Ni, Talofa, Bula Vinaka, Kia Orana, Malo e le lei, Fakalofa atu and warm Pacific greetings from the Pacific Advisory Group.

1. Introduction

The Pacific Advisory Group is very grateful for the opportunity to give feedback and engage in meaningful dialogue as a part of the Wellington City Council family.

We are very unique in that we are the only Pacific Advisory Group actually elected by the community and as such we have a mandate and responsibility to advocate for our Pasifika communities in a meaningful and results-based way.

Her Worship the Mayor Celia Wade-Brown has a passion for our city as a creative, diverse and ecologically-friendly place to live. In this way we are proud to have her as our leader because these are values that are rooted in the culture of Pasifika (including Aotearoa) and its peoples.

The group would like to thank the Council for their commitment to representation of the views and needs of the Pasifika communities in Wellington.

The group would also like to acknowledge the support of Councillor Leonie Gill as our portfolio holder and Councillors Ian McKinnon and Paul Eagle who frequently attend the PAG Meetings.

Wellington City Council Pacific Advisory Group (PAG) welcomes the opportunity to report on activity and progress in the first year of this group's term.

2. Composition of group

Fourteen members were elected to PAG in May 2011. Since that time three new members were elected to the group in May and June 2012 to replace members who have resigned.

PAG members as at July 2012:

- *Cook Islands Representatives:*
Dan Kauraka (Deputy Chair)
Stacey Kokaua-Balfour (elected June 2012)
- *Fijian Representatives:*
Malakai Jiko
Tina McNicholas (Chair)
- *Niuean Representatives:*
Mailigi Hetutu
Maria Clare Solouota
- *Samoan Representatives:*
Violet Ekenasio
Fetu-ole-Moana Tamapeau
Anthony Leaupepe (Deputy Chair)
- *Tokelauan Representatives:*
Martha Samasoni
(one vacancy)
- *Tongan Representatives:*
Sainimili Pouvalu
Siofilisi Latu Taufu'ou
- Tuvalu Representatives (elected May 2012)
Teloma Munro
Manuila Tausi

There remains one vacancy for a second representative for Tokelau. Unfortunately the group has not been able to identify anyone who is willing to stand for election for that community.

3. Activity

Apart from regular monthly meetings, activity from June 2011 to July 2012 has varied from the public events of the Pacific Forums and the Pasifika Festival to a selection of specific community initiatives. A summary of activity follows.

3.1 Pacific Forums

The Pacific Advisory Group have appreciated the opportunity to have more input into the content and shape of the Pacific Forums and have taken on encouraging the community to attend this important opportunity to have the Pasifika Voice heard. The Council has taken on board the advice offered by the group on providing a more Pasifika flavour into the forums with performances and having more involvement from Pasifika church ministers has benefited the perception of the Forums in the community. The Forums are now seen as much more Pasifika friendly.

Over 130 people attended the Pacific Forum at Kamala's in Wellington Zoo in November 2011. This represented a considerable increase on previous attendance numbers. The PAG members took on the responsibility for making sure that the Pasifika community knew about the Forum and to encourage the community to attend. The topic covered was the Next 10 Years in Wellington and formed part of the early engagement on the Wellington City Council Long Term Plan.

The second Pacific Forum was held in May 2012 with approximately 85 members of the Pasifika communities attending. PAG members again took on prompting attendance through their communities and churches. This represents an increase in attendance over previous years. It was also pleasing to see many new faces.

One of the goals of the PAG members is to encourage attendance from younger people and this has been taken into account in the planning for the next Pacific Forum scheduled for November.

3.2 Community communication

The group have taken on raising awareness of PAG in the community and networking with all facets of their communities. A Facebook page has been set up and Fetu Ole Moana Tamapeau in particular has been active in promoting its use and posting items of interest. The Page now has 62 "likes" with a potential reach of over 18,000. Facebook is a useful way of connecting with a range of people in the community and we are intending to expand use to communicate with the various Pasifika Communities.

3.3 Advice to the Council and submissions made

As a group and as individuals PAG have had a number of discussions with Council officers on policies and have made submissions.

Policies and plans that have been covered:

- Older people's policy review
- Long Term Plan
- Local Government Reform
- Contribution to the WCC submission on the bus review.

3.4 Positively Pasifika Festival

Attendance at the Festival was over 10,000 people and feedback on the day was very positive from both participants and visitors.

Following this year's Festival PAG submitted a report including suggestions for the future. The suggestions have been taken into consideration by the Community Events Team and the suggestions incorporated into initial plans for the 2013 Festival. Planning for the 2013 Festival has been scheduled to begin with a workshop for PAG members in August 2012.

The Positively Pasifika Festival has now been scheduled to be held annually on the Saturday of Wellington Anniversary weekend.

4. Partnership with other organisations

Presentations from a number of other organisations have been received. The emphasis in these presentations has been how these organisations interact with the Pasifika Communities in Wellington and how PAG Members can be of use in liaising between the organisations and their communities.

A good example of this initiative is the presentation from **Capital + Coast DHB** when the Director of Pacific Health Unit and her team gave an overview of their work with Pasifika Communities in improving health outcomes and discussed with PAG members how the key messages for the Pasifika Community could be disseminated.

4.1 Other initiatives

Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs – PAG were consulted and gave feedback on the Pacific Languages Framework and organised a Pacific Youth Fono so that the MPIA team could consult with young people in Wellington.

Statistics NZ gave a presentation on the Pasifika population in Wellington and the profile of that population. They also explained that the Pasifika population is under represented in the census returns and discussed how this could be addressed in the census to be undertaken in 2013.

Electoral Commission presentation explained what they had undertaken to encourage Pasifika people to enrol for elections and to vote. A useful discussion followed with PAG members giving a Pasifika perspective and expressing concerns that Pasifika people have about the electoral roll.

Te Papa Tongarewa Pacific Team presented information on events that they have specially targeted at Pasifika communities and also agreed to come to the Pasifika Festival to demonstrate crafts and undertook a number of workshops.

NZQA gave a presentation on their Pasifika Strategy and the current review. PAG members gave a useful perspective that will be used in the review.

NZTA attended the meeting and discussed the proposals for the changes to the Gorge to Airport route and took the group's concerns.

PT Spine study – special focus group arranged to capture the Pacific Community view.

One member was instrumental in the Vahine Orana submission to the Draft Long Term Plan including a well received oral submission.

5. Community activity

5.1 Samoan community representatives Anthony, Violet and Fetu Ole Moana have organised or been involved with:

- Samoan community special meeting to formulate a Samoan community response to the Local Government reform consultation.
- Rates rebate information presentation to elders
- Emergency planning workshop
- Grants workshop
- Presentation from Sarah Free, Energy Advisor, "Insulation and Heating and Curtainbank"
- Presentation from Raewyn Weir, Registrar of Electors, Electoral Enrolment Centre to check enrolment forms and register electors.
- Involvement of Samoan community during Rugby world cup

5.1.1 Working with Pasifika Vahine Orama Newtown on its agenda for 2012:

- Women's Health Campaign - targets women and their families (last year was a focus on breast screening)
- E3 Workshop Initiative (Exceeding Expectations Every time) - targets young Pasifika women in various church youth groups
- Encouraging WCC to approve fruit trees for Strathmore playground, beautify a bleak park frequented by young people of the Strathmore community (including many Pasifika people), encourage 5+ a day, providing free fruit for children without and contribute to a proactive community action and well-being.
- Pasifika Women Talk - Event featuring successful Pasifika women telling their stories

5.2 Fijian representatives Tina McNicholas and Malakai Jiko community activity:

- Zumba classes continue to attract wide range of people
- Fijian Language school holiday programme
- Malakai Jiko has been undertaking Emergency management volunteer training at WREMO to be able to pass advice to Fijian community and assist with emergency planning for the community.

5.5 Tuvaluan representatives Manuila and Teloma joined PAG in May:

- Planning for the next celebration of Tuvalu's Independence Day in October and for representation at the next Pasifika Festival.

5.6 Tokelauan community, representative Martha Samasoni:

- Chairs the Wellington Pacific Arts Network attending monthly meetings for the Wellington arts community also made an oral submission to the Arts and Culture Strategy for WCC
- Assistance in planning Expo day as part of the annual Easter tournament
- Regular interviews broadcast on Tokelau access radio show
- Offered assistance as MC Pacific Artists Collaboration Village as well as celebration of Samoan Language week at Te Papa and at the Positively Pasifika Festival

5.7 Tongan Community representatives: Mrs Sanimili Pouvalu and Mr Siofilisi Latu Ta'ufu'ou:

- A proposal for a Pan Pacific Hall or Multicultural Centre was first lodged in 2009 by the Former PAG members from the Tongan Community Core Group Makatu'unga He 'Ofa in Wellington. It has been discussed at the Forum and supported by the wider Pasifika Communities at the Pacific Forum and we are waiting for an official response from the City Council.
- Makatuunga He 'Ofa Tongan Community was recognised as an active and vibrant community for their activity throughout the Rugby World Cup 2011 in organizing and supporting the Tongan Rugby team Ikaile Tahi.
 - Activity included working with Te Papa to run the Tonga Day, performing twice at the Fan Zone for the RWC 2011 Opening Game and when the Tongan Team Ikaile Tahi played in Wellington with supported by a grant from Wellington City Council.
 - The community also orchestrated the welcome of the Tongan Team at the airport with the Tongan Brass Band followed by a feast at Wesley Church Hall. A fundraising Dinner at Whare Waka was hosted by Hon. Winnie Laban. The community also provided the Feast to celebrate the win over France and to farewell the Team.
- Ran an emergency planning training seminar and are looking at running an emergency drill with the community.
- Ran safety awareness for the children when they are going to school - mainly when parents are dropping off and picking them up before and after school.
- Homework classes still going every Monday for all age group & the Tongan Community MTHO has given out eleven laptops to 11 different families they have no Computers at home, to help with their children's Studies. This was helped from the fees that we received from the Pasifika Festival performance & Stall Holders and other cultural performances. We are also fortunate that the Lottery Grants Board is helping us to support our Homework Centre with tutor and venue payments.
- In addition to our cultural performances the group has been able to organise and provide some of our youth to help out and perform at the Pacific Forum in November and at the Creative New Zealand Arts Awards.
- Our Community have identified the most needy families in our Tongan Community and we have been supporting them with donations of food, clothes, vouchers and money. Fund raising was held for the people that came and stayed in Wellington for awhile from Christchurch after the earthquake last year.

- A Special Memorial Service was organised by Makatu'unga He 'ofa Tongan Community Wellington Inc to commemorate the Death of the King of Tonga, Late King George Tupou V. It was held on Tuesday 27 March 2012 at the Michael Fowler Centre. The Tongan Community appreciated the assistance and participation from Kaumatua Sam and June Jackson, Her Worship the Mayor of Wellington Celia Wade-Brown, Deputy Mayor Ian McKinnon and Councillors and the assistance from the Council officers in Consultation and Engagement and the Grants team of Wellington City Council for the venue grant to make this happened.
- Following the Memorial Service in March, the Makatu'unga He 'Ofa organised a High Tea to mark the end the 100 nights mourning period of the late King Tupou V and to say thank you to everyone who was involved. We were honoured that Her Worship the Mayor Celia Wade-Brown, the Deputy Mayor and his wife Jenny , the Kaumatua Sam and June Jackson and most of the Tongan Church Leaders who took part in the Memorial services.
- The Wellington Tongan Core Group have just got a contract with the Ministry of Education to run a Tongan language development program for children between the ages of 5 – 9years for two years.
- Siofilisi Taufo'ou, currently one of the Tongan representatives on PAG, has been appointed Deputy Chair of The Tongan Council Committee. This Committee is for all the Tongans in the Wellington Region including Hutt Valley & Porirua. If Local Government amalgamation happened for Super City in the near future he will be in a position to work together with Wellington City Council and the Tongan Council Committee for what it's best for Tongan who are living in the capital of New Zealand.

5.8 Niuean representatives Maria Solouta and Mailigi Hetutu Community activity:

- Language DVD launched this year that is intended to be used in the home and used real people having real conversations. Niuean language classes have been established in the community.
- The Niue Arts and Cultural Festival held in Niue for the second time has been very successful and a contingent from the Wellington Niuean community's participation highlights young people involvement.
- Workshops in craft, song and weaving continue on the Niuean calendar. This initiative is designed to focus on using and learning the language in the community.
- Wellington Niuean Speaking Congregation is unique as this is the only Niuean speaking congregation in the Wellington region and is now meeting and worshipping in the new premises of St Giles in Kilbirnie, having vacated 235 Adelaide Road. Church strategy is being developed to encourage younger people to remain in the church and have the church remain relevant to the new generation. A new Niuean Minister was appointed and inducted to lead the Niuean community, representatives of the Council supported by being in attendance.
- Niueans in the greater Wellington Region are preparing for the 39th celebrations of the Niue and NZ Constitution On the Labour Weekend in October.

5.9 Cook Islands representatives Dan Kauraka and Stacey Kokaua-Balfour community activity:

- Continued work and maintenance on the Cook Islands Community Hall - Installed new windows, organised working bee to tidy up surrounding grounds leased from the Council and purchased new ovens for self-catering parties who use the hall.
- Preparation for Cook Islands independence celebration August 4.
- Home insulation programme promoted to the community
- Talk back through local radio to raise awareness and encourage submissions on proposed amalgamation of councils within the Wellington Region.
- Cook Islands childcare "Te Punanga Reo Kuki Airani" featured in Dompost in Kiwi Bank 10th Anniversary celebrations.

6.0 Conclusion

It is our pleasure to present this report to demonstrate the close ties and communication between Wellington City Council and the Pasifika Communities in Wellington.

The PAG members are committed to ensure our communities are well informed of council activities and decisions. We are aware that our communities have provided numerous submissions to council strategic documents plus requests made for WCC to support Pasifika community development.

There have been requests by the community at our Pacific Forum and a previous submission by the Tongan community and supported by PAG that there be a Pasifika Fale. To date no formal response has been received from council. Due to the considerable interest in the community and the numerous requests made we ask that Wellington City Council provides a formal written statement for our communities.

Furthermore, we noted that Wellington City Council does not currently have a Pasifika Strategic Action Plan. PAG Members feel this is gap that as a group we can help fill. It is the intention of PAG to begin work on drafting a Pasifika Strategic Action plan for the next 3 years in collaboration with WCC to serve as WCC and PAG's roadmap for priority activities in 2013 and beyond for Pasifika communities. This is aligned to the Local Government Act 2002 which brought in a new mandate and role for local authorities to promote the wellbeing of their communities. Goals and objectives will align to the WCC's LTP.

We are aware that WCC went through a couple of restructure activities in the past months and consequently Pasifika workers lost their jobs through this process. We are concerned that Pasifika workforce within WCC has declined and there are no Pasifika people working in the community engagement sector. PAG recommends that WCC prioritise recruiting Pasifika staff with the right skill mix and retention of current Pasifika staff in order to ensure a diverse, appropriately skilled and engaged workforce which is well prepared to respond to future challenges and to provide a high quality service to the community it serves.

Her worship Mayor Celia Wade-Brown has expressed her commitment to 'green' eco principles and Wellington City Council CEO Garry Poole has expressed his values as a civil servant – being of service to the people. These are the very values that are intrinsic to Pasifika culture and PAG members feel continually demonstrating these shared values will benefit and strengthen the relationship between Council and the Pasifika communities.

APPENDIX 1

In the spirit of all of us moving up together as one we make these requests and look forward to continuing to grow our diverse relationships as proud Pasifika, Palagi, Asian, Mediterranean and African citizens of Wellington Poneke.

Our diversity, creativity and caring nature for one another is what makes us unique.
Ia manuia!