

Pacific Islands Community Trust host NPH PHO Partners Hui

On the 31st August 2006 at 9:30am, the Pacific Islands Community hosted the PHO Partnership meeting at the Army Hall in Gisborne. After the meeting, the “Ouau a Loau – Kava Ceremony” was presented by the Tongan Community with the participation of the PHO partners.

The story of the Kava symbolises these values and beliefs;

Fe'ofa'aki	Love
Faka'apa'apa	Respect/Honour
Fetokoni'aki	Care for each other
Fai Fatongia	Commitment



Tena koutou na whanaunga o Tonga I whakanui tenei ra whakahirahira e paana ki o koutou tikanga, kawa, hitori.

The Pacific people also in sadness hosted a memorial service for the late King Taufa'ahau Tupou IV on Friday 15th September 2006 at the Methodist Church – Gisborne. The various Tongan Congregations came together in unity with other Pacific nations to mourn the loss of the Tongan People.

“KUO TO AE LA'A 'O TONGA” – “THE SUN HAS SET IN TONGA”

The Tongan people got together again on Tuesday the 19th August 2006 at the Methodist Church to watch King Taufa'ahau Tupou IV's funeral service which was televised by the Maori Television. The tradition of the Kava was presented throughout the day in honour of the late King's funeral. We would like to take this opportunity to pass on our gratitude to the Maori Television for enabling the Tongan people in becoming part of the funeral service via the live television broadcast – “Malo 'aupito”

12

Kava is the name of the girl offered as a sacrifice by her parents as a gift of honour to the King of Tonga when the King stopped over at 'Eueiki Island. This is the island the parents have taken their daughter who was suffering from a rare skin disease to seek healing. The parents believed that the unspoilt environment of 'Eueiki was going to be the cure for their only daughter Kava.

After the sacrificial offering of their daughter, from the burial ground where Kava was buried, two plants sprouted; one at the head ('ulu) and one at the feet (va'e). The one at the head was called Kava (after the girl) and the one at the feet was called To. Kava plant taste bitter and To is sweet and they symbolise the two sides to life – bitter and sweet, happiness and sadness, prosperity and poverty, good and bad, and so forth.

For every ceremonial ritual, these two plants must be presented; the tradition is incomplete and meaningless without them.

Approximately 30 members from the PHO partners attended this hui. The Kava ritual was followed by a presentation outlining their customs, rituals and history.

