

# STORIES OF THE PACIFICA MAMAS & PAPAS

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Their contribution to pacific art and culture in  
New Zealand – The oral history.

PRESENTED  
BY

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# THE STORY BEGINS

Who are the Pacifica Mamas & Papas



# IN THE BEGINNING



Image of Corban Estate buildings

- In the late 80's, a small group of Pacific artists would meet regularly to share, revive, learn and grow Pacific arts and culture in West Auckland. Despite having no official home base the group affectionately known as the “Mamas and Papas” worked with a number of community based organisations and groups with a focus on the arts.
- Their efforts and contributions within the community did not go unnoticed and soon they were given a small space to at the Corban Estate to develop and continue their work.

# THE OFFICIAL TIMELINE

- 1996 – Pacific Workshops
- 1996 – November - Pacifica Living Arts Festival
- 2004 – April – FIRE
- 2004 – May – Pacifica Arts Centre
- 2007 – Jun – Pacifica Mamas Arts & Cultural Trust formed
- 2009 – Sept – Sheds Condemned
- 2010 – Oct – Demolition
- 2012 – Nov – Moanaroa, a new home base is opened.

# THROUGH THE EYES OF THE MAMAS & PAPAS



- The Oral Histories of the founders of the Pacifica Mamas & Papas effectively breathed life the official timeline
- The oral history project aimed to document the oral histories and personal narratives of the Pacifica Mamas and Papas founding members.
- The project was an initiative of the Pacifica Arts Centre community, supported by Unitec and Auckland Libraries.

# THE SHARED HISTORIES

- Stories of the early days covered arrival to a new land, settling into the country, and the issues they each had to face.
- Stories of the Pacifica Arts Centre spoke of the very humble beginnings – and ‘making do’ with whatever they could.



Images of ‘condemned sheds’ that were dressed and beautified to represent the Pacifica Mamas & Papas

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# THE STORIES OF THEIR WORK

- Pacifica Workshops & Education Programmes provided the Mamas and Papas with the opportunity to preserve and pass on their pacific stories, while connecting with communities.



# FORGING STRONG RELATIONSHIPS

- Sharing pacific stories with young people in Aotearoa helped to bridge gaps and gave the Pacifica Mamas & Papas fulfilment.





# THE HANDS ON APPROACH – THE PACIFIC WAY

- The Mamas and Papas describe the many workshops they held all over Aotearoa - and the countless children and adults they came into contact along the way.
- Their hands-on approach was a proven success and the Mamas & Papas teach 6000 school students every year.



# LEARNING FROM THE AUTHENTIC SOURCE

- Whether it be weaving, storytelling, drumming or dancing, the Mamas and Papas deliver their programmes with the confidence that they share knowledge from the authentic source.



**A NEW HOME FOR THE  
PACIFICA MAMAS & PAPAS**

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# THE PACIFICA ARTS CENTRE

- After close to 12 months of building, the Pacifica Mamas & Papas blessed their new home in 2012. After much deliberation, they named the new facilities MOANAROA.



# THE ACHIEVEMENTS

- The Pacifica Mamas and Papas have been recognised in recent years for their contribution to Pacific Arts in New Zealand.



- Winners of the CNZ Pacific Heritage Arts Award 2012
- Winners of the Arts Access Corrections Community Award 2015
- Project Vaka Fa'aola – Springhill Prison
- Mary Ama awarded Companion of the New Zealand Merit Of Order 2017

# CONNECTING WITH THE WORLD

- The Pacifica Mamas & Papas have been effective in making ties around the world through cultural exchange initiatives and both individual and collaborative projects.
- Providing recorded oral histories helps to connect the Pacifica Mamas and Papas with even more people worldwide.



The Pacifica Mamas & Papas - Arts in Samoa



The Pacifica Mamas - Pacific Stories In India



The Pacifica Mamas - Cook Islands Tour



# THANK YOU

- MAHALO – HAWAII
- FA'AFETAI LAVA – SAMOA
- MALO AUPITO – TONGA
- VINAKA VAKA LEVU – FIJI
- FAKAAUE LAHI – NIUE
- MAURUURU – TAHITI
- FAKAFETAI LASI – TUVALU
- TUBWA KOR - NAURU
- KO BATI N RAB'A – KIRIBATI
- MEITAKI MAATA – COOK ISLANDS



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