

From the Editor

Welcome one and all! It has been an extreme labour of love to get to complete 2006 issues with anticipation of getting the PHD out on time without compromising the quality and wearing patience thin. A lot of thanks and also welcome to the staff of the new Pacific Health Research Council of the Pacific Ltd (HRCP).

I hope in future issues we may be able to bring to you the incorporation documentations and the associated stories and rationale. Suffice to say at this time that we, the labourers of love are ecstatic about the state of play and the implied autonomy and potential for self-determination.

After looking for a guest editorial Dr Giuseppe G. Cuboni has risen to the occasion. This gentle victim of circumstances and arrogant ignorance have risen above petty personalities to take the high road for Public Health in the Pacific. Congratulation and may the Reading Force be with you too!

Many concerns and consternations afloat from the editorial desk over the Australianisation of Public Health in the Pacific. There must be a limit to the powers of cheque diplomacy and the off-handed treatment of us aborigines and indigenes.

In this issue Rheumatic Heart Disease and Rheumatic Fever in the Pacific are prominent with a stiff second from circumcision of boys. The latter of course is littered with emotionalism and the review article here is to introduce scientific evidence and Pacific contexts onto the milieu before ridiculing traditional and religious rites. Also abstracted is an international review on circumcision, HIV and other sensitive matters.

Of note are the inclusion of students' papers concerning Marijuana, Kava and PBL among physiotherapy students. articles from the heydays of Public Health

at FSMed, these papers, were written before the new season of the desperate housewife, employed by the husband on the apron string, to replace the English course LL114 of USP. This is not nepotism its just the safest " kisses to the Nederends "

This issue of Public Health 3 also welcomes new supporters and sponsors of Pacific Health Dialog: the Pasifika Medical Association of New Zealand; the Tongan Nurses Association of New Zealand; and the Doctorate of Pasifika @ Massey, Massey University. These have joined the PHD flock in the belief that PHD still and will continue to matter.

On the back cover of this issue is an introduction to an instrument of the Pasifika @ Massey Strategy to conduct research and translate researches to academic utility and community development. This page will be used to introduce the sponsors and supporters of PHD from the last 13 years and beyond.

Last but not least, this issue sees one of the first articles to hit the Pacific academic press from the OPIC Project. We at PHD waits for TRIP to rise for the occasion. Of immense importance is the PHD new web page <http://www.pacificrc.org/archive.asp> which will soon boasts of 13 years of 26 PHD issues. Please visit the webpage and advise us of how to get to between better and perfect. In the 2007 we will be seeing new innovations and developments to make PHD increasingly and indispensably matter. Many thanks to Shirley Prasad and the staff of HRCP for this initiative.

May the Reading Force be with you and may Pacific Labour of Love matter.

Thirteen years ago PHD Matters (PHD,1994; 1(1): p83 stated,

"The question is not whether to change.

The questions are: Which direction? and how fast?"