News from the “Transnational Pacific Health through the lens of TB” research project.
Greetings, Talofa and Kia Orana

We have undertaken to keep in touch with the people, organisations and government departments with whom we have consulted as part of this project. We hope that this newsletter, interspersed with personal contacts, will go some way to doing this. Thank you for your support and your interest.

Students and scholarship
Our most important and good news is that Debi Futter from the Cook Islands and Setapu Resture from Tuvalu were appointed as Masters Research Scholars in History in March this year. They have begun their studies working with Associate Professor Linda Bryder from the History Department, and shortly will be joined by Dr Phyllis Herda from the Anthropology Department. Other staff in history and from our project team are also providing advice and contributing in a range of ways to the historical studies. Setapu and Debi are taking advantage of many other courses and classes as they prepare for their historical research on health and health systems with a focus on TB and its interactions.

The transition to Auckland has been -- and no doubt will continue to be -- challenging, however in each case family members have come too. Setapu’s husband, Alan, has taken up a PhD scholarship in Environmental Studies and they are accompanied by their children, while Debi’s daughter, Sam, has just begun her university studies in Education here in Auckland.

For a range of reasons, we were unable to appoint any scholars to the PhD scholarships from the first round of applications last year. A new advertisement for PhD scholars is attached to this newsletter. Please draw it to the attention of potential applicants or people who would know of potential applicants.

The advertisements for the second pair of Masters research scholarships in health development will appear in 2010.

Our research office
The Department of Anthropology has made available a Research Office for our project. It is room 817 on the 8th floor of the Human Sciences Building, 10
We have delayed appointing our half-time office manager until the PhD students have begun their studies because it is those projects that will require most of the administrative support. This is likely to happen in the latter half of this year.

**Activities**

Over the past few weeks, Julie, Judith and Setapu have been attending meetings and workshops planning and delivering “Train the Trainers” sessions for a Tuvalu TB Awareness project. Leaders of the Tuvalu community here in Auckland including Tuvaluan health professionals, TB specialist staff (doctors, public health nurses and community health workers) from Auckland Regional Public Health Service combined their resources for this programme. The next phase, which will begin shortly, is to take these messages to the community, via the churches. The programme has had great support from the church leaders. Our role has been to observe and participate in the process and, once the sessions with the community have been undertaken, to write a simple evaluation report. It has been a great privilege to take part in this programme and we have learned a huge amount which provides excellent background information for our research.

Dr Ward Friesen will spend a few days in the Cook Islands next month where he hopes to consult with the staff in Statistics and begins to put together the historical and contemporary statistical information that the project needs. Mid-year he will visit the SPC in New Caledonia to discuss with staff there a range of aspects of our research that intersect with SPC activities and data collection.

In July we will have an extended visit from Drs Anne and Keith Chambers who usually reside in Oregon. During this time, we will have research team workshops, they will work with Setapu and Tuvaluans here in Auckland and they will travel with Setapu to Suva and Funafuti, focussing particularly on the historical aspects of our research on this visit, but also looking ahead to the contemporary studies. Also in July, Debi will visit Rarotonga for the Pacific Medical Association conference, to consult archival materials there and do some interviews relating to her historical project.

We have prepared materials for a new webpage which contains information about our completed project about TB in Auckland and New Zealand, as well as this Pacific project. For further information about this and earlier projects, we invite you to visit our new website, which will be available very shortly [www.arts.auckland.ac.nz/ptb](http://www.arts.auckland.ac.nz/ptb)

Judith and Julie presented a seminar in March outlining this new project to colleagues and students and the University of Auckland, as part of the Department of Anthropology Thursday seminar series. So all in all, the project is now moving along!

**Feedback**

We will be very pleased to have any feedback from you on any matters relating to the project.
Judith Littleton and Julie Park, for the Research Team.