Whakapapa / Ancestry in Anthropological Research on Tuberculosis in the Pacific

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Outline

• The idea for the paper
• Whakapapa as a way to think about ...
  – A TB outbreak
• Introducing TB
• The outbreak

TB bacilli
Outline continued

• TB in Tuvalu – an effect of colonisation
  – Efforts to prevent TB
• Tuvalu ecosystem
• Tuvaluans in NZ
• Whakapapa of the outbreak
• Moral of the story
Whakapapa

• A concept of ‘environmental realm’ which has ‘living and non-living entities that have some historical and/or extant association with the [focal entity] (Roberts et al. 2004, 20),

Funafuti from the air
10 years of TB in NZ

![Graph showing TB incidence rates per 100,000 population by Ethnic group.]

- **European**: 3, 1.6
- **All groups**: 15.6, 14.6
- **Pacific**: 20.7, 30.3
- **Tuvaluan**: 315, 380

*Courtesy of Auckland Regional Public Health Service*
Tuvalu
TB rates, Western Pacific, 2006

Country

China
Philippines
Rep. of Korea
Vietnam
Cook Islands
Kiribati
Samoa
Tonga
Tuvalu
Australia
New Zealand

Rate per 100,000 population

Incidence rate
Prevalence rate

Courtesy Auckland Regional Public Health Service
Tuvalu, formerly Ellice Islands, and part of the Western Pacific Commission

Inter-island travel is by boat

Map courtesy Setapu Resture
Global connections

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  - Second level
  - Third level
    - Fourth level
      - Fifth level
New scheme – old pattern: first group of seasonal workers leaving for NZ 2008, Funafuti airport
Climate change and other issues

Pulaka pit

WW2 airstrip borrow pit, underwater

Borrow pit and rubbish disposal
Auckland community organised around islands and churches

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  - Third level
  - Fourth level
  - Fifth level
A TB Awareness meeting in Auckland in 2009
Tuvalu ‘village’ at 2010 Pasifika festival, Auckland
Thanks

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