

Remembering Epeli

In cold Dunedin 21.10.09 we gathered
Friends, local, overseas Oceanians
Te Tumu, Maori, Pasifika studies
In renowned Otago University
We paid tribute to Epeli

Keynote colleagues from USP
Six panelists, facilitators and the summary
Of a proponent of Oceania and the sea
“A pathway not a boundary”
For Professor Hauofa who prefers Epeli.

Epeli was hard on himself belittling his charge
He questioned his own poking fun,
Is this my best for young Oceanians?
That was his road to Damascus,
In-depth research later, this is a must!

All day, into the night sharing his legacy
The “Ocean in Us” published he
Tikongs, Kisses, Mekeo and M I R A B.
Centre for Arts, Culture for Oceanists built he
“Inclusiveness”, speakers agree, Epeli’s key!

To traditions he searched from the past
Unbounded by it, in contemporary craft ‘n arts
Students and artists at OCAC carve
Aesthetic messages in their art
Promoting excellence inspiring Oceanic paths.

RIP Epeli.

(Drafted between Dunedin and Auckland 23.10.09 – R.R. Qalo)