



DR NETI TAMARUA HERMAN

“MY NURSING JOURNEY”

Manihiki - The Island of Black Pearls



- * Born and raised in Manihiki
- * Primary School Education

Map of Cook Islands





Secondary Education 1964 : Junior High School, Aitutaki & Tereora College, Rarotonga.


- 1969 - Sat NZ School Certificate (5 Subjects)
- Goal - to attend University in NZ.
- Results – passed Biology, Physics, Maths, Geography but fail English.
- So scholarship to Uni is out, choice of either repeat NZSC or go to Fiji for Nursing
- Nursing was never in my system BUT I did not want to go back to School.
- **So Nursing in Fiji was the final decision, and this was the best decision I have made in my life with no regrets what so ever.**

Beginning of my Nursing Journey:

- **1970 – Fiji Nursing School was my life for the next three and half yrs. I enjoyed and loved nursing very much.**

“So Vinaka Vakalevu Fiji.”

- **I enrolled in the NZ Program with a Cook Island Student Nurse who was already training in Rarotonga Hosp.**
- **1973 moved to NZ strait after State Final Exams**
- **1974 joined Auckland School of Nursing graduated as a NZRGON.**
- **In 1976 met my husband and returned to the Cook Islands.**



Lifetime Career as Public Servant: 47yrs.

- Nursing - Clinical, Nursing Education, Public Health and Management.
- Worked as RN, RM Charge nurse/Manager, Nursing Tutor, Principal CISN and, Chief Nursing Officer.
- Countries Worked in - Fiji, New Zealand, Australia and Cook Islands.
- President of the CI Nurses Assoc.
- 1997 ventured into a completely new direction as Director for Women Youth and Sports in the Min. of Internal affairs. This was a huge challenge but a rewarding experience.



Contribution to Nursing/Health Developments:

- As CNO, was a member of the MOH Executives who are responsible for decision making relating to the efficient management and ensure that the Divisional and Ministry outputs are achieved.
- 1978 Worked with a WHO Nurse Consultants develop Nursing Curriculum and re-establish the Nursing School
- Two separate reviews of the Nursing Curriculum by WHO consultants - and was upgraded to Diploma Program.
- The Nurse Practitioner's Training Program was introduced to staff the Outer Islands with small populations. These nurses took over the role that was previously held by Doctors.

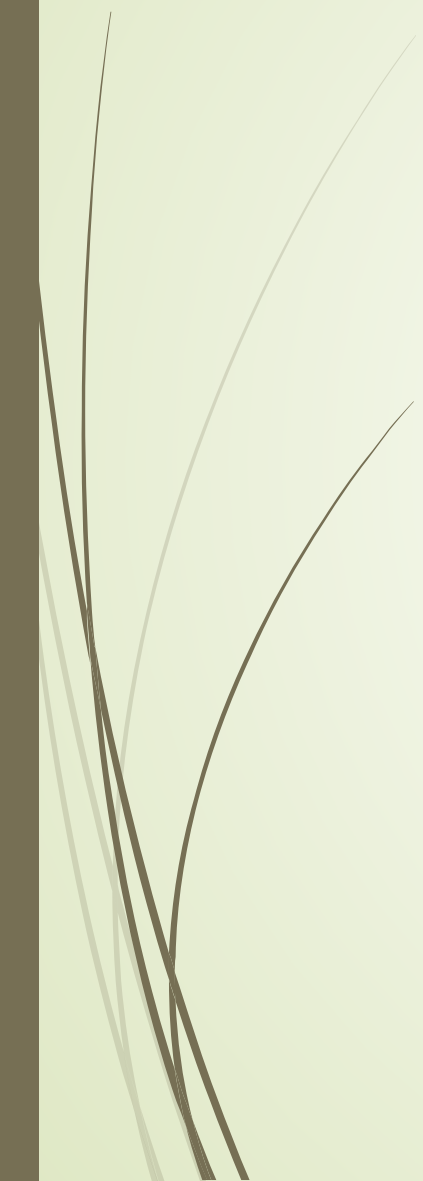


Nursing developments cont.

- *Partnership with MIT Auck, in granting 1 yr scholarship for C Is Trained Nurses to attend a 1 yr post graduate training to attain a Bachelor in Nursing Qualification.*
- *This opened the way for some of these nurses to undertake Masters training at AUT. These Nurses have assumed senior leadership roles in Nursing and the MOH.*
- *A member and Chair of the Nursing Council that began the deliberations regarding the Nurses Code of Ethics, practice and competencies.*

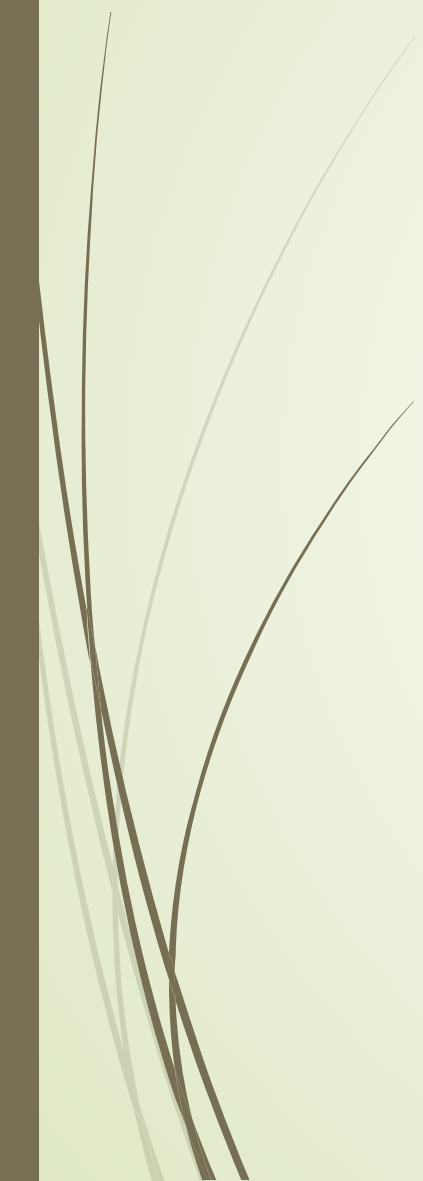


Nursing Developments cont.

- ▶ **Was founding member, chairperson and host of the first SPCNOA in 2004. (SPCNMOA)**
 - ▶ **Former Member of Advisory Board, WHO Collaborating Center for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Developments, University of Technology, Sydney, 2008.**
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Doctoral Studies:

- 2007, moved to NZ for PhD studies at the FMHSc at UOAuckland.
 - On completion I returned to the CIs. and was appointed as the Director of Public, a position I held until my retirement in October 2017.
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Retirement:

- ▶ Although retired, I am still contributing in some ways to health development by supporting as a supervisor our Pacific Masters and PhD students at the UOA.
- ▶ Work with NGOs – Red X. Women and Child health.
- ▶ Set up an Informal “CI Retired Nurses Association.” The aim is to “Provide social and Psychological support for each other.
- ▶ Compile/writing a book to record the great work and contribution some of our retired nurses who have given so much to Nursing and the people of the Cook Is.

Proposed Title: “Pioneers of Nursing in the Cook Islands.”



Acknowledgements:

- **My Parents - Late Okotai and Tuainekore Kairua**
- * **My Husband - Dr Tamarua Teariki Herman**
- **My Children - Heimata, Shaun, Edward, Henry, Tamarua and Emile**
- **My Siblings – 10 of them.**
- **My PhD Supervisors – Professor Julie Park & Dr, Jennifer Hand of UOA.**
- **To all the Nurses, Doctors and Allied Health Staff who contributed to my Personal and Professional Development in Fiji, New Zealand, Australia & Cook Is.**
- **NZAID, WHO, AUSAID, NZHRC, Cook Is. Government for Financial Support towards my professional and Academic development.**

Thank you and Meitaki korereka.