

Malo e lelei comrades of Amerika... a little update from down under...

Polynesian Panther Party 37 years on....  
by Will Ilolahia, former Chairman PPP 1971-76

Like Amerika's BPP ,the New Zealand equivalent has also a legacy 37 years on...For the 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (2006) a book was released (copies available c/- Billy X [www.itsabouttime.com](http://www.itsabouttime.com)). Titled “ ***Polynesian Panthers; the crucible years 1971-1974*** its a collection of stories written by members, associates,supporters with a forward by BPP Chief of Staff David Hillard...

For example Part Six “Once a Panther,always a Panther” includes stories by those pictured. L-R...I'n I= Will the scriptwriter herein, Tigilau Ness, with raised fist ,our Minister of Culture, Vaughan Sanft Minister of Supplies and Rev. Mus Strickson- PuaPua whom assisted with PPP Homework Centers in our younger days.

The PPP started June 16th 1971...when in Auckland NZ Vaughan,Will and 5 others were tired of the “divide and rule”tactics of the system when indigenous Maori fighting their Tongan, Samoan, Niuean, Cook Islander cousins...We wanted to stop fighting each other and work collectively for the betterment of our people.

Modeled on the teachings of Huey P Newton, Bobby Seale and BPP Central Committee, we grew from a Polynesian panther movement to full party status by 1972. Who would of thought, other than the Lord our saviour ,the Panther Spirit would be global and this year hopefully we will all meet up in Tanzania August. ( By buying our book assists with our funds for trip...)

Now as Executive producer of PiTV (Pacific Islands TV) our “legacy” Komiti (basically who ever turns up to our annual June 16<sup>th</sup> anniversary.) has reminded me to follow up the book with a movie. Since movies are really an Amerikan invention, any interested investors from Hollywood comrades..? (LOL) I've been mandated I suppose by our equivalent to your itsabouttime gigs for 2011 release.

Auckland is the largest Pacific Islanders city in the world. The PPP were very instrumental in making this city and country a better place to live for us Polynesians and hosts (mainly European immigrants) We had a 10 point platform and programme. The amazing legacy we are presently in, is that our children have gone onto better things.

Many award winning top musical artists like Che Fu , Scribe and Lady6 parents were PPP members. Che's father is Tigilau Ness (pictured) a musician himself and mother Miriama Rauhihi PPP's first full time community worker. Our national Rugby All Blacks team member Fred Atiga has PPP parents.

We have national representatives in Water Polo, Film industry and many other successful “cubs” Meanwhile some of our members have moved onto higher ranking positions such as the Chaplain of the whole NZ Navy, Top 10 Executive Chef in the world, Government managerial roles, University lecturer and just successful parents.

All power to the Panthers