

TALANOA OCEANIA



Talanoa website:

<http://sites.google.com/e/nomoa.com/talanoa/Home?pli=1>

Date: Sept 29-Oct 01

Site: Centre for Ministry, United Theological College (16 Masons Drive, North Parramatta 2151)

Accommodation information: <http://unitingcc.org/CFM/>

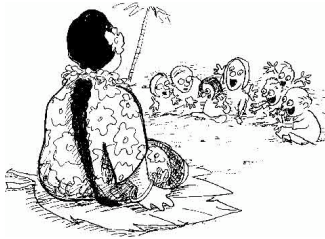
Talanoa Oceania

Talanoa Oceania are gatherings for people from the South Seas (or Pacific Islanders, abbreviated as PIs), who currently live in Australia and Aotearoa/New Zealand. Several reasons make these gatherings necessary, including the following:

1. PIs are torn between where we live and our home islands, partly because we have not been welcomed (to our new locations) and released (from our island homes)
2. PIs continue to look for direction from our home islands partly because a *sea of talanoa*¹ has not been gathered to root us in our current locations
3. PIs are searching for creative and meaningful ways of continuing to be connected to our island cultures, churches and homes
4. PIs often misunderstand other cultures partly because we are confused about who we are, in our current locations, and we are consequently easily misunderstood
5. PIs are not homogenous, and we need to name and come to terms with our differences

Talanoa Oceania 2008: Mana, Vanua, Talanoa

Under the shadows of those needs, the *Talanoa Oceania 2008* gathering will provide opportunities for presentations on three significant PI concepts: **Mana, Vanua, Talanoa**. These concepts have multiple meanings in the various language and island groups:



- **Mana** can mean sacred, magic, courage, power, transformation, creativity, healing, imagination, and so forth
- **Vanua** (fonua, fenua, whenua, etc) can mean land, womb, home, identity, roots, tradition, and so forth
- **Talanoa** can mean story, storytelling, conversation, orality, empty-talk, and so forth

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