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National speaking tour and book launch

... As Mothers of the Land

the birth of the Bougainville Women for Peace and Freedom

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About the book

... As Mothers of the Land - the birth of the Bougainville Women for Peace and Freedom, edited by Josephine Tankunani Sirivi and Marilyn Taleo Havini.

"Bougainville is a matrilineal society where women are the custodians of the land, some with chiefly roles. Women's participation as a group has advanced the peace process in Bougainville since their inclusion in the 1997 negotiations. Yet, without a permanent record, there will be no history of women's valuable contributions to peace.

... As Mothers of the Land tells the story of one of the deadliest crises of the last decades - the Bougainville conflict - and the peace process that followed, not through the eyes of politicians or military leaders, but through the personal accounts of Bougainville aboriginal women whose commitment and determination played a crucial part in the resolution of the conflict.

This book tells the stories of women who had to flee their home and take to the jungle to escape violence. It tells the stories of women who lived on the run, giving birth in leaf shelters and caring for the frail and the elderly. It tells the stories of women who used traditional knowledge and self-reliance to rebuild community structures in the heart of the jungle.

... As Mothers of the Land is about women from all sides of the conflict who rose up against division and hatred and stood united in their determination to build a lasting peace. These personal accounts bring invaluable insights into the Bougainville conflict and peace process. They shed light on Bougainville women's unique contribution to the search for peace."

[Review](#) *... As Mothers of the Land*

More information from [Pandanus Books](#)

Public meetings

Auckland

- **Monday, 5 April** - ... *As Mothers of the Land* book launch, with Josephine Tankunani Sirivi and Sam Kauona Sirivi; 9-30am, AUT Conference Room, WA Block, Wellesley Street Campus. Hosted by the AUT Office for Pasifika Advancement, contact Lana Compain, tel (09) 917 9713 or [email](#); and the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, contact Joan Macdonald, tel (09) 360 8001 or [email](#).
- **Monday, 5 April** - Bougainville public meeting with Josephine Tankunani Sirivi and Sam Kauona Sirivi speaking about ... *As Mothers of the Land* and the current situation in Bougainville; 7-30pm, Trades Hall, 147 Great North Road, Grey Lynn. A Global Peace and Justice Auckland Forum; for more info contact Karyn Amore tel (09)358 4105 or [email](#).

● Palmerston North

- **Thursday, 8 April** - ... *As Mothers of the Land* book launch, and 'Democracy in the Pacific' public talk; 12 noon for book launch, then lunch, and public talk at 1-30pm, Te Whare Akonga - Open Learning Centre, Second Floor, Westside Chambers, 181-185 The Square. For more info contact Annette Nixon, tel (06) 357 7882 or [email](#).

● Wellington

- **Tuesday, 6 April** - ... *As Mothers of the Land* book launch, with Josephine Tankunani Sirivi and Sam Kauona Sirivi; 5-30pm to 7-30pm, the Foyer, National Library, Molesworth Street. For more info, and to RSVP if you are planning on attending, contact [email](#).
- **Tuesday, 13 April** - Bougainville public meeting with Josephine Tankunani Sirivi and Sam Kauona Sirivi speaking about ... *As Mothers of the Land* and the current situation in Bougainville; 7pm at St Anne's Church Hall, Daniell Street, Newtown. For more info contact [email](#).
- **Wednesday, 14 April** - ... *As Mothers of the Land*, with Josephine Tankunani Sirivi who will focus on the Bougainville women whose commitment and determination played a crucial part in bringing about the resolution of this bloody conflict. From all sides the women stood united in their resolve to build a lasting peace that continues to this day. They are determined that this must never happen again anywhere in the Pacific, or indeed, the rest of the world; from 12 noon to 1-30pm, CID, 6th Floor, PSA House, 11 Aurora Tce. A CID lunch-time forum; if you are planning on attending, please RSVP to CID, tel (04) 472 6375 or [email](#).

● Christchurch

- **Tuesday, 13 April** - 'Evergreen Island' screening of the film which details the most violent conflict in our part of the world since WW2, which was triggered in part by disputes between the indigenous people and the international proprietors of the world's largest copper mine; it outlines the struggle for freedom in Bougainville and the resilience and self-reliance of its communities during the blockade; 7-30pm, Trade Union Centre, 199 Armagh Street. Organised by Peace Action Network Otautahi, for more info [email](#).
- **Thursday, 15 April** - Bougainville public meeting with Josephine Tankunani Sirivi and Sam Kauona Sirivi speaking about ... *As Mothers of the Land* and the current situation in Bougainville; 6pm, Nga Pounamu Maori o Aotearoa Room, Second Floor, Christchurch Central Library. For more info and to RSVP if you are planning on attending, please contact Janine, Aotearoa/New Zealand Peace Foundation, tel (03)365 3139 or [email](#).

• **Where you can get the book**

- **Auckland** - Bennets Bookshop, AUT
- **Palmerston North** - Bruce McKenzie bookshop
- **Wellington** - Unity Books
- **Christchurch** - East Books on High
- **Mail order** - [Pandanus Books](#)

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