

'Patterns of the Past' comes home

THERESE Mangos and John Utanga have brought their book 'Patterns of the Past: Tattoo Revival in the Cook Islands' home.

The book was formally launched in Auckland last December, but this week about 100 gathered at the Ruatonga meeting house to mark its homecoming. Traditional leaders Pa Marie Ariki and Joe Vakatini and local tattoo artists were among those who attended the func-

tion.

"We always wanted to launch it in Rarotonga and in the village because that's where we're from and it was important we have it at the meeting house," Utanga said yesterday.

"After we got permission from the pu tapere and the village that we were able to do that we organised it. It was like a homecoming."

Mike Tavioni was the keynote

speaker at Wednesday night's event.

Hespoke on behalf of the arts community, and as the "godfather of the renaissance of Cook Islands tattooing", Utanga said.

"He challenged people at the meeting to record our own histories before they disappear with our old people," Utanga said.

Utanga says Patterns of the Past was the culmination of

about 20 years' worth of research and work. The 224-page book, which outlines the art of tatau and tattoo and its relatively recent revival in the Cook Islands, was written by Utanga and Mangos and photographed by Kirsty Griffin.

Mangos was inspired to do research for Patterns of the Past over a decade ago upon realising there was very little information about Cook Islands tat-

tooing available. She joined up with Utanga, a former CINews reporter who has been in journalism for over 20 years and now works as a senior reporter for Tagata Pasifika, to make her vision a reality.

Mangos and Utanga have also been published in Fashion Theory: The Journal of Dress, Body & Culture. Their 17-page article entitled The Lost Connections: Tattoo Revival in the

Cook Islands was based on material they compiled for Patterns of the Past.

Griffin is one of New Zealand's leading photographers for film and television, and now attends the Photojournalism and Documentary Photography School at the International Centre of Photography in New York.

Copies of the \$49.95 book were on sale at a 20% discount at the launch function. ■ RR



Local tattoo artists Kane Napa, Clive Nicholas, Mike Tavioni, Tetini Pekepo and Croc Coulter at the launch of Patterns of the Past. 12022208



Author Therese Mangos (far right) with supporters at the Ruatonga meeting house launch of her book. ALL PHOTOS JOHN UTANGA/TV 12022207



John Utanga and Therese Mangos with Pa Marie Ariki at the launch of their new book on Wednesday night, in which Pa Ariki features. 12022209