



MEDIA RELEASE
27 November 2008

ZCO TONGA

Highlighting the role of the church in the Tongan community

From 8 December, Kava and costumes will reside as equally important elements of culture at the **Museum of Wellington** with the opening of **ZCO Tonga**, the second instalment of the **Welcome** exhibition.

Following on from the colourful *Oye Latino!* programme, December sees the Museum home to a wealth of cultural goodies as *ZCO Tonga* continues to showcase the vibrant contribution Wellington Access Radio makes to local communities. Highlighting the important role of weddings and funerals in the community, *ZCO Tonga* gives viewers an insight into the rich culture of the Kingdom of Tonga.

Museum of Wellington Director Brett Mason says 'the success of working with the makers of *Oye Latino!* was the way Wellington's Latin American community took the opportunity to have a voice in their museum. Likewise, ZCO Tonga have worked with us to show how their culture lives in Wellington.'

Welcome embraces the role Access Radio plays in allowing these diverse communities to have a strong voice. Throughout the month the Museum will host several performances and demonstrations of Tongan culture including Lālanga (weaving), Tau'olunga (dance) and Hiva (choir singing) - many of which will be performed by local youth groups from the Wellington region.

Wellington Access Radio 783 AM has become an important way for many community groups to unite, celebrate their cultures and discuss their issues and **Welcome** offers viewers an insight into the dynamic people and audiences behind each programme.

In the New Year **Welcome** concludes with a vibrant display from the **Indian Community Programme** which focuses on food and hospitality in the kitchen and home environment.

Welcome – celebrate Wellington Access Radio programmes and their communities

1 November – 8 February

Museum of Wellington

Queens Wharf

Phone 04 472 8904

www.museumofwellington.co.nz

Open Daily, 10am – 5pm

FREE ENTRY

For further information please contact Museum of Wellington publicist, Chris Hamilton.

Phone: 04 496 1948. Email: chris.hamilton@wmt.org.nz

The Museum of Wellington City & Sea is a **Wellington Museums Trust** institution and receives major funding from the **Wellington City Council**.