

# *Amuia* – ‘a blessing’

A massive 5.2 metre-long painting by leading Pacific NZ artist  
**Fatu Feu’u (ONZM)**

Proposing a visual pathway forward for parents and communities  
working to counter youth suicide and depression



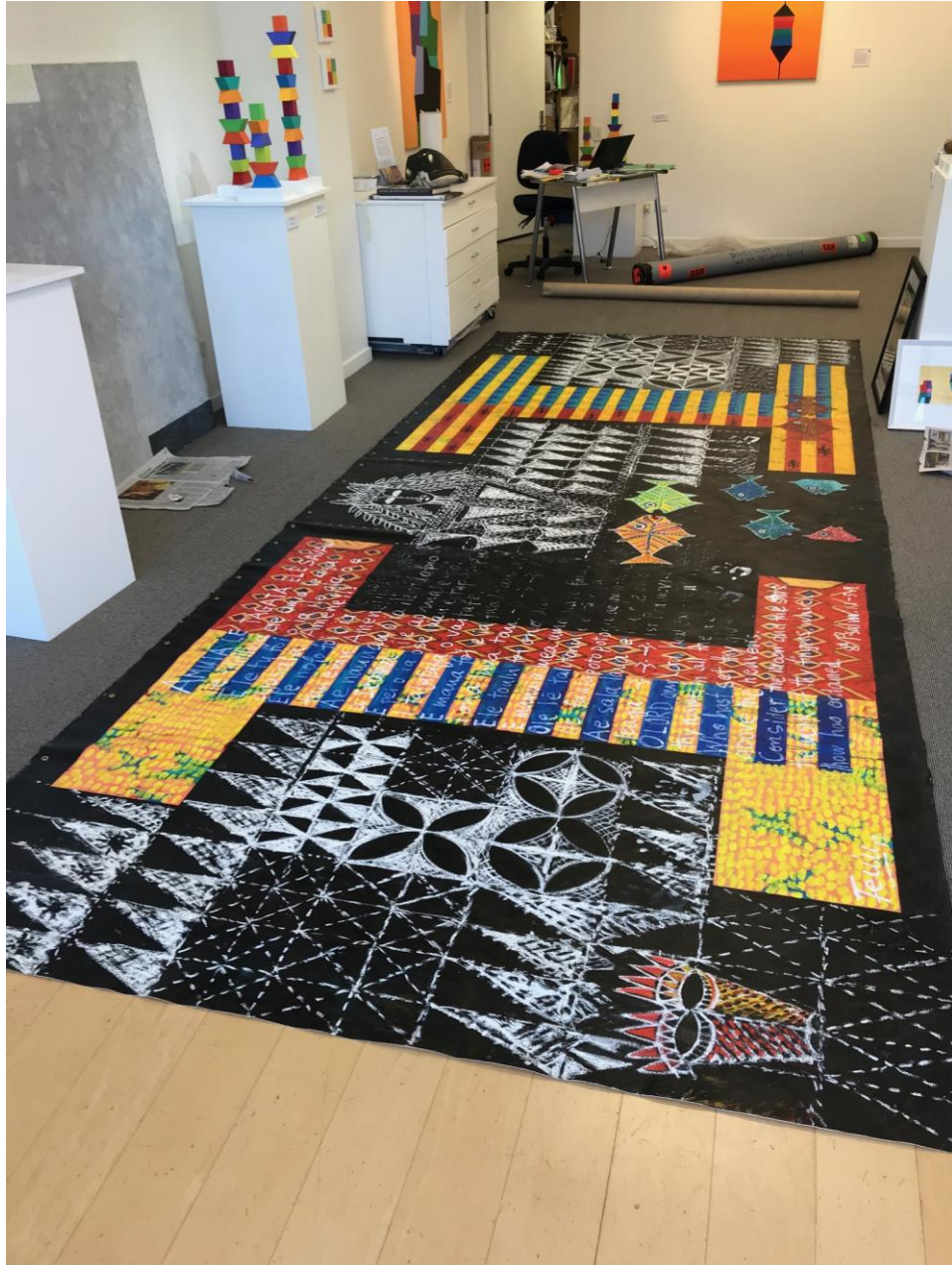
***To forge a path into the future, you need to connect with your past, your ancestry, your history...***



*Fatu Feu'u in studio, mid 2017, part way through 9 months working on Amuia*







When the painting was unrolled in the gallery, the vast scale became fully apparent...

This is a massive painting, because youth suicide is a massive issue, And to make a big impression on viewers about what needs to change...



Ifoga = a tradition of reconciliation and rebuilding, coming together to find a pathway forward, often in the face of a terrible event or disaster

The capital 'I' represents the first letter of Ifoga, the colours the parties coming together to find resolution...



AMUIA LE TAGATA ELE SAVALI

ile filifiliga ae amio le aga.

E le tu foi o ia ile ala o e

agasala. Amene!!!

Ele nofo foi o ia ile nofoa o e

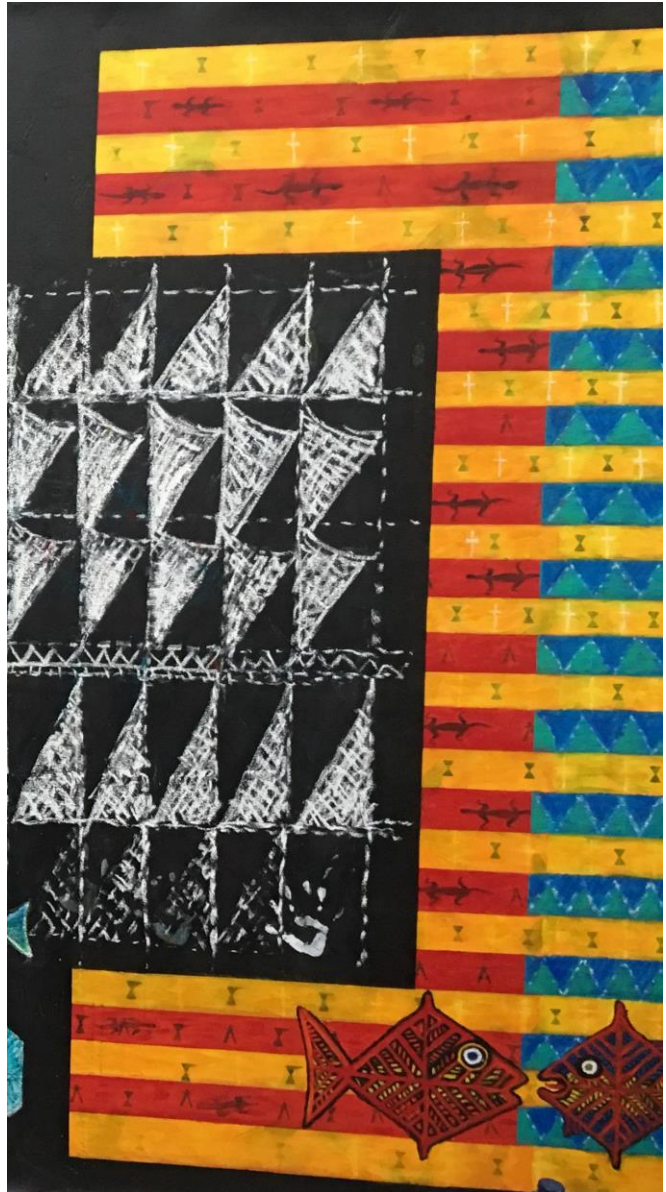
taueviva Amene!!!

Ae naunau o ia ile tulafano

a Ieova ile ao male po.

E pei o ia ose laia e tuputupu





Each motif within the Ifoga symbol, has its own meaning, suggesting pathways.





Parents: talk about your history, your ancestors, your cultural and spiritual heritage...





The onus is on parents

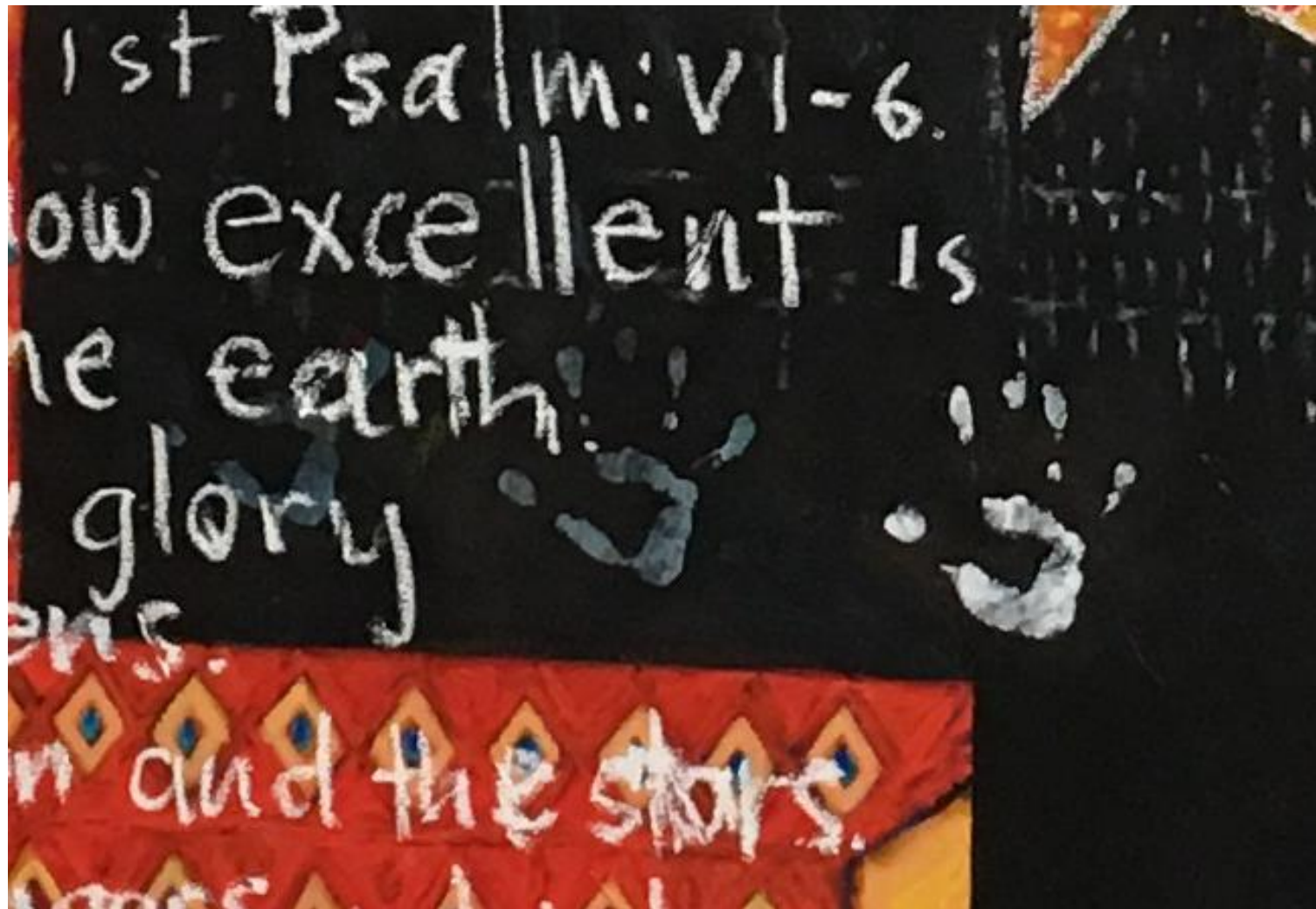
- Communicate better
- Convey knowledge of the past
- Of culture
- Of spirituality

Otherwise our young people are like fish without tails - rudderless









This is a very personal journey, a personal work...

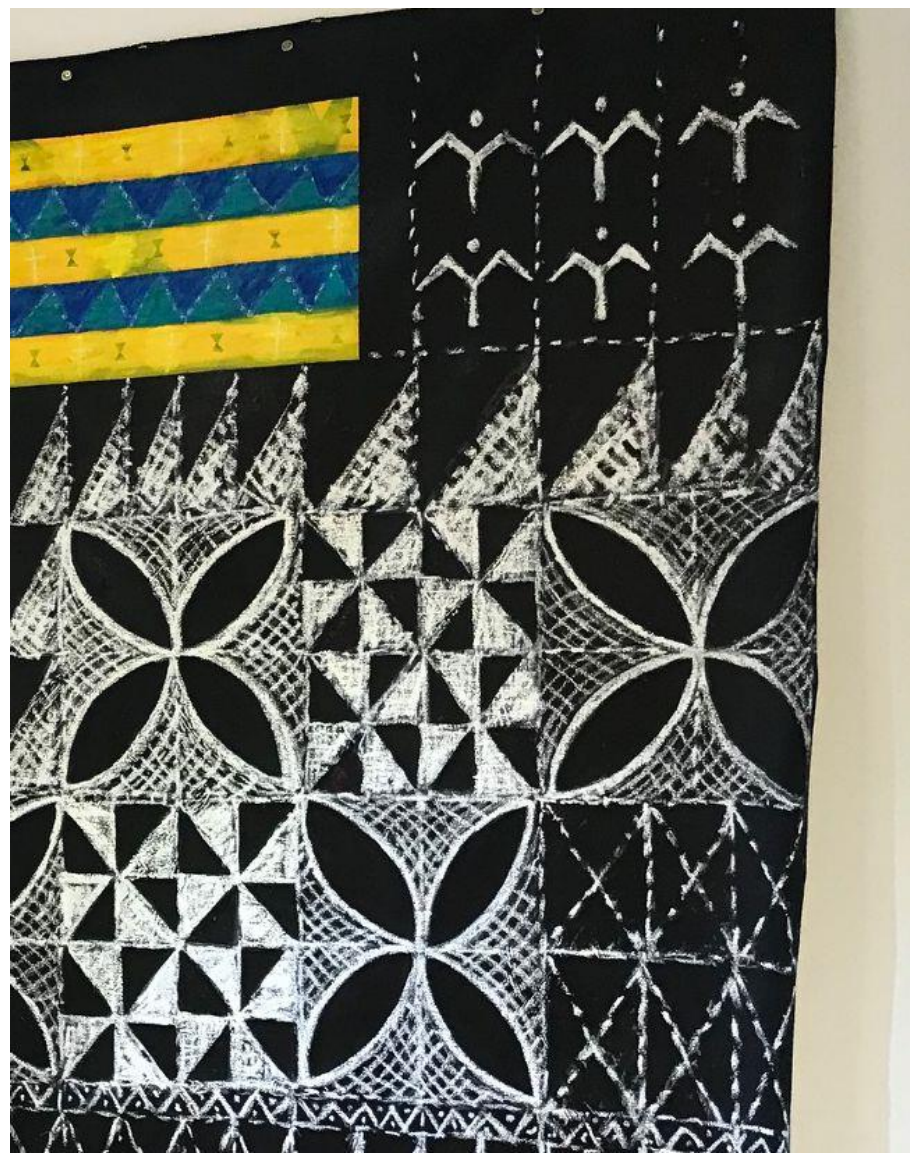
Even the grandchildren were involved...





Communicate  
their heritage,  
their spiritual  
links...





*Amuia* will carry these messages through visual imagery, in other exhibitions and locations...

Above all, that the responsibility is ours as parents, and carers, to break through the barriers however we can, to communicate fully with our young people.

*In an age of visual communication, painting still has a role to play...*

*Amuia is a positive message, of hope, and spiritual connection, reaching back to move positively forward.*





Presented by Fatu Feu'u ONZM in association  
with Barbara Speedy, Director, The Diversion Gallery



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