

# Celebrating the Revival of Weaving Marshallese

## Jaki-ed



An ongoing project coordinated by the University of the South Pacific's Marshall Islands Campus in partnership with Traditional Leaders and Master Weavers and their Apprentices.



# Keeping History Alive

As the years slip through our fingers, so can the knowledge that sustained the lives and helped create the identity of the Marshallese people. The crafting of outrigger canoes, the blending of indigenous plants for



medicine, the weaving of *jaki-ed* (finely decorated mats) including *neided* (clothing mats) ... all of these skills and more cannot be allowed to disappear if the soul of the people is to live on. The Jaki-ed Restoration and Rediscovery Program was created to assist in this goal, to provide an appreciation and value for the cultural tradition of the past and ensure a healthy outlook on the future.

## Joachim deBrum

Joachim deBrum preserved the past by taking hundreds of photographs in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Many of these are images of his home atoll of Likiep and from his travels to other atoll communities in the Marshall Islands.



## Museum Collections

Around the globe, a number of museums boast of having jaki-ed in their collections, with possibly the most prominent of these being Hawaii's Bishop Museum. Jaki-ed program organizers have compiled a list of these collections in Europe, the US and Australasia and will list these in a forthcoming publication on Jaki-ed supported by the Government of Finland. They are eager to hear of any other collections.

## The Virtual Museum

USP has created this 'virtual museum' to showcase Marshallese jaki-ed. You will visit the jaki-ed collections held in museums around the globe as well as contemporary jaki-ed. You can also visit the museum's store. The virtual museum has been made possible with funding from AusAID.



# The Weavers' House



The fingers fly, the women's soft voices flow, and there's a feeling of oneness in the Jined Kibed (weaving house) in USP's secret garden, built with funding from AusAID.



## The Weavers' Apprentices

There were nervous smiles all around as nine young women joined the Master Weavers at USP's thatched house known as Jined Kibed to begin their weaving apprenticeships. As the months progressed and their weaving skills grew, they all found a sense of pride that leaked over into their lives. In Ailinglaplap, a second weavers program was held, with equal success for its participants.



# The Annual Auctions



## Today's Tradition



The days and the months creep by and, suddenly, there's just enough time for the weavers of the Marshall Islands to add the final touches to the mats they will submit to the Jaki-ed auction to be held at the Marshall Islands Resort. The hugely popular event is organized to coincide with *Manit* or Culture Day on the last Friday in September. The sixth auction in 2012 saw not only the highest quality jaki-ed, but also the greatest quantity, with mats coming from over six atolls.



# 'Malene iliju bedbed ioon inne'

'Shape the future based on the past'



## Jaki-ed Revival Program

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