

1 June

**EMBARGOED UNTIL 10:30PM 1 JUNE 2017**

**Aaradhna and Kings win big at Vodafone Pacific Music Awards**

All eyes were on **Aaradhna** and **Kings** at the Vodafone Pacific Music Awards tonight with the both artists winning multiple awards at the Vodafone Events Centre in Manukau, Auckland.

Aaradhna picked up four awards including the coveted Recorded Music NZ Best Pacific Music Album Tui as well as the Virgin Australia Best Pacific Female Artist, the NZ On Air Best Pacific Music Video and the APRA Best Pacific Song.

Kings took home the NZ Music Commission Best Pacific Male Artist, the Niu FM Best Pacific Urban Artist, MAINZ Best Producer, and the NZ On Air Radio Airplay award.

The highlight of the night was an outstanding performance from Manukau Institute of Technology Lifetime Achievement Award recipient **Brother Love** playing his timeless classic 'Ruketekete Te Mamae' aka 'The Roimata Song'.

**Opetaia Foa'i** became world famous for his hit 'We Know The Way' which featured on the Disney smash-hit Moana. He was recognised at the Vodafone Pacific Music Awards with the Special Recognition Award for outstanding achievement. His daughter **Olivia Foa'i** won Sunpix Best Pacific Language Song for 'Tulou Tagaloo', which was also featured on *Moana*.

The Vodafone People's Choice Award always has special meaning to the artists. This year voters selected **Three Houses Down** (featuring **General Fiyah**) who also won the Radio 531PI Best Pacific Group.

Other winners included **Annie Grace** for the Auckland Council Best Pacific Gospel Artist, **J Boog** for the Flava Best International Pacific Artist and **Tommy Nee** for the Phillip Fuemana Award as the most promising Pacific artist.

Vodafone Pacific Music Awards Trust chairman and spokesperson Rev. Mua Strickson-Pua says it was a remarkable night to celebrate Pacific music.

“Musika is the Pacific word for music and it expresses who we are. The 2017 Vodafone Pacific Music Awards continues a tradition of Pacific Music excellence. We honour Tokelau/Tuvalu singer, composer and leader of Te Vaka, Opetaia Foa'i with the Special Recognition Award - Outstanding Achievement, for his work on the very successful international Disney film *Moana*.

“The Pasifika Lifetime Achievement goes to Cook Island legend Brother Love whose famous party and club songs have been at the heart of many fond memories and celebrations throughout the Pacific. Pacific music is growing at an extraordinary rate and I can't wait to see what our talented artists come up with next.”

***Vodafone Pacific Music Awards Winners:***

**Virgin Australia Best Pacific Female Artist Award:**

- **WINNER: Aaradhna – *Brown Girl***
- La Coco – *Love & Other Things*
- Olivia Foa'i – 'Tulou Tagaloa'

**NZ Music Commission Best Pacific Male Artist Award:**

- **WINNER: KINGS – *KINGS EP***
- Savage – 'Zooby Doo'
- Tommy Nee – *Colorblind*

**Niu FM Best Pacific Urban Artist Award:**

- **WINNER: KINGS – *KINGS EP***
- SWIDT – *SWIDT vs EVERYBODY*
- Three Houses Down feat. General Fiyah – 'Love & Affection'

**Radio 531pi Best Pacific Group Award:**

- **WINNER: Three Houses Down feat. General Fiyah – ‘Love & Affection’**
- Tomorrow People – ‘Writings on the Wall’
- Unity Pacific – *Blackbirder Dread*

**NZ On Air Best Pacific Music Video Award:**

- **WINNER: Aaradhna – ‘Welcome to the Jungle’ (Directed by Sophie Findlay)**
- Parri\$ – ‘Friday’ (Directed by Parris Goebel)
- Three Houses Down feat. General Fiyah – ‘Love & Affection’ (Directed by Samson Rambo)

**APRA Best Pacific Song Award:**

- **WINNER: Aaradhna – ‘Brown Girl’ (Written by Aaradhna Patel)**
- KINGS – ‘Don’t Worry Bout’ It’ (Written by Kings)
- Opetaia Foa’i – ‘We Know The Way’ (Written by Opetaia Foa’i and Lin-Manuel Miranda)

**SunPix Best Pacific Language Award:**

- Annie Grace – ‘Loimata o le Fiafia’
- **WINNER: Olivia Foa’i – ‘Tulou Tagaloa’**
- Vai Mahina/Sulata Foa’i-Amiatu, Matthew Ineleo – ‘An Innocent Warrior’

**Best Pacific Gospel Artist Award:**

- **WINNER: Annie Grace – ‘Unchangeable Love’**
- La Coco – *Love & Other Things*
- Revere – ‘Groove Thing’

**Flava Best International Pacific Artist Award:**

- **WINNER: J Boog – *Rose Petals***
- Kylie Auldist – *Family Tree*
- CRSB – *Evolution of Love*

**Recorded Music NZ Best Pacific Music Album Award:**

- **WINNER: Aaradhna – *Brown Girl***
- KINGS – *KINGS EP*
- Unity Pacific – *Blackbirder Dread*

**MAINZ Best Producer Award:**

- **WINNER: KINGS – *KINGS EP* (Produced by Kings)**
- La Coco – *Love & Other Things* (Produced by Dee Letoa)
- SWIDT – *SWIDT vs EVERYBODY* (Produced by SmokeyGotBeatz)

**Vodafone People’s Choice Award:**

- **WINNER: Three Houses Down feat. General Fiyah – ‘Love & Affection’**

**NZ On Air Radio Airplay Award**

- **WINNER: KINGS – *KINGS EP* (Produced by Kings)**

**Phillip Fuemana Award – Most Promising Pacific Artist:**

- **WINNER: Tommy Nee**

**Special Recognition Award – Outstanding Achievement:**

- **WINNER: Opetaiia Foa’i**

**Manukau Institute of Technology Lifetime Achievement Award**

- **WINNER: Brother Love**

For more information: [www.pacificmusicawards.org.nz](http://www.pacificmusicawards.org.nz)

**Issued for the Vodafone Pacific Music Awards by Pead PR**

**About the Vodafone Pacific Music Awards:**

In 2004 the Pacific Music Awards Committee (PMAC) was formed to realise a vision and the inaugural Pacific Music Awards debuted at Pasifika Festival in March 2005. Encouraged by the success of the

awards the PMAC set about developing an annual event as a significant highlight of the New Zealand music industry calendar. The awards committee formed a Charitable Trust to organise and host the awards, and are driven by a simple core objective: to create and manage an event that acknowledges the success of Pacific artists, celebrates and promotes excellence in Pacific music and encourages young Pacific musicians to aspire to a higher level of achievement.

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