

## RESPONSES TO PACIFIC MEDIA WATCH:

*Pacific Media Watch's* service to the region is unique and I am very grateful for the impact it has made in the islands. *PMW* is always there... and you can count on it to do its job well. I'm very proud to be associated with it.

*Kalafi Moala*  
 CEO of Taimi Media Network (TMN)  
 Publisher of Taimi 'o Tonga  
 Operator of TMN-TV2

I read with delight about the grant to the *PMW* to expand its database and journalism resource. Please extend my congratulations to the team on this achievement. We are in awe of the wonderful work you are doing in the field of Pacific media and look forward to seeing the expanded resources.

*Professor Mark Pearson*  
 Bond University

Congrats to David Robie and the team at AUT for their tireless efforts and there will never be enough grants to recognise that excellence! To Josephine Latu and other student editors to come, all the best with this important and much needed work.

*Lisa Williams-Lahari*  
 Pacific Freedom Forum, Cook Islands

Starting in 1996 from Papua New Guinea, no other news organisation of any sort in or outside the region has covered leading media and regional affairs with as little resources, or as long, by people so few in number. *PMW* updates prompt plenty of debate within the region, now globally thanks to their partnership with Scoop news agency. *PMW* is an example of a news media pioneer, and remains so.

*Jason Brown*  
 Editor, *Avaiki Nius*

Congratulations on finally getting a grant to ensure the future of *PMW*! It's great to see the project able to continue.

*Peter Cronau*  
*PMW* co-founder, Sydney



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## Pacific Media Watch A Pacific Media Centre project





KALAFI MOALA,  
Tongan newspaper  
publisher and broadcaster  
PHOTO: ALAN KOON/PMC

## PACIFIC MEDIA WATCH

### Media freedom project

*Pacific Media Watch* is an Asia-Pacific media monitoring digital repository collected and published by postgraduate students and staff at AUT University's *Pacific Media Centre* and contributing journalists.

Launched in Sydney in October 1996, *PMW* was the Pacific's first regional media website. It has links with the Journalism Programme at the University of the South Pacific, Journalism Studies at the University of Papua New Guinea (UPNG), Divine Word University in PNG, National University of Samoa and the Australian Centre for Independent Journalism (ACIJ).



Independent and watchful, *PMW* was founded as an independent, non-profit non-government network by journalists Peter Cronau (based then at the ACIJ, University of Technology, Sydney) and David Robie (left - based then at Journalism Studies at the University of Papua New Guinea).

The archive was hosted by the Association of Progressive Communications (APC) in Sydney.

Its genesis was the jailing of two journalists, Kalafi Moala and Filokalafi 'Akau'ola, and a 'whistleblowing' pro-democracy member of Parliament in Tonga, 'Akilisi Pohiva, for alleged contempt in September 1996. The journalists and MP were later freed by the Supreme Court which ruled their imprisonment was unconstitutional. *PMW* played an important role in the campaign to free the three men, including organising a petition of more than 100 media signatures from the region.



Late in 2007, Taberannang Korauba, of Kiribati, joined the Pacific Media Centre to prepare *PMW* files for the new database established in 2008.

Tongan journalist Josephine Latu (right) joined *PMW* as contributing editor in August 2008 and has covered several media events and filed many analysis articles.



In November 2009, *PMW* was awarded a grant by the Pacific Development and Conservation Trust and in early 2010 the project took on another Pacific journalist, former Niu FM presenter Gladys Hartson (right).



## FOUNDING OBJECTIVES

*Pacific Media Watch's* objectives are to:

- Press for the urgent removal of barriers to press freedom and freedom of expression
- Protect and support journalists unjustly jailed, assaulted or harassed while performing their professional duty.
- Encourage debate on media ethics and press for improved professional standards.
- Monitor regional media ownership and other issues affecting freedom of information.
- Provide a digital information database.
- Support Pacific people's desire for a free and independent media.



*Pacific Media Centre* includes:

- A D-space digital repository with more 6000 text, document, audio and video files hosted at AUT University
- Many news media files not available in any other databases
- Free resource services for the Pacific region's journalists, community media groups and students
- Media ethics and standards and resources
- Independent media development resources
- Internship opportunities for Pacific journalists and journalism students
- Postgraduate scholarships
- International experience for students in China, Indonesia and the Pacific
- Asian Journalism fellowship at AUT

