



**AUT**



**PACIFIC MEDIA CENTRE**  
ANNUAL REVIEW 2019

School of Communication Studies  
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**Cover photo:**

*Pacific Journalism Review* designer Del Abcede and Pacific Media Centre director Professor David Robie visiting Al Jazeera headquarters in Doha, Qatar in September 2019. Image credit: AJ English

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Professor Crispin Maslog (left), chair of the Asian Media Information and Communication Centre (AMIC), and the Pacific Media Centre's Professor David Robie, co-authors of *Science Writing and Climate Change*, with AMIC colleagues at the book launch at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, Thailand, in July 2019.

## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Pacific Media Centre (PMC) had another busy and productive year publishing, researching and providing advocacy on several Asia-Pacific issues. It also contributed to new collaborative initiatives with several international partners, including the University of the South Pacific Journalism School in Suva, Fiji; the Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM) Centre for Southeast Asian Social Studies (CESASS) in Yogyakarta, Indonesia; and the Asian Media Information and Communication Centre (AMIC) and Asian Institute for Communication and Journalism (AICJ) in Manila, Philippines.

A new primer on climate change journalism, *Science Writing and Climate Change*, by Filipino communications Professor Crispin Maslog, PMC director Professor David Robie and *Sci. Net* Asia-Pacific editor Joel Adriano, was launched in Bangkok, Thailand, in July at the annual AMIC conference.

The PMC co-published this climate volume, a useful resource for journalism schools throughout the region, and also published a double edition of *Pacific Journalism Review: Te Koakoā* research journal. It also collaborated with Griffith University to co-sponsor a Melanesian Media Freedom Forum in Brisbane in November with peer-reviewed papers to be published in a special edition of *PJR* in 2020. Griffith University described the event as being held to

“respond to increasing media repression in Melanesia and to future-proof press freedom, through transnational and regional cooperation and knowledge sharing among Melanesian journalists, editors, publishers, press freedom advocates and journalism scholars.”  
[www.griffith.edu.au](http://www.griffith.edu.au)

Dr Robie delivered two keynote addresses to the conference, one by Zoom from Yogyakarta, Indonesia. Acting *PJR* editor Dr Philip Cass also presented a paper and represented the PMC in Brisbane as co-host and published two in-depth articles in the centre's *Asia Pacific Report*.

In the second half of the year, Dr Robie was on sabbatical and visited Al Jazeera and TRT television in Doha and Istanbul while on research missions to Qatar, France, Turkey, Iran, Australia, Indonesia, the Philippines and Singapore. Dr Robie published several articles on the travel ranging from media misrepresentations of Iran, an extraordinary pair of Iranian research brothers, the crisis in West Papua, the Ampatuan massacre in the Philippines – the world's worst single deadly attack on journalists, the *Rappler* online media gag, and community empowerment through radio and nutrition.

PMC Advisory Board member Khairiah Rahman initiated the hosting of the biennial conference of the Asian Congress



for Media and Communication (ACMC) at AUT to be held in November 2020. She also presented a paper at UGM in Yogyakarta as part of the ongoing collaboration with that university.

In the Philippines, Dr Robie delivered the annual John Jefferson Siler memorial address and forum on the theme of democracy, media freedom and human rights at the University of Santo Tomas in Manila. The memorial event is named in honour of the academic who founded the oldest journalism programme in the Philippines in 1929. Dr Robie also worked voluntarily as a visiting professor at the AMIC office at the Philippine Women's University and collaborated with the Asian Institute for Journalism and Communication (AIJC). During his stay, Dr Robie also wrote articles about a range of contemporary media issues in the Philippines and Southeast Asia.



Pacific Media Centre director Professor David Robie at Mashhad's Ferdowsi University in Iran. Image: Del Abcede/PMC

In France, Dr Robie met with Reporters Without Borders Asia-Pacific director Daniel Bastard to discuss media freedom strategies in the region. He also had collaboration meetings with media and social sciences staff at universities in Iran, including the renowned Ferdowsi University in Mashhad, one of the country's top three universities. It is named after Ferdowsi, the celebrated 11th century poet and historian who created the Persian epic *Shahnameh*.

The climate change documentary *Banabans of Rabi*, made by Blessen Tom and Hele Ikimotu won a highly commended citation by the judges in the Ossie Awards presented at the Journalism Education and Research Association (JERAA) conference in Newcastle, NSW. This documentary made under the PMC's Bearing Witness project had earlier been screened in three international film festivals.

On radio, the PMC's popular Pacific Media Watch freedom research project produced a series of high-profile reports by contributing editor Michael Andrew, assisted by Sri Krishnamurthi, on the Centre's hosted *Southern Cross* programme on Radio 95bFM. Andrew subsequently won an ACICS internship with *The Jakarta Post* as an international reporter.

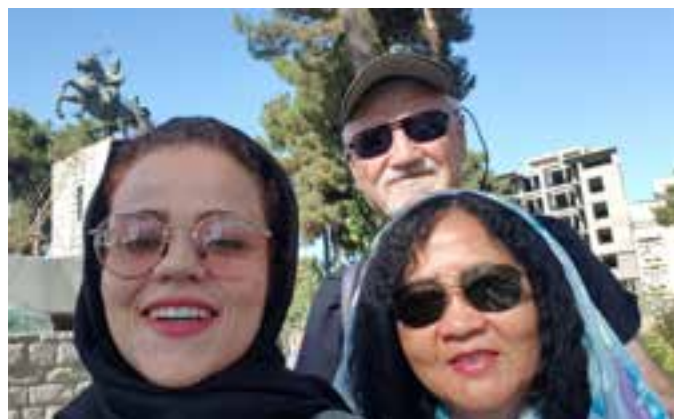
In July, the centre relaunched the *PMC Online* website with enhanced public interface and improved research and publication resources. The Centre was assisted in this project by Little Island Press. [www.pmc.aut.ac.nz](http://www.pmc.aut.ac.nz)

At the PMC showcase event, the Dean of Design and Creative Technologies, Professor Guy Littlefair, complimented the centre on its achievements, saying while launching *Pacific Journalism Review's* latest edition:

**“If journalism is the first draft of history, then the academic analysis of journalism and journalists is the edited, polished and considered second draft. And as a record of the struggle of the media in Aotearoa in our corner of the South Pacific to do and be better, this journal provides, once again, a magnificent example of the best, most relevant, most meaningful research.”**

Some key outcomes in brief by numbers:

- Since the Centre was established, more than **10,059** news and analysis articles, audio reports and videos have now been published on the Pacific Media Watch database – more than **260** during the current year.
- **264,862** unique views (58,862 more than in 2018) and **894** subscribers – 396 more than the previous year – on the PMC's YouTube channel: [www.youtube.com/pacmedcentre](http://www.youtube.com/pacmedcentre)
- More than **162,000** unique visitors to the *Asia Pacific Report* website and **28,340** to the PMC Online website and database.
- One double edition of the peer-reviewed research journal *Pacific Journalism Review* was published, with a total of two major reports, 28 articles, including Māori-Pacific-Indigenous research papers.
- More than 21 research and publication outputs were published during the year by the Centre's director and AUT research associates.



Former Iranian student Zahra Ebrahimzadeh, with PMC's David Robie and Del Abcede at the Mashhad Museum in Iran. Image: PMC

## 2. CHAIR'S REPORT



*Kia ora,*

I am pleased to write the 2019 Pacific Media Centre Annual Review Chair's Report.

The Pacific Media Centre is New Zealand's only university based communications and media unit to be involved in Radio New Zealand's highly acclaimed public outreach programme. RNZ recognises its specialised Pacific knowledge, research and media content production. The PMC continues to produce a high rate of research outputs, conference papers and publications. In 2019, this included a double edition of the School's only SCOPUS-ranked research journal *Pacific Journalism Review*.

The PMC conducts research in several key areas, including the role of journalism in Asia-Pacific states, peace journalism, human rights journalism and environmental and climate change journalism.

The goals of the PMC include undertaking research into contemporary Māori, Pacific, Asia-Pacific, ethnic/diversity media and culture production, raising research capability in media diversity production in Aotearoa/New Zealand, and presenting and publishing the findings of media research.

Several climate change research and reportage projects have resulted in the publication of two books (including *Dreadlocks on Creative and Climate Change in the Pacific* and *Science Writing and Climate Change* (2019)).

The PMC's *Asia Pacific Report* which provides news, current affairs, research and analysis on Asia-Pacific affairs has an international audience of approximately 20,000.

In October 2019, PMC director Professor David Robie was invited by Griffith University to give the keynote address for the Melanesia Media Freedom Forum. He was also invited by the Universitas Gadjah Mada University in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, to work on a three-week climate change collaboration research project.

One of PMC's key Advisory Board members, Khairiah A. Rahman, is the conference convenor for the forthcoming "Change, Adaptation and Innovation: Media, Communication and Culture" 2020 ACMC International Conference in partnership with AUT's School of Communication Studies. The conference theme highlights the imperative power of change particularly on how climate change and disaster communication by mass media and relevant organisations have played vital roles in how the media stories shape public perception and support for governance.

In 2020, the PMC also plans to publish two editions of *Pacific Journalism Review* and one edition of the *Pacific Journalism Monographs*.

Two major challenges for the PMC in 2020–2021, and thus a primary focus are transitional preparations for the Centre and future publication of the *PJR* in direct consultation with and contribution from Professor Robie. The small budget allocated to the PMC by the School means that the PMC has to raise monies from other sources. Limited funds have been raised through its news and current affairs website database royalties and from book sales.

Finally, it is not for the first time that I call on AUT to first acknowledge the contribution that the Pacific Media Centre and Professor David Robie make to the university and wider society and to consider the recommendations made in the review carried out by Professor Mark Pearson in 2013. AUT's privileged and highly regarded journalism profile and status are largely due to the PMC and to Dr Robie, including the work carried out by Del Abcede. It is time that AUT appreciated and rewarded that.

*E noho rā*

**Associate Professor Camille Nakhid**  
Chair, PMC Advisory Board  
Auckland University of Technology

### 3. BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

The Pacific Media Centre is a cross-disciplinary unit and is in a unique position of “diversity” and “inclusive” influence in the media industry and has the potential to develop on a number of strategic fronts through a contribution with media research to economic, political and social change media and development communication in the region. This was reflected in the 2013 Pearson Report external review which deployed the Associate Dean Research’s Research Unit profiles criteria and stated that it was vital the university and the school give support through a commitment to structural and resource support:

The Pacific Media Centre (PMC) has grown in its [12] years of operation from a single person initiative to an AUT asset with a strong research, education and media reputation in New Zealand and beyond, particularly within the Asia-Pacific region of its main focus.

However, its operations will not be sustainable beyond the tenure of its current director, Professor David Robie, without institutional, faculty and school commitment to a restructure and resource allocation allowing for others to share in the responsibilities and considerable rewards. (Pearson Report, p. 2)

Professor Pearson advocated a special development budget of an extra \$20,000 from the university above the current PMC budget to achieve this. However, major improvements have happened in the past seven years with the School Research Committee which has enabled the PMC to become more consolidated with an internal budget grant of \$12,500 projected for 2020. The PMC also raises some specific project grants and earns royalties from the centre’s databases and news services.

### 4. MISSION STATEMENT

The PMC’s mission is based on the belief that robust and informed journalism and media research contributes to economic, political and social development in the Asia-Pacific region. The PMC goals are:

- undertaking and stimulating research and publication on contemporary Māori, Pacific, Asia-Pacific and ethnic/diversity media and cultural production
- raising Aotearoa/New Zealand research capacity in media production
- presenting and publishing the findings of media research

- winning funding from government and industry partners that support research into media production
- developing collaborations and relationships with other Asia-Pacific centres of research excellence in media and cultural production
- developing social change and development communication editorial and publications capability, including:

**Asia Pacific Report** [asiapacificreport.nz](http://asiapacificreport.nz)  
**Pacific Journalism Monographs** [ojs.aut.ac.nz](http://ojs.aut.ac.nz)  
**Pacific Journalism Review** [www.pjreview.aut.ac.nz](http://www.pjreview.aut.ac.nz) **Pacific Media Centre Online** [www.pmc.aut.ac.nz](http://www.pmc.aut.ac.nz)  
**Radio Southern Cross** [soundcloud.com/user-688507213](https://soundcloud.com/user-688507213)

### 5. INDEPENDENT REVIEW

The PMC is currently the only media research centre of its kind in Aotearoa/New Zealand. A major strength is that it is multidisciplinary, cross-cultural and with a focus on inclusive and diversity journalism. Even with a limited budget, the Centre has been able to establish a high-profile presence in the news mediascape and has now co-published 12 Pacific media books with partners in Fiji, Hawai’i, Manila, Papua New Guinea, Singapore and at AUT University since it was established.

According to the Pearson external review report (p. 3):

While the PMC is categorised as a “Recognised Research Centre”, it is predominantly the external funding quantum that holds it back from Institute status on the other required criteria.

While only a small team, its research outcomes have considerable impact and influence policy making at an international level. It attracts international students and senior researchers and is internationally acclaimed as a research entity. Leading communication scholar Professor Graham Murdock reviewed the School’s research and described the PMC thus: “The School has already seized the opportunity presented by New Zealand being a Pacific nation to develop a world leading Pacific Media Centre” (Murdock Report, p. 8).

## 6. OBJECTIVES

- Establish the centre as the pre-eminent institution of its kind in Aotearoa/New Zealand.
- Develop financial partnerships that can extend research and publication collaborative opportunities
- Strengthen cooperative arrangements with comparable centres and institutions and develop them into more structured MOUs, for example with “centre twinning” with the Asian Media and Information Centre (AMIC); Centre for Southeast Asian Social Studies (CESASS) at the Universitas Gadjah Mada in Yogyakarta, Indonesia; University of Santo

Tomas, Philippines, Journalism programme; and the Pacific Regional Journalism Programme (University of the South Pacific, Suva, Fiji); and the Internews Earth Journalism Network.

- Expand publishing (eg research monographs, media texts) and digital media programme capacity. (A new series of *Pacific Journalism Monographs* was started in 2012 and they are archived by the National Library of New Zealand).
- Provide a resource office, workspace and support facilities for School of Communication staff, other Asia-Pacific researchers and journalists, and students on exchange and internships.

## 7. KEY PERFORMANCE MEASURES

- Successful media publishing and documentary making programmes based on research-led teaching
- Enhancing Māori, Pasifika and diversity/cross-cultural research, publication and broadcasting
- Raising the national profile of the university through critical studies and analytical seminars appealing to media industry, staff and postgraduate and undergraduate students
- Raising the international profile of the University by developing partnerships with regional and global centres with a synergy matching PMC’s objectives



PMC’s Khairiah A. Rahman with Dr Budi Irawanto, *IKAT* journal editor Dr Vissia Ita Yulianto and Dr Adam Brown at the Universitas Gadjah Mada in Yogyakarta. Rahman and Dr Brown presented seminars in collaboration with PMC and CESASS.

## 8. STAKEHOLDERS AND PARTNERS

### Stakeholders in the PMC within AUT include:

- School of Communication Studies
- School of Social Sciences and Public Policy Chair of Pacific Studies
- Te Ara Poutama
- Office of Pacific Advancement

### Associates include:

- Asian Congress for Media and Communication (ACMC), Singapore – COLLABORATIONS
- Asian Media, Information and Communication Centre (AMIC), Manila – PARTNER
- Asia New Zealand Foundation, Wellington – COLLABORATIONS
- Centre for Journalism and Social Change (UQ), Brisbane – COLLABORATIONS

- Edith Cowan University (ECU), Perth, Western Australia – COLLABORATIONS
- Griffith University, Journalism and Social Media, QLD – COLLABORATIONS
- Human Rights Commission, Wellington – COLLABORATIONS Monash University, Melbourne, Victoria – COLLABORATIONS
- Pacific Islands Media Association (PIMA, Auckland) – COLLABORATIONS
- Pacific Islands News Association (PINA, Suva) – COLLABORATIONS
- Pasifika Media Association (Pasima, Apia) – COLLABORATIONS Reporters Sans Frontières (RSF), Paris, France – COLLABORATIONS
- Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane – COLLABORATIONS
- Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM), Yogyakarta, Indonesia – PARTNER



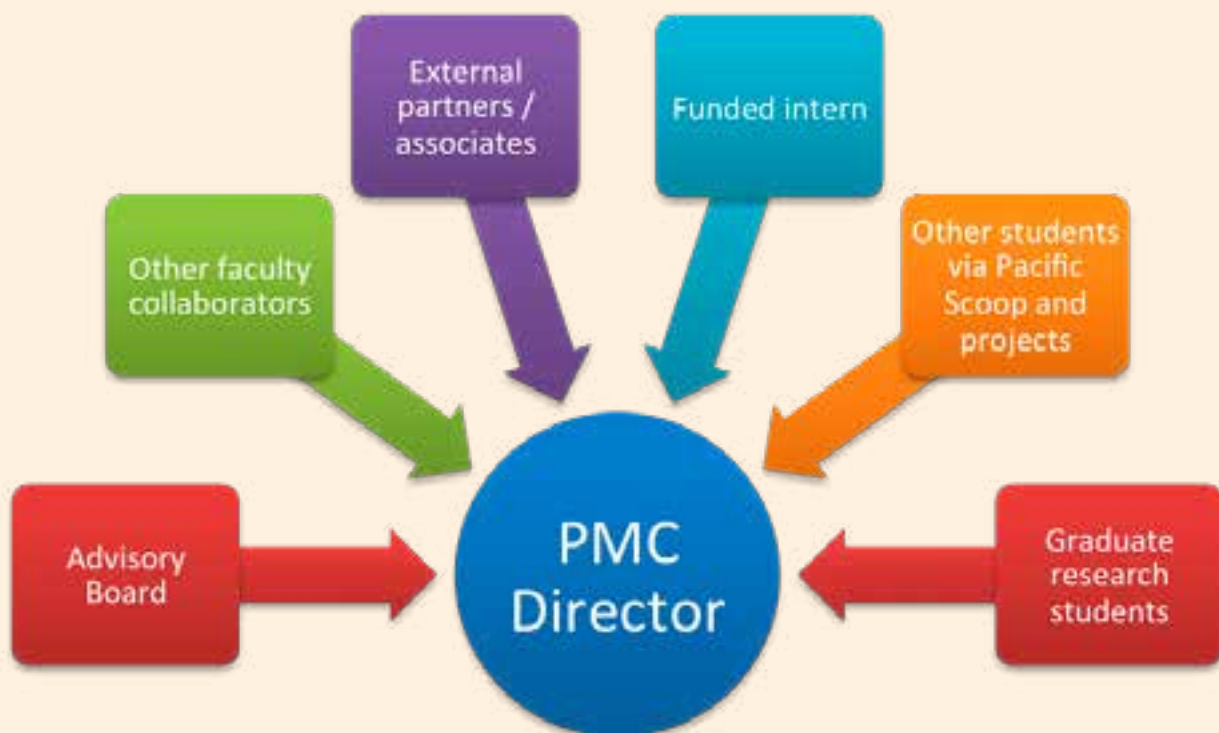
## 9. STAKEHOLDERS AND THEIR EXPECTATIONS

Stakeholders in the Centre are represented through the Advisory Board (see Governance structure below).internships.

## 10. GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

An Advisory Board was established in May 2007 and meets quarterly or three times a year to assist the director with governance. The composition of the Board was chosen to ensure a wide range of stakeholders' interests were represented. The current Board of 9 people also includes the School of Society and Culture and three external media members, including from TVNZ's *Tagata Pasifika* franchise and *Brown Pages*. The current PMC structure is pictured below as indicated in the Pearson Report 2013, p. 8.

The director and the Advisory Board are accountable to the Faculty and School governance board and the Head of the School of Communication Studies. The director produces regular progress reports of the centre and minutes of the Board meetings. These documents are stored on the Pacific Media Centre Space on AUT Online. The Centre also publishes the quarterly newsletter *Toktok* about its activities.



The current PMC structure as indicated in the Pearson Report 2013, p. 8.

## PMC Advisory Board:

- Chair: Associate Professor Camille Nakhid (AUT School of Social Sciences and Public Policy)
- John Pulu (Television NZ's *Tagata Pasifika*)
- Iulia Leilua (*Brown Pages* media consultancy)
- Jim Marbrook (*Te Ara Motuhenga* – Documentary Research Collective, AUT)
- Khairiah A. Rahman (School of Communication Studies, AUT)
- Paul Janman (Pacific documentary maker, AUT)
- Janet Tupou (School of Communication Studies, AUT)
- Professor Barry King (Director, Centre for Performance Studies, AUT)
- Professor Wendy Bacon (independent journalism advocate, PMC external member in Australia and Frontline editor of *Pacific Journalism Review*)

## Ex officio

- Office for Pacific Advancement, Head of Pacific Advancement Walter Fraser
- Head of School, Communication Studies: Dr Rosser Johnson
- Director of the PMC, Professor David Robie
- Pacific Media Watch project researcher/editor: Michael Andrew (March–November, 2019)
- Postgraduate student representative: Sri Krishnamurthi



Khairiah Rahman (from left), Blessen Tom, Jim Marbrook, Michael Andrew, Sri Krishnamurthi and A/Professor Camille Nakhid. Image: PMC

## PMC research associates include:

- Dr Jan Sinclair (climate change researcher, Massey University)
- Associate Professor Evangelia Papoutsaki (International Communication, Unitec, Auckland)
- Professor Chris Nash (Monash University, Melbourne)
- Professor Mark Pearson (head of journalism and new media, Bond University, Gold Coast)
- Dr Lee Duffield (retired, formerly Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane)
- Dr Shailendra Singh (Head of Journalism, University of the South Pacific, Fiji)
- Associate Professor Trevor Cullen (Edith Cowan University, Perth)
- Dr Sione Vikilani (Tonga)
- Dr Levi Obijiofor (University of Queensland)
- Dr Heather Devere (National Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, Otago University)
- Susan O'Rourke (retired, formerly School of Communication Studies, AUT)
- Dr Allison Oosterman (retired, formerly School of Communication Studies, AUT)
- Professor Steven Ratuva (Director, Macmillan Brown Centre for Pacific Studies, University of Canterbury)

## Research project students and editors:

- Manny Cruz, Guam (doctoral candidate, media in Guam/Micronesia, due 2018)
- Pauline Mago-King, Papua New Guinea (MCS candidate) Associate Editor of *PJR* and research associate Dr Philip Cass
- Del Abcede (*Pacific Journalism Review* research journal, *Pacific Journalism Monographs* and *Toktok* newsletter layout and production, PMC photographer)

## 11. ASIA PACIFIC REPORT

In collaboration with *Evening Report* editor and owner, Selwyn Manning, a former chair of the Pacific Media Centre Advisory Board, the PMC began in late 2015 to develop a new digital news, current affairs and analysis website *Asia Pacific Report* [www.asiapacificreport.nz](http://www.asiapacificreport.nz) to replace *Pacific Scoop* as a quantum leap forward in journalism education and publication. The new website was launched in late January 2016. In the two years of publication since then, the website has made its mark internationally, especially with its environmental, human rights, politics and digital media coverage.



Front page display from *Asia Pacific Report* during live reporting and in the wake of the Christchurch mosque massacre on 15 March 2019

## 12. PUBLIC SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES

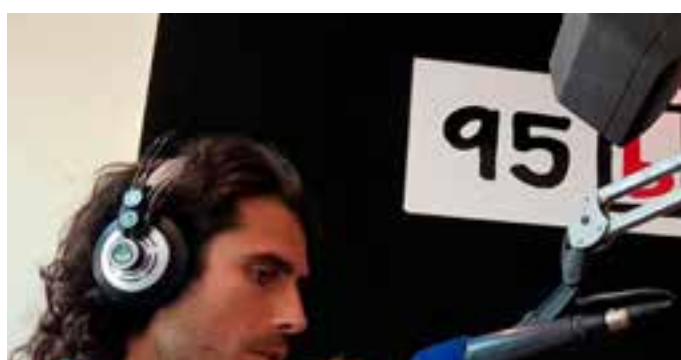
The Centre organised and hosted the following public media and research seminars, and participated in conferences during 2018:

JUN 17-19	"Communication, Technology and New Humanism", AMIC Annual Conference, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand. Two papers presented by Professor David Robie and Khairiah Rahman from the PMC.	NOV 18	"Twinning Centres" seminar at Universitas Gadjah Mada, Yogyakarta, Indonesia.
JUN 18	Launch of the new climate change book <i>Science Writing and Climate Change</i> by Professor Crispin Maslog, Professor David Robie and Joel Adriano. Launched at the AMIC Conference, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand.	NOV 22	Launch of the Philippine Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists, Manila, Philippines. Professor David Robie a participant.
OCT 28	Pre-conference Public Lecture for the Melanesia Media Freedom Forum (MMFF) international conference of journalists and academics, hosted by Griffith University, Southbank Campus, Brisbane. Lecture by Professor David Robie	NOV 26	Philippine Centre for Investigative Journalism (PCIJ) hosted "Muckrakers Conference". Professor David Robie a participant.
NOV 03	"Challenges of journalism as a career in the age of climate change", public lecture by Professor David Robie at the Universitas Gadjah Mada, Yogyakarta.	DEC 02	"International Research Strategies" seminar, University of Philippines-Los Banos. Speakers Professor Crispin Maslog and Professor David Robie.
NOV 11-12	Melanesia Media Freedom Forum (MMFF), co-hosted by Griffith University and AUT Pacific Media Centre, Southbank Campus. Keynote address by Professor David Robie via Zoom from Yogyakarta; paper presentation and <i>PJR</i> representation by acting editor Dr Philip Cass.	DEC 04	"Challenges of Human Rights and Journalism". Fourth John Jefferson Siler memorial public lecture and forum., University of Santo Tomas, Manila, Philippines. Lecture by Professor David Robie.
			<b>Full events listing on the PMC website at: <a href="http://www.pmc.aut.ac.nz/events">www.pmc.aut.ac.nz/events</a></b>

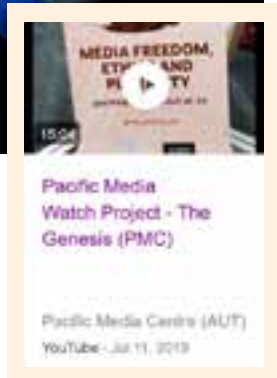
### 13. PROJECTS

The Centre currently has one part-time director, one part-time research project person, one part-time designer and volunteers working on the Pacific Media Watch project, a video documentary, *Pacific Journalism Review*, *Pacific Journalism Monographs* and *Toktok*. The move of the permanent office location from the tenth floor of the AUT Tower Building in December 2012 to the tenth floor in the Sir Paul Reeves

communication precinct building has strengthened the collaboration with other postgraduate staff and students and the journalism programme, and also boosted communication and media resources. The director also has an office in the centre. Among current and recent projects are the Bearing Witness mini documentary initiative and preparing to host the Asian Congress for Media and Communication (ACMC) conference themed “Change, Adaptation and Innovation: Media, Communication and Culture” at AUT on 26–28 November 2020.



Pacific Media Watch 2019 contributing editor Michael Andrew broadcasting on the Pacific Media Centre’s weekly *Southern Cross* radio programme on 95bFM. Image: David Robie



### 14. PACIFIC MEDIA WATCH AND SOUTHERN CROSS RADIO

Michael Andrew, a Pacific BCS (Honours) student, worked on the Pacific Media Watch research and publication project part-time between March and November in 2019). He had a baptism of fire by starting on the job just before the Christchurch mosque massacre on March 15. Michael covered many human rights and development stories in the Asia-Pacific region, especially relating to West Papua. He also hosted the PMC’s weekly *Southern Cross* programme on Radio 95bFM at the University of Auckland. At the end of the year, Michael was selected by the Asia NZ Foundation as one of two New Zealand student journalists to go to Indonesia on a Bahasa Indonesia language and culture course and an internship with the English-language Jakarta Post newspaper. Postgraduate student Sri Krishnamurthi also made a documentary about the history of the Pacific Media Watch project – *The Pacific Media Watch Project – The Genesis*.

### 15. BOOK PUBLISHING PROJECTS

*Science Writing and Climate Change*. By Crispin C. Maslog, David Robie and Joel Adriano. Co-published by the Asian Institute of Journalism and Communication (Manila) and Pacific Media Centre (AUT), Auckland. ISBN 978-971-8502-19-8

This book has been published to address the role of media – science media in particular – and journalism schools in general to address the global climate crisis. What are Asia-Pacific’s mass media and journalism educators doing about this existential threat? Dr Maslog says:

“Disaster reporting, which focuses on deaths and casualties for the benefit of local readers, is understandable. However. The mass media also need to explain in depth the causes of climate change. Contextual climate change reporting can be taught to journalists by journalism schools if they have enough trained faculty and resources”



Professors Crispin Maslog and David Robie at the launch of *Science Writing and Climate Change* in Bangkok. Image: AMIC



## 16. 'TWINNING CENTRES'

The Universitas Gadjah Mada's Centre for Southeast Asian Social Sciences (CESASS) and AUT's Pacific Media Centre have embarked on negotiations as "twinning centres". As part of this development, the two centres staged an enabling workshop in Yogyakarta in November. Staff and students at both centres have been collaborating since 2017 and published joint climate change research articles and networked between their two research journals, *IKAT*, and *Pacific Journalism Review*. A joint edition is being planned for 2020.

<https://pssat.ugm.ac.id/>



Universitas Gadjah Mada communications and PMC staff at a "centre twinning" workshop hosted by the Centre for Southeast Asian Social Sciences (CESASS) in Yogyakarta in November. Image: AMIC

## 17. PACIFIC JOURNALISM REVIEW, PACIFIC JOURNALISM MONOGRAPHS AND TOKTOK



*Pacific Journalism Review: Te Koako* has been indexed by SCOPUS since 2005 – the first New Zealand media journal to be indexed by a major global PBRF metrics agency such as this. The journal is also featured on AUT's Tuwhera indigenous research platform along with *Pacific Journalism Monographs*. During the year, *PJR* published a double edition.

**"The NZ Mosque Massacre: Dilemmas for journalism and democracy"**. July 2019. 318 pages. Editors: David Robie and Philip Cass

The edition featured 17 papers and articles, a photo essay by Todd Henry and 12 reviews. Also featured were the New Caledonia general election, the China Global television Network's news coverage, iwi radio in the era of convergence, and the Green Climate Fund and the Pacific post-2020. Acting editor Philip Cass gave an interview with SBS News on the fate of Australian television in the region.

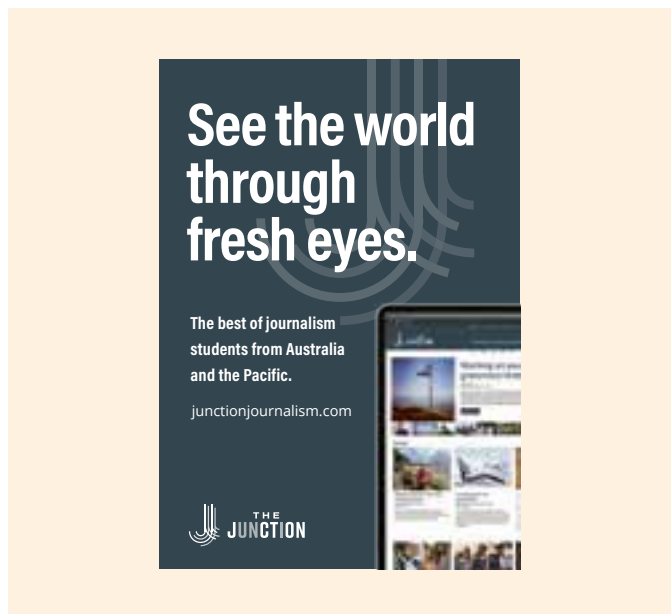
The school has a Pacific Media Centre page online at the AUT Shop which offers *PJR* and other centre publications and PMC tee shirts for direct online sale. Del Abcede has been working on the production and layout of *Pacific Journalism Review* and also voluntarily does the layout for the Centre's newsletter *Toktok*.



## 18. BEARING WITNESS PROJECT, THE OSSIES AND THE JUNCTION

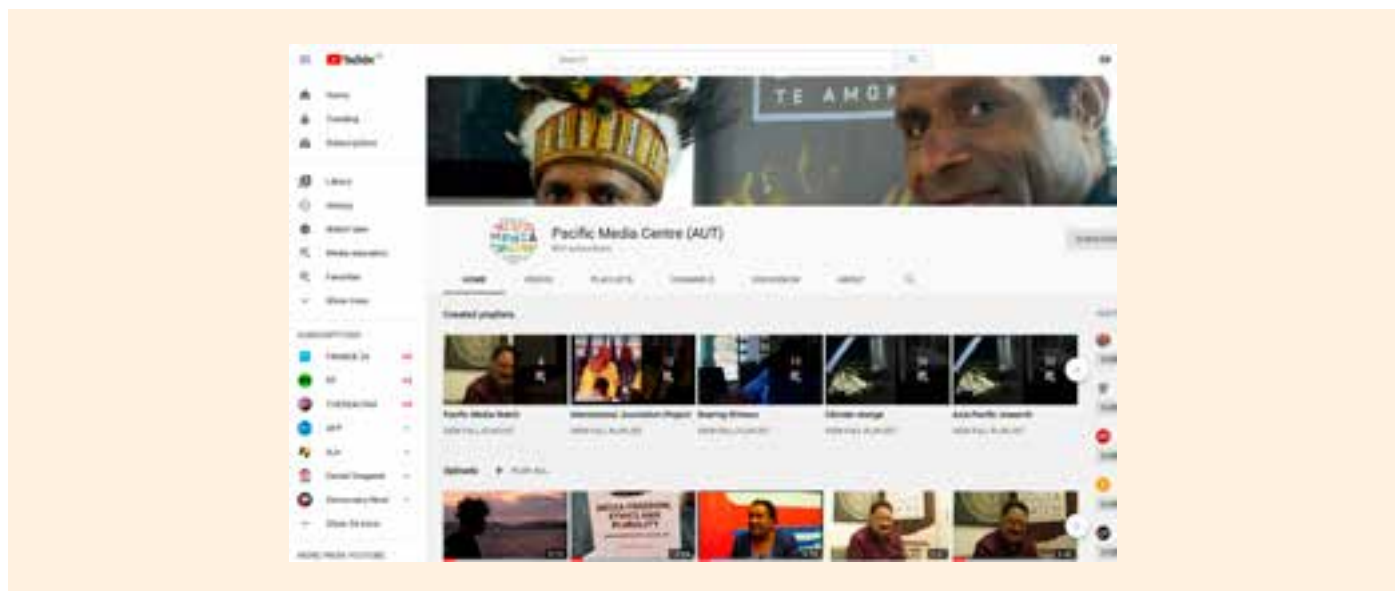
While the PMC’s Bearing Witness climate change did not run this year as none of the applicants were selected, the team from 2018, Hele Ikimotu and Blessen Tom, continued to collect kudos for their documentary, *Banabans of Rabi*. They won a highly commended citation in the annual Ossie Awards for the cream of student journalism in Australia, NZ and the Pacific. Also, postgraduate student stories from those affiliated with the PMC had their multimedia stories published on JERAA’s The Junction showcase.

[jeraa.org.au/capel-stanley-wins-journalism-student-of-the-year/](http://jeraa.org.au/capel-stanley-wins-journalism-student-of-the-year/)



## 19. FACEBOOK AND SOCIAL MEDIA

The Pacific Media Centre’s Facebook has passed 4679 “friends” and “followers” – excellent progress for a small and specialised media centre. The PMC’s conventional email list had only 250 members and this has now been phased out. The Centre uses Facebook, Twitter (5226 followers), YouTube (264,862 views and 894 subscribers) Instagram, Soundcloud (95 tracks) and other social media as being integral to its communication strategy. A Pacific Media Watch Instagram account was added to the PMC social media portfolio in 2016. The major development in 2019 was the relaunch of PMC Online in July as a major news and current affairs analysis hub, and as a Pacific research resources: [www.pmc.aut.ac.nz](http://www.pmc.aut.ac.nz)



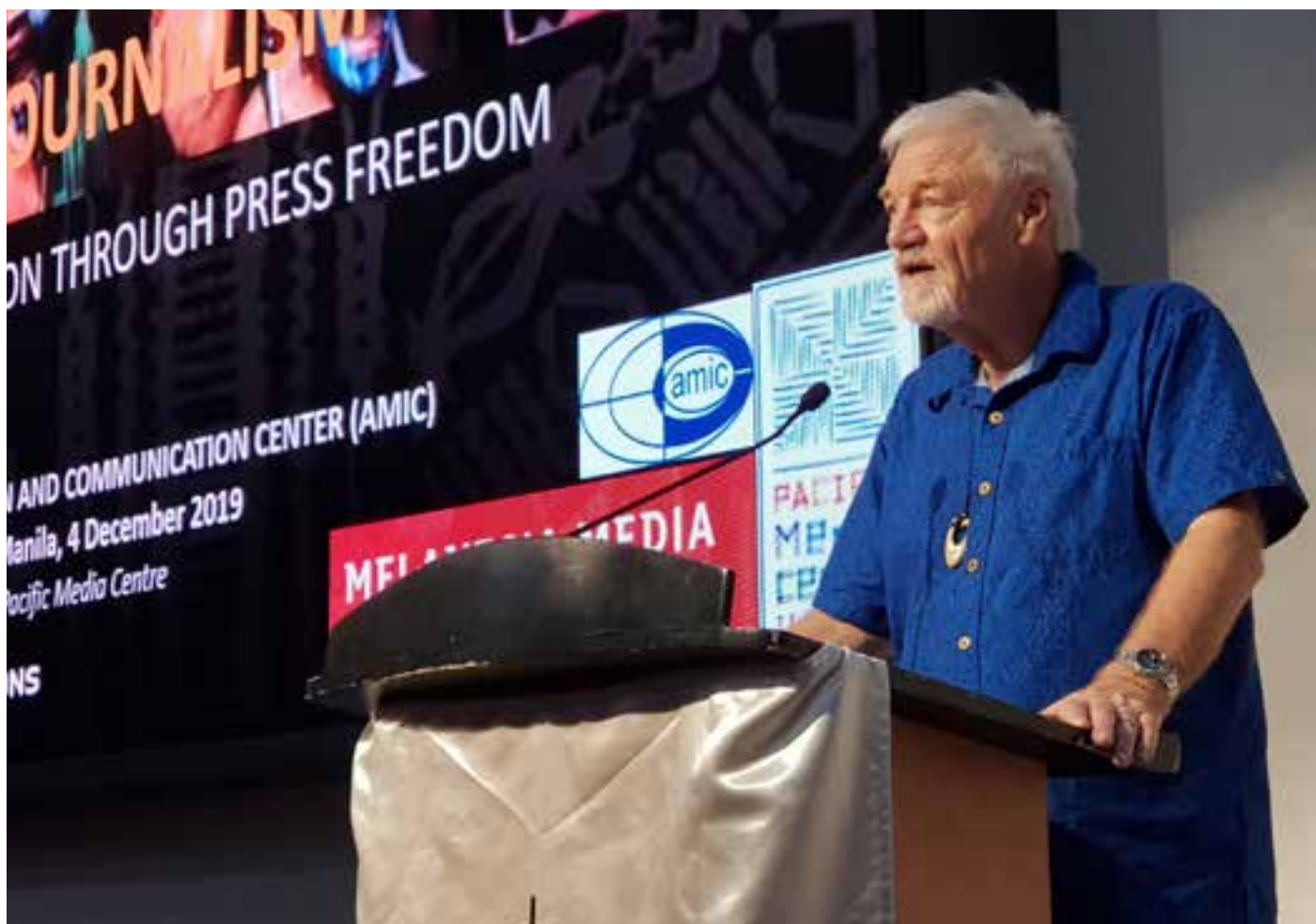
## 20. JOHN JEFFERSON SILER ANNUAL LECTURE, MANILA

Professor David Robie warned, while delivering the Fourth John Jefferson Siler memorial lecture at the University of Santo Tomas on 4 December 2019, the shutting down or forcing the sale of the franchise of the largest and most popular television media network in the Philippines would be a move toward dictatorship. He said President Rodrigo Duterte's "displeasure" toward ABS-CBN was not enough to deprive it of a franchise. He added:

*“There’s no justification in doing that [not renewing the franchise of ABS-CBN]. Doing that is moving towards dictatorship.”*

Duterte had vowed to block the renewal of ABS-CBN's franchise, which was pending in the Philippines Congress. The president claimed ABS-CBN "swindled" him during the 2016 election campaign when the Lopez-led television network did not air his political ad. The ad was in response to a 30-second spot paid for by then opposition senator Antonio Trillanes IV, showing children reacting to the ex-Davao City mayor's profanity-laden speeches:

During December, Dr Robie was a visiting professor with the Asian Media Information and Communication Centre (AMIC) at the Philippine Women's University (PWU) and was involved in several media and communication workshops and seminars, including the Philippine Centre for Investigative Journalism "Muckrakers in the Public Interest" conference.



Dr Robie delivering the Fourth John Jefferson Siler memorial lecture at the University of Santo Tomas, Manila, Philippines, in December 2019. Image: UST

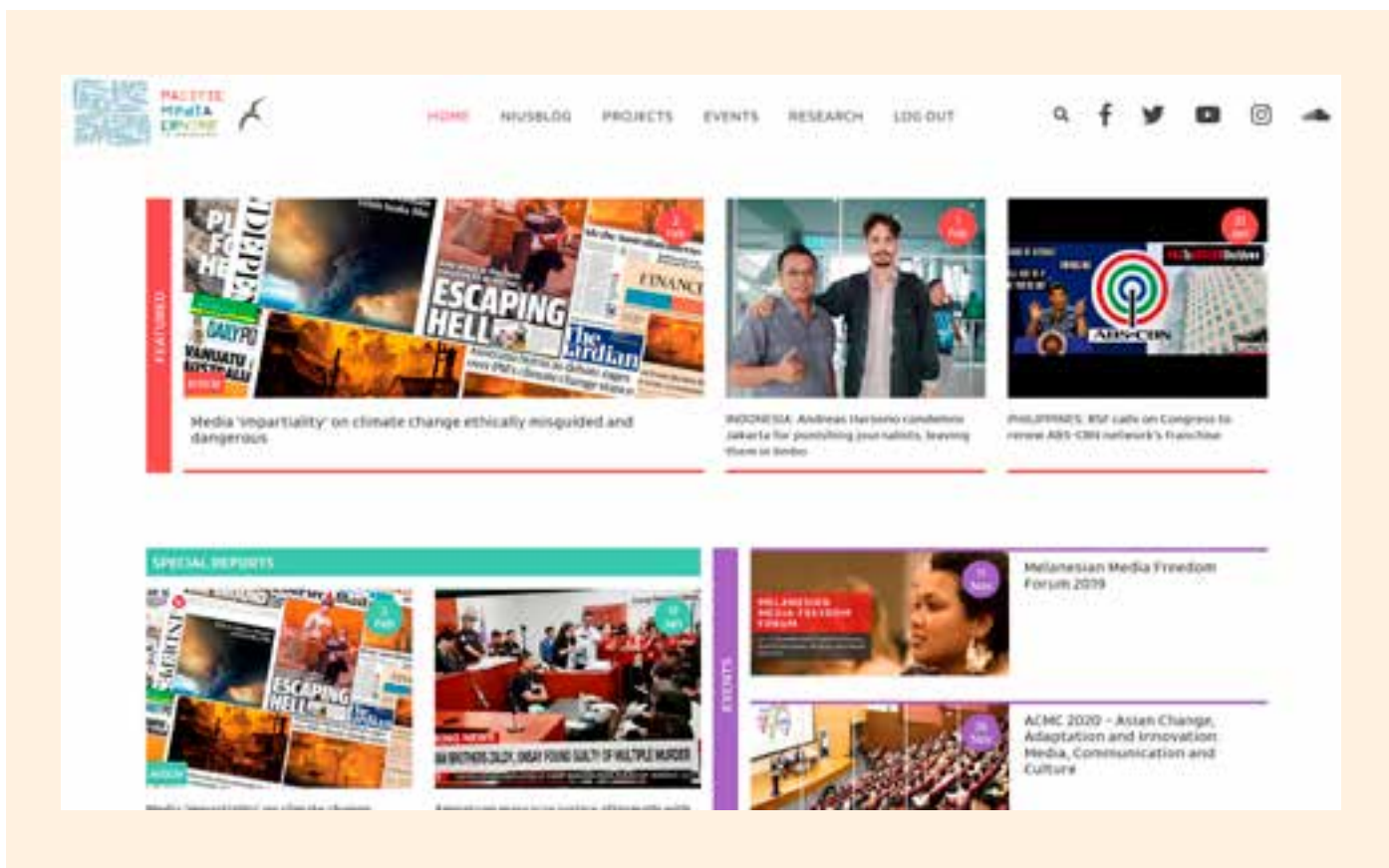


## 21. FUNDING AND SPONSORSHIP

As in previous years, the core operating costs of the Centre have been met by the School of Communication Studies. The Centre is also generating largely self-funding revenue for *Pacific Journalism Review* through subscriptions, database royalties (such as Copyright Licensing Ltd, INFORMIT and Knowledge Basket) and occasional external grants. It has the potential to generate limited funds from projects such as book publishing and royalties. The budget and financial reports

are prepared separately within the School by the manager in consultation with the director. The centre continues to need support in identifying potential future funding proposals and partnerships. It also needs more support if the Centre is to evolve and grow.

In mid-2017, the NZ Institute for Pacific Research contracted the Pacific Media Centre to provide a research article, video and publication service. Two students provided this service in the second semester. Their work can be viewed at the NZIPR Lali blog: [www.nzipr.ac.nz](http://www.nzipr.ac.nz)



The Pacific Media Centre Online umbrella website. [www.pmc.aut.ac.nz](http://www.pmc.aut.ac.nz)

## 22. RESEARCH AND PUBLICATION OUTPUTS

PMC research indicative outputs in 2019 are listed on and include the following: [www.pmc.aut.ac.nz/pmc-indicative-outputs](http://www.pmc.aut.ac.nz/pmc-indicative-outputs)

### Books:

Maslog, Crispin; Robie, David; & Adriano, Joel (eds.) (2019). *Science writing and climate change*. Manila, Philippines: Asian Institute of Journalism and Communication (AIJC), & Auckland: Pacific Media Centre, Auckland University of Technology. ISBN 9781927184578

### Edited books:

Robie, David, & Cass, Philip. (2019). The NZ Mosque Massacre: Dilemmas for journalism and democracy. *Pacific Journalism Review* 25(1&2) special edition, July 2019.

### Book chapters:

Cass, Philip, & Ford, Jonathan (2019). 'Goin' native!': Depictions of the first peoples from down under. In Aldama, F. (Ed.), *Graphic indigeneity: Comics in the Americas and Australasia*. University of Mississippi Press.



Cass, Philip (2019). Digital media, development and democracy in the Pacific. In Centurion, D. (Ed.), *Development communication*. Encarnacion, Paraguay: Global Communication Research Association.

Robie, David (2019). 'Bearing witness' and reporting climate change in the Pacific. In Maslog, Crispin, Robie, David, & Adriano, Joel (eds.) (2019). *Science writing and climate change* (pp. 47–57). Manila, Philippines: Asian Institute of Journalism and Communication (AIJC), & Auckland: Pacific Media Centre, Auckland University of Technology. ISBN 9781927184578

#### Refereed journal articles:

Robie, David, & Marbrook, Jim (2019). *Bearing Witness*. A Pacific climate crisis documentary and journalism development project. *Asia Pacific Media Educator* (Forthcoming).

Robie, David (2019). Independence for Kanaky: A media and political stalemate or a 'three strikes' Frexit challenge? *Pacific Journalism Review: Te Koakoa*, 25(1&2), 81–100. <https://doi.org/10.24135/pjr.v25i1.477>

Robie, David (2019). Karoronga, kele'a, talanoa, tapoetethakot and va: expanding millennial notions of a 'Pacific way' journalism education and media research culture. *Media Asia*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01296612.2019.1601409>

#### Oral presentations:

Cass, Philip (2019). Tok Pisin and climate change. Paper presented at the Melanesian Media Freedom Forum (MMFF). Griffith University, Southbank Campus, 11–12 November 2019.

Robie, David (2019, December 4). Fourth John Jefferson Siler memorial lecture-forum. University of Santo Tomas, Manila, Philippines.

Robie, David (2019, November 12). Day Two Keynote Address at the Melanesian Media Freedom Forum (MMFF) by Zoom from Yogyakarta, Indonesia. Griffith University, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia.

Robie, David (2019, October 28). Pre-conference Keynote Address for the Melanesian Media Freedom Forum (MMFF). Griffith University, Brisbane, Queensland.

Rahman, Khairiah (2019, December 16). Media, identity, language and culture. Seminar presented by the Centre of Southeast Asian Social Studies (CESASS). Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

Brown, Adam (2019, December 16). "Understanding and teaching punctuation. Seminar presented by the Centre for Southeast Asian Social Studies (CESASS), Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

#### Media outputs:

Cass, Philip (2019, November 16). Praise for young Pacific journalists and threats to Melanesian journalism (Melanesian Media Freedom Forum report, Part 2). *Asia Pacific Report*.

Cass, Philip (2019, November 15). Media challenges in Pacific and impact of online news concerns in Melanesia (Melanesian Media Freedom Forum report, Part 1). *Asia Pacific Report*.

Cass, Philip (2019, November 8). *PJR* acting editor doubtful Australian TV relevant to Pacific [Interview with SBS News]. Sydney, NSW, Australia.

Robie, David (2019, October 20). Iran's great global adventurers – around the lost world in 10 years (Part 3). *Asia Pacific Report*.

Robie, David (2019, October 19). 10 reasons why tourists must visit Iran (Part 2). *Asia Pacific Report*.

Robie, David (2019, October 18). Iran a hugely 'friendly' country behind the sabre-rattling (Part 1). *Asia Pacific Report*.

Robie, David (2019, August 24). West Papua's road to 'independence', following the Timorese lead? *Asia Pacific Report*.

Robie, David (2019, July 22). Indonesia's cover-up over Papuan media freedom violations exposed, *Asia Pacific Report*.

Ikimotu, Hele, & Tom, Blessen (2019). *Banabans of Rabi: A Story of Survival*. Pacific Media Centre Bearing Witness project [Documentary, 10min].

Krishnamurthi, Sri, & Tom, Blessen (2019, July 10). Pacific Media Watch Project – *The Genesis* [Documentary, 15min]. *Asia Pacific Report* & YouTube).

Robie, David (2019, June 27). Ethics essential to developing global smart tech, say experts. *In-Depth News*.

Robie, David (2019, June 22). Bring ethics into global smart tech, warns UN cyber expert. *Asia Pacific Report*.

Robie, David (2019, May 3). Pacific countries score well in media freedom index, but reality is far worse. *The Conversation*.

Robie, David (2019, May 3). Pacific media freedom and news 'black holes' worsen for World Press Freedom Day. *Asia Pacific Report*.

Robie, David (2019, January 25). Typhoon Usman and nightmarish holiday times in Bicol. *Asia Pacific Report*.

#### Other outputs:

Cass, Philip (2019). Journalist, revise editor and editorial adviser for *Kaniva News*, the most read online Tongan news service. [www.kanivatonga.nz](http://www.kanivatonga.nz)

Pacific Media Watch outputs at: [www.pacmediawatch.aut.ac.nz](http://www.pacmediawatch.aut.ac.nz)

**Professor David Robie**  
Director, Pacific Media Centre

## APPENDIX 1. DCT RESEARCH STORIES OF COLLABORATION PP. 18-19.

# Professor David Robie

Creating creative spaces that enable collaborative initiatives is an essential part of the Pacific Media Centre. The Centre particularly focuses on diversity and marginalised groups that receive little media coverage.

Professor David Robie is the Director of the Pacific Media Centre and an experienced journalist who has a special interest in issues that are often overlooked in the Asia-Pacific region. David is the editor of the Pacific Journalism Review (PJR). The journal is published both as a hard copy and online on AUT's Tuwhera indigenous research platform. This journal focuses on research and topics from the South Pacific, Asia-Pacific, Australia, and New Zealand. He also manages Pacific Media Watch, digital analysis of Pacific journalism and media, and is a publisher of the Asia Pacific Report and distributed through ForeignPolicy.nz and Knowledge Basket.

The Pacific Media Centre (PMC) began in 2007 and is a research and publication unit within the School of Communication Studies at AUT. David explains that the objective of the PMC was to "create a creative space for a range of collaborative initiatives such as journalism and documentary making within the social sciences. We also have a particular focus on diversity and marginalised groups that don't get much media coverage." The PMC currently serves as an important space for postgraduate students specifically as they create story projects, image portfolios, video, and other multimedia on Asia-Pacific focused issues.

At the beginning of 2016, David and his colleagues founded a new current affairs and news website called Asia Pacific Report (APR), which used the basic structure of the previous platform called Pacific Scoop that ran from the year 2009 to 2015. The Pacific Media Centre Online website has also recently relaunched with more visually aesthetic elements and an improved user interface. PMC online is a resource based on media that features a whole collaborative range of media stories and portfolios, which at the same time, promotes innovative research that is taking place within the department. Asia Pacific Report has a much bigger global audience than PMC online, only a quarter of which is based in New Zealand. A large portion of traffic to APR comes from Indonesia, which David presumes is due to their coverage of the political situation in West

Papua. David says, "most media in New Zealand, apart from Radio New Zealand Pacific, don't really cover West Papua, even as this crisis is going on at this moment and over the last two weeks, and yet where is the coverage? It's staggering, and I find it unconscionable."

PMC exists as a collaborative space for students to learn from one another and work together. Even though it operates on limited resources, students can gain valuable experience through their projects and also through monitoring media from other parts of the Asia Pacific region such as the Bearing Witness climate change project. PMC also boasts several external industry partnerships, for example, with Radio New Zealand who collaborates with PMC generated content and provides a larger platform. Other collaborative PMC partnerships are found in Fiji, Papua New Guinea, and with individual journalists and academics around the region, and include the University of the South Pacific's journalism programme and the Centre for Southeast Asian Social Sciences (CESASS) at Universitas Gadjah Mada in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. Internal partnerships within AUT include an advisory board that is made up of members from across the university and the wider industry. The board is currently presided over by Associate Professor Camille Nakhid from the Faculty of Culture and Society, Social Sciences department

"We very much target stories and issues that we feel are not being terribly well covered by the mainstream media," says David. Due to its name, the PMC often is assumed to be solely Pacific focused, but, according to David, "we are actually an eclectic and a very broad stream if you like. It is very much a collaboration between social sciences and the school of communication and mainly individual staff in the social sciences. David acknowledges that collaboration can be challenging at times due to the foundational structures of the university environment that can form what David calls a "silo mentality." "It's very much an educational process with our colleagues as well, to say this is what we do, and this is where we can collaborate. I hope that the university will continue to be more supportive and encouraging for ventures like this in the future."



Collaboration is essential for David's work and the PMC as a whole as it facilitates a range of different research initiatives, while at the same time enabling postgraduate students to approach topics in unconventional ways that will adequately address complex issues and topics. David also highlights the fact that the media itself is inherently collaborative with teams of people being involved. As such, David believes it is very important for PMC to continue providing opportunities for team building and collaboration to take place with internal and external partners.

[pmc.aut.ac.nz](http://pmc.aut.ac.nz)  
[asiapacificreport.nz](http://asiapacificreport.nz)

“ PMC's objective was to “create a creative space for a range of collaborative initiatives such as journalism and documentary making within the social sciences. ”





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