

PMC explores joint projects with new regional group PasiMA

REPRESENTATIVES of the Pacific Media Centre and the new regional body Pasifika Media Association (PasiMA) have met in Auckland to explore some joint projects such as investigative journalism and student/media staff training exchanges.

Six board members from four countries—Cook Islands, Hawai'i, Samoa and Tonga—met PMC director Professor David Robie, *Pacific Media Watch* editor Alex Perrottet and Kiribati *Independent* publisher Taberannang Korauaba.

Both Perrottet and Korauaba are also masters students in AUT's School of Communication Studies.

"This is a thrilling opportunity for us to be able to reflect with some of the Pacific's media who's who—such as *Samoa Observer* editor-in-chief Savea Sano Malifa, *Taimi o'Tonga* publisher Kalafi Moala and *Cook Islands News* editor John Woods—ways we can work together," said Dr Robie.

"PasiMA already publish our *Pacific Media Watch* news monitoring service and now we are looking at collaboration with investigative journalism and a student/ staff internship exchange."

Dr Robie presented Savea, chair of the PasiMA group, with a limited edition "friendship" tee-shirt from the PMC.



Savea Sano Malifa (left) and Dr David Robie at the PMC. Photo: PasiMA

The PMC-hosted meeting followed a three-day board meeting and a web-based training programme for Pacific media was commissioned by PasiMA. It is expected to start in late 2012.

The one-year-old organisation charted the course for this training programme, funded by a \$100,000 grant from the British High Commission in the Solomon Islands.

The training resources will be designed to support Pacific media operators and journalists with "enhanced real-world skills", particularly in the fields of media business management, investigative journalism and multimedia platforms.

Savea said this would help strengthen the role of member organisations in delivering robust journalism and combating corruption and resistance to transparency and openness in public institutions and governments.

PasiMA's board held a number of side meetings with potential partners and allies. As well as meeting the PMC, the members had talks with the New Zealand-based Pacific Islands Media Association (PIMA).- *Pacific Media Centre*

Student investigation challenges NZ super fund in *Metro*

THE NEW ZEALAND Superannuation Fund's involvement in the controversial US-owned Freeport McMoRan goldmine in West Papua, which critics say has been implicated in a long history of human rights violations by Indonesian forces, has been challenged in the latest edition of *Metro* magazine.

The December edition features a long-running labour strike at the mine and the shooting of miners in "suspicious circumstances" with an article written by a postgraduate student.

"It was the latest incident in a long line of human rights abuses, not to mention ongoing environmental devastation, associated with the mine," says Karen Abplanalp's *Metro* article.

"The fund, which is signatory to the United Nations Principles for Responsible Investing (UNPRI) charter, has shares in the enterprise. Why?"

Abplanalp reports that human rights abuses as well as

environmental impacts have been well-documented—long before NZSF invested in it.

The West Papuan crisis erupted this year when continued strikes at the mine involved more than 8000 workers, two of whom were killed by security forces.

The killings happened just prior to an October 19 attack on the Papuan People's Congress in the capital Jayapura, where up to six people were reportedly killed and hundreds more detained.

Abplanalp says she became interested in the issue when attending a public talk by Indonesia Human Rights Committee spokesperson Maire Leadbeater some months ago as part of the Asia-Pacific journalism course at AUT.—*Alex Perrottet*



Karen Abplanalp

Students praised for ‘world class’ reports

PLAUDITS have flowed in for the coverage by a team of postgraduate journalism students from the Asia-Pacific Journalism course in AUT’s School of Communication Studies who had their very own scoop.

The students covered the 42nd Pacific Islands Forum leaders summit representing 15 countries in the region, including New Zealand—only Fiji was missing, suspended because of its military regime.

Along with the Forum, the students covered the visit of the United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, and the President of the European Commission, José Manuel Barroso.

Top of the agenda were issues such as climate change, regional security and “turning opportunity into prosperity”.

At the end of the week, several prime ministers attended the World Rugby Cup opening match between New Zealand and Tonga, won by the All Blacks 41-10.

The students’ stories, videos and audio reports were published on their course website Pacific Scoop www.pacific.scoop.co.nz

Their live coverage was organised by PMC and supervised by director Professor David Robie, who said: “This is quite extraordinary for students to have an opportunity to cover an international event of this calibre—and all the students excelled.”

Scoop co-editor Alastair Thompson told the students: “I



Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon Photo: Karen Abplanalp

think this has been the best reported Pacific Islands Forum ever—by your team in particular. And in doing such a marvellous job, you have set a new bar of professionalism for student/industry journalism projects.”

Green MP Catherine Delahunty wrote to the PMC to congratulate the team, saying the coverage was “world class” and compared it favourably with “shallow” reporting by mainstream media.

“The PMC has a vital role ... because mainstream media has a limited commitment to covering Pacific nations’ stories other than with a highly Westernised focus,” she said.

“These media students had a leading role in asking the pertinent questions of the United Nations Secretary-General and other dignitaries.”

Eleven students were involved in the coverage: Alex Perrottet (Australia), Karen Abplanalp, Kim Austin, Christopher Chang, Chen Bei (China), Nigel Moffiet, Idoko Ojabo (Nigeria), Sarah Robson, Alexander Winkler, Henry Yamo (Papua New Guinea) and Victoria Young.

Winkler won a highly commended citation in the annual Ossia Awards for the best student journalism in Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific for his Forum online coverage.

PIF student archive 2011 on Pacific Scoop: <http://pacific.scoop.co.nz/category/westpapua/>—*Pacific Media Watch*

PMC director becomes professor

THE FOUNDING DIRECTOR of the Pacific Media Centre, Dr David Robie (*right*), has been appointed a professor at AUT University and is believed to be the first journalism professor at a New Zealand or Pacific university-based journalism school.

Formerly an associate professor for six years in AUT’s School of Communication Studies, Dr Robie had previously been head of journalism at both the University of Papua New Guinea and University of the South Pacific for 10 years following a career as an independent Pacific affairs and international journalist.

He gained his doctorate in history/politics and journalism at the University of the South Pacific in 2004 and is the author or editor of nine books, including *Mekim Nius: South Pacific media, politics and education*.

Dr Robie is also founding editor of *Pacific Journalism Review*, New Zealand’s only peer-reviewed journalism research journal.

“I am delighted by the appointment and humbled by all the support I have been given,” he said.

Professor of journalism Mark Pearson of Bond University in Australia described him as a “mentor to countless Pacific Island journalists, fearless defender of media freedom and tireless editor of *Pacific Journalism Review*.”

Tongan publisher and broadcaster Kalafi Moala described the appointment as a “great achievement” ... Dr Robie had had a “tremendous input in my life and work as a PI journalist”.

Dr Robie was recognised by Pacific media identities at the



10th anniversary dinner of the Pacific Islands Media Association in November for his contribution to Pacific media education.

Meanwhile, founding PMC advisory board chair Selwyn Manning (*pictured below*) recently resigned from his role of Scoop co-editor and director to pursue a challenging new Pacific project.

However, while he has moved on from Scoop, he is retaining his involvement in *Pacific Scoop* on the PMC advisory board and the School of Communication Studies industry advisory board.

Dr Robie praised Manning’s commitment to New Zealand independent reporting and encouraging “niche journalism” on Asia-Pacific issues by co-founding the *Pacific Scoop* project with AUT.

“His vision, enthusiasm and ongoing support have been both an encouragement and an inspiration for our small team,” he said.

“Also, Selwyn’s support for covering marginalised Pacific stories like West Papuan independence and human rights has been critical.”

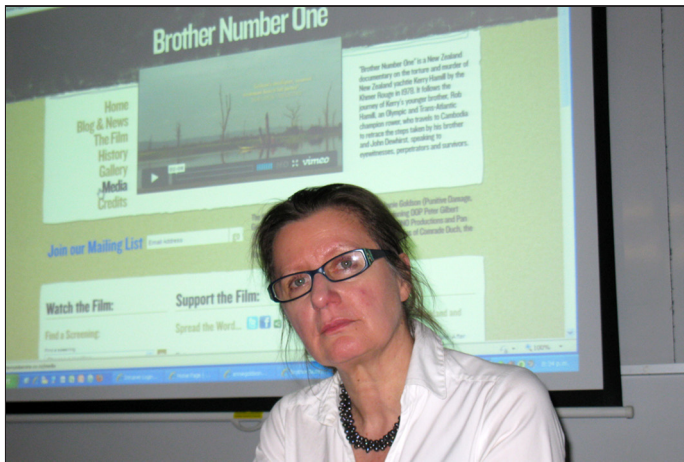
Alex Perrottet has gained wide exposure in the *New Zealand Herald* and other media for freedom and ethical issues with articles, commentaries and interviews.—*Pacific Media Watch*





Photo: DEL ABCEDE/PMC

Pacific Islands Forum coverage, Auckland, September 2011



Photos: DEL ABCEDE/PMC

Brother Number One seminar - 18 August 2011

Chen Bei seminar - 6 October 2011

Photos: DEL ABCEDE/PMC



PIMA's Iulia Leilua seminar - 22 Sept 2011

Strange Birds in Paradise film - 20 Oct 2011

Pacific Journalism Studies

New Pasifika Media Course

A new Graduate Diploma in Pacific Journalism is being offered to fulfil needs in our increasingly diverse media environment at AUT University's School of Communication Studies.

The one year course is an addition to other Pacific media opportunities.

- Certificate in Communication Studies
- Bachelor of Communication Studies
- Postgraduate qualification:
 - Bachelor of Communication Studies (Honours)
 - Postgraduate Diploma in Journalism
 - Master of Communication Studies
 - PhD

The new Graduate Diploma and Postgraduate studies are supported by the school's Pacific Media Centre.

The Pacific Media Centre's goals:

- Publication of the Pacific Journalism Review, peer-reviewed journal on media research in New Zealand and Oceania www.pjreview.info
- Pacific Media Watch Database digital repository
- Books and research publications
- Pacific Media Centre website, including Pūi's Beat, Postmarten, Global Watch, Special Reports and research resources www.pmic.aut.ac.nz
- Film, photjournalism, TV and digital media research papers
- 'Journalist-in-residence' research fellowships and masters and doctorate scholarships



AUT and Pacific Islands Media Association Pasifika Communications Scholarships

These awards are sponsored and organised by AUT's School of Communication Studies and Office of Pasifika Advancement with the Pacific Islands Media Association (PIMA) for New Zealand resident Pacific Islanders seeking media qualifications. The scholarship is offered to assist one undergraduate and one postgraduate full-time student in communication studies each year.

The scholarship covers tuition fees for a maximum of four papers per semester, student services fee and Student Association fee (AUSM). It does not include books, material fees and miscellaneous charges.

Full tenure, criteria and application requirements in the AUT Scholarships Handbook or visit the AUT website at www.aut.ac.nz/students/student_services/scholarships/current_aat_scholarships/design.htm

JOHN UTAHIA – SENIOR REPORTER, TAGATA PASIFIKA, TVNZ

"I'm really excited that AUT is offering a Graduate Diploma in Pacific Journalism. It has the potential to significantly boost the number of trained Pasifika journalists and serve as a pathway to a significant career in the media."

"Also, many Pacific people already working in ethnic media have had little or no media training; this course is one way in which they can get further understanding of their roles and responsibilities as journalists while gaining a valuable qualification."



WIMDANA TAPALEAD – REPORTER, NEW ZEALAND HERALD

"Choosing to do journalism at AUT was one of the best decisions I've made. The course was awesome with a balance between theoretical work and practical work. I did the Bachelor of Communication Studies, and being Pasifika was a massive bonus because the course dealt with intercultural topics like how to report fairly on Māori and Pasifika issues."

"Now the new Graduate Diploma in Pacific Journalism is a step forward for upcoming Pasifika journalists. We need more Pacific and Māori journalists to tell our stories and to take multicultural New Zealand into the newsroom."



LÉLANI MOHISEA – JOURNALIST, RADIO NEW ZEALAND

Lélani says that the political situation in Fiji is a good example of when Pacific news becomes mainstream news. "Just having that background information would help journalists form their view."

"It would be quite hard to come in cold. In the Pacific in general, you have to take a different approach to reporting. It's probably more difficult because in the Pacific they're not as open to the media. They can easily write you off if you just come in and don't know what you're talking about."



JOHN PULU – AUT STUDENT AND TNEWS INTERN

"I'm a firm believer that Pacific people deserve to be served by and represented in the media and I have worked hard for this goal since leaving high school. I'm passionate about documenting Pacific Island issues and telling our stories."



Graduate Diploma in Pacific Journalism

Level: 7. Points: 120. One year full time

The Graduate Diploma in Pacific Journalism addresses the shortage of Pasifika journalists in Aotearoa/New Zealand. It is suitable for people wishing to enter the media industry from another career or those already in the industry desiring a qualification. It will also appeal to students from the Pacific region. The programme is enriched by Pasifika and Māori and other media elective papers.

Graduates are able to enter a wide range of journalism and media related careers in both mainstream and Pasifika contexts.

Check out the rest of this information online at:

www.aut.ac.nz



Associate professor David Noble, director of AUT's Pacific Media Centre and former coordinator of the University of the South Pacific regional journalism programme.

"This new course will be a boost for regional Pacific reporting and will also contribute to a higher Pasifika community profile in the New Zealand media. We hope journalists on this programme will push the boundaries of Pacific reporting in a challenging way."

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