



PJR launches new Pacific media research website at AUT

PACIFIC JOURNALISM REVIEW has launched a new website archiving regional media research dating back almost two decades.

It is a digitally enhanced outlet taking over from the old site established by AUT University five years ago and has been featured in a Radio Australian *Pacific Beat* programme.

It was launched by the university's dean of the Faculty of Design and Creative Industries, Desna Jury.

"I have become strongly aware of how important the Pacific Media Centre and its publications are in recent times," she said.

"This is a real asset for the region."

The website was designed by specialist Oceania publisher Tony Murrow and Pacific Media Centre director Professor David Robie.

Murrow also designed the umbrella PMC site, launched at an international investigative journalism conference at AUT in December 2010.



The new Pacific Journalism Review website ... focus on New Zealand and Pacific media research.

"The journal, the only journalism-based research publication in New Zealand and the Pacific, has come a long way since it was founded at the University of Papua New Guinea in 1994," said Dr Robie, who is also the editor.

"It was very under-resourced when it was first established but it created a debate on media issues then not being aired."

The journal was later published by the University of the South Pacific before finding a permanent home in New Zealand and being relaunched at AUT in 2003.

Pacific Journalism Review encouraged the careers of several young Pacific political cartoonists such as Campion Ohasio of the Solomon Islands.

Many of the AUT published editions feature cover cartoons by Auckland cartoonist Malcolm Evans, who is also among the 139 contributors.

It has also published investigative journalism over the years and the latest October edition published two major special reports on Pacific media freedom and New Zealand globalised media ownership.

More pictures on Page 3.

www.pjreview.info

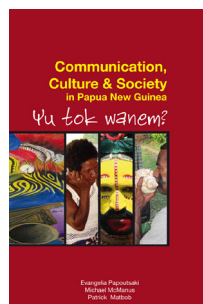
New PNG communications book out this Friday

CONGRATULATIONS to Dr Evangelia Papoutsaki, a research associate of the PMC, for her book *Communication, Culture and Society in PNG: Yu Tok Wanem?* being launched this Friday.

Her co-editors are Brother Michael McManus and Patrick Matbob of Divine Word University. Other contributors include PMC director Dr David Robie, Dr Philip Cass and postgraduate PMC student Henry Yamo from Papua New Guinea.

Young, emerging and established media researchers associated with DWU have come together to write about issues involving mainstream media, social concerns, development and the information gap and teaching communication professionals.

This book has encouraged and supported original research



about PNG culture and society from a communication perspective.

"I grew up in Upa village in the Southern Highlands," writes Jeffrey Elapa.

"I was briefly caught in between two warring clans. This research was a learning ground for me," writes Brenda Peter.

DWU lecturer Patrick Matbob writes: "To see students transform from being nervous, shy and uncertain to being self-confident is a

deeply satisfying experience for me."

Launching: 12noon, March 9, WT1006 Foyer, AUT Tower. All welcome.

Ex-Fiji publisher graduates with coup thesis

A FORMER *Fiji Daily Post* publisher and columnist who managed the newspaper during crisis times a decade ago has graduated from AUT University after researching a thesis shedding new light on renegade businessman George Speight's attempted coup in May 2000. Thakur Ranjit Singh, who was awarded an AUT/Pacific Islands Media Association post-graduate scholarship in 2009, was delighted with his achievement. He pledged to work for a stronger and independent Fiji media.

Singh was awarded a Masters in Communication Studies (MCS) with honours degree for his thesis entitled *The 2000 Speight coup in Fiji: An analysis of the role of The Fiji Times and the impact of partisan media*.

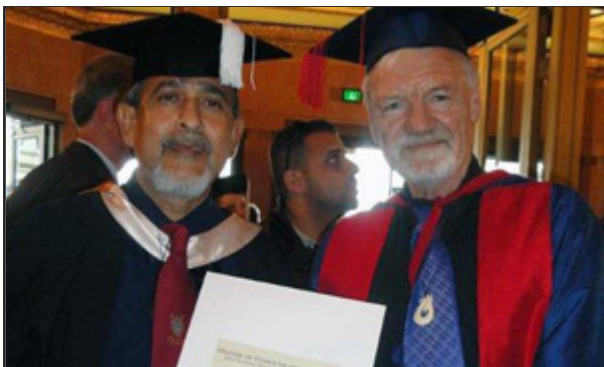
"My choice of thesis wasn't very difficult, because, as a former *Daily Post* publisher, I was aware of the cultural and political complexities facing Mahendra Chaudhry's multiracial government after his landslide win in the 1999 election," he said.

Free media

"I undertook to research and demonstrate the impact that some so-called free media can have in the fall of democracy in a developing country.

"I hope my study will become a stepping stone for others who intend taking further studies in media development and effects in the Asia-Pacific region and developing countries."

Singh praised AUT for offering "the best and most advanced media study opportunities" in New Zealand and he thanked the



Former *Fiji Daily Post* publisher and columnist Thakur Ranjit Singh with Professor David Robie at the graduation in Auckland. Singh's thesis was about the 2000 Speight attempted coup. Photo: PMC

university and PIMA for awarding him the scholarship.

"I also take this opportunity to thank my mentor and supervisor Professor David Robie for his advice and encouragement that drove me to take up this course," he said.

Singh also won a Pacific scholarship from the Journalism Education Association of Australia (JEAA) in 2010 to attend the Sydney conference and deliver a paper about the Fiji "coup culture" and the media.

Also at graduation, a young Samoan journalist, Lanuola Tusani, became the first person to be capped with the new Graduate Diploma in Pacific Journalism taught by programme leader Richard Pamatatau.

Having previously worked for the *Samoa Observer* and other media in Apia, she hopes to break into the mainstream in New Zealand.

Tusani filed several stories for the PMC's *Pacific Scoop* during the one-year programme.



Lanuola Tusani with her lecturer Richard Pamatatau at the graduation. Photo: PMC

Former PMC student mentor wows *Tagata Pasifika*

TAGATA PASIFIKA director/reporter John Pulu has been starring on the Television NZ programme in recent weeks and scored well with his March investigation into church tithing, a highly controversial topic.

He reported Tongan church ministers were calling for a freeze on big donations and new church buildings as concern grows over spending.

This follows news that a new church in Australia had folded, owing \$27 million.

The Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga in Sydney was opened by King George Tupou V three years ago, but was reported to be in voluntary administration and receivership.

According to reports it owes money to Westpac Bank and an industrial paint company which gave the church a loan.

The Tongan community raised funds for the building and treasurer Sione Pinomi hopes they will help again.

"Of course it comes with a cost but that's all beyond the point. The most important thing for us is to accomplish our mission here, which is to bring Tonga to Australia," Reverend Pinomi said.



However, Mohenoa Puloka, a senior figure who trains ministers, has suggested a freeze on big projects in the wake of the church's collapse.

"The proposal was to put a stop to all the constructions in the church of Tonga overseas for three years—no more construction, church hall, chapel or

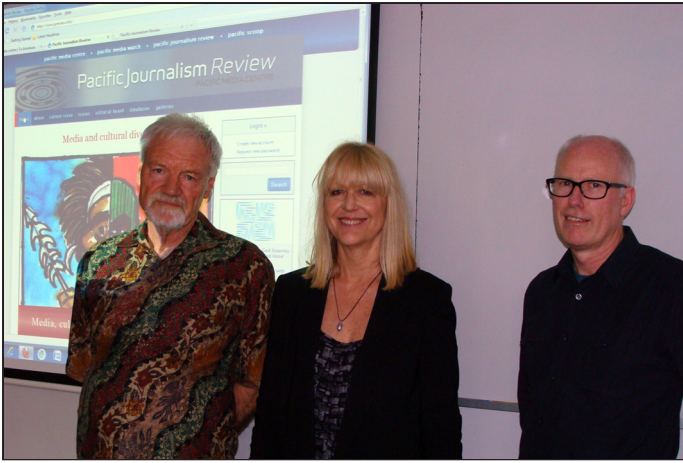
any building," Dr Puloka said.

He also called for the annual money donating festival to be cancelled.

The idea is finding support in New Zealand, where followers have gone to great lengths to help out in the past.

AUT Tower staff will remember John Pulu's mentoring leadership of a "class of 2008" Pasifika second-year students who camped in the PMC for their studies.

See John Pulu on the Back Page

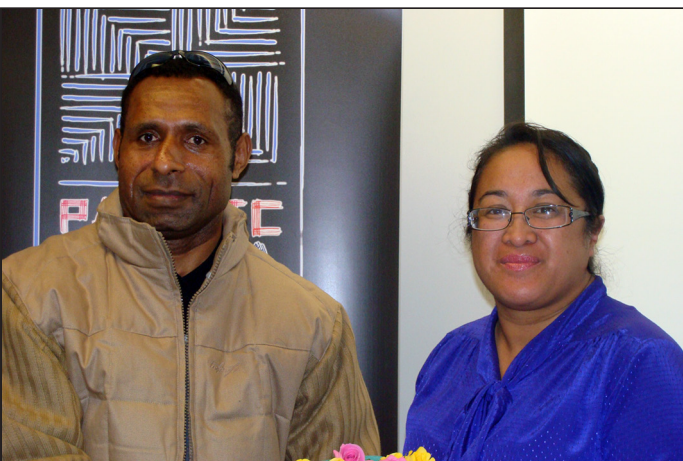


Pacific Journalism Review research website launch, 16 December 2011



Annie Goldson at *Brother Number One* seminar.

Alex Perrottet interviews AI's Shaili Shetty.



Henry Yamo and Iulia Leilua at PIMA seminar.

Student team post-mortem on PIF coverage.

John Pulu

Director/Reporter, Tagata Pasifika TVNZ
Bachelor of Communication Studies in Television

While still at high school John Pulu was lucky enough to get work experience through Gateway on TVNZ's *Tagata Pasifika* programme.

Work experience opens doors

"I then kept in touch with *Tagata Pasifika* during my study – just persisting nicely – and one holiday break they arranged work for me on TV2's *Studio 2*."

John also took up other work experience offers, including freelance reporting for Tongan TV programme, *TNews*, and a bit of radio announcing with *Niu FM*.

His industriousness paid off. After John graduated at the end of 2009 *Tagata Pasifika* employed him on contract and in 2011 he became a permanent staff member.

Gaining practical skills

"The hands-on experience I gained through the Television major, which included directing, camera operation and presenting, prepared me well for this job. I also really enjoyed creating visual documentaries."

"Another great resource was AUT's Pacific Media Centre," says John.

The Pacific Media Centre offers courses and information for Pasifika students studying towards a career in the media industry.

Future in Pacific media

John feels strongly about telling Pasifika stories. "In the future I would like to pursue documentary making because there are so many tales from the Pacific yet untold."

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Alison Young Photography