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□ A Taiwanese artist at the Epeli  
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Picture: SHIVNEEL NARAYAN

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# Fiji media woes

**EXCLUSIVE**  
Sean Dorney speaks on  
World Press Freedom  
Day and the plight of  
journalism in Fiji.

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by **TEVITA VUIBAU**

FORMER and working journalists maintain that an element of fear exists among reporters after a Fiji TV reporter left the company in shadowy circumstances.

Anish Chand was released by Fiji Television in early May, but events leading to his departure remain unclear.

It is understood company policies restrict Fiji TV management and Chand from commenting on his departure.

Allegations that Chand was sent home following a phone call from a high government office to Fiji TV also remain unsubstantiated.

Attempts to acquire comments from the Ministry of Information on these allegations have proved futile.

When approached on the issue,

Chand also declined to comment.

Fiji TV, whose media license comes under government review and extension every six months, also did not respond to requests for comment on the issue.

*Wansolwara* was referred to Fiji TV CEO Tevita Gonelevu, however, attempts to get comments from him were also unsuccessful.

When approached on the issue, Media Industry Development Authority chairman Ashwin Raj said he was aware of the circumstances surrounding Chand's dismissal but did not have the power to act as yet.

He said this at a World Press Freedom Day panel discussion hosted by the School of Journalism at the University of the South Pacific.

"I've heard this question about the precarious life of Anish

Chand, I cannot work on it at the moment until a formal complaint is made."

"I cannot work on hearsay."

Former Fiji Times editor Netai Rika, who also spoke on the panel, used Chand's dismissal as an example of the conditions and fear Fijian journalists face when trying to be critical.

He said though times have changed, the environment for journalists had not.

"Today the threats are not physical, but they still come over the phone and any journalist who denies that, I would call a liar," Rika said.

"Today as we sit here to mark this day, a colleague of mine, a friend, had been forced to give up his profession of two decades because of a simple phone call that calls into question his being pro-Fiji."

"Because he dared raise questions on how his news organisation should approach the elections and ask tough questions and it should not just side with one side of the debate."

"And I would like to pay tribute to Anish Chand."

Rika's comments were echoed by other panelists, most notably *Republika* editor Ricardo Morris who is praised for reporting issues missed by mainstream media.

Morris said people do not see what goes on behind the scenes.

"People usually commend me in saying, 'Oh, you are so brave in what you are doing,' but they don't realise that a lot of what I want to publish and say, we don't publish."

"We don't because at the back of our mind there is a fear for what the consequences just might be."

Morris explained *Republika-*

was a smaller publication, so there were stories they could get away with publishing.

"It would be unfortunate for big companies like *The Fiji Times* where you have hundreds of people dependent on employment there - if they get closed down today all those people are without jobs," he said.

"If we get closed down today... there are things that we can do and the impact is not as heavy."

Raj assured all he would defend journalists who publish stories deemed unpopular by establishments provided they follow ethics and are balanced.

"Go ahead and publish things that might be unpopular, but if they are based on fact and you conform to the requirements of the media code of ethics, I'll be the first one to lose a pound of meat but I will protect you."



# ‘Restrictions’ spark outrage

by PRIYA CHAND

CAMPUS security’s alleged search of students and their warnings against dissent at a West Papua discussion were a breach of fundamental rights, says a leading academic at The University of the South Pacific.

USP’s Head of School of Government, Development and International Affairs (SGDIA), Professor Vijay Naidu, told *Wansolwara* that the security operation – allegedly conducted at the request of police – breached academic freedom and the right to free speech.

The public lecture and panel discussion titled Economic and Social Development of the special autonomous region of Papua, Indonesia was hosted by SGDIA in March.

Students have complained about security personnel searching them for clothing branded with logos or other material in support of an independent West Papua, and telling them not to asking “protesting” questions.

Naidu said beyond being decently dressed, no one had the right to tell anyone what kind of T-shirt to wear.

“All these directives were and are unacceptable,” he said. “I also believe in the right to peaceful protest as being a fundamental right and no one has a right to stop us.”

A teaching assistant from SGDIA, Jope Tarai, said USP security told him that the Fiji Police Force “special branch” and the Fiji Ministry of Foreign Affairs

were concerned students may protest at the panel.

Tarai had earlier used Facebook to ask his friends to gather before the panel to brainstorm questions.

Tarai said students’s rights to free speech were restricted when security told them to adhere to certain guidelines and not ask protesting questions.

The guidelines given by USP security, according to Tarai, were:

- Not to assemble in a group and march towards the ICT building.

- Not to wear T-shirt that depicted West Papuan freedom movement inside the ICT theatre or anywhere near the ICT center; not to hold placards or hold banners near ICT or inside the building depicting West Papua freedom movement.

- Not to carry any objects that could be used as missile to cause injury into the theatre.

- Not to disturb the event by making unnecessary commotions.

“We were told: ‘remember that there is a difference between asking critical questions and asking protesting questions,’” said Tarai.

“They checked our bags, pockets, jackets, and they wanted to look under my T-shirt because it had a faded print of ‘Merdeka [Free West Papua], which I had worn inside out – adhering to the guidelines.”

Tarai added that there was an almost obsessive focus by security on reminding those who attended the lecture that the “Indone-



A curious student at the public lecture on West Papua, while the others listen in.

Picture: CCF Fiji

sians are our guests”.

“All are aware that these are dignitaries and guests, and they would be treated with the utmost respect,” he said, adding that participants had only wanted to ask “critical, yet crucial questions on the plight of the West Papuans.”

Jason Titifanue, who also attended the discussion, said that he witnessed security personnel searching other students, even if he was not searched. Yet, USP Deputy Vice Chancellor Dr Esther Williams, told *Wansolwara* that she saw nothing.

“I attended the lecture myself and I did not witness any searching of students who attended the lecture as

you describe,” said Dr Williams by email.

“There were about four security guards present, but this is normal practice when we have public functions in the ICT Centre and other venues on Laucala Campus.”

However, Dr Williams said that the head of the USP security had informed her that Fiji Police had visited him, indicating they were concerned that students might stage a protest.

“While he did not give the details of the concern, the head of security did, however, make his own review and reported later that there was some misunderstanding and there was little to be concerned about,” she

said.

“He was doing his duty and this [is the] normal process of work by security.”

Student Derek Mane, who was also searched, said students were only trying to meet before the panel to discuss critical questions for the event.

Dr Williams said the police had approached her after the lecture and apologized for the misunderstanding and “over reaction” on their part. She added the lecture went well and was attended by many students who had the opportunity to ask questions.

“If there was some report of intimidation and restriction, I have to say again I was not aware of this during

the evening,” she said.

“The University supports and believes in academic freedom and has a policy on this and it will do everything in its power to protect individual’s academic freedom, and operates in an environment that allows this.”

Professor Naidu said that security personnel, the police and the Fiji Ministry of Foreign Affairs liaison officer had apologized for overreacting.

The Fiji Police Force and Ministry of Foreign Affairs said they would look into the matter, but questions and calls remain unanswered.

# ‘Tagimoucia’ tops Fiji music scene

by CHRISTINE NIKOLA

A local university band is blazing Fiji’s music scene after releasing their debut album “Tagimoucia” last year.

The band consists of Viliam Cokanauto, Uraia Cokanauto, Iliessa Dave Maqanatagane, Vilikesa Yaca, Luke Rogocake and Steven Vakaliwaliwa, together they call themselves *Kula Kei Uluivuya*.

Lead singer and songwriter Viliam Cokanauto said they were overwhelmed with the responses they got from people on their album.

The group has a growing fandom on social networking sites.

“Facebook is free and easy way of letting people

know about our events, fundraising, gigs,” said Cokanauto.

He hopes to inspire other youths with their music to chase their dreams.

Band member, Steven Vakaliwaliwa said he was speechless when he heard their latest single “*Tagimoucia*” on the radio.

*Tagimoucia* or *Medinilla waterhousei* are a red and white flower endemic to the highlands of Taveuni, in Vanua Levua, Fiji.

“I was completely blown away by the number of times listeners kept requesting the song on the first week it came on air,” said Vakaliwaliwa.

BulaFM radio station manager Sala Veilawa said the band was very popular

with listeners around Fiji.

The USA Taveuni Community president Nikola Talemole said the Fijian community was so proud of the boys and the song.

They performed a traditional Fijian presentation, for a *meke* (Fijian dance) on “*Tagimoucia*”.

Talemole explained how the crowd screamed with excitement when the meke dancers shouted the lyrics “*noqu vanua*”, my homeland – Taveuni.

“The way the song was sung in the traditional [Cakoudrove] dialect was heartfelt that it reminded us of our beautiful island Taveuni,” he said.

The band was named after the highest mountain in Bua, *Uluivuya*, and *Kula* is



The hit Kula Kei Uluivuya strike a pose.

Picture: SUPPLIED

the chiefly bird of Vuya in Bua, Vanua Levu.

The *Turaga na Tui Vuya*, chief of Vuya, Ratu Amenatevabe Rabona was surprised when he heard the song as he thought it would be just another “*sigidrigi*” group, which is the most common Fijian music genre.

*Kula Kei Uluivuya* said the cost of recording is expensive for four band members who are full-time students, of which two are currently working.

They have recorded with South Pacific Records which cost \$1000 FJD with the help of Solomon Island

producer, Young Dave.

The band has since toured parts of Fiji, recently invited to play at various hotels and resorts in Nadi, including First Landing Beach Resort and Villas.

Cokanauto said they are two release two new singles by the end of the month.

# Keep up-to-date with news: Morris

by NATASHA BEGUM

BUDDING journalists and supporters flocked to the University of the South Pacific last week for a World Press Freedom Day event to discuss the status of journalism in Fiji in preparation for the upcoming elections.

The discussion focused on how journalists could be more critical within their codes of ethics, and ensure balanced and fair reporting.

During which, panelist, *Republika* editor Ricardo Morris urged current and upcoming journalists to know and abide by the tools of the trade.

“Know your profession, journalists and aspiring journalists should keep up to dated with the industry, journalism and media practice and politics in Fiji regionally and internationally as well,” he said.

“No matter what our personal politics are or what the policies of our company are, as journalists and media workers we must maintain professional solidarity.”

Former *Fiji Times* editor Seona Smiles, also a panelist, added journalists had a critical role to play in providing information and in the electoral process.

“Balance is an important ethic in journalism and all responsible reporters strive to achieve this by presenting all sides of the story,” she said.

“Everyone including journalists should support the electoral process however flawed we currently perceive it to be and try to do our part by providing enough information to make it as free and fair as possible.”

The panel was chaired by *Business Melanesia* Editor Stanley Simpson and steered by well-known journalists: former *Fiji Times* editor Netani Rika, *Fiji Sun* Managing Editor Business Rachna Lal and Media Industry Development Authority (MIDA) chairman Ashwin Raj.

Following the World Press Freedom Day event at USP, journalists, who could, participated in a Media Freedom Walk on the actual World Press Freedom Day, 3 May.

The festivities concluded with the announcement that the Fiji Media Association was re-launched.



MIDA chairman Ashwin Raj speaking at a MIDA press conference.

Picture: SHIVNEEL NARAYAN

# Journos support monitoring unit

by NATASHA BEGUM

JOURNALISTS continue to show their support for the Media Industry Development Authority’s (MIDA) decision to establish an Independent Media Monitoring Unit in the hope it will develop the media industry in Fiji.

The decision to set up this unit was to allow equal access to all political parties and members of the public.

MIDA chairman Ashwin Raj said the unit would work independently of the media in the country and monitor how the media covered political activities.

“This will be a measurable and evidence based intervention,” he said.

“We look at all the mediums and we’ll actually see how much access has been given to all political parties so that when complaints come to the authority, I can see with evidence that this much time was given.”

Communications consultant and freelance journalist Samisoni Pareti said this was a good step forward by MIDA.

“I would like to think that there would be nothing to worry about if it does, not only to act independently but to be seen as acting independently as well,” he said.

Raj explained plans are underway to have the unit fully functioning before the general elections in September, as MIDA has received numerous complaints from individuals, government and political parties regarding unequal access.

Raj said the media-monitoring unit will serve as an evidence bank as a result of misleading information being circulated.

“It has to be evidence based intervention because there is a lot of speculation and there is a lot of hearsay and we need to have evidence based intervention and we need to say that we are independent as an authority at all times,” he said.

*Republika* magazine editor Ricardo Morris said the Independent Media Monitoring Unit was an important step in the development of the media industry in Fiji, as well as ensuring credibility.

“It is important because it will produce factual data that can be used to adjudicate complaints of bias and unfairness,” he said.

“The media unit will be able to show exactly how much coverage has been given by any particular media on a given topic, person or political party.”

“The unit, however, should function purely as an academic undertak-

# Media to help make informed choices

by ONORINA SAUKOLO

THE media have a responsibility to help people make an informed decision on whom to vote for in the upcoming elections, a Former High Court Judge said.

Nazhat Shameem said journalists have to be capable of choosing debates to cover which will encourage informed choices.

Shameem told *Wansolwara* such debates should include education and health policies, international trade, climate change issues and poverty alleviation programmes.

“If the debate continues to center around ethnicity and religion then in a sense it is a failure of the media,” she said.

“Simply publishing written statements by candidates is not enough.”

Shameem added questions need to be raised on what each party will do if it comes to power.

“Some parties will accuse others of hypocrisy and inaction when one party or another was in power and failed to implement such policies,” she said.

“So be it. That is exactly what a political debate

should be about. How else will voters make an informed choice?”

Former *Fiji Times* editor Netani Rika said journalists are not asking the right questions because they fear what might happen or have never had to ask such questions before.

“I hope it’s more than them not know what questions to ask because we can deal with that quite easily by training people,” he said.

Media Industry Development Authority (MIDA) chairman Ashwin Raj said while it is important for the public to know what their potential leaders are thinking, views of the public are equally important.

“I’ve always asked the media to work up the market, go to the streets, talk to ordinary folks, ask them about their views about politics, if they understand the electoral system, ask them what their aspirations are, what their hopes and fears are, all this matters,” he said.

Raj said it is important that the media familiarise themselves with the law and to be fully equipped with knowledge on the Constitution and the Media Decree.



# A time of firsts



by Wansolwara Editor  
TEVITA VUIBAU

“Fear, timidness, and meekness - whether real or imagined - are assumed by many to be the rule ...yet exceptions do exist.”

WHEN we check that one box, for that one candidate on that one day in September, many of us in Fiji will for the first time be exercising our democratic right to vote.

The year 2014 will indeed be measured by a plethora of firsts, especially for Fiji's youth since the voting age was lowered to 18 years in 2009.

The looming general election is hailed as Fiji's first truly democratic election, the first since 2006, and the first in which a new voting system will be used.

And this time of firsts is especially crucial for the great number of Fiji's late teen to twenty-something journalists, because they will be reporting on a democratic process in which - given eight long years of military rule - they

have never taken part.

These politically inexperienced reporters, editors and producers carry the immense responsibility of digging out everything the public needs and deserves to know in order to make a properly informed choice at the ballot box.

If this country is truly to return to democracy in September, then citizens require fearless, fair and determined reporting that deliver as much in-depth information and analysis as possible about all the candidates, their policies, and the host of problems and opportunities facing Fiji.

Journalists will have to work themselves to the bone to overcome their own lack of experience and transcend a timid media environment borne in part of coups, censorship, restrictions

and harassment.

For the sake of a democratic and transparent Fiji, an egalitarian and inclusive Fiji, the time has come for critical questions to be asked, investigations to be undertaken and concerns to be addressed and explored.

In this year of our return to democracy, we want journalism to rise again, and to see an end to the era of the 'churnalists' - press release writers and other reporters in too much of a hurry or too anxious to ask real questions.

However, this time that should bring out the finest in our press corps comes as Fiji's media faces scrutiny and control both internally and externally and, in many cases, come off second best. Since 2006 our press have contended with interference ranging from

blatant censorship and soldiers in newsrooms through to punitive decrees and regulation under the Media Industry Development Association (MIDA).

But could Fiji's journalists do more?

Fear, timidness and meekness - whether real or imagined - are assumed to be the rule by many media practitioners and observers in and out of Fiji, yet exceptions do exist. And with courage, skill, and determination, the press can and will do more to become a true Fourth Estate.

When MIDA chairman Ashwin Raj promised at USP's World Press Freedom Day panel to support journalists as long as they stood by their ethics many newsrooms may have listened with interest and journalists will hold

him accountable to it.

Nevertheless, our experiences, and our opportunities to prove ourselves grow with each story we cover as Fiji approaches the general elections.

At USP's journalism department the signs are good. The press freedom panel, compelling and, at times, fiery, showed that there is an appetite for debate in this country. It also showed that journalism at USP is back on the map; in three months, the program has gone from being almost non-existent to a high point of hosting a remarkably candid, heated, eye-opening, and, for many, cathartic exchange of ideas.

Armed with a renewed sense of vigour and purpose, we vow to do our bit to help usher in a new era of democracy in Fiji.

## Talanoa

Dear Editor,

As a concerned USP student, I was wondering about the sudden resignation of the Deputy Vice Chancellor Susan Kelly.

The reasons behind her resignation were never made public and may have had a huge cost to it.

USP is a prominent university in the Pacific and if everything is done behind closed doors, one will start to wonder if we are safe, if our education is secure.

This all comes down to the term "transparency."

If USP doesn't want to lose its credibility and efforts that have been made

about the vision of the school and what they are trying to advocate to their students.

The school suffers as a whole especially since it affected the finances of USP and taxpayers.

Perhaps they need to take a refresher course in UU200, which is Ethics and Good Governance.

I hope the Vice Chancellor Rajesh Chandra practices what he preaches or does he speak empty words.

Regards,  
Felix Lesinaivalu.



If you have issues you wish to raise in 'Talanoa', please feel free to write to the Wansolwara editor.

You may contact the editor via:  
E-mail: wansolwaranews@gmail.com  
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The Editor,  
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### Do you have any news tips or events?

If you have any news tips or events on campus that you want us to report on, please contact us.

You can either:  
message our **Wansolwara** Facebook page  
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# Students abroad have no vote in new system

by HENRY ORITAIMAE

SOLOMON Islands students studying at USP in Suva, Fiji, are disappointed that they cannot vote because the Solomon Islands Electoral Commission (SIEC) has introduced a biometric registration system.

Solomon Islands High Commissioner to Fiji Pateson Oti said most students in tertiary institutions abroad, like in Fiji, will not be able to vote.

“We are looking at about one thousand qualified students just in Laucala cam-

pus who unfortunately if they're not registered will not participate in the elections,” he said.

The new Biometric Voter Registration system requires applicants to appear in person so that biological data can be taken in the process of voting.

SIEC, based in Honiara, Solomon Islands, said there was no provision in the current electoral act to provide an opportunity for eligible voters who were away from their home constituencies.

“There are some technical aspects of it as there are

no proper set up of established High Commissions of Solomon Islands in other countries to facilitate it,” SIEC stated.

Some students argued that SIEC should make registration possible, as it is their democratic right to vote in the upcoming elections.

A second year student, Johnson Tako said he was not happy because the new system does not allow for him to register and vote in his constituency.

“There are about one thousand eligible voters

studying in Fiji institutions and it's sad that we will not have the chance to be part of the democratic process,” he said.

In a press release, SIEC said that there were logistic, management and financial difficulties.

“It is a very difficult exercise to undertake and it is beyond all financial, operational and technical capacity.”

“All eligible voters who are missed out in the current biometric voter registrations will definitely miss out in the coming elections

since a totally new voters' list will be compiled and everyone are registering.”

However, SIEC will consider making major changes to include registration agents located in other countries as a part of the electoral process in the future.

“SIEC is aware of the registration importance and has included it in its priority list of Electoral Reform program for future improvement to the Electoral Process in Solomon Islands.”

# SISA grieve flood victims

by GEORGE FIURAMO

THE Solomon Islands Student Association at the University of the South Pacific in Suva held a memorial service for victims of the recent flooding in Honiara, Solomon Islands.

According to the SISA president Roylex Sitana, the service was to commemorate and grieve their homeland, but more importantly it was for “those who lost their loved ones that being badly affect due to the recent flash flooding”.

He added that the Solomon Islands High Commissioner to Fiji Patterson Oti was the honorable guest at the occasion, there were also select staff and attachés from the Secretariat of the Pacific Community who attended.

USP Student Association president Whitlam Utuala Saeni expressed his support towards the occasion and said it was the first time the Solomon Islands had ever encountered such a traumatizing disaster.

“As a future leader we need to show our solidarity towards our people, families that lost their lives as well as those being homeless,” Saeni said.

“Coming together as being proposed it's a good thing to show our grief.”

Local authorities have confirmed a death toll of 23 people, 17 from Honiara, two from Guadalcanal, and one from Isabel Province.

Approximately 7,000 people have been displaced from their homes with 76 homes having been destroyed in the natural disaster.



Locals in Honiara, Solomon Islands crossing a river where a bridge once stood.

Picture: JOPE TARAI

## Ex-students create book exchange site

by JEREMIAH DAVIS

FORMER USP students have been working tirelessly to create a website that allows current students to sell and buy used textbooks.

Manasa Tukana left USP to work with a web design company, Web Media Fiji, where he gained skills that later brought him to create GetHub.com.fj

“GetHub is a platform where people can buy, sell and trade specifically for books in universities,” he said.

Tukana explains there has since been low activity on the site because

of a lack of marketing.

“The traffic is slow, but I plan to work with the student association on campus to help gain exposure,” he said.

Tukana said that his motives were not money driven, but rather to empower the students.

“I found that student's often spend most of their money on books and end up with no money to live properly and if my site can improve their just lives a little bit, then the site has done it's job,” he said.

Tukana's thought process for the textbook exchange site was based on the fact that “there's people selling,

there's people buying, why don't I make a platform to connect them”.

A third year USP student, Penina Waqatabu says, “I could definitely see me and my friends using this site in the future and if I knew about the book site earlier, it would have saved me a lot of hassle when I started taking classes”.

Tukana created the site in three days with no sleep in the hope of getting the site live before the new semester.

The site averages 100 visitors a month with the average time spent by each user at four minutes.





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Postgraduate application forms can be obtained from your local USP Centre or downloaded from <http://www.usp.ac.fj/forms>. Online admissions application can be accessed at [www.usp.ac.fj/apply](http://www.usp.ac.fj/apply)

Application forms to be received by 31st May 2014.

Please feel free to contact us for any further information:

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# Dorney speaks out

by Senior Journalism Lecturer  
MATTHEW THOMPSON

THE Australian Broadcasting Corporation's Pacific correspondent, Sean Dorney, remains banned from Fiji following his 2009 deportation. For World Press Freedom Day, Dorney spoke to *Wansolwara* about that event and the plight of journalism in Fiji as the elections approach, and the region in general. This is an edited excerpt.

What happened in 2009 is that I was there reporting, I'd been in and out of Fiji two or three times a year because my job is to try and cover the whole of the Pacific.

I was there during the Court of Appeal decision which found that the Bainimarama government was illegal and as a result of that Commodore (Rear Admiral) Bainimarama abolished the constitution, got rid of the judges and brought in that fairly strict then... extremely strict then Media Censorship.

As a result of that I got called into the Ministry of Information and informed that the government was not happy with my reporting which was coming back into Fiji on Australia Network and that I was going to be deported.

So the next day- that night immigration officials travelled with me from Suva around to Nadi and the next day I was put on a plane with a green slip of paper saying that I am banned from Fiji indefinitely.

Now uh you know it's the right of any government I suppose to decide upon these matters but I'm not the only one who has been deported from Fiji.

There are a number of New Zealand journalists who have also, you know, fallen foul of the current administration.

And I am also now aware that there is very little likelihood that I am going to get back into Fiji to cover the elections and I don't think this is serving Fiji particularly well.

If there are going to be free and fair elections then it should be open to the reporting of the region.

I got into a lot of trouble with MIDA [the Media Industry Development Authority] just recently at the Pacific Islands News Association media summit in New Caledonia



Former Fiji Times editor Netani Rika, far left, Ricardo Morris, Seona Smiles, Stanley Simpson, centre, Ashwin Raj, and Rachna Lal speaking at USP's World Press Freedom Day event where a snippet of Dorney's interview was played.

Picture: SHIVNEEL NARAYAN

when I suggested the feeling of journalists outside of Fiji is that the freedom of the media in Fiji is not what it could be and that upset Ashwin Raj and Matai Akauola [MIDA's chairman and Director respectively] quite considerably.

There is a bit of paranoia in MIDA about the media. Their assessment of what is free and fair doesn't accord with anything that I've ever seen around the rest of the region as being regarded as free and fair reporting.

Papua New Guinea has a pretty vigorous media, there are competing daily newspapers there and although one of them is owned by Rimbunan Hijau, the Malaysian logging company. Their coverage of most things apart from logging is pretty thorough and pretty testing for the government.

The Post Courier there does a pretty good job and the two television services there have news operations that are fairly strong. So Papua New Guinea has a pretty vigorous media. Samoa has a diverse media. A lot of Samoan language media apart

from English.

There is a determination amongst journalists in a lot of these countries to try and tell the truth and to reveal what is going on. I've been terribly impressed over the year by the Pacific journalists that I've met.

One of the interesting things about the Media Summit I felt in New Caledonia was how restrained the Fijian journalists there were. And I'm not surprised; eight years [since the 2006 coup] of living in a situation where it hasn't been that easy for the media, has probably made things fairly difficult.

The rest of the region looks at Fiji and sort of feels a bit of sympathy for the situation facing the journalists there.

If you're going to do your job as a journalist you've got to ask some pretty tough questions and that upsets people in power often.

And so my sympathies are with the people trying to get along with this media decrease as it exists in Fiji at the moment but

let's hope that your students learn that the role of the journalist is not to just do what the administration wants you to do.

The Fiji media used to be really feisty and really sort of vigorous and you know it does not seem to be that anymore.

I really am amused I might say by reading stories that come out in *The Fiji Sun* at the moment, it just seems to me that *The Fiji Sun* is very much supporting Commodore (Rear Admiral) Bainimarama and the way they have reported on his trip around the country collecting signatures. If that's an example of the way the media should operate, then you've got a long way to go there.

I would not be surprised if Commodore (Rear Admiral) Bainimarama wins that election in September.

And the interesting thing is going to be, to see I think how after eight years of ruling by decree, that administration contends with having a parliament where questions are being asked of them.

## Survey reveals street harassment still an issue

by MARYANN LOCKINGTON

THE issue of street harassment was recently highlighted following the launch of an online survey, in honour of International Anti-Street Harassment Week.

The survey about harassment from public service vehicle (PSV) drivers was part of the Take Back the Streets Campaign organised by online members including human rights activist, Roshika Deo.

She said the survey would help the campaign produce statistics to local authorities to address the issue.

"We have already done a survey previously and many experiences were shared with LTA and the public in 2012 in press conference, radio and the print media, the lack of political will prevails in taking concrete, sustainable and long term action," she said.

"There is also a culture of impunity on the issue of street harassment."

Deo said the last survey, initiated by the Emerging Leaders Forum Alumni (ELFA) in 2012, showed 40 per cent of people experienced sexual harassment from PSV drivers.

"To further compliment this survey we want to

show the percentage of girls or women that get sexually harassed by PSV drivers such as bus and taxis," she said.

The survey sparked controversy on social media after Deo's remarks in an American newspaper, *Des Moines Register*, concerning women in Fiji being wary about travelling by taxi.

Deo similarly told *Wansolwara* how the survey captures these concerns about safety in taxis.

She added the survey was also an attempt to understand the role of local authorities in creating a safe environment for women to

report harassment incidents.

"We also want to find out how many people report these incidents either to LTA or the police because if majority doesn't, then LTA and the police need to ensure they create enabling and supportive structures, including awareness so that girls and women can report," she said.

The online-based-survey was available for those with internet access, but Deo admits there were limitations for those without.

"If we had more political will and proper support by authorities everyone's voices could be included," she said.

A student at the University of the South Pacific, Bernice Lata, was one of many to respond to the survey.

"I used to walk along Fletcher Road, Vatuwaga and nearly 90% (my estimate) of taxis that passed me, yelled comments like 'You look beautiful' in Hindi," she said.

Lata said she also received catcalls, and sexual and derogatory comments that made her feel ashamed.

A New York native also studying at USP, Sara Beebe, shared her opinions on the issue after the "Stand Up For Yourself" workshop conducted by the univer-

sity's Counselling Centre.

"In Manhattan it's actually hard to flag down a taxi but here they just creepily follow you even though you don't want one or ask for one," she said.

"It's similar as in if you are walking in the streets and a guy may comment saying, 'hey baby' at you and also that kissy noise they make... I never heard a noise like that before I came here."

A Facebook group, called "Take Back the Streets Fiji", was set up by the campaign to document as many incidents of streets harassment as they could.



# A beacon for Oceania

## The life and times of Pacific arts and culture at USP

by ONORINA SAUKELO

**THE development of the Oceania Centre for Arts and Culture (OCAC) is one of the most pleasing developments at USP, one that goes to the heart of this regional university—Pacific arts and cultures, Pacific identity, and most recently, Pacific Studies. The Centre has grown tremendously in terms of both what it does and its facilities. Getting to know something of its unique beginning leads to a clearer understanding of its purpose.**

Let me take you back to the history of how this once dismissively regarded development resulted in what we can rejoice over now, its early achievements, the changes brought about after its founder's passing and the future directions it intends to take.

A USP Council decision in 1992 mandated the establishment of a programme in Pacific Arts and Culture modelled on the Polynesian Cultural Center (PCC) in Hawai'i, be established at the university's Suva campus.

The PPC is Hawai'i's major tourism attraction and for several decades, thousands of Pacific Islands students at the Mormon Church's Brigham Young University in Hawai'i have performed at the PCC, contributing to its remarkable success while incidentally paying for their fees and lodging.

The USP, by design largely ignoring Pacific cultures as a field worthy of serious teaching and research, was unexpectedly confronted with an instruction to take on art and culture as a way of conserving identity and enabling poor students to perform for tourists for their tuition and other expenses.

As the norm, the university formed a committee to see to this undertaking.

The committee appointed solidly rejected the idea of our becoming involved in tourism as entertainers.

In one of his works, Fiji Islander writer and anthropologist of Tongan descent Professor Epeli Hau'ofa mentioned Fiji also was then going through a period of upheaval following the racist military coups of 1987 and the subsequent installation of an exclusive indigenous Fijian regime and a racist constitution.

For this reason, he mentioned, anything to do with Pacific cultures was intensely

disliked by the supposed progressive elements within the university, reflected in the deliberations of the committee.

The majority pressure group of expatriates and many of the Oceanian academics viewed traditional cultures as barriers to the progress of liberal democracy and respect for human rights.

They opted for doing away with Pacific arts and cultures entirely, regarding it merely as belonging to the past and inferior, and instead insisted on adopting western based programmes.

Because of the fundamental disagreement within the committee and its departure from the Council's decision that the programme be on Pacific arts and culture, nothing was done.

Some years pass by before the Council reminded the committee of its failure to act on its responsibility.

A new committee was formed, led by Fiji-based Professor Hau'ofa, chief spokesman for an alternative vision for the programme, and the setting up of the Centre was confirmed for 1997.

A renowned Oceanian academic, writer and philosopher, Hau'ofa wanted Oceanians to be aware and proud of who they are and what they have to contribute to the contemporary world.

He did not want them to be weak little leftovers clinging to fading scraps of their traditions and prostituting themselves for the entertainment of the tourist industry.

He wanted Oceanians to take control of Oceania, be responsible for it and let their voice be heard in the global arena.

With no formal launching of the Centre and no directives given, Hau'ofa, supported by a programme assistant and a cleaner, was left, without programme or terms of reference, to get on with the implementation.

The tiny team welcomed this opportunity to work on what had for several years been a vision struggling to emerge.

Unimpeded by too-close oversight, they embarked on their first project: to create a home for the arts, by transforming the existing premises and surroundings into a space that was conducive to creativity, and open to public viewing, reflecting an important aspect of community life in Oceania—'noisy openness with very little privacy';



The late Epeli Hau'ofa, founder of the OCAC.

Picture: SUPPLIED

painters, dancers, sculptors and musicians working together in the same space and learning from one another.

Hau'ofa from the start had insisted that the Centre be a freestanding unit, holding on to its own original Oceanian creativeness instead of conforming to the globalised world.

He had said any association with formal teaching would have recruited staff from abroad and courses would have been developed to conform to international standards, with textbooks based on Western art history; and aesthetic perceptions; and like the rest of the university, we would have developed away from our Oceanian base.

Hau'ofa, however, did not necessarily preach cutting the artists off from the teaching of arts or from arts traditions and practice in other times and places.

But he urged focusing on producing contemporary works that would become resources for stimulation, expression, teaching and research in the region.

This, according to him, was to ensure once we were ready to teach, we would not be dependent on non-Oceanian resources.

To him, any formal teaching of the arts would have denied access to its programmes for the largest body of the most creative original talents in our societies: school dropouts or leavers who do not qualify to enrol in university programmes, at the end of years of schooling in systems that did not recognise or value their creativity.

Most of the trainee visual and performing artists were from the ranks of the unemployed, part-timers, and casuals.

Thus, space, materials and mentoring were provided to aspiring painters, sculptors, musicians, and dancers who wished to develop their talents, all imbued with the idea of developing our own distinctively Oceanian arts.

FALE Acting Dean Dr Akanisi Kedrayate said Epeli's visions were questioned by other academics, who by and large did not understand or have high regard for the goals and vision of the Centre.

She said she herself, being at that time an academic in the area of informal education, had a better understanding and appreciation of its benefits.

"I understood his points because of the non-formal aspect of it," she said.

Epeli was bringing in youths, some who were school dropouts, unfortunate in the literate world but who had potential and skills to develop into good artists, she said.

### Evolution of the Oceania Dance Theatre

The Oceania Dance Theatre (ODT) has an amazing history behind it, which shows the importance of holding on to dreams.

The theatre, with Hau'ofa's support and encouragement, was founded by Allan Alo of Samoa, who came to USP in 1998 to undertake a Bachelor's degree in Expressive Arts, a course advertised in the USP Academic Calendar with the promise of three main strands—Drama, Music and Dance. Enrolled in the programme from Samoa, Alo set out for Fiji, curious and excited at the possibilities of learning the techniques of ballet dancing, as effortlessly displayed by ballet dancers of Swan Lake.

Often, he lingered on thoughts of what made ballet dancers so thin yet so full of energy on television and this increased his determination with the hope of becoming Samoa's first ever ballet dancer.

However, things fell out of place on his arrival and hope was replaced with depression. A note beside the dance programme printed on the list read "Deferred until further notification".

Ten years after that disappointment, in a paper presented for the 18th Biennial Conference of the Pacific History Association in 2008, Alo mentioned that he believed the dance programme was never ever developed in that Expressive Arts programme nor notified further.

What better indication, he said, that the Performing Arts have always been on the periphery when it comes to prioritised subjects in the formal education curriculum.

Any desire with the wrong focus almost always ends tragically and his case was no different. Alo felt all his hopes and dreams of becoming a ballet dancer were shattered, but that did not kill his passion to dance. He then approached Professor Hau'ofa at OCAC, who generously obliged, providing him a space where he could create and be free to realise his then far-fetched dreams.

CONTINUED PAGE 9

The Centre that year hosted his first ever contemporary dance workshop, later on followed by the unfolding of wondrous events.

"Among them was the distinct feeling that the sky that once seemed bleak was turning bluer, and clearer each time as it felt closer and no longer out of reach," Alo says.

Since then, Alo continued to develop the idea of creating dance works that wove and blended modern and western dance theories and techniques with traditional Pacific movements, motifs, values and beliefs.

Self-taught, he sought and created bridges through collaborations with other like-minded artists from overseas and the region.

His dance crew grew and under his leadership Alo moulded and ultimately presented four core dance students of ODT: Sorpapelu Fatiaki, Katalina Fotofili, Tulevu Tora, and Ateca Ravuvu, all of whom have now become promising choreographers of Fiji.

### OCAC Achievements

As the OCAC identity became more secure, Oceania Centre representatives travelled to Johannesburg to participate in the world ecological summit, the New Wave Collective mounted a major and highly successful exhibition of paintings in the October Gallery in London, and ODT travelled to China for an Asia Pacific festival, where they so enchanted audiences with their original music, newly invented instrument (the bampipes), newly created dance, and winning Oceanian creative energy, friendliness and happiness, that they were named among the ten best exhibiting groups, among participants from the whole of Asia, before bouncing back home and on to Tahiti to win yet more hearts.

### OCAC Loss and Aftermath

In 2009 the Centre community mounted a splendid and heartfelt 100-nights memorial for Professor Hau'ofa, an in-house attempt at beginning to close the raw pain of loss and the sense of devastation at the absence of the guiding hand.

Alo said the vision of the late professor has broadly encompassed the arts in their various forms and mediums.

He said the vision was perhaps met with some hostility from other academics who found Hau'ofa too much of an idealist.

These critics are perhaps eating their words as the Centre and its resounding successes over the years manifest the worth of the dream, he added.

"It's like a plant that he seeded and it is growing into a banyan tree, canopying its many facets with vines draping to the ground, rerooting and redefining itself, yet others are slowly growing under it with diversified ideas that link to the same main trunk," Alo said.

More than five years after its founder's passing, the Centre took on new directions implicit in personnel changes and the absorption of PS (Pacific Studies) into OCAC.

Professor Hau'ofa's wife, Barbara, said the growth trajectory over the past 5 years has in some ways, perhaps, been associated with a dropping off from earlier heady heights.

"With the splitting of the creative kingdom across two building clusters, and the growth in staff numbers necessitated by the expansion from OCAC to OCACPS, things have changed," she said.

"The early sense of community—sharing work spaces and work ideas, creation and teasing, making the best of the little you have—has, it seems, largely been lost."

However, she added perhaps the fledgling new identity is still emerging; its indistinct outlines will clarify and new strengths will be demonstrated.

"In the meantime, we wait. As the Ger-

man proverb reminds us, 'Good things are not done in a hurry,'" she said.

Barbara said the first biennial Epeli Hau'ofa International Dance festival organised by OCACPS this year also indicated changes in goals and emphases taken by the Centre over the past five years.

She said a regrettable factor of the festival involved the necessity for splitting of the programme across two evenings because of the sheer number of overseas and local performing groups. This, she said, posed the risk of suggesting that one origin might somehow outclass the other.

"It was therefore comforting to hear the authentic Oceania voice ringing through in the work of Posu'e (Kanaky), NICA (Aotearoa) and 8213 Physical Dance Theatre (Taiwan) in the international evening, as well as from the many local heirs and successors in the second programme, and to see that Oceania is maintaining its identity in the face of the almost irresistible incursions of globalisation and the 'outside' world," she said.

"In fact the contemporary globe in many ways has no inside and outside; it is the human race and the global economy, but this has not and must not erase identity differences and pride and rootedness in age-old inheritances, however frustrating they can be."

Mrs Hau'ofa said it is from these perspectives she worries that the Oceania Dance Theatre may get lost in absorbing technical novelties—'Western balletic ideas and vocabulary, the astonishing athleticism of aerial dancing and so on.'

"These seem not yet to have been 'digested' so that they become part of the prime vision and responsibility; for ODT, firmly grounded in its regional and local bases, aims for its loftiest intentions when it explores, expresses and gives its own voice to the contemporary experience of contemporary Oceania, with all its energy, strength, pain, love, pride, joy and laughter," she said.

"Not for the Centre the task of skilful mastery of other people's aesthetic; nor respectful reproductions of art forms proper to an earlier context, as individual ethnic groups can do that much better for themselves."

### Future Directions

The Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Law and Education Akanisi Kedrayate said the Centre's growth is important and they wish to continue building it into a centre of excellence.

"We can show the world that we have

our own standards and the staff is working together to build the Centre into a Centre of excellence in two or three years' time," she said.

OCACPS Director Dr David Gegeo said he wants to see that arts stand equal to academic pursuits.

Appointed earlier this year, Dr Gegeo said he feels he has come to the 'right place' he can call 'home', having a passion for arts himself.

ODT Artistic Director Peter Espiritu said he aims to improve on what he thinks the dancers lacked. Upon his arrival, he said the dancers had acquired a lot when it comes to dancing. What they didn't have was technique, a sense of a professional work ethic, he said.

"I wanted them to understand that if they do things well with the best they can, they could compete globally and make it a profession and make a living out of it, contributing not only to the country but their families as well," he said.

With new directions set and new ideas employed at the Centre, the result cannot be foretold. Whether it may conform or transform from the purpose and visions it was set for in the beginning, all we can do is sit, wait and watch.

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Leading ladies from OCACPS behind the scenes pre-performance.

Picture: KIM ROVA



# Disconnect in dance and Hau'ofa

by KALPANA KAAJAL

THE first bi-annual Epeli Hau'ofa International Dance Festival could have addressed more warranted topics during the week-long event, according to the coordinator of Drop-In Dance Studies Workshop.

Nicholas Rowe, who is also an Associate Professor in Dance Studies at the University of Auckland, said wonderful things happened at the festival, but many did not necessarily address missed opportunities.

A Pacific Studies Postgraduate student at the University of the South Pacific, who participated in the festival, highlighted how the festival although "pretty" displayed a serious disconnect.

"Though the first Annual Epeli Hau'ofa International Dance Festival was a good concept, but there was no connection between dances and what Hau'ofa is known for," Peter Sipeli said.

"I didn't see the match between Hau'ofa and dance, also people didn't understand the core message of this festival."

Hau'ofa was a Fijian writer and anthropologist of Tongan descent. "Epeli Hau'ofa was an academic, a Pacific thinker, the essays he wrote were powerful and significant to us Pacific Islanders," he said.

"It should have been a workshop like this but we should have had all the dancers hear about



Rako Pasefika dancers mid performance at the first Epeli Hau'ofa International Dance Festival.

Picture: SHIVNEEL NARAYAN

Hau'ofa, read his work, respond to his work and then create bodies of work to make sure that it was responding to this core message."

Although Hau'ofa was a writer, he also founded the Oceania Centre for Arts, Culture and Pacific Studies at USP where his vision was to create "A Home for the Arts - An Oceanic Space".

A student from the University of Auckland, currently enrolled in Bachelor of Dance Studies Honors, felt differently about the festival and the workshop in particular.

"In this workshop as I get to be with people of different cultural background and it's really interesting to hear different people's views, questions and observations," Helen Foy said.

She said it is a good way to uplift the standards of an art that is not given much attention.

Foy also mentioned that there are multiple benefits of the art of dance.

"Dance helps to build awareness of you and it is a tool that can be used in the development of

youths and development as a person," she said.

According to Rowe, people discover things through dance, they discover things through their bodies, through moving and being creative that they could not discover otherwise.

Similarly, Sipeli said how there had been a real movement in terms of appreciating dance in Fiji with competitions like "Tandra Kahani" but that it was not enough.

"I don't think it's given enough attention though we have seen

more dance studios develop," he said

"There are more dance companies now where there are professional dancers who are employed full time."

Sipeli added how the government may not place as much importance on dance as they should.

He explained dance is still used to entertain, as a way of expressing, telling stories, but more importantly as a business.

## Festivals to continue, says Gegeo

by ONORINA SAUKELO

FESTIVALS like the recent Epeli Hau'ofa International Dance festival will continue, according to the current OCACPS Director.

Dr David Gegeo said events like this were important and the Centre will see to it that necessary funding be taken care of to continue them.

"Arts is one of the most dynamic and attractive ways in which we bring different cultures together," he said.

The decision came after OCACPS Artistic Director Peter Espiritu said they needed funds to continue holding festivals.

"There's a lot we can do when it comes to talents but we need to showcase it," he said.

"We can't dance to ourselves, we need an audience".

OCACPS hosted the event to commemorate its late founding director.

Professor Hau'ofa's wife Barbara Hau'ofa was delighted OCACPS felt its programmes were now well established for a dance festival.

"I am touched that they wished to do it in Epeli's name and honour," she said.

She added Professor Epeli Hau'ofa would also have interpreted it as a tribute to the Oceania he envisioned.

Espiritu said the festival enabled people to experience various artistic and cultural expressions at the highest level possible.

"It makes me proud to hear from people who have travelled around the world and seen dance, music and art and acknowledge the level of what they're seeing here on stage at USP," he said.

Taiwanese Choreographer Chuo-Tai Sun said he was "glad to have come here and worked with dancers here, learning the dance art in Fiji and showing audiences performances concerning the indigenous people of Taiwan".

Solomon Islands dance leader Toxie Polyn said he was able to experience dance on a professional stage.

The festival featured artists from Japan, Germany, Taiwan, and the United States, and most performed in Fiji for the first time.

# Trade expo aids Pacific networking

Offers platform for trade agreements, says Stevens

by MASEIKULA NIUMATAIWALU

THE Trade Pasifika offered a platform for Pacific business people to not only network with other buyers and traders but also negotiation flexible trading agreements.

According to President for the Vanuatu Womens Development Association (VWSDA) Anna Stevens, the Trade Pasifika has provided her with the opportunity to meet with possible traders that would be willing to offer a more Pacific approach towards partnerships.

"We don't have the money but we can base our deal on understanding, we can base it on honesty, mutual understanding and partnership. When the money comes, we will give them their share," she said.

Stevens, who apart from other small ventures, has been running a small retail outlet from her home for the past 15 years.

Ambassador of Trade Pasifika 2014 and Chair of the Trade Pasifika Steering Committee Kaliopate Tavola said that the trade expo was indeed a benefit in itself.

"Here we have a forum where the exporters have come in; those that are intending to export have brought in their goods to be showcased here, whether it be agricultural, aquacultural or tourism. The Trade Pasifika provides exposure and while they are here there is a lot of networking going on."

"Even though they are exporters they are looking at raw materials as well. From information that we

have received, people have actually found new suppliers. People have established new trade."

Stevens added the knowledge and connections acquired at the trade expo will be shared amongst the members of VWSDA.

"From what I have seen here and from what I have learnt, I will go back and encourage my women to try and do more than what they are currently doing."

"A lot of the products that the women [here] are using to create something [to sell], we all have those products back home. It's only for the women to figure out how can they use those products and turn it into something that they can sell to earn money," Stevens said.

"What the association is looking at doing is helping them see that they can also move to the next level from where they are now."

"We would like to bring our women to this level and be able to export to other countries. Utilizing the trade agreements that we have amongst our MSG countries," said Stevens.

Tavola said that in order to prepare the products to meet the specifications of the market, there sometimes needed to be changes made to the format of the product.

"We need to differentiate the product by value adding; you can also produce under certification you can produce organic products you can produce products under fair trade certification. So that way you differentiate the products and address some of the needs of the products".

He adds that although



A colourful display of locally made products at the Trade Pasifika festival in April.

Picture: SHIVNEEL NARAYAN

there are niche markets with premium pricing, products can be prepared to meet the requirements set by the market.

UNDP Pacific Centre Manager Peter Batchelor, said as a founding member of Trade Pasifika, UNDP is proud to continue to support the regional trade expo.

"This work is very much consistent with our work in promoting sustainable development in the Pacific, we with it is critical the Pacific island countries find ways to develop their own national economies through sustainable business, expanding their private sector and of course connecting with the rest of the Pacific and beyond."

The next Trade Pasifika is in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea in 2016.

## Trade initiatives to bolster opportunities

by HENRY ORITAIMAE

PACIFIC nations must maintain momentum through trade initiatives like the Trade Pasifika, to tap into growth opportunities.

Speaking at Trade Pasifika, ANZ Head of Commercial Banking Saud Minam said the Pacific has vast potential for success.

"We can embrace the opportunities to build long-term trade and investment links amongst each other and the rest of the world," he said.

Attorney General and Minister for Industry and Trade, Aiyaz Sayed Khaiyum, said there is a need to be able to link trades through products.

"To be able to connect people who develop those products, or made those wonderful handicrafts, or created wonderful designs, or made virgin coconut oil; we need to tie them up to the market at the right

price," he said. Khaiyum added it is vital to get the fundamental rights within the national economy and also in the regional level.

"When somebody mentions the Pacific, it must be consistent with a quality that we can depend upon," he said.

Permanent Secretary of Ministry for Industry and Trade, Shaheen Ali said Pacific businesses and traders faced unique challenges in the international market so there is a need for more Pacific collaborations.

"Inter-regional trade I believe, amongst our island countries should be seen as a stepping stone, or building block to trading with our international partners."

"If we are able to develop our common market with harmonized customs rules, mutual agreements on biosecurity requirements and facilitation; trading will generally become very attractive for nine million consumers," Ali said.

## Entrepreneurships encouraged in universities

by MASEIKULA NIUMATAIWALU

THERE is a need for universities in the Pacific to provide enabling environments for students to develop entrepreneurial ideas.

Jeremy Liddle, President of the G20 Young Entrepreneurs Alliance says universities are a great place to incubate ideas that can potentially become commercialized into businesses.

"Universities are where a lot of the research, development and innovation starts."

He adds that entrepreneurship has the potential to better communities.

"It not only shifts the way people think but building eco-

systems in your community that fosters more entrepreneurship has the ability to lift communities out of poverty."

In presenting at the Trade Pasifika breakout session, Liddle gave examples of student led initiatives in Australian universities that encouraged entrepreneurial thinking.

He said that universities often host pitching competitions where students present their ideas to compete for funding that would initially finance their startup.

However, Pro Vice-Chancellor for Research & International at USP, Professor John Bythell said that universities often take a very systematic approach to changes and although ideas on

entrepreneurial initiatives were good, they would take some time to implement.

"Words like innovation, change and creativity were hard words to square with very conservative views of education."

"If we really want to make people who are innovative, people who are creative and are ready to implement change we have to teach them to do as we say and not as we do, to teach them to do something that what we are not used to doing."

"We need help laying out a road map for how we can get into innovation and change in education in Fiji. It's vital for us to do this," said Bythell as he acknowledged the presence of

Liddle.

Ambassador of Trade Pasifika 2014 and Chair of the Trade Pasifika Steering Committee, Kaliopate Tavola also echoed similar sentiments to Liddle.

Tavola said that there is a need to create ecosystems for ideas to translate into businesses.

"We need the enabling environment; we need the contributions of government, collaborations with the private sector and regional organizations and development partners."

"We still need assistance to help start up businesses, shape and prepare our companies to meet the market and also to prepare our products to meet the specifications of the market,"

said Tavola.

"Entrepreneurship," said Liddle, "is a relatively simple process and there is a certain mindset to entrepreneurship and when you go through the process of running a company you inherently learn the mindset but universities can help make the transition smoother."

Liddle began his business career aged 20 in the booming Australian juice bar trade. With his brother he opened up one of Australia's most prominent Juice Station outlets, and was sent to Singapore to operate as stand in General Manager for 18 months.



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# The quality of Pacific news

## The mantra of a free press and the Pacific's political spoilers

by Journalism Co-ordinator  
PATRICK CRADDOCK

**DON'T Spoil My Beautiful Face: Media, Mayhem and Human Rights in the Pacific is being published 28 April while Fiji is voicing the mantra of the "free press" at the same time as it continues to ban experienced Pacific reporters such as Barbara Dreaver and Michael Field from New Zealand and Sean Dorney of the ABC.**

Ashwin Raj, chairman of the new Media Industry Development Authority (MIDA) is haranguing journalists at public media meetings using expressions such as "...the complicity of select Fijian journalists and media either wittingly or those that remain oblivious to the laws of Fiji..."

The same MIDA that is so upset with Sean Dorney's mild comment that "there was a feeling in the room anyway that the situation in Fiji wasn't as free and open for the media as it should be" is also asking for "an ethos of robust debate".

MIDA might strengthen its interpretation of robustness by reading David Robie's arguments for improving journalism education rather than putting media training on hold.

Dr Robie has been concerned with the quality of Pacific journalism training for many years.

He looks beyond conflict reporting and quotes Kunda Dixit, editor-in-chief of the Nepali Times, who has little love for counterpoint in journalism stories that foster the tension and drama of controversy making most reportage "sound like a quarrel" in a way that obscures rather than increases clarity about global problems.

Dr Robie writes on "deliberative journalism" which he says includes peace journalism, development journalism and human rights journalism.

He tries to nail down his own interpretation, which is "critical development journalism", by saying it goes beyond the standard reportage model to get into the gutsy questions of "how, why" and "what now".

His views are parallel with an Asian-Australian academic, Asia-Pacific Media Educator editor Dr Eric Loo, who recently tried to "rescue" the journalism school at the University of Papua New Guinea, and who criticises a "biased" view by Western journalists of a journalism model that stresses successful social and economic development, instead of the conventional focus on conflict, such as failed government projects and their policies.

### Important Issues

While Dr Robie struggles, perhaps inconclusively, to get precision into the terminology of the many forms of journalism, he is

These migrants, some of whom are now second and third generations, look to journalists to inform them on important Pacific issues other than disasters.

Writing quality journalism

reporters taking sides, as it may have seemed at the time, but the inability of many reporters to function objectively under the pressures of the crisis. A lack of leadership in newsrooms was one

Dr Robie worked in Papua New Guinea for a number of years and frequently wrote about Bougainville.

He went to Kieta to report on the new war and stayed in a hotel where soldiers sat eating their dinners with their guns on their laps.

This is a colourful chapter, full of detail with Robie at the heart of the conflict and reporting it.

New Zealand consultants had come up with a report saying the mining company was causing huge environmental damage. Dr Robie published a series of articles on Bougainville and then as head of the journalism programme at the University of Papua New Guinea he got his students to cover the conflict.

This rich chapter probes a nasty part of Pacific history.

A lesser-known conflict for Pacific readers was the 1989 struggle by Canadian Indians of the Lubicon Lake Nation with their call for sovereign rights on traditional hunting and trapping.

Dr Robie draws parallels between the struggle of the Indian tribes and the New Zealand Ngati Whatua's occupation of ancestral land in Auckland, which was ended by a police and army raid after a peaceful occupation of 507 days.

Dr Robie neatly updates the Canadian story with one of the leading protagonists who says the original conflict continues and it is now in the hands of the courts.

### Painful Stories

The book has photographs that reflect faces of families embroiled in the numerous conflicts, the plump faces of their leaders and lean soldiers toting guns.

Painful stories from Tahiti, Tonga, Timor-Leste, Fiji, the Philippines and other parts of the disturbed Pacific help to make this book an important part of our Pacific history. Dr Robie says this book may be seen as a sequel to two earlier volumes, Blood on the Banner: Nationalist Struggles in the South Pacific and Tu Galala: Social Change in the Pacific.

Investigative journalist John Pilger describes it as an "extraordinary secret history".

Don't Spoil My Beautiful Face, with its overview of various conflicts, needs to be added to the shelves of Pacific newsrooms and journalism schools. It would make a valuable addition to the shelves of numerous politicians who provided the author with considerable content for this book and who are now feeding him material for his next one.



**DON'T SPOIL MY BEAUTIFUL FACE**  
**MEDIA, MAYHEM & HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE PACIFIC**  
**DAVID ROBIE**

clear on the need for journalists to continue to strengthen their skills in order to scrutinise the institutions of governance affecting many peoples of the Pacific.

He notes the diaspora of Pacific people migrating and settling in Australia, New Zealand and North America.

while dealing with cultural and tribal pressure is a problem identified by Dr Robie.

He notes that former Fiji Daily Post editor Jale Moala says about the Speight Coup of 2000 that customary obligations are a burden, that it:

"...was not so much one of

reason. One media organisation that came under early criticism was the state-owned Radio Fiji, which seemed to suffer from a combination of confusion over who was in power or who was going to end up in power, and lack of newsroom discipline and leadership..."



Picture: Screenshot from Roxy's 2013 promotional video

# Surfing of the sexes

## The female surfer's struggle for equal opportunity

by JEREMIAH DAVIS

**GENDER roles are being argued left and right but when looking at the surf industry things seem to be skewed from every angle. From May 25th - June 13th, Fiji will be hosting the Association of Surfing Professionals (ASP) world tour stop at Cloudbreak. While the event brings positive international publicity for the Fiji islands, the event also brings with it some red flags when talking about gender equality.**

While male pro surfers are earning a bigger paycheck and are featured as rugged surfer-explorers in films, female pro surfers are being given less opportunities to earn money and struggle to gain exposure through mainstream medias.

When we compare how the Association of Surfing Professionals (ASP) has set up the world tour for both males and females, we see the females being cut short of opportunities.

According to ASP's website, in 2013 the male tour had 34 surfers competing in 10 events with the female tour featuring 17 surfers competing in 7 events.

This means that female surfers have less opportunity to win prize money for winning contest.

Even if there were an equal amount of events, the female tour has shown to give less prize money for female surfers.

The average money prize for winning a male event on the ASP tour is \$100,000 USD, while the female tour averages \$40,000 per event.

However significant upgrades have been made to the 2014 world tour by adding on three more events to the females tour.

Female surf and lifestyle brand, Roxy, has also made efforts to beef up the women's tour by setting a new standard for prize money for this year's Roxy Pro Gold Coast event to \$250,000

USD.

Roxy seems to have been making an extra effort this year after the heat they took in 2013 for a risqué video they released to promote one of their events.

Last year Roxy released a video that featured five-time world champion Stephanie Gilmore in hopes to promote their event in France.

Instead of showing off the athletes ability to maneuver in the ocean, the video showed bed shots of the surfer and shower shots of the surfer.

Nowhere do we see the professional surfer promote the surfing event by actually surfing. Shockingly we actually don't ever get to see the athletes face anywhere in the 1 minute and 45 second video.

Objectifying women in advertisements has been an on going issue in all industries of the world but the surf industry seems to do it a little better than most.

Roxy is just one of many mainstream surf companies that fall guilty of showcasing females bodies over their talents and skills.

Tracks magazine, who use the tag line "The Surfers' Bible", has a tab on their website that reads "GIRLS".

This tab is often described from it's commenters as pornographic and has nothing to do with surfing. The news stories under this tab feature a photo of a very physically exposed woman and a bio on the women that usually is shorter than the bio of the photographer that took the photo.

A reader is lucky to get any information about the featured women's style or experience in surfing.

If one were to look through the available readings that are offered in the University of the South Pacific's coffee shop, you will actually find a Tracks Magazine.

"Our boss brings them in, because he seems to have a lot of different readings" said manager Mandeep Singh, who refused to

supply his boss' phone number for further questioning.

"I don't believe that the shop is subscribed to any magazines. We just receive single issues of what ever comes our way" said Singh, when asked if the coffee shop was subscribed to the magazine.

The 115 page magazine features a total of 4 females, two of which are posing for cameras in bikinis and the others are next to surfboards with the surfing nowhere in sight in either photo. The magazine was issued in August of 2011 and doesn't show a subscribers name.

Sponsored surfer, Sam Suenemann, is an Australian local to Bells beach and comments on how Tracks magazine portrays women.

"I think it sets a really bad example for younger female surfers. Surfing comes down to surfing and companies make it about how we look which ends up holding back females because if they

aren't skinny and have blonde hair and blue eyes they won't get the sponsorship they need to travel and compete in the QS (qualifying series)".

Sam agrees that there is pressure being a female surfer when she paddles out.

"Usually its awkward before I get in the water and before I start surfing. Like at Beach House last week I was going for a surf and a guy asked me on my way out 'can you even stand up on that thing' I guess at newer places you sort of have to prove yourself" she said.

"Then once I get in the water i'm usually the only girl out but sometimes the guys are cool, cheering you into waves, but other times they cut you off thinking that you wont catch the wave because your a girl who doesn't know how to surf" Sam continued to say.

With the pressure that is put on younger women by companies that they have to fit a particular image and the pressure of often being the only female out in the water, surfing for females doesn't seem particularly appealing.

New to surfing in Fiji, Alex Berard says, "Luckily, I have friends that are teaching me and are encouraging but if I think if I was out with random guys trying to learn I would feel intimidated and out of place".

From magazines to promotional videos to their paychecks, we see how there is a skewed view on how women are being represented in surfing industry.

Though there is has been improvements in opportunities to win events, we still see companies objectifying women all over the media.

One can only hope that in our life time we can flip through magazines and look up videos online and see female surfers doing what they do best on a wave instead of being objectified and limited to their looks.



An eager Jeremiah about to catch a wave off the coast in Fiji.

Picture: JEREMIAH DAVIS





The Ba soccer team pose for a team photo during the OFC tournament.

Picture: MailLife

# Ba's hopes end for OFC

by CHARLES KADAMANA

BA Football Clubs' dream of reaching the final stage of the OFC Champions League is over.

The Men in Black's 0-0 to Amicale in the second leg of the OFC Champion league semi-final at PVL Stadium in Port Vila, Vanuatu on 3 May but that was not enough.

From their 2-1 loss on home ground on 27 April, Ba needed two clear goals to secure a final spot but that did not fall in their

favour.

It was Amicale FC that has advanced to the OFC Champions League.

But it was not an easy task for Amicale to deny Ba's hopes to reach the final stage.

They were forced to endure early pressure by the visitors whose momentum was broken after they lost their marksman Osea Vakatalesau to injury midway through the first half.

Despite strong opposition by Ba, Amicale produced their

chances when Nikola Vasilic went close and forced Ba goalkeeper Epeli Codro into a crucial save moments later.

Ba received a setback when Meli Codro brought Dominique Fred down outside the penalty area only to find Jack Wetney misses the free kick.

Amicale almost broke the egg when Fred lashed a cross by Wetney high over Epeli Codro's crossbar to the dismay of the supporters.

Ba produced chances of their

own in the second half with Avinesh Suwamy twice forcing Amicale goalkeeper Chikau Mansale into difficult saves.

They further received another setback when their skipper Abu Zahid was sent off by referee George Time midway through the second half.

Despite that Ba upped the tempo as Amicale desperately held on to their precious advantage.

Amicale missed three chances in the remaining time but what mattered most for Amicale was

the 0-0 result.

Amicale coach Nathan Hall acknowledged Ba for the tough game and praised the supporters for their support.

"I want to thank the supporters; since day one they have been unbelievable, the people love their people," he said.

He said his team is now focusing for the first leg of the final stage against Auckland city at PVL Stadium in Port Vila this Saturday.



Things start to heat up for cricketers during a game at Albert Park.

Picture: SHIVNEEL NARAYAN

## Cricket Fiji excited for partnership

by ASHNEIL SINGH

CRICKET Fiji is excited about joining Fiji National Sports Commission's (FNCS) Sports Outreach Program for the first time in 2014.

Cricket Fiji Development Manager, Saiasi Fuli said he is excited about Cricket Fiji embarking on this journey.

The aim of the FNCS's Sports Outreach Program is to travel into rural areas of Fiji and introduce sports – many of which might not have even been heard of before – to youth groups. The FNCS will be sending Development Officers from each sporting organisation in Fiji

to teach the youths the basics from each of their respective sports. The FNCS usually hold approximately half a dozen of these Sports Outreach trips a year.

"It's a good opportunity for us to go and spread the gospel of cricket," Fuli said. "However what's even better for us is that we have managed to run a kids cricket program in Kadavu at the same time as the Sports

Outreach Program with the youth groups."

Cricket Fiji will be sending three senior Development Officers - Joeli Mateyawa, Iniasi Cakacaka and Kitione Tavovava – to Kadavu, along with the delegation of officials from the FNCS and other Development Officers from fellow Fijian sporting organizations. Whilst in Kadavu, one Development Officer will be based with the main group working on the Sports Outreach Program with youths, whilst the two others will be running a kids cricket program, aimed at getting school-aged children involved in cricket as a part of their regular curriculum.

"We are very lucky that we will be able to run two programs at the same time – and we will be the only sport to do so," Fuli said. "Its good for cricket, and hopefully the Development Officers there can teach the schools there to have regular cricket sessions."

Fuli added that Cricket Fiji hoped cricket could grow so popular on the southern Fiji Island that a team from Kadavu could join in some of

the competitions held on Viti Levu next year.

"We want to not just bring across the teams from Lau for the annual Easter competition, but we would like to have a team for the first time from Kadavu," he explained. "We also hope that the kid's cricket program in schools is popular, so that Kadavu can enter teams in the primary and secondary school competitions."

Fuli said that Cricket Fiji hopes to reach between 10 and 12 primary and secondary schools during their week in Kadavu.

"As our first time in the (Sports Outreach) program, Cricket Fiji decided to send three senior Development Officers (to Kadavu), who have experience working in schools, as well as a good solid knowledge of cricket," Fuli continued.

"They will also be able to establish the level of interest in cricket among the various schools and communities, and then in the future we can send out younger Development Officers to join them."

## Ban lift good news for Fiji hockey team

by CATHERINE THAGGARD

Fiji's Sports team of the Year, the Fiji Hockey Men's team is happy with the lift of the commonwealth ban on Fiji.

Vice Captain Rupeni Fabiano was very happy to hear the news that Hockey will now be able to compete for a spot in the Commonwealth Games.

"This is just another opportunity for our Men's team to prove themselves in the sports arena and to also get a chance to change its constitution to be in line with other international sports organizations where participation is not related to politics.

A lot of our national teams have not trained or planned for this and funding will definitely be an issue.

Head of Sports Commission Peter Maisy said a budget for sending athletes to the Games was unaccounted for in the budget giving by Government and that any sending of athletes is on hold.

Fiji will play host to World League Round 1

## Staff FC impresses

by LOWEN SEI

AFTER defeating J.S Hill 5-0 in their first game, USP's Staff Football Club played ANZ to a nil all draw in the Suva Business House Football League's second round.

Speaking after the ANZ game, team captain Ronilesh Prasad praised his team's performance.

Naidu said that the players on the USP team mainly comprise of staff members that do not have a professional playing background.

"Today's results shows [that] the team's hard

Olympic Qualifiers in December and once the teams qualify they will be off to Singapore and India to participate in World League Round 2.

Despite the happiness of players with the lift of the ban, it was just a little too late for a lot of the sports teams in Fiji.

Netball and Rugby are also amongst the team sports who will not be featuring in this year's Commonwealth Games.

Dr Robin said the Commonwealth Game Federation needs to change its constitution to be in line with other international sports organizations where participation is not related to politics.

A lot of our national teams have not trained or planned for this and funding will definitely be an issue.

Head of Sports Commission Peter Maisy said a budget for sending athletes to the Games was unaccounted for in the budget giving by Government and that any sending of athletes is on hold.

work being paid off since we started the club last year," the captain said.

He added that the results also show the teams seriousness toward the game and the improvement of player fitness levels.

Club president and also the leagues organizer, Navneel Naidu said that he was pleased with positive start of the tournament.

Naidu said that all the participating teams had helped the league reach its goal of attracting more staff of the city's major business houses to stay active, healthy and also to socialize with each other.

## Clinic to focus skills

by GEORGE FIURAMO

THE USP tennis club will up-skill its current member pool by carrying out more trainings.

Its training instructor, Tomasi Cabebula explained they were holding classes at the USP tennis court was due to its locality and affordability compared to other venues.

Cabebula said there is a lot of potential in the current crop of students playing tennis.

"At the moment there are fifteen USP students registered in the club and they have been divided

into three categories, that is the A grade, B grade and the beginners."

He added that this semester will focus on beginners so that they would be better equipped with the basic rules before moving up to B grade in the second semester.

"In the past, USP tennis has held an internal tournament in the lead up to other competitions like the Victoria coast."

"This year we plan to have a tournament but that depends entirely on the registration and the confirmation from the organizing committee," Cabebula said.

## Delay does not dampen spirits

by GEORGE FIURAMO

DELAY in allowances did not dampen the spirits of Solomon Islands students at USP when they were \$300 richer after a thrilling 3-1 win over Organisers in the futsal tournament in Suva.

They also won a trophy to complement the \$300 which was a huge boost as they are yet to receive their allowances as Solomon Islands Government-sponsored students at USP.

A goal from James Taluasi and two from Chris Maeto'o was enough to send the Solomon Islands students a sweet victory back home to Lau-

cala Campus.

Team captain Frank Mani said it was a sweet victory for them adding the victory makes them feel happy especially in time of challenges they face over delay in receiving their allowances.

"When we saw the invitation for the tournament we took it as our chance to raise a profit out of our last \$50 if we win," he said.

Mani said while Solomon Islands students are struggling for allowances they took the opportunity to raise profit that will sustain them and it was paid off handsomely.

Organiser and President of the YMCA Goju Ryu Karate Federation,

Anil Chand congratulated the Solomon Islands students for their win and acknowledged the other teams that participated.

"The tournament was organised to raise fund for the future development programmes of the federation," Chand said.

He added that the tournament was good but it was unfortunate that only six teams showed up out of the anticipated 20.

Team Manger for Solomon Islands, Aldrin Peza Bule said his team is looking forward to future tournaments that will organise in the country.

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The Papua New Guinea Pepe's goal shooter, Marie Ottio, taking a shot.

Picture: SHIVNEEL NARAYAN

# Fiji netball aims high

by SHIVNEEL NARAYAN

THE Fijian national netball team is looking at getting more exposure for its players as it works towards being one of the top 4 ranked teams in the world.

New Netball Fiji coach, Julie Hoornweg, said that regular international games are essential, not just for Fiji but other teams in the Pacific, if they are to improve their international standings.

"If players are not playing in overseas leagues then the national team has to go out and play international matches if they are to climb the ladder," Hoornweg said.

Former national coach, Gabrieli Qoro said that getting

more players playing their trade overseas was something that Fiji should venture into if they were to get that competitive edge.

"Right now the top competition is the ANZ Championships and that's one league that we can say is the toughest in the world and if we are able to get a couple of our players to go and play that level, definitely the competitive level will rise up."

Fiji's best ranking at the World Championships came at the 1999 Tournament in Christchurch, New Zealand where they were placed sixth in the world.

The national side has since come close in repeating that feat on a few occasions but has fallen

at the final hurdle.

Qoro said that the turnover of coaches was something that affected the players and the team as a whole over the years.

"From 1999 till now we have had about 4 to 5 different coaches who have come in and gone," Qoro said.

"Different coaches have different styles, different techniques and different methods of coaching and the obstacle that I should say is hindering the development is that there is no development in the sense to touch the grassroots level."

Qoro went on to say that the development of the sport right through the Pacific was not that

good and that the Oceania Netball Federation should look into driving the development in the region we are to improve our standings.

Hoornweg said that not a lot had changed in the 15 years that has passed since her last time here.

"The players here are still athletic, they are still really dynamic, they still got a lot of flair and they work really hard and they got discipline."

Speaking after Fiji's first game at the Digicel Netball Tri-Series on Tuesday night, Hoornweg said that she was happy with the way the girls played against the PNG Pepes.

"I'm very happy with the win and especially with their perfor-

mance because a few days ago they did not look like they were going to produce tonight's win so I'm pleased with them and happy with the win," she said.

Hoornweg said that emphasis was needed to be made on proper ball control and discipline which they lacked at times during the match.

"We did not get everything right but we managed to get enough right tonight," she said.

The Tri-Series is expected to finish on Friday with Fiji, PNG and Northern Ireland taking part. Tonga and a shadow Fiji A side have been playing curtain-raisers to the main match-ups.