

# AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF PACIFIC STUDIES



October 2012

## IN THIS ISSUE

Welcome to the first AAAPS newsletter issued under the new committee. We are aiming to identify a structuring theme for each issue, and to elicit contributions from members. This issue has developed around the theme of 'building'. We are happy to take suggested themes for future issues from our members and are also hoping for other reflective pieces such as conference and seminar reports, publications news and so forth (and photographs!). We are aiming to publish two editions a year. We would also request that all members publicise the association membership by forwarding on the newsletter. We look forward to collating and publicising the activities of AAAPS members over the coming months and years.

N.B For those in Melbourne, or those willing to travel, we draw your attention to the annual AGM which will be held on Friday 2 November at Gryphon Gallery, University of Melbourne from 1-4pm. As a prelude to the meeting, Nic MacLellan will give a talk at the same venue between 12-1pm on the fortunes of the Pacific Islands Forum. Please see the final pages of this newsletter for more information on these events and RSVP details

Nicole George and Frances Steel, Publications Officers

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## **1. From the President**

### **(Re) Building a Pacific Studies Association in Australia**

Ni sa bulu vinaka and kam na mauri colleagues,

In February this year I was asked to speak at the annual conference of ABC International comprising Radio Australia, the Australia Network, and the ABC's international development activities. The question posed to me was: what are the barriers to building relations and understanding between Australia and the Pacific? While there are many active and productive Pacific scholars and communities, including those represented in our Association, there are of course, more than a few political, financial and resource challenges. At the gathering I outlined the following issues:

- Understanding Pacific peoples and the significance of culture
- Understanding histories and the ways in which Australian and Pacific Islands pasts, economics and politics are entangled
- Understanding the importance of place, of region and geography, and paying more attention to regional terminology

For example, what exactly is the Asia-Pacific? Are the Pacific Islands in or out? Is it the Pacific Century, or the Asian Century? What do these terms mean? Are scholars, leaders and policy makers sensitive about how inclusive or exclusive they are, and what they invoke in different economic or geopolitical contexts? Five specific barriers, all of which can also be turned on their heads to become bridges towards better relations include:

- The need for Pacific education and awareness at all Australian levels of study and in the general public
- Australian identification with the Pacific (Australia is in and connected to the Pacific)
- Challenging unhelpful framings of the Pacific – Paradise or Crisis (failing states etc.)
- Australia's Aid Priorities and 'the Culture Problem' (culture is seen as a barrier to development)
- Lack of double vision – the Pacific is not just over there, it's over HERE in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Canberra, Adelaide, Darwin and so forth

The lack of national identification with the Island region makes life quite challenging for those of us who are trying to raise awareness on the need for more education, outreach and research for the Pacific. A report compiled by Samantha Rose, Clive Moore and Max Quanchi of the AAAPS in 2009, made a large number of bold recommendations on building Pacific knowledge and capacity but was largely ignored.<sup>1</sup> We need to try again to make an impact as recommended by Richard Herr and Anthony Bergin in their 2011 Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI) report and in Herr's contribution to this newsletter.

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<sup>1</sup> Rose, et al. National Strategy for the Study of the Pacific, AAAPS, 2009:

[http://www.aaaps.edu.au/sites/hydrogen.rcs.griffith.edu.au.aaaps/files/AAAPS%20National%20Report%2009\\_1.pdf](http://www.aaaps.edu.au/sites/hydrogen.rcs.griffith.edu.au.aaaps/files/AAAPS%20National%20Report%2009_1.pdf)

For a country that established Pacific Studies in 1947 at the ANU, it's astounding that high level, publicly and sometimes privately funded research, for the most part does not get translated into primary, secondary, tertiary or general and visible knowledge for the Australian public. The work of ASPI, the Lowy Institute, the State, Society and Governance in Melanesia Program, the ANU's new virtual Pacific Institute, many museums and libraries across the country, the ABC, and the populations of Pacific scholars working in other institutions around the country, is mainly consumed by people who already have an interest in the region. In the case of ABC International for example, its excellent Pacific content is projected into the region with little domestic impact. These gaps, combined with Australia's large aid and development program in the islands, makes the lack of education all the more baffling.

AAAPS will need a major rethink and a refreshing of its vision and approach if it will be part of finding solutions to the education and research challenges. A truly national and international Association for Pacific Studies will engage and move beyond these challenges and towards a creative, inclusive, collaborative and consultative community of Pacific scholars and other education and research stakeholders including Pacific artists and communities. It is critical that we engage in broader communication of the good work that we do, promotion of excellence in teaching and research, regular dialogue via meetings, email and social networking, and collegiality amongst our members. We actually do this networking and supporting quite well and with good humour. That is the Pacific way.

With respect and many thanks to previous AAAPS executive committees and members for their hard work since its establishment in 2004, we hope to reimagine and refresh the Association with your help over the next two years beginning with the AGM in Melbourne on November 2. We will discuss our name, our website, our scholarship, events for 2013, and our next big gathering in Sydney at the Macleay Museum in 2014. We encourage as many members, as possible, to attend the 2012 AGM (see the flyer at the end of this newsletter).

I wish us all te mauri, te raoi ao te tabamoa – health, peace and prosperity in this endeavour.

Dr. Katerina Teaiwa  
President  
Australian Association for the Advancement of Pacific Studies

## **2. Report of Special General Meeting**

This meeting was held at the University of Wollongong on 13 April 2012 to coincide with the biennial AAAPS conference, 12-14 April. Present at this meeting were the outgoing committee members of the AAAPS and roughly 20 ordinary members of the association.

Important matters arising from the meeting were as follows:

### **1. Professor Hank Nelson**

The meeting began with a tribute paid to Professor Hank Nelson who in Chris Ballard words was a “towering influence” in the field of Pacific Studies. Professor Nelson died on 17 February 2012.

### **2. Next AAAPS Conference**

The AAAPS had received a suggestion from Agnes Hannan (communicated via Paul Sharrad) to hold the next association conference at James Cook University. There was also a firm offer from Jude Philp on behalf of the Macleay Museum at the University of Sydney. A motion was carried to hold the conference at the Macleay Museum in 2014. A motion of thanks was extended to Agnes Hannan with the suggestion that the offer from James Cook University be extended to 2016.

### **3. AAAPS Web Presence**

Those present at the meeting agreed that the many different AAAPS affiliated web-sites and social media pages be consolidated. It was agreed that the existing, if outdated, AAAPS web site be shut down and archived and a new site created with AAAPS funds left over from publications accounts.

### **4. AAAPS Committee**

A number of the existing members of the AAAPS committee resigned at this meeting. This included Helen Hill as President and Chair, Margaret Jolly as Vice President, Helen Gardner and Jon Ritchie as Joint Secretaries, Sana Balai as Pacific Communities Liaison Officer. A new committee was appointed through a process of co-optation.

Katerina Teaiwa was appointed President

Kalissa Alexeyeff as Vice President

Jack Taylor and Anna-Karina Hermkens as Joint Secretaries

Frances Steel and Nicole George as Joint Publications Officers

Leo Tanoi as Communities Liaison Officer

Pamela Zelpin, ordinary member

Jude Philp as convener of the committee for the next conference

Chris Ballard agreed to continue as Public Officer and Bale Sigabalavu was approached to continue her role as AAAPS treasurer. Guy Powles kindly agreed to continue as Auditor.

### **5. AAAPS AGM**

It was agreed that AAAPS needed to hold an Annual General Meeting before the end of 2012. A number of participants at the meeting voiced the opinion that this would provide an important opportunity for AAAPS members to discuss the aims and objectives of the AAAPS and whether a name change for the organization was desirable.

The Constitution of AAAPS Incorporated was amended to clarify certain details of the way in which meetings are to be notified and held, but particularly to change the end date of the financial year from 30 June to 31 December in order that, from 2013 onwards, it will be possible to hold the AGMs of the Association at the same time as conferences – during the first half of each year.

## 6. Vote of Thanks

The meeting closed with a unanimous vote of thanks extended to the University of Wollongong AAAPS organizing committee for their efforts in making the 2012 conference such a success.



The new AAAPS committee, back row: Frances Steel, Nicole George, Katerina Teaiwa, Kalissa Alexeyeff, Guy Powles;  
front row: Pamela Zeplin, Jack Taylor, Chris Ballard, Anna-Karina Hermkens

### 3. Report of Fourth Biennial Conference

#### 'Sustenance'

Over 80 participants from Australia, New Zealand, Hawai'i and Fiji gathered together at the University of Wollongong 12-14 April 2012 for the fourth biennial AAAPS conference convened by Paul Sharrad, with assistance from Frances Steel, Grant McCall and a team of UOW postgraduate volunteers.

The conference was formally opened with 'Gift/Exchange,' an exhibition of archival and material culture at the university library which tracked Pacific connections, followed by a screening of the award-winning film, *The Hungry Tide* (2011), a portrait of Sydney-based activist Maria Timon in her work to draw international attention to the plight of her homeland Kiribati in the face of rising sea levels. Filmmaker Tom Zubrecki was in attendance and a Q&A session followed the screening.



Vili Hereniko, Max Quanchi, Frances Steel and Paul Sharrad  
at the conference opening, 12 April 2012

Professor Edward (Ted) Wolfers, University of Wollongong, and Professor Vilsoni Hereniko, University of the South Pacific, were conference keynote speakers. Ted's lecture, entitled, 'Sustainability: Suspicions concerning attainability with particular reference to the South Pacific,' explored the extent to which the terms 'sustainability' and 'sustainable development' are ill-defined, unwieldy and contested. Vilsoni spoke on 'Sustainable futures for creative scholars: A view from the margins,' drawing on his career as a playwright, filmmaker and more recently as Director of the Oceania Centre for the Arts, Culture and Pacific Studies at USP, to advocate for a more prominent place for the imagination in scholarly research.

Panel sessions over two days were rich and varied. Themes included: sustainable fisheries; climate change; museums and collecting; tourism and travel writing; the Maori and Pukapuka diaspora in

Australia; Pacific communities and the NRL; political and economic aspects of independence; education; festivals and the transformation of dance; constructs of gender and the person.

Two books were launched at the conference. Frances Steel's *Oceania Under Steam* (Manchester University Press) was launched by Margaret Jolly. *Engendering Violence in Papua New Guinea* edited by Margaret Jolly and Christine Stewart (ANU Epress) was launched by Nicole George.

The conference dinner was held at Panorama House at Bulli Tops which offered a fantastic night time perspective of Wollongong from the escarpment. Two local Pacific Islands groups from the Pukapuka and Māori communities performed at this event, demonstrating the important presence of Pacific populations in contemporary Australia.

A postgraduate workshop was also held, chaired by Max Quanchi, with assistance from Paul Sharrad, Charles Hawksley and Grant McCall. This workshop facilitated intensive discussion of draft chapters submitted by six later-level Masters and PhD students. The workshop was generously funded by an Australian Research Council (ARC) grant to the Asia Pacific Futures Research Network.

A special general meeting was also held (see report in this newsletter).



Pacific Studies students and scholars at the 2012 AAAPS conference

(from left to right) Areti Metuamate, Nicholas Halter, Joseph Vile, Roannie Ng Shiu, Leo Tanoi (AAAPS community liaison officer), April Henderson, Scott Mackay and Katerina Teaiwa

## 4. Conference/Workshop Reports

### a. My Dream Research Project in the Pacific

On April 19, 2012, a Pacific Scholars Gathering was held at The University of Melbourne. This meeting was planned to coincide with the visit of Professor Niko Besnier (University of Amsterdam) to Melbourne as a visiting fellow in the School of Social and Political Sciences, The University of Melbourne. His research on Tongan rugby players in Japan, and his larger project 'Globalization, Sports and the Precarity of Masculinity' inspired us to THINK BIG, and to challenge our colleagues to do similarly by telling us all about their dream research project in the Pacific. Our aim was to imaginatively extend our research horizons and conceptual frames, and get to know other scholars of the Pacific who work in Melbourne.

Staff and postgraduates representing a range of disciplines from Melbourne University, Monash University, Deakin University, La Trobe University, RMIT and Victoria University attended the gathering. After an introduction by Niko Besnier about his project, and grant and funding opportunities, participants each spoke for 5 minutes followed by discussion on ways to make their dream project a reality. Dream projects ranged from 'Why aren't Tongans Rich?' (Steve Francis) to bus drivers, roads and kastom in Vanuatu (Benedicta Rousseau), to Pacific Island female bank managers and notions of success (Ema Fifita) and locally-collected life-stories of leadership in PNG (Jonathan Ritchie).



Niko Besnier and co-participants

We were pleasantly surprised by the level of enthusiasm for this event and we hope it will be the first of many similar ones that will serve to bring together Pacific scholars in Melbourne and also intersect with more national and international AAAPS initiatives.

Vice President Kalissa Alexeyeff and Benedicta Rousseau  
The University of Melbourne

## **b. Sexualities, Sexual Rights and HIV in PNG and the Pacific**

For three intensive days from July 11-13, a congregation of fifty-three scholars, activists, policy-makers, and practitioners met at ANU to exchange perspectives and engage in discussion on *Sexualities, Sexual Rights and HIV in Papua New Guinea and the Pacific*. This workshop symposium was conjointly convened by Professor Gilbert Herdt and Dr Katherine Lepani as part of the ARC Laureate Project led by Professor Margaret Jolly, *Engendering Persons, Transforming Things*. The event received support from the ANU Research School of Asia and the Pacific (RSAP), the AusAID International Seminar Support Scheme (ISSS), and the United Nations Development Programme Pacific Centre in Suva, Fiji. Professor Herdt's intellectual leadership for the workshop symposium emerged as a key activity during his two-month visit at ANU, under the RSAP Distinguished Visitor Program.

Participants at the workshop symposium came from Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Solomons, Vanuatu, the Cook Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, France, Canada and Australia. Governments, NGOs, advocacy groups, and churches were represented including the PNG National Aids Council Secretariat, Solomon Islands National AIDS Council, New Zealand AIDS Foundation, PNG Institute of Medical Research, UNAIDS PNG, UNDP Pacific Centre, Secretariat of the Pacific Community Regional Rights Resource Team, Pacific Islands AIDS Foundation, Igat Hope PNG, Fiji Network for People Living with HIV, Pacific Sexual Diversity Network, Wan Smol Bag Theatre, Pacific Counselling and Social Services, Caritas Australia, ChildFund Australia, Pacific Friends of the Global Fund, the National Catholic AIDS Office in PNG, and the Seventh Day Adventist and Anglican churches.

Professor Emeritus Susan Kippax of UNSW and Professor Gary Dowsett of La Trobe, respectively, both eminent social scientists and experts on sexuality and HIV, were the invited discussants for the workshop symposium. Dame Carol Kidu, former member of the PNG Parliament and a tireless advocate for human rights and law reform in PNG and the Pacific, provided reflective comments on advocacy and law reform processes in a special session on the first day that focused on Homosexuality Laws and Law Reform in the Pacific. Stuart Watson, UNAIDS Coordinator for PNG, provided a remarkable commentary on emerging themes of the third day.

The workshop was a model of open exchange and dialogue between diverse people, places and perspectives, including controversial issues, such as the influence of religiosity on sexual expression in the Pacific Islands. The format involved twenty-eight short plenary presentations in nine thematic sessions, allowing ample time for discussion and debate. Innovative new insights were developed about:

- Patterns of stigma, discrimination and violence against women, sexual minorities and people living with HIV in the Pacific;
- The persistence of punitive laws, many dating from the colonial period criminalizing sodomy and sex work and the urgent need for law reform
- The prominent role of Christian churches in both the prevention and treatment of HIV and the increasing conjunction of biomedical and faith-based healing
- The crucial advocacy role of organizations representing women and sexual minorities and people living with HIV in defending human rights.

Evaluations of the workshop were overwhelmingly positive, with many participants suggesting it marked a watershed moment in mutual understandings. The projected outcomes include ongoing collaboration in research and practice, a series of scholarly articles, and planned publication of some of the insights gained from the symposium.

Integral to the program was a public lecture by distinguished anthropologist Professor Gilbert Herdt, *From Ritual Sex to Sexual Individuality: Tradition and Modernity in Sambia Sexual Culture*, which attracted a packed audience. The lecture explored the profound transformations in sexual culture and gender relations among people in the Eastern Highlands of PNG since his first fieldwork in the 1970s: the end of initiations which made boys into mature, heterosexual men and warriors through practices of insemination, the reduced separation of men and women and changing notions of female pollution and male domination. Pervasive conversion to Seventh Day Adventist Christianity has catalysed new forms of intimate cohabitation and desire in marriages with enhanced female autonomy and a parallel denial of homosexual practice as both un-Christian and foreign. This lecture will form part of his forthcoming book *The Singers are Gone*. The Public Lecture was co-sponsored by the ARC Laureate Project, the RSAP Distinguished Visitor Program, and the ANU Gender Institute.

Katherine Lepani and Margaret Jolly  
The Australian National University

[This report originally appeared on *Outrigger: Blog of the Pacific Institute* @ The Australian National University]

## **5. Commentary from our members**

### **a. Building momentum for Pacific Studies in Australia**

Some months ago my colleague Anthony Bergin and I called for a renewed commitment to Pacific Islands studies at the national level in our “Near Abroad” report published by Australian Strategic Policy Institute. A chance comment recently by a parliamentary colleague reaffirmed for me the need for broader Pacific Islands “literacy” in Australia. An Australian working with a regional association was explaining the nature of Canberra’s relations to the visiting Australian dignitaries. She expressed the view that the principal complicating factor in effective interactions with Pacific Islands was Canberra’s “failure to listen”.

At one level, I could not agree more. After more than four decades of working in the region, I do believe that there has been a greater tendency to “hear” than to “listen”. There are many reasons for this; not all of which reflect adversely on Australia.

For one thing, there is much more to hear now. The Islands have a much wider range of academically, politically and socially active elites speaking than was the case 40 years ago. Thus, it can be more difficult to triangulate information than in rather “simpler” times.

Busy bureaucrats and inexperienced journalists find it easier to rely on a few trusted local sources for deeper understanding than they themselves possess and so can be captured to some extent by these sources. More nuanced, and so more honest, understanding of the Pacific Islands requires the hearer to listen with a practiced ear to achieve genuine comprehension.

We believe that a heightened commitment to Pacific Island studies is desirable to address the situation where the changing dynamics of the Asia-Pacific century make effective listening more ever more critical for Australia.

We commented in our report on the loss of courses, programmes and staff across the nation’s universities in recent decades. But this is only part of the story. “Old Pacific hands” from the colonial bureaucracies, journalists with long term residential experience in the Islands and expatriate personnel with long postings into regional branch offices have also retired from the scene.

We argued for a national Institute for Pacific Islands Studies to provide the focused research, teaching, publication and outreach capacity needed to reverse the effects of several decades of this diminishing intellectual capital. However, we also recognized that Canberra cannot by its own fiat mandate that Pacific Island studies fill these gaps in public knowledge that have so eroded in Australia’s general literacy in our region. There has to some more general demand for Pacific Studies that will provide, in effect, some sustainable basis for scholars to be recruited in this field. At the moment there seems to be too little demand.

Public awareness of the Pacific Islands region has to be built from the ground up, I believe. The demand for Pacific Islands Studies will always be marginalized if it is sequestered away in the ivory research towers of universities. More over, it will not contribute to an effective public debate on our neighbours, the neighbourhood and Australia’s place in the region.

Thus, I would like to see a more significant place for the Pacific Islands and their people in the

schools' curriculum for two specific reasons.

First, I hope it will create a basic familiarity that will improve public expectations of the media and the public discussion on all aspects of Pacific Islands and their contribution to world affairs.

Secondly, it will create a demand for teachers of the social sciences, geography, economics and the like who understand the Pacific Islands. This would do much to help sustain Pacific Islands' research and teaching programmes in the nation's universities.

A larger cadre of university scholars would better support the proposed national Institute for Pacific Islands Studies that could build networks linking academic and public policy bodies and foster informed public debate on Australia's relations with the South Pacific.

With any luck such an institute will serve also as an important vehicle to engage more effectively with similar centres in the Asia-Pacific, which already are emerging to promote more Pacific Islands literacy outside the region.

Richard Herr  
School of Government  
University of Tasmania

*Editors' note:*

A Bachelors of Pacific Studies was established at the ANU in 2012 in addition to the Pacific Studies major available under the Bachelor of Asia-Pacific Studies degree. These are currently the only Pacific Studies majors or degrees available in Australia.

**b. Building on local strengths: Managing conflict in the Pacific Islands and beyond**

A team of peace and conflict researchers in the School of Political Science and International Studies at The University of Queensland are in the final stages of a collaborative project which examines how community level resources could be better harnessed to assist conflict management efforts undertaken by outsiders. Empirical investigation of this idea has taken place in a range of Pacific Island countries. This project was funded by AusAID through the Asia Pacific Centre for the Responsibility to Protect and began in 2009. An important motivation throughout has been to demonstrate to 'international organisations and interveners' how local actors need to be better understood, and more sensitively engaged in efforts to build security. To investigate how this might occur research teams have conducted periods of intensive field work in Solomon Islands Timor Leste, Vanuatu and Bougainville (Papua New Guinea).

In an interview with Volker Boege, who has worked alongside Morgan Brigg, Anne Brown and Jodie Curth on this initiative, I learned about the work the project team undertook in the Solomon Islands during 2010. Working in research sites on Guadalcanal, Malaita, Central and Isabel Provinces, researchers examined how non-state customary providers, and international and state-based actors, interacted with each other. Teams examined where and how complementarity, substitutability and incompatibilities were evident amongst these sets of actors. Their findings posed an important challenge to contemporary efforts to manage security challenges in the region. For example in many rural communities, it was found that even though chiefly networks could not

perhaps act as a substitute for local policing capacity, they provided an important complement to local police efforts to maintain security when tensions threatened. In peri-urban areas this trend was less evident but still important, suggesting that tribal and clan hierarchies play an important if often misunderstood role in regulating behavior or managing tensions and rivalries which threaten to erupt into violence.

Another aspect of the project examined modes of engagement between ‘interveners’ and local communities. Here researchers identified a mismatch between the expectations of local and institutional actors. While international agencies charged with managing conflict in the Pacific Region and elsewhere claim to recognize the importance of ‘the local’ they tend to engage with local actors on terms that suit institutional interests and knowledge frameworks. The researchers on this project argue that too often “the interveners” invite local actors to engage with them in “their space” and to “make their knowledge fit Western frameworks”. They argue that greater efforts should be made to “go to local people and speak with them in forums and in ways that make sense” to them. Greater attention to these cross-cultural issues will allow interveners to “recognize and value ‘evidence’ and knowledge which is presented and validated in forms other than those they are used to”. These may include story-telling, workshops and oral history interviews.

The research team involved in this work contends that a great deal of conflict management practice undertaken by international agencies, and increasingly authorized through the R2P (Responsibility to Protect) framework demonstrates a pronounced ambivalence towards the ‘local’. Even though discourses on human security and R2P principles puts the ‘security of local populations’ at the heart of efforts to manage outbreaks of conflict related violence, this ambivalence remains. However while strategies for the implementation of R2P remain “firmly state centered” this research demonstrates the importance of developing alternative approaches to conflict management that build on local strengths. Researchers contend that greater efforts to develop an awareness of local capacities and knowledge frameworks in the areas of peacebuilding, can result in a more “holistic, sustainable and locally embedded approach” to peace and security in the region, and beyond.

Nicole George  
School of Political Science and International Studies  
University of Queensland



Research team on location

For further information on this project please contact:  
Volker Boege at [v.boege@uq.edu.au](mailto:v.boege@uq.edu.au)  
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### c. Building a new Pacific Studies Artist in Residence Program at the ANU

'Mural paints a different picture of the Pacific'

Celebrated Indigenous Hawaiian artist Carl Pao is taking new ideas about the Pacific and committing them to canvas, painting a visually stunning and colourful mural at The Australian National University. Mr Pao is the inaugural Pacific Studies Artist in Residence at the ANU College of Asia and the Pacific. The Pacific Studies Artist in Residence is hosted by the ANU Equity office, Pasifika Australia, the ANU Pacific Studies program and an Australian Research Council Laureate project held by ANU Professor Margaret Jolly.

Mr Pao said the mural was inspired by what young Pacific Islander students had to say about their region and heritage as well as questions surrounding Pacific identities. "We tried to shed our preconceived ideas about what 'Pasifika', or the Pacific, means," said Mr Pao. "We discussed each island group and thought about their unique identities relating back to their place of origin. From that we started to think about grander, sweeping elements within the Pacific like ocean, wind, and current, and not only how those tie the mural together but how they have tied us together over the generations".



Carl Pao and his mural at the ANU

"We were also inspired by Aboriginal Australian artwork and its use of aerial maps. We have developed a rough map of the Pacific stretching from Australia in the south all the way to Rapa Nui in the east and Hawaii in the north. Like Indigenous Australian paintings, the artwork has many pathways, connections and parallel lines. And like the star or constellation maps used by Pacific Islanders for navigating in the past, the artwork is a map of somewhere for us to head towards."

“Overall, the artwork celebrates the unique differences of the Pacific’s many cultural groups as well as the things that bring us together. The final work will be this large composition which is, hopefully, stunning from a distance and draws your attention. Once you get up to it, the viewer can engage with it more intimately and see the little subtleties of the different groups represented in it.”

The finished artwork will be mounted at the ANU Farea Pasifika office. A visual arts teacher at the elite Kamehameha Schools in Honolulu, Carl Pao’s work in painting, print-making and sculpture has been displayed in North America and Europe, including the Smithsonian Institute National Museum of the American Indian in Washington DC.

James Giggacher  
Asia-Pacific Editor, College of Asia and the Pacific  
The Australian National University

*Editors' note:*

The second Pacific Studies Artist in Residence at ANU for 2012 is multidisciplinary contemporary artist Eric Bridgeman of PNG (Chimbu) and Australian descent. Eric’s work explores issues of race, gender and sexuality. He will be working on visual footage for a project and arts collective called Yal Ton (Bad Man) based in his home province.

Stay tuned for a call for applications for the 2013 Pacific Studies Artist in Residence program!

## Public talk and Annual General Meeting



### "The end of the beginning...? The Pacific Islands Forum at 40" A public talk by journalist and researcher Nic MacLellan.

#### Abstract:

Last year, the Pacific Islands Forum marked its 40th anniversary - receiving both praise and criticism as the region's key political institution. Recent Forum meetings have highlighted a number of tensions in Pacific regionalism: the unresolved place of Fiji in economic and political integration; the expansion of sub-regional networks and new arenas for "islands-only" discussion; the growth (and crisis) of Pacific civil society organisations; the challenges of integrating the remaining Pacific colonies into regional affairs; and the complex array of new players in the region. The Forum was created in 1971 because the South Pacific Commission could not adequately address islands concerns. Can the Forum weather its current woes and meet the new challenges of regionalism, or is this the beginning of the end?

**Friday 2 November, 2012**

**12 - 4 p.m.**

(lunch and afternoon tea provided)

**Gryphon Gallery, 1888 Building,  
The University of Melbourne**  
<http://maps.unimelb.edu.au/parkville/building/198>.

**All welcome. Find out about the aims of AAAPS  
Membership of AAAPS is free!  
RSVP essential for catering. See below.**

RSVP and logistics:  
Dr. Kalissa Alexeyeff  
[k.alexeyeff@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:k.alexeyeff@unimelb.edu.au)

Items for Agenda:  
Dr. John Taylor  
[john.taylor@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:john.taylor@latrobe.edu.au)

**AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF PACIFIC STUDIES INC.**

**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP**

**NAME**

Title \_\_\_\_\_ Family Name \_\_\_\_\_ Given Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

**WORKPLACE or  
ASSOCIATED INSTITUTION:** \_\_\_\_\_

**MAILING ADDRESS:**

Street Number and Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Suburb/City \_\_\_\_\_  
State/Province \_\_\_\_\_ Post Code \_\_\_\_\_  
Country \_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE NUMBERS (Please include country and area codes):**

Home \_\_\_\_\_ Work \_\_\_\_\_  
Mobile/Cell \_\_\_\_\_

**FIELD(S) AND COUNTRIES OF INTEREST RELATED TO THE PACIFIC AND PACIFIC STUDIES:**

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**I APPLY to join the Australian Association for the Advancement of Pacific Studies Inc., and agree to follow the rules of its Constitution**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Approved \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Secretary \_\_\_\_\_

Entered on the List of Members \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Public Officer \_\_\_\_\_