



Dear members,

In this newsletter we hear from our President, Katerina Teaiwa, on developments within the association. We include some reflections on interesting workshops and conferences attended by some of our members, and other news in Pacific Studies from around Australia. We also include a list of publications by members that have appeared since 2014.

On behalf of the AAPS Executive Committee, we extend our best wishes to all members for the rest of 2015.

Frances Steel and Nicole George  
AAPS Publication Officers  
May 2015

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### AAPS Annual General Meeting

**DATE:** 29 May 2015

**WHERE:** The Cairns Institute, James Cook University, Cairns Campus

**TIME:** 1.30 - 4.00pm

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### Inaugural Epeli Hau'ofa Annual Public Lecture

***Black Australia: entangled histories on Queensland's cane fields***

**Associate Professor Tracey Banivanua Mar in dialogue with filmmaker Amie Batalibasi**

**TIME:** 4.30 – 6.30pm (following AGM)

In the year that Faith Bandler, a giant of indigenous political struggle in Australia, passed away, this paper reflects on the legacy of Australia's nineteenth century labour trade in the Pacific. Through a survey of the collective political struggles of Queensland's South Sea Islander community, the paper explores the role that solidarity has played in the articulation of a Black politics in Australia--one that was inclusive rather than exclusive, and defined by familial, and enmeshed networks of connection. In moments of resistant politics on the fringes of sugar towns in the nineteenth century, to protests against deportation in 1906, and the Black Power inspired struggles for recognition in the 1970s, South Sea Islanders, Murris and Islanders in the Pacific have together produced powerful forces for change. Although often consisting of connective and contingent moments of articulation, rather than coherent 'hard' political networks it will be argued that this is a historical narrative yet to receive the acknowledgement it deserves. For if measured from the criteria implied by Hau'ofa's eloquent plea to overcome the smallness and disconnection of the colonial era, these political moments were significant formations of internal decolonisation.

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## President's Report

2014-2015 began with a very successful AAPS biennial conference convened by Jude Philp at the University of Sydney. The gathering, *Oceanic Connections: cooperation across the Pacific*, featured keynotes by Stewart Firth, Damon Salesa, Tony Heorake and Emelda Davis. Panels were diverse and impressive engaging themes such as security and stability, Timor Leste, performance, migration, teaching Pacific Studies, gender, climate change, archaeology, activism for West Papua, land alienation, urbanization, Pacific knowledge, and postgraduate research challenges. There were also book launches and tours of the Macleay Museum, Australian Museum and Community Day at Casula Powerhouse organized by Leo Tanoi. Our great thanks to Jude, her Sydney colleagues, session conveners, and the many student volunteers for hosting this conference so brilliantly.

Many of the AAPS executive were voted back into office but we said farewell to our very competent co-secretary, Jack Taylor, and welcomed newcomer Lanieta Tukana from the University of Sydney. George Carter from the ANU, Ian Conrich from the University of South Australia, Rachel Morgain from the ANU, and journalist Nic Maclellan also joined the team.

For the rest of the year we focused on building a new AAPS website. After a few hiccups, our website coordinator, Rachel Morgain, kindly offered to take on this very important task and we are launching the website at the Cairns AGM. AAPS also provided financial support for a meeting of the South Sea Islander community at Casula Powerhouse in November 2014 organized by Emelda Davis. Earlier this year we finalized the details for the inaugural Epli Hau'ofa annual lecture with kind permission from Barbara Hau'ofa and Epli Hau'ofa Junior in Fiji. Associate Professor Tracey Banivanua Mar from Latrobe University and filmmaker Amie Batalibasi (*pictured – Amie, myself, Tracey and Kalissa Alexeyeff*) will present in honour of Hau'ofa and in memory of South Sea Islander activist and national icon Faith Bandler.



I'd like to thank our AAPS executive team for all your technical work behind the scenes these last 12 months. I'd especially like to mention Guy Powles, our indispensable advisor and auditor, Jude Philp for continuing to manage finances from Sydney, Bale Sigabalavu who handles the AAPS account in Melbourne, Chris Ballard who ensures we're legally incorporated in the ACT, Lanieta Tukana for maintaining the AAPS membership list, Iva Ponton for working on postgraduate recruitment, and to Kalissa Alexeyeff, Anna-Karina Hermkens and our incoming conference convener Rosita Henry for organizing the Cairns meeting and lecture. Thanks to income received from the Sydney conference, we were able to support the travel of three students to this meeting, as well as our guest speakers. Many thanks to Frances Steel and Nicole George for editing the annual newsletter and a huge thanks to Rachel Morgain for building our new website. The site will allow our members to better share their great work, and provide regular updates and information on Pacific Studies and Pacific related events and activities nationally and internationally.

Plans for the next year include preparation and promotion of the 2016 conference convened by Rosita Henry of James Cook University at the Cairns Institute, and establishing a AAPS book series. We are currently looking for editors for this series from within our academic membership so please contact the executive committee if you are interested.

Our sincere thanks to Associate Professor Rosita Henry of James Cook University and Cairns Institute Director Professor Stewart Locke for facilitating our 2015 AGM and annual lecture, and 2016 conference. Thanks as well to Jenny McHugh for her work on organizing the AGM and lecture along with Kalissa, Rosita and Anna-Karina.

Finally, congratulations to our postgraduate reps Elisabeth Betz and Iva Ponton for successfully completing your PhDs!

Vinaka vaka levu & kam bati n rabwa,  
Dr. Katerina Teaiwa

## Other News

### Retirements in Pacific Studies

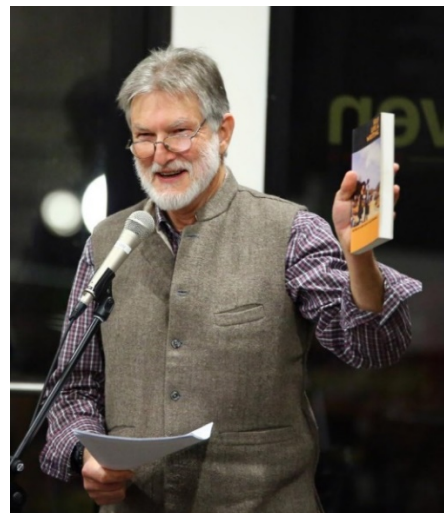
In 2014 the University of Wollongong celebrated the careers of two esteemed scholars of the Pacific, Professor Edward (Ted) Wolfers and Associate Professor Paul Sharrad.

**Ted Wolfers** joined the University of Wollongong in 1987 from Macquarie University. He was appointed Foundation Professor of Politics, and went on to establish the Master of Arts in International Relations, a program that was at the time innovative and which developed practical skills for aspiring diplomats from the Asia Pacific region. He was seconded by the government of Papua New Guinea to assist with the Bougainville Peace Process in 1997/98. Even while he was working for over a decade in PNG he continued to publish in scholarly journals, to edit books and to supervise PhD theses. His expertise on constitutional affairs, peacemaking and decolonisation was recognised internationally, particularly by the United Nations, which often asked him to address various committees. Ted has been awarded the highest State Honours of Papua New Guinea for his contribution to the people and their independence. As former UOW Vice Chancellor Ken McKinnon remarked at his retirement function, Ted 'is still undoubtedly the best informed Australian on PNG (although modest in publishing his views)'.

Ted encouraged and influenced generations of students from Australia, Asia and the Pacific. His championing of the Pacific, and his intellectual generosity will be missed. Although he has officially retired, Ted is in high demand as a consultant for Foreign Service Training in PNG, and maintains his ties with UOW as Honorary Fellow in the Faculty of Law, Humanities and the Arts.



*Professor Ted Wolfers, with children Nathan and Naomi  
30 November 2014, University of Wollongong*



*Associate Professor Paul Sharrad  
30 June 2014, University of Wollongong*

**Paul Sharrad** also joined the University of Wollongong in 1987, but from slightly further afield (the National University of Singapore). Appointed to the English Department, Paul taught Pacific Literature for over twenty years, and notes that by the time of his retirement, he was the only one left teaching it in Australia as a purely literary option. He has written extensively about postcolonial literatures – key titles include *Readings in Pacific Literature* (Wollongong, 1993) and *Albert Wendt and Pacific Literature: Circling the Void* (Manchester, 2003). An active and supportive AAPS member, and generous and kind mentor to younger scholars of the Pacific, he chaired the organising committee of the association's biennial conference held in Wollongong in April 2012.

While now enjoying more time for reading for pleasure, cycling, and singing in the Welsh choir, Paul is currently editing the Pacific section of a volume of *The Oxford History of the Novel in English*.

Our warmest wishes to you both for a very happy and healthy retirement!

## ANU Pacific Islands Field School, Hawai'i

Fifteen ANU students spent 21 days in Hawaii in late 2014 as part of the ANU Pacific Islands Field School. The students, from across all seven ANU colleges, were the fifth group to travel on the annual Pacific Islands field school, organised by the ANU College of Asia and the Pacific, under the leadership of Pacific Studies Convenor Dr Katerina Teaiwa.



The in-country work included seminars at the University of Hawaii (UH), the East West Center, visits to a native canoe making project, a homeless shelter, the Kamehameha Schools, the Polynesian Cultural Center, Iolani Palace, and Bishop Museum. Students also did practical assignments, maintained an online blog of their experiences, and attended formal classes and tutorials by staff from ANU and UH. Some students even learnt a Hawaiian hula, performed at a function ANU students hosted to thank their Hawaiian hosts.

“The annual field school is an extremely valuable opportunity for ANU students to learn more about their Pacific neighbours by actually engaging with them in the Pacific, rather than simply reading about them in books and journal articles from Canberra,” said tutor, Areti Metuamata, a PhD Student in the ANU College of Asia and the Pacific.

This year’s field school coincided with the Inaugural ANU-UH Distinguished Lecture, delivered by ARC Laureate Professor Margaret Jolly. The Distinguished lecture is one of a number of initiatives from a Memorandum of Understanding between the two universities, signed in June

Text and image credit: <http://www.anu.edu.au/news/all-news/students-visit-hawaii-for-anu-pacific-islands-field-school>

## Conferences, Workshops, Public Lectures



### Sorcery and Witchcraft-Related Killings in Melanesia: Culture, Law and Human Rights Perspectives

Australian National University, 5–7 June 2013

### Sorcery and Witchcraft Accusations: Developing a National Response to Overcome the Violence

Goroka, 3-5 December 2013

It has been widely believed that sorcery and witchcraft declines with modernity, but evidence from Melanesia, where a sharp increase in accusations of sorcery and witchcraft have resulted in horrendous attacks on alleged practitioners, shows that this is not true. Both conferences involved academics, policymakers, human rights activists, church organisations, NGOs,

international organisations and aid donors. Participants and speakers came from PNG, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Australia, New Zealand, Europe and North America.

The Goroka meeting also included presentations by political leaders, leaders from the Police Force, Magistrates Courts, medical and other social services and human rights lawyers.

I had become aware of the nature of the sorcery problems facing the administration of justice when co-writing the *Magistrates Manual of Papua New Guinea* (E. Hill and G. Powles, Lawbook Co, Sydney, 2001) and am pleased to be co-supervising at Monash the doctoral research of Mel Keenan, a colonial legal historian who contributed a paper 'The Western Legal Response to Sorcery in Colonial Papua New Guinea' at the Canberra conference.

Marking the culmination of the work, particularly of Miranda Forsyth, ANU research fellow with State, Society and Governance in Melanesia in the College of Asia and the Pacific, who, with Richard Eves, has led this whole project, Miranda has announced this 6th of May that the book containing a cross-section of the papers from the two conferences has been published online.:

Miranda Forsyth and Richard Eves (eds), *Talking it Through: Responses to Sorcery and Witchcraft Beliefs and Practices in Melanesia* ANU Press, Canberra, May 2015 (<http://press.anu.edu.au/titles/talking-it-through/>)

This multi-disciplinary collection is structured in three parts. The chapters in Part 1 discuss the social, economic and cultural dimensions to the belief in witchcraft and sorcery. Part 2 contains a number of chapters that deal with the legal dimensions to the belief in witchcraft and sorcery. Finally, the chapters in Part 3 explore some positive ways forward in overcoming one of the most problematic aspects of sorcery and witchcraft beliefs and practices today, namely sorcery accusation-related violence.

Guy Powles

### **Festival of Democracy in Tonga Conference**

'Atenisi Institute, Nuku'alofa, 17-25 June 2014

Readers will be aware that in 2010 the Tongan Parliament had passed a reform package of laws under which the King devolved most but not all of his executive powers upon an elected Ministry chosen in a House no longer numerically dominated by nobles and appointed Ministers.

Towards the end of the term of the first government, in which the pro-democracy representatives failed to exert influence, the 'Festival' organisers announced their intention 'to encourage greater understanding of and involvement with democracy in Tonga. We want to reach out to Tongans who are still disengaged from the democratic process, and urge them to understand and exercise their rights'. The public (it was open to all) were invited to listen to political and religious leaders, politicians past and present, academics, a former judge, and representatives of civil society. The seven daily programs were allocated to -

Conceptualising Democratic Change in Tonga

Political Economy and Democracy

Citizenship, Civic Duties and Democracy

Women and Tonga Democracy

Ecology and Democracy

Faith, Human Rights and Democracy

Art and Cultural Activities

See <https://www.facebook.com/DemocracyInTonga> for some information, I can provide the full program on request – [guy.powles@monash.edu](mailto:guy.powles@monash.edu)

I was on the first day's list as a plenary speaker, but unfortunately could not attend and my paper 'Tonga's Reform Achievements' was read in my absence. I was told that the first two days got close to, but failed to address specifically, the difficult and sensitive issues raised by the new constitutional provisions for the sharing of executive power.

On 29th December last, after the second elections under the reform, Parliament elected as PM the veteran democracy campaigner, 'Akilisi Pohiva. To use a well-worn but apt phrase, these are exciting times!

Guy Powles

## Working with Legal Pluralism in the Francophone and Anglophone Pacific Islands

ANU, under the auspices of the French l'Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales and the State, Society and Governance in Melanesia centre, 25 September 2014

This conference brought together leading scholars and practitioners from both the French and English speaking Pacific to discuss different approaches to legal pluralism in the region.

Legal pluralism, by which we mean the simultaneous existence of several different legal orders in the same territory, is a reality in many parts of the Pacific. While all states in the region have their own systems of national law and judicial administration, these exist alongside norms and institutions that derive their authority from 'custom' or 'tradition', and, in many places, from Christianity and churches. In practice, these 'non-state' systems of social and legal ordering continue to play a significant role in everyday life in local communities.

Pluralism raises both problems and opportunities for a range of different issues, such as access to justice, security and peacebuilding, respecting and promoting human rights and the maintenance of cultural values. It is also a very important issue for some Francophone countries in the region, as it raises questions of decolonisation, multiculturalism and political cohesiveness.

The diversity of papers presented indicated to me just how valuable it was for people from French and English speaking island countries to present case studies and overviews that enabled consideration of the range of ways states can interact with non-state forms of social ordering, the advantages and disadvantages of the various approaches, and the sorts of agency that non-state orders have to influence policy in this field. Papers on Bougainville, Solomon Islands, PNG and Vanuatu were followed by several discussing serious dilemmas faced in New Caledonia, Wallis and Futuna and French Polynesia.

The program can be seen at - < [http://www.pacific-dialogues.fr/op\\_france\\_pacific\\_sept2014\\_programme.php](http://www.pacific-dialogues.fr/op_france_pacific_sept2014_programme.php) > while the ten French presentations, half of which are English translations, may be downloaded at – < [http://www.pacific-dialogues.fr/op\\_france\\_pacific\\_sept2014\\_presentations.php](http://www.pacific-dialogues.fr/op_france_pacific_sept2014_presentations.php) >

Guy Powles

## Festival of Oceania Tapa

Tahiti, 13 - 23 November 2014



*Exchange of tapa between Fijian Tessa Miller (right) and French Polynesian tapa artist (photograph by A. Hermkens)*

Organized by the Association Tapa du Pacifique (ATAPAC) and the Wallis and Futuna Delegation in Tahiti, the Festival brought together Tapa makers, supporters, government officials, NGOs, and academics engaged in the safeguarding of Tapa within and outside of the Pacific. Participating Pacific islands included American Samoa, Cook Island, Easter Island, Fiji, French Polynesia (Marquesas Islands), Hawaii, New Caledonia, Pitcairn, Samoa, Tonga, Vanuatu, and Wallis and Futuna. Through the symposium, workshop, conference and exhibitions, the Festival provided an opportunity for information sharing on the diverse Tapa found in the different islands of the Pacific.

Tapa making and related knowledge and skills are one of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) shared among the Pacific islands. Despite some variations in terms of the raw materials, techniques, and usages, Tapa has been an integral part of the life of Pacific communities with an important cultural significance and social role in connecting families and communities. The unifying dimension of Oceania Tapa was demonstrated in a large collage of different Tapa pieces from the participating islands which was produced by participants during the Festival and presented at the closing of the Festival.

The Festival participants agreed to enlarge and strengthen ATAPAC by designating focal points at each island. They also created a Steering Committee tasked with the carrying out preparatory works for the organization of the next Festival of Tapa from Oceania, raising funds, and identifying cultural events in the future that would serve the safeguarding activities of Tapa and further networking.

Text credit: [http://www.unesco.org/new/en/apia/about-this-office/single-view/news/safeguarding\\_tapa\\_cultural\\_link\\_in\\_oceania/#.VWQEaaN--Uk](http://www.unesco.org/new/en/apia/about-this-office/single-view/news/safeguarding_tapa_cultural_link_in_oceania/#.VWQEaaN--Uk)

## The spirit of Polynesia: United to share Polynesian dance in Melbourne events

Melbournians have enjoyed viewing and participating in an array of performances over the last few months. Director of Nuholani Entertainment (Tiffany Noelani Le Nevez) has inspired many to take part in performances from festival events, educational workshops and corporate functions to experiencing the benefits of utilising Polynesian dance as a fitness regime. She is one of a few emerging dance directors who have used Polynesian dance in the last few years as a form of sharing cultural dance knowledge in public and private spaces.



*The Moomba Parade group after their half time performance at a recent Melbourne Rebels rugby match.*

Together with her group Nuholani and others like Samoan female group Nesian Pearl, Cook Island dancers Sounds of Polynesia and the Samoan male dance group Tama Tatau, Noelani led volunteers in performing for a few festival events; one of the larger ones being the Melbourne Moomba Parade.

This parade happens annually, showcasing different cultural group performances amongst colourful artistic banners and floats, along a closed off strip of St. Kilda road in the heart of the city. Polynesians have navigated countries by sea, air or land spaces which they inhabit with success; sharing their knowledge of survival through dance which is modelled through collective efficacy. With respect to continuing the maintenance of Polynesian dance in Melbourne, the actions and sentiments shown by participants, is evidence of a collective contribution to showcasing the beauty of Polynesian dance. Dancing behind the banner of 'The Spirit of Polynesia' performers of Hawaiian, Samoan, Tongan, Japanese, Fijian and Niuean ancestry (to name a few), were energetic and mesmerising as they wowed onlookers with graceful, swift and fast paced movements.

When asked how she felt performing with others in the events, founder of Samoan group Nesian Pearl Filomena Wairasi stated she felt: 'Power, Mana and Pride. I had the opportunity to work with some awesome people that share the same passion as me. I worked with Noelani who leads the Nuholani dance group and it's so beautiful to connect and be empowered to meet such strong passionate dancers.

Even better is meeting new people, making good friends and sharing on all levels, whether its family, culture, careers, and experiences.'

Similar sentiments were echoed by dancers Jazmyn, Saane and Lisa. When Jazmyn was asked to state her preferences as to where she would like to rehearse, she said: 'Anywhere really, I just love to dance. I'm not really fussed where we dance, as long as we're dancing, I love it'. Lisa stated one of many benefits of participating in rehearsals and workshops to learn Polynesian dancing. 'It's helped me build so much confidence and I'm a lot more comfortable with expressing myself through dance and in everyday life. It's wonderful!'

Commitment is something all performers had in common which Saane highlighted in in her response which was also a common answer from others, regarding what kept her attending rehearsals: 'Keeps me going and encouraging me to do things that I adore/love.'

As the director and choreographer of the performance, Noelani worked with colleagues to incorporate actions from the Pacific Islands to the upbeat song 'Te Hiva' by the group Te Vaka. What evolved was a collective collaboration and participation from people both of Polynesian and non-Polynesian background, sharing skills, imparting meaning of actions as they rehearsed on a weekly basis; at times ranging between 6-12 weeks. There were events people prepared for which included White Night Festival, Premier Multicultural Gala Ball, Melbourne Rebels rugby game half time entertainment, Contemporary Pacific Arts Community Day and several festival appearances.

The enduring and empowering mana was shared by all who performed who confirmed it through their joyous responses, sharing how they felt whilst performing traditional and contemporary dances. Not only was there dancing involved, but performers had gathered together to make and provide costumes. This is where non-Polynesian performers experienced the cultural practices of sharing everything. Unity and love was evident in the way people greeted each other and parted ways; with hugs and kisses and interactions of long conversations as they attempted to say their goodbyes.

Social media was used as a space whereby communication initiated the invitation to anyone who was available to participate in Polynesian items – a call to all, not just a selected few. The preparations for performances not only encompassed the sharing of traditional and contemporary knowledge to do with dance, but also included the teaching of costume making preparation and provision of resources which added another dimension to what it meant to bring forth 'The Spirit of Polynesia.' Within these spaces, there were exchanges of life stories, food, gifts and giving which became more than just learning a dance. Performers shared of their empowerment in not only contributing to the dance but being embraced in what was and developed into, a close knit community.

Links:

Call out for dancers:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7VoiWC7FcjE>

The Spirit of Polynesia: Moomba 2015

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pQlcEHpwrM>

Va'a Performance at White Night 2015

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=buB23pOCJtg>

Melbourne Rebels Rugby performance

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4obVcb2hvfg>



*Nuholani collaborates with Tama Tatau at the Premier Multicultural Gala Ball, Crown Casino.*

Vaoiva Natapu-Ponton

AAPS Postgraduate Student Representative

### **Climate Change Migration: Prospects and Policy**

ANU Climate Change Institute, Canberra, 24 March 2015

To view a public lecture by Professors Jane McAdam and Jon Barnett, see:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=21138q\\_QEuY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=21138q_QEuY)

### **Worlding Oceania: Christianities, Commodities and Gendered Persons in the Pacific**

ANU, 13-16 April 2015

This symposium of the ARC Laureate Project *Engendering Persons, Transforming Things* (2011-15) brought together participants from throughout Australia, New Zealand the United States over three stimulating and lively days of conversation and debate. Public lectures were presented by:

ARC Laureate Professor Margaret Jolly, *Engendering the Anthropocene: Horizons and rifts in conversations about climate change in Oceania*

Robert J. Foster (Rochester), *Our Sea of Islands in the era of mobile phones: A view from Papua New Guinea*

Katerina Teaiwa *Indigenous remix in Oceania*.

Panels ranged across themes of indigeneity and decolonality; indigenising Christianities; oceanic transnationalisms; languages of personhood; health and sexual citizenship; war and peace; possession and dispossession; and body arts and creative performance. In panels and in plenary debate sessions, participants probed the transformations of ideals and practices of personhood across Oceania in colonial and contemporary epochs. The symposium also showcased photographs by the Laureate Project team of researchers and collaborators, a sample of which are displayed below.





Latu Latai posing with former students of his mother at Airdhill, after a welcome at the mission house built by missionary Butcher in the 1920s. Latu's parents used to live in this house when he was a child in the early 1970s.

*Photographer unknown, 2013.*

Children's choir sings at the Assemblies of God Lautoka Full Gospel Tabernacle church in Saru, Lautoka (Fiji).

*Photograph by Rachel Morgain, 2013.*



Elementary school children performing Wosituma, a dance tribute to matrilineal ancestors, at the Grade 8 Graduation Ceremony, Losuia Primary School, Kiriwina.

*Photograph by Katherine Lepani, 2003*

Margaret Jolly, Olulkon Sali and people of Bunlap village, South Pentecost, Vanuatu.

*Photograph by Murray Garde, 2013*



## Exhibitions

### From Samoa with Love? Samoan Travellers in Germany, 1895-1911: Retracing the Footsteps

State Museum for Voelkerkunde, Munich  
31 January - 30 November 2014



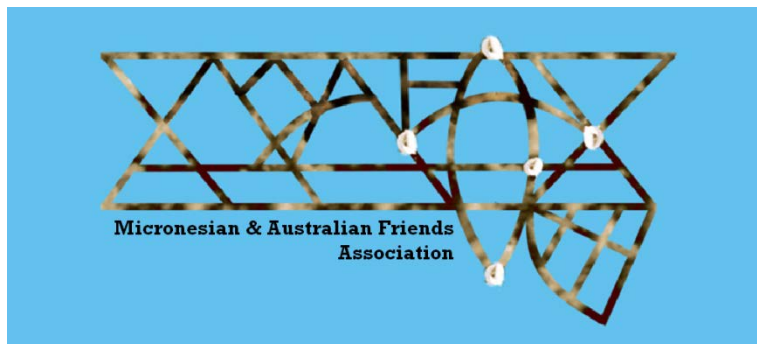
This highly-successful exhibition is travelling the world and is expected to visit New Zealand and Samoa. It resulted in a very handsome volume with the same name, published by Hirmer Verlag, 2014. It includes essays by Hilke Thoda-Arora (main curator), Galumalemana A. Hunkin and Michel Tuffery. Peter Hempenstall wrote the introductory essay 'Germany's Pacific Pearl'. ([http://www.hirmerverlag.de/eu/titel-61-61/from\\_samoa\\_with\\_love-1096/](http://www.hirmerverlag.de/eu/titel-61-61/from_samoa_with_love-1096/))

Photo credit:

<http://www.museum-fuenf-kontinente.de/ausstellungen-und-sammlungen/sonderausstellungen/r%C3%BCckschau/from-samoa-with-love.html>

## Call for members

### The Micronesian and Australian Friends Association (MAFA)



MAFA is a student-led group at the ANU comprised of students, staff and community members living in Australia with an interest or background in greater Micronesia. Our mission is to promote knowledge of the greater Micronesian region; celebrate its diverse customs and values; encourage communication and cultural exchange between Micronesia and Australia; and provide a support network for Micronesian students and scholars at the ANU and beyond.

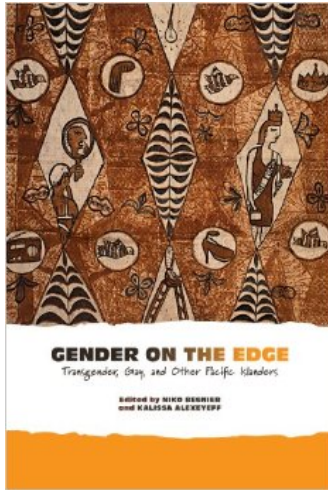
We regularly host events at the ANU, often in collaboration with other Pacific student societies, such as movie nights, guest lectures and sporting matches. In April 2014 we hosted a symposium at the ANU titled *Micronesia in Focus* with participants from Pohnpei, Guam, and Australia. We hope to participate in the next Pacific History Association conference in Guam next year, as well as seek further funding to facilitate research in the Micronesian region. Our most recent efforts have been focused on raising awareness about the devastation caused by Typhoon Maysak to Yap and Chuuk in April this year.

Our current board members include Zag Puas, Ingrid Ahlgren, George Carter, Karen Tu and Nicholas Halter, all PhD students at the ANU. We would like to welcome Myjolyene Kim to our cohort, who has travelled from Chuuk to begin her PhD this year on women's leadership in the Federated States of Micronesia. We welcome anyone who wishes to become a member, regardless of whether they are a part of the ANU.

If you would like to receive notifications from MAFA, please email [microaustfriends@gmail.com](mailto:microaustfriends@gmail.com) or visit our facebook page: [facebook.com/ANU.MAFA](https://www.facebook.com/ANU.MAFA)

### Featured Publications

A number of number of AAPS members contributed to ***Gender on the Edge: Transgender, Gay, and Other Pacific Islanders*** (Hawaii), edited by Niko Besnier and Kalissa Alexeyeff



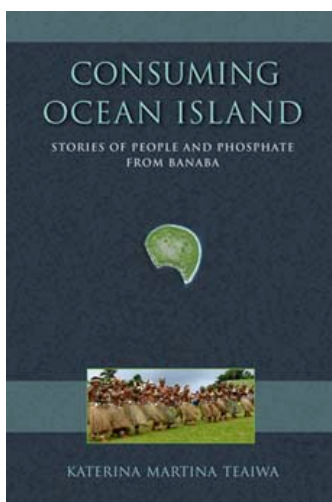
Transgender identities and other forms of gender and sexuality that transcend the normative pose important questions about society, culture, politics, and history. They force us to question, for example, the forces that divide humanity into two gender categories and render them necessary, inevitable, and natural. The transgender also exposes a host of dynamics that, at first glance, have little to do with gender or sex, such as processes of power and domination; the complex relationship among agency, subjectivity, and structure; and the mutual constitution of the global and the local.

Particularly intriguing is the fact that gender and sexual diversity appear to be more prevalent in some regions of the world than in others. This edited volume is an exploration of the ways in which non-normative gendering and sexuality in one such region, the Pacific Islands, are implicated in a wide range of socio-cultural dynamics that are at once local and global, historical, and contemporary. The authors recognize that different social configurations, cultural contexts, and historical trajectories generate diverse ways of being transgender across the societies of the region, but

they also acknowledge that these differences are overlaid with commonalities and predictabilities. Rather than focus on the definition of identities, they engage with the fact that identities do things, that they are performed in everyday life, that they are transformed through events and movements, and that they are constantly negotiated. By addressing the complexities of these questions over time and space, this work provides a model for future endeavors that seek to embed dynamics of gender and sexuality in a broad field of theoretical import.

<http://www.uhpress.hawaii.edu/p-9147-9780824838836.aspx>

We are also delighted to announce the publication of ***Consuming Ocean Island: Stories of People and Phosphate from Banaba*** (Indiana) by AAPS President Katerina Teaiwa. It was launched by Prof. Edvard Hviding of Bergen University and Prof. Kirin Narayan from ANU in March this year.



*Consuming Ocean Island* tells the story of the land and people of Banaba, a small Pacific island, which, from 1900 to 1980, was heavily mined for phosphate, an essential ingredient in fertilizer. As mining stripped away the island's surface, the land was rendered uninhabitable, and the indigenous Banabans were relocated to Rabi Island in Fiji. Katerina Martina Teaiwa tells the story of this human and ecological calamity by weaving together memories, records, and images from displaced islanders, colonial administrators, and employees of the mining company. Her compelling narrative reminds us of what is at stake whenever the interests of industrial agriculture and indigenous minorities come into conflict. The Banaban experience offers insight into the plight of other island peoples facing forced migration as a result of human impact on the environment.

[http://www.iupress.indiana.edu/product\\_info.php?products\\_id=807364](http://www.iupress.indiana.edu/product_info.php?products_id=807364)

For a book trailer, see: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=asGdMr0Qq08> and for some SBS media: <http://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/2015/02/18/island-destroyed-tropical-paradise-ghostly-mining-town>

### **Hermkens, Anna Karina**

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Caledonia, and Tahiti. The following sections explore selected plays from Hawai'i, Aotearoa New Zealand, New Caledonia, and Fiji that critically engage aspects of colonial and postcolonial Pacific histories. This study emphasizes the contribution of artistic production to social and political life in the contemporary Pacific, showing how local play production has worked to facilitate processes of creative nation building and the construction of modern regional imaginaries. The book closes with an appendix listing over 200 Pacific Islands plays mentioned in the volume, many of which have never been previously catalogued.

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### PhD Theses

**Nicholas Halter** will be conferred in July 2015 for his PhD titled '*To see with their own eyes': Australian travel writing on the Pacific Islands c.1880-1941*'. Nicholas began his journey in the School of Culture, History and Language at ANU in 2011 under Professor Brij V. Lal. His research took him to multiple libraries and archives in Australia, New Zealand and Fiji searching for the varied experiences and impressions of Australians travelling to, and through, the Pacific Islands as recorded in diaries, letters, books, magazines, memoirs and travelogues. His thesis explored how representations of the Pacific Islands within travel accounts reflected, and contributed to, Australian knowledge of the region. Nicholas discusses several themes which were prevalent in Australian travel writing of this period: the experience of seaboard travel and tourism, commerce and profit, romantic and utopian ideals, gender roles, ideas of nation and empire, theories of race and science, and notions of the 'savage' and 'civilised.' He argues that travel writing can provide a more nuanced view of Australian travellers and readers, and a more detailed understanding of how they imagined the 'South Seas.' Nicholas is hoping to pursue a career in Pacific history and is currently based in Canberra working on publications