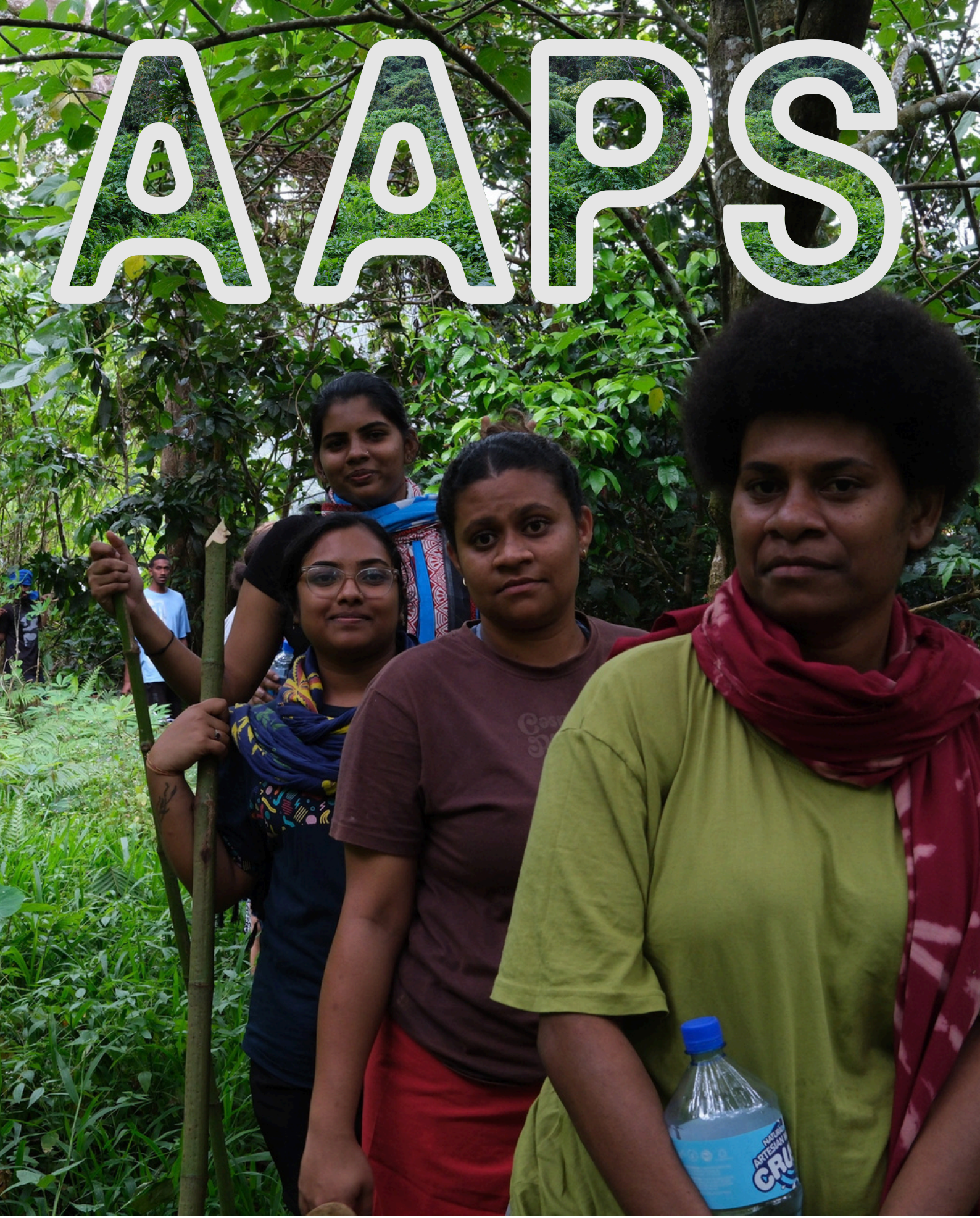
AAPS



NEWSLETTER

Australian Association for Pacific Studies

OCTOBER 2026



Front cover, back cover and image above depict students from the University of the South Pacific [USP] on a history field trip (see article on page 4). All images are by Talei Mangioni from Lovoni Village, Ovalau USP History field trip. At AAPS we encourage student involvement and celebrate their learning journeys in and beyond the Pacific.

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EDITORS' NOTES

Welcome to this issue of the AAPS newsletter.

Founded in 2004 at the Australian National University, AAPS brings together scholars, educators, artists, and community leaders committed to the diverse and dynamic field of Pacific Studies. Our members span disciplines including anthropology, history, literature, health, education, politics, the arts, and more —reflecting the richness and complexity of the Pacific region.

At the heart of AAPS is a shared commitment to collaboration — with and for Pacific communities. Together, we honour Indigenous knowledges, deepen connections, and amplify Pacific voices. Our offerings in this issue aim to reflect this shared commitment. May these stories, images, events, and announcements elevate our Pacific voices!

- Dr Ruth Faleolo & Dr Marama Salsano

PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Bula vinaka, kam na mauri, talofa, mālō e lelei, kia ora, and warm Pacific greetings to all.

Bula vinaka, kam na mauri, talofa, mālō e lelei, kia ora, and warm Pacific greetings to all.

As we approach the end of 2026, preparations for our 2027 conference in Rarotonga are gathering momentum. "Mei 'Avaiki Mai: Oceanic Time, Deep Sea Change and Pacific Studies" offers an exciting opportunity to come together in the island region to discuss the histories, relationships and transformations shaping our region. The accepted panels indicate a great interest in the critical work of the AAPS membership. The call for papers is now open, and we warmly encourage members to contribute. Our sincere thanks to Dr Emma Powell and her team at Te Puna Vai Mārama in the Cook Islands, alongside the wider organising commitee in Aotearoa and Australia, for their work in bringing this gathering together.

Our activities have also connected Pacific scholarship with public debate and community advocacy. Katerina Teaiwa, Romitesh Kant and Rebecca Monson, together with Anna Dziedzic, made a submission to Fiji's Constitution Review Commission concerning Rabi Island and the Banaban community, highlighting the importance of attending to Banaban perspectives, experiences and challenges in discussions about Fiji's constitutional future.

AAPS was well represented at the State of the Pacific Ocean Convening in Suva in June, with Romitesh Kant, Talei Mangioni and Rebecca Monson participating. Organised by the Pacific Network on Globalisation (PANG), the gathering brought together researchers, civil society organisations, community leaders and policymakers to discuss ocean governance, climate justice, militarisation and the continuing impacts of colonial extraction. It was an enriching space, offering food for the soul through shared stories, thoughtful exchanges and the warmth of connections with people working towards more just Pacific futures. The reflections included in this newsletter capture something of this experience.

Romitesh also attended the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting in Palau, working alongside Pacific civil society colleagues, particularly the Pacific Network on Globalisation, on questions of regional security, militarisation and the implications of emerging security agreements for Pacific sovereignty.

This year Katerina delivered a keynote for the Inclusive Museum conference at the Chau Chak Wing Museum, participated in the Greg Dening Memorial lecture panel at the University of Melbourne, and a gender and history workshop for the Australian Academy of the Humanities at the Australian Catholic University.



Prof. Katerina Teaiwa, Prof. Rebecca Monson, Dr. Anna Dziedzic, Dr. Romitesh Kant.

She is keen to further explore what appears to be an absence of Pacific Studies scholars in the Academy since it was established in 1969. If any members have further insights on this, please be in touch. Katerina and Solstice Middleby recently curated a small exhibition in the Coombs building of the ANU titled New Pacific Portraits: scholars and activists highlighting the lives and contributions of five remarkable Pacific women - Anne Dickson-Waiko, Amelia Rokotuivuna, Teresia Kieuea Teaiwa, Darlene Keju Johnson and Marjorie Tuainakore Crocombe (see story on p X). Many thanks to Elentari Berryman, Talei Mangioni, Emma Powell, Cathy Kamelio, Nicholas Hoare, Giff Johnson, the Oceania Working Party, the Australian Dictionary of Biography and others for their support.

Katerina worked closely with the ACT senior secondary studies board's Murray Chisholm and Kate Goolagaong for 3 years to support the design and writing of Australia's first Year 11-12 Pacific Studies course comprising of 4 term-long units. Several hard working teachers across the ACT, PNG and Fiji were involved in brainstorming, writing and advising in the process. The course will be rolled out for participating schools in 2027 and we hope others across Australia will follow (see story pp. 11-12).

Please note for those who regularly contact our hardworking and brilliant Secretary, Dr Talei Mangioni, she is now at the University of Sydney as the GC Henderson postdocotral research associate in Pacific History in the School of Humanities.

We thank our members, executive committee and newsletter editors for sustaining AAPS as a space for scholarship, creativity and solidarity. We look forward to continuing these conversations and gathering in Rarotonga next year.

With solidarity and warmth,

Professor Katerina Teaiwa, AAPS President

Dr Romitesh Kant, AAPS Vice-President



USP HISTORY TRIP TO LOVONI VILLAGE, OVALAU, FIJI

On 25-27 September 2026, USP History students embarked on one of our most ambitious fieldtrips to Lovoni Village in the highlands of Ovalau, Fiji. Leaving in the early hours of Friday morning, we travelled by bus to Natovi, then by boat to Levuka Town, where students walked around the UNESCO World Heritage site, to understand how geography shaped the history of the town. Former USP alumnus Ariti Taufaga welcomed the students at Delana Methodist School where she teaches History, and shared details of how her students performed in the Deed of Cession reenactment at Levuka on 10 October 2025. A delicious meal of fish miti and chicken curry by Maripa restaurant gave us the energy for the next leg of the journey.

From town we were transported by carrier and bus to Lovoni Village by our guides Emily Rasoqosoqo (USP Librarian) and her brother Henry, and the Turaga ni Koro, Ilisoni Kuranete, who was graciously waiting for us at Levuka. Nestled in the crater of an ancient volcano, students marvelled at the misty mountains surrounding them as they were welcomed by the village and billeted to houses.

Late into the evening and again through the following morning, we listened to the Tui Wailevu, Ratu Petero Rogayawa, share the story of his people, with translations by the village talatala, Rev. Paula Mudunaivalu. This included the story of how the people of Lovoni were captured and sold into slavery in 1871 by Ratu Seru Cakobau, a painful memory commemorated every year on 7 July.

USP HISTORY TRIP TO LOVONI VILLAGE, OVALAU, FIJI

For historians of religion and religious conversion, this history is especially important as the 19th Century Methodist missionary, Reverend Frederick Langham, credited with bringing the Lovoni people into Christianity (na Lotu) was also the missionary who delivered Cakobau's invitation to a peace-making feast. Our colleague Dr Tom White shared with students how this history of conversion is atypical in Fiji, and is attempting to track down some more information to help resolve some unanswered questions they still have about Langham, which will likely involve consulting national and church archives in Suva and, when possible, London too.

We were privileged to have Dr Talei Mangioni from the University of Sydney in our group. Talei shared information from the Chau Chak Wing Museum in Sydney where a collection of objects by planter John Archibal Boyd are now held. Boyd had lived in Ovalau and married a Lovoni woman in the 1860s, Adi Mere Matanisiga, who bore him a son in 1870. Talei's experience as a Fijian historian was inspirational to our students thinking of higher degree research in the future.

On a tour of the village, students were welcomed to Lovoni Primary School by the Headmistress Mereane Sauvaka where they presented notepads and pencils as gifts for the school. Ariela Zibiah of the University of Canterbury also presented a donation of books for the new school library on behalf of Baka Books.





USP HISTORY TRIP TO LOVONI VILLAGE, OVALAU, FIJI

Afterwards, some students climbed a steep mountainside to reach a famous historical site connected with an ancient kinship connection of the Lovoni people to Malaita in the Solomon Islands. For our Tuvaluan and Tongan students especially, these mountains were surprisingly steep and slippery, and the village boys were expert guides who ensured our safe return. Talking and walking revealed amazing regional connections which were a surprise to our students. Lovoni villagers were pleased to meet one of our Malaitan students, Alex, while another student from Vanuatu, Emmanuel, also shared a connection with the nearby village of Tavia, where his great-grandmother was originally born. At night, we feasted on tivoli (yam) from their gardens, along with other delicious local produce, and danced in the village hall.

In the morning we were invited to the Lovoni Methodist youth service, led by Rev Mudunaivalu, before we presented out itatau and were farewelled by the wonderful women of Lovoni who sang 'Isa Lei'. We are grateful to the women who prepared our food with love, and opened their homes to us. The long journey home gave our students time to reflect on the varied histories of Fiji, and the inspirational story of the vanua of Lovoni.

As always we are grateful to our First Aid and OHS Officer, Ms Veniana Nacolarara for keeping us safe, and our matua, Adjunct Associate Professor Morgan Tuimaleali'ifano for guiding our academic journey. Finally, we thank our student cohort (the largest HY302 group ever!) for bringing USP's spirit of Pacific regionalism to life in the mountains of Lovoni.

Dr Nic Halter
History
University of the South Pacific







Left to right: Dr Wanda Ieremia-Allan, Amiria Taumata, Dr Sam Iti Prendergast, Dr Stacey Kokaua-Balfour, Hāwea Apiata, Dr Mere Taito, Dr Jess Pasisi, Prof. Alice Te Punga Somerville, Litara Ieremia-Allan, Dr Marama Salsano, Hineitimoana Greensill

ARCHIVAL VISIT: HAMASAKI COLLECTION / WAYNE WESTLAKE PAPERS, AUCKLAND WAR MEMORIAL MUSEUM

SHUTTER

On Tuesday 21 July 2026, our rōpū/group of Māori and Pacific Indiginerds visited Tāmaki Paenga Hira Auckland War Memorial Museum to view one of the museum's recent acquisitions: the Hamasaki Collection, including the extensive Hamasaki library, 'Elepaio press, and manuscripts and papers belonging to Wayne Kaumuali'i Westlake. We spent the day reading, marvelling, reciting some of Westlake's poetry to each other, and generally geeking out. We are most grateful to Dr Wanda Ieremia-Allan (Associate Curator, Pacific Collections, Documentary Heritage), Amiria Taumata (Associate Curator, Māori Collections, Documentary Heritage), and the Tāmaki Paenga Hira Auckland War Memorial Museum workers who attended to us on the day, for their generosity and manaakitanga. We also thank Richard and Mark Hamasaki, as well as Drew Broderick, for their permission to view the Westlake papers, which are open, with permission, to Hawaiian, Māori and Pacific researchers.

Dr Marama Salsano
Kairangahau Matua / Senior Research Fellow
Te Manawahoukura Research Centre
Te Wānanga o Aotearoa





Reflections on the State of the Pacific Ocean Convening 2026 by Elentari Berryman

Republished from:
https://chl.anu.edu.au/opinion/reflections-state-pacific-ocean-convening-2026

I had the privilege of attending the State of the Pacific Ocean Convening 2026 in Suva, Fiji, organised by the Pacific Network on Globalisation (PANG). Running from 8–11 June, this meeting brought together academics, politicians, civil society leaders and organisations, human rights advocates and workers, and donors. The Convening opened on World Oceans Day – with Reverend James Bhagwan beautifully speaking to the interdependent and life-giving relationship of Pacific peoples with the ocean – but also warning that, "what we do today, the ocean will remember". While discussions ranged across ocean governance, climate justice, labour mobility, militarisation and deep-sea mining, it was the conversations on Banaba and the legacies of colonial extraction that resonated most deeply with me.

I had been welcomed with open arms – literally and figuratively – and felt this sense of interconnectedness the moment Dame Meg Taylor opened the Convening with a quote from the late scholar and poet Teresia Teaiwa, my Honours supervisor Professor Katerina Teaiwa's older sister. Across the four days, Teresia was quoted repeatedly – from her well-known message that, "We cry and sweat salt water, so we know that the ocean is really in our blood" to her resonant poetry. In casual conversation with Banaban elder Pelenise Alofa, she remarked to me that everyone seemed to love to quote Teresia, but that no one knew she was Banaban,



Elentari with Pelenise Alofa, Banaban elder and civil society activist

and that no one wanted to talk about Banaba. But she would.

Pelenise is a powerhouse: not only is she Katerina and Teresia's great-aunt but she is also the National Coordinator of the Kiribati Climate Action Network (KiriCAN), involved in Banaban human rights advocacy and the Fiery Canoe Foundation, and so much more. On the first night of the Convening, a public lecture was held at the University of the South Pacific, where Pelenise was invited to speak. She powerfully linked nuclearization and the lack of sufficient compensation and redress to Banaban history and the destructive phosphate mining that took place in the Central Pacific. One message in particular stood out, she said, "We talk about phosphate mining but there's more - the negative impact on us is more than just extraction. It has followed us all the way to Fiji and Kiribati." I was struck by this depiction of the half-lives or after-lives of imperialism, and the urgent need for the integration of Pacific Studies methodologies at universities to sufficiently interrogate dominant histories and accepted norms.

Reflections on the State of the Pacific Ocean Convening 2026 by Elentari Berryman



Pelenise Alofa speaks at a public lecture held at the University of South Pacific's Suva campus. Pictured from left to right : Nic Maclellan, Dame Meg Taylor, Pelenise Alofa, Vehia Wheeler, Reverend Billy Wetewea, Semuel Awom and the translator.

There was an overwhelming sense across speakers of the importance of returning to lessons from the past to chart new Oceanic futures – looking back to look forwards. Dr Talei Mangioni, for example, discussed the importance of current activists learning from the successes of the Nuclear Free and Independent Pacific (NFIP) movement. Sonia Smallacombe stated that "the Pacific region has been a playground for colonial powers for many many years". A recurring theme was concern over growing pressures for deep-sea mining (DSM). Having recently written a dissertation for my law degree on terrestrial mining in Solomon Islands under Professor Rebecca Monson – linking a newly introduced Bill to a history of extractive industries and contemporary capitalist desires for critical minerals – I was concerned but not surprised to hear the frequent calls that we were at a tipping point for the climate, and care of the ocean.

What surprised me to hear was learning about the importance of DSM and critical minerals in the increasing militarisation of the Pacific Ocean and the creation of new military technologies – not just the so-called 'just transition' to renewable energy technologies. It became increasing obvious throughout the week that decolonisation, demilitarisation, and denuclearisation are interrelated, and that the siloing of advocates through specific funding is similarly problematic to the siloing of academics between disciplines, and to the very people they write about.

I fell in love with Pacific Studies before I had ever set foot in the Pacific. What drew me to Pacific Studies was the attention to positionality and praxis: here, at the Convening, we could move beyond the spectre of the objective academic, and here we could interrogate questions of not just what we were writing about, but who we were writing for, and what purpose it served. I met several academics who beautifully embodied this message. One such was Claire Slatter – former academic and founder of Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN) – who, even in her retirement, was tirelessly working towards integration of feminist

Reflections on the State of the Pacific Ocean Convening 2026 by Elentari Berryman



Kavita Naidu with Ralph Regenvanu, Alofipo Fleur Ramsay, Naima Ta'afaki Fifita, and Pradeep Singh

epistemologies in social movements.

I am currently writing an Honours thesis on a related topic to Pelenise's talk – asking how legal and developmental discourses on Banaba and the weaponisation of law by colonial authorities live on in new forms, and continue to impact life across islands and jurisdictions. When Pelenise learned that my supervisor was Katerina, she whisked me away to meet Banaban family from Rabi who were living in Suva.

Talking with former teacher Rubena and Pelenise, I followed their exploration of what is often meant by Banaban justice – and what their vision and definition of justice is.

Our conversations linked past and contemporary exploitations, and the disappointing recurrence of the commodification of island and ocean, frequently obscured by discourses of progress.

Ultimately, my takeaway from the Convening and my time with Pelenise is best expressed in her words, "Enough is enough!". As Jason Titifanue affirmed on the last day, the "Pacific is not a warehouse for the rest of the world". There is much to do, and still much for me to learn, but I am incredibly grateful for this unique and moving experience, and the chance to hear firsthand from those who have straddled the boundaries of researcher/advocate/artist to powerful effect.

LEARNING THE PACIFIC ON ITS OWN TERMS

Republished from:
https://chl.anu.edu.au/opinion/reflections-state-pacific-ocean-convening-2026

Australia is surrounded by the Pacific. Yet until now, there has been no place in Australia's senior secondary curriculum dedicated to understanding the region in all its diversity. From 2027, that changes.

ACT students will be the first in Australia to study a dedicated ACT Board of Senior Secondary Studies (ACT BSSS) Year 11 and 12 Pacific Studies course, bringing the region's histories, cultures, languages, knowledge systems and contemporary issues into the senior secondary curriculum.

The development of the course also draws on a longstanding tradition of Pacific scholarship at The Australian National University. The ANU College of Asia and the Pacific (CAP) has expertise across the languages, cultures, histories, societies and contemporary affairs of Asia and the Pacific. Within the School of Culture, History & Language (CHL), scholars have helped build and advance Pacific Studies at the tertiary level through research, teaching and engagement with Pacific communities.

Central to that work has been Professor Katerina Teaiwa, a pioneering Pacific Studies scholar whose work has helped advance the field in Australia and internationally. Her contribution to the development of the new course reflects a broader legacy of Pacific scholarship at ANU extending beyond the university to influence how the region is understood and taught more widely.

The Senior Secondary course marks a significant step for Pacific education in Australia but also responds to something more fundamental: a longstanding separation between the significance of the Pacific to Australia's future and the place it has traditionally occupied in Australian education.

For Pacific Islander students and their families, the course creates an opportunity to engage more closely with their heritage. For other students, it opens a window onto the extraordinary diversity of a region that stretches across one-third of the globe.

The impetus for this innovation came from the ACT education community, including teachers, families, and the ACT BSSS who recognised that Pacific students did not have the same opportunities as many other cultural groups to engage with their heritage through the senior secondary curriculum. With hundreds of languages spoken across the Pacific, language courses alone could never offer an equivalent pathway for Pacific students to explore the region in all its diversity.

ACT BSSS curriculum developers Kate Goolagong and Dr Murray Chisholm were key in turning the need into a new area of study. Working with teachers, academics, Pacific educators and community representatives across the ACT, they set out to create a course that could reflect the diversity of the Pacific while giving students meaningful and flexible ways to engage with it.

Pacific Studies invites students to see the Pacific through many different lenses. Rather than asking students to understand the Pacific through a single subject or lens, the course draws together history, geography, languages, politics, literature, art, culture and linguistics. That interdisciplinary approach is central to what makes Pacific Studies distinctive.

Students will be encouraged to consider complex questions from multiple perspectives, developing a more holistic understanding of the region while learning how different disciplines can contribute to understanding its societies and cultures.

Students will also be able to undertake inquiry using Pacific methodologies and ways of knowing, moving beyond simply learning about the Pacific to engaging with Pacific perspectives and knowledge systems. The course gives students scope to demonstrate their learning in ways that play to their strengths, while building capabilities in critical thinking, research, collaboration, problem-solving and intercultural understanding.

LEARNING THE PACIFIC ON ITS OWN TERMS

Those capabilities are important well beyond the classroom.

Australia's relationships with the Pacific are becoming increasingly valued across diplomacy, security, economics, education, sport and people-to-people connections. As those relationships deepen, so does the need for Australians who can engage with the region with knowledge, confidence and cultural understanding. This makes Pacific literacy a crucial part of the equation. Building the knowledge and intercultural understanding to engage respectfully with Pacific communities and nations is increasingly important across Australian society.

The course itself has been shaped by the type of collaboration that Pacific Studies demands. Teachers and academics from across the ACT contributed to its development, supported by their schools, while Pacific educators and community representatives helped ensure Pacific voices and knowledge systems were meaningfully embedded throughout.

The development team also worked closely with a Cultural Reference Group and an Accreditation Panel of Pasifika educators and community leaders to ensure the course was appropriate and culturally safe for senior secondary students. The result is a course designed to balance academic rigour with cultural authenticity and community connection.

The course represents more than a new course for ACT students. It is another step in bringing Pacific knowledge into spaces where it has historically been absent. It is also a recognition that the Pacific is more than a region that Australia relates to; it is a rich and diverse source of knowledge, perspectives and ways of knowing.

For Pacific and Pasifika students, that means seeing their histories, cultures and knowledge systems reflected in the classroom. For all students, it means developing the understanding needed to participate thoughtfully in Australia's increasingly Pacific future.

And for the first cohort beginning in 2027, it means a first for Australian senior secondary students with the opportunity to study the Pacific on its own terms.



Image: Katerina Teaiwa and Jay Caldwell from CHL, Kate Goolagong and Murray Chisholm from BSSS, with teachers from Erindale College, Daramalan, St Edmund's, Melba Copeland, UC Senior Secondary Lake Gininderra, and the Australian Pasifika Educators Network



Image by **Dimity Hawkins**. Top photo from left: **Frances Namoumou** (Ecumenical Animator - Ecological Stewardship and Climate Justice - Pacific Conference of Churches); **Merewalesi Tuilau** (Director, Fiji Veterans and Families Association); **Rev James Bhagwan** (Secretary-General, Pacific Conference of Churches, Fiji); **Karina Lester** (Yankunytjatjara Anangu woman from the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Lands (APY Lands) and ICAN Ambassador, AUKUS Public Inquiry Commissioner); **Samuel Barton** (President, Marshall Islands Students Association - MISA, Fiji)

SHUTTER

PEACE PACIFIC PILMGRIMAGE

In late June, as we approached the 80th anniversary of the first nuclear weapons tests in the Pacific, a delegation of Pacific and First Nations leaders came to Australia to join activists and advocates from ICAN Australia, Quakers Australia and the Nuclear Truth Project on a Pacific Peace Pilgrimage to Australian Parliament. This photo of the delegation was taken outside of Australian Parliament on 2 July, the 60th anniversary of French nuclear testing beginning in Mā'ohi Nui. For further information see: Pacific Peace Pilgrimage and Pacific Nuclear Justice

EXHIBITION

2026 Immersia: New Pacific Portraits Scholars and Activists

Curated by Professor Katerina Teaiwa and Solstice Middleby, this exhibition showcased the stories, contributions and legacies of five remarkable Pacific women whose scholarship, activism and leadership helped shape the region and the world.

From Fiji and Papua New Guinea to Kiribati, the Marshall Islands and the Cook Islands, the lives of these women spanned environmental activism, education, cultural leadership and Pacific Studies. Presented by the Oceania Working Party of the Australian Dictionary of Biography and the School of Culture, History and Language for 2026 Immersia, this exhibition celebrated women whose important roles in Pacific history have too often been overlooked.

Republished from: https://immersia.anu.edu.au/



Photo: Fijian feminist icon and community leader, Amelia Rokotuivuna, Pacific Regional YWCA conference, Fiji, 1975

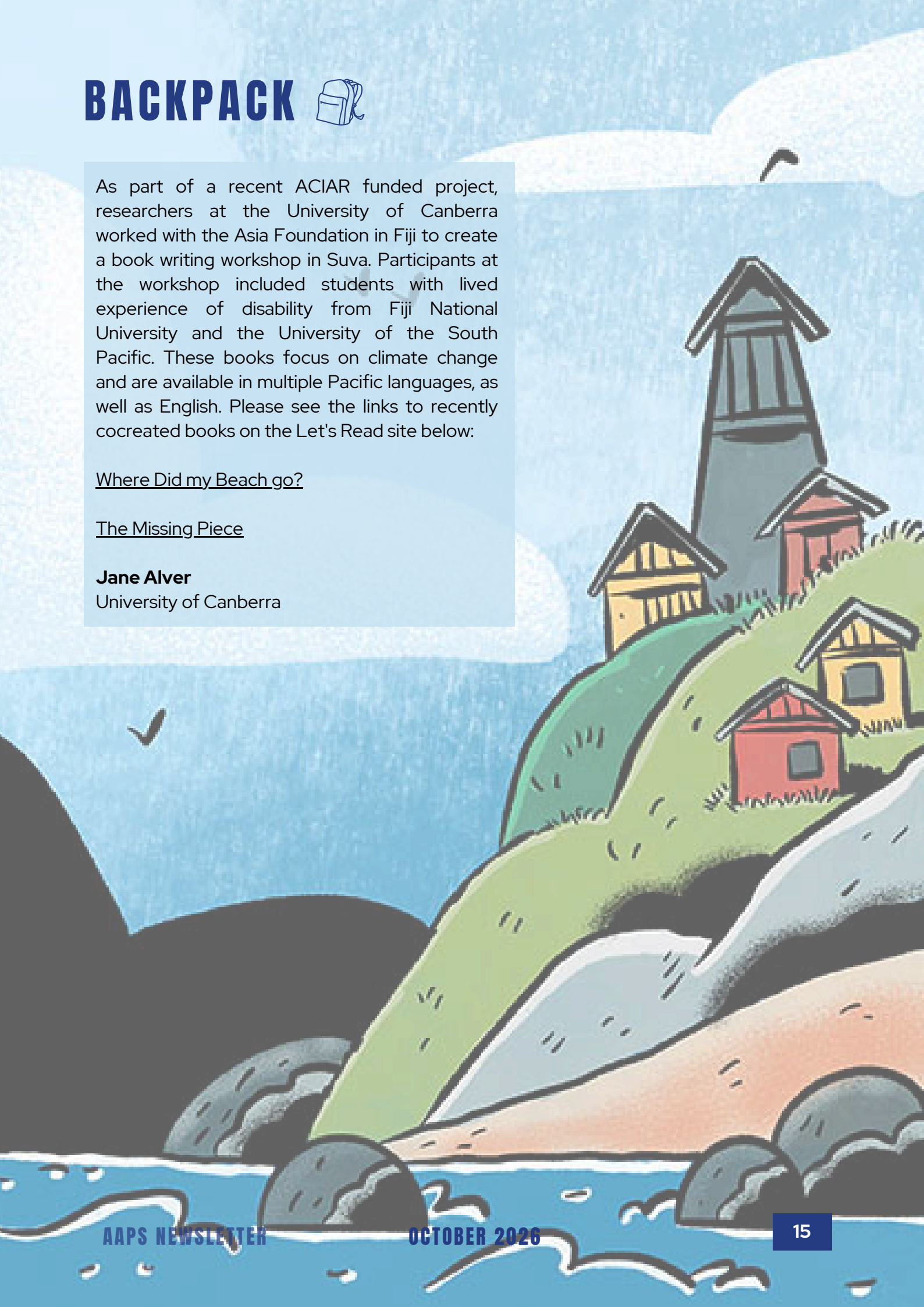
BACKPACK

As part of a recent ACIAR funded project, researchers at the University of Canberra worked with the Asia Foundation in Fiji to create a book writing workshop in Suva. Participants at the workshop included students with lived experience of disability from Fiji National University and the University of the South Pacific. These books focus on climate change and are available in multiple Pacific languages, as well as English. Please see the links to recently cocreated books on the Let's Read site below:

Where Did my Beach go?

The Missing Piece

Jane Alver
University of Canberra



CONFERENCE CALLS

Call for Papers: Australian Association for Pacific Studies (AAPS) Conference 2027 in Rarotonga

NOW OPEN! We are delighted to let our the AAPS community know that the call for papers for "Mei 'Avaiki Mai: Oceanic Time, Deep Sea Change and Pacific Studies" in Rarotonga 2027 is officially open. Please go to the conference website linked here to find all of the accepted panels for the conference.

Papers can be submitted to any of the "open panels" listed on the portal, or they can be submitted independently to be a part of a mixed panel which will be grouped according to the submissions received. Submissions can be made directly through the portal but do be in touch with the associated convenor/chair (their emails are listed) if you have any questions or wanted to let them know that you plan on submitting to their panel.

For those who are interested, the website also displays some of the exciting Pacific Studies panels that are "closed" too so you can get a sense of what the program is shaping up to be and what to expect for next year.

Registration

The website also contains information about registration tiers for the conference, which differs according to your AAPS membership status, professional employment and whether or not you are a student. Early-bird registration for the conference will open in November 2026 be sure to enter that into your calendar. All attendees are encouraged to register as a member with AAPS or to check that your membership is up to date via our AAPS website linked here. AAPS membership not only gives you a cheaper rate on the conference registration, but also helps our small association fund postgraduate activities, prizes and so much more! If you are having trouble accessing WildApricot (our membership software) to check your membership status, just send Talei a quick email at Talei.Mangioni@sydney.edu.au

Tracey Banivanua Mar PhD Prize

Another reminder that the Tracey Banivanua Mar PhD Prize for 2027 is open. Please share this with your Pacific Studies networks and encourage any recently completed students to apply. The call for nominations will be open until January 30, 2027 and it will be announced at the AAPS biennial conference in Rarotonga next year.

CONFERENCE CALLS

Call for Proposals: Oceanic Conference on International Studies (OCIS) 2027 in Fiji

The 12th Oceanic Conference on International Studies (OCIS) will be held at the University of the South Pacific in Suva, Fiji, from 7–9 July 2027. The conference is jointly hosted by USP and the Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs at the Australian National University. The theme for OCIS 2027 is **"Pluralism and Hope: World Politics and Pacific International Relations."** The conference will create a space to discuss global politics both in and from the Pacific, recognising the region as a central source of knowledge, theory, and political imagination. AAPS members are warmly encouraged to submit proposals. International studies is conceived broadly, with relevant themes including Pacific and Oceanic politics, Pacific regionalism, climate and ocean politics, gender and sexuality, Indigenous and decolonial approaches, diplomacy, development, security, human rights, political economy, migration, and peace and conflict studies.

OCIS welcomes proposals for:

- Panels, including open panels to which the programme committee may add participants;
- Roundtables;
- Innovative sessions, including talanoa, workshops, facilitated conversations, methods labs, practitioner or activist dialogues, teaching sessions, and creative formats; and
- Individual papers.

Collaborative proposals that bring together participants from different institutions, career stages and parts of the region are particularly encouraged. The organising committee warmly welcomes Pacific-based scholars, postgraduate students, early career researchers, practitioners, activists, and community-based researchers. OCIS 2027 will be held in person. **Proposals close on 31 October 2026 at 11.59 pm Fiji time**.

The full call, submission requirements and proposal portals are available at:https://ocis.org.au/2027-call-for-papers/
AAPS members are encouraged to participate and help build a strong and diverse Pacific Studies presence at OCIS 2027.

CONFERENCE CALLS

Call for Panels: Pacific HIstory Association (PHA) Conference 2027 in Papua New Guinea

We are pleased to announce that the Call for Panels for the Pacific History Association 2027 conference is now available on the PHA website.

The deadline to submit a panel is **18 December 2026.**

A separate Call for Papers will be available in early 2027 after the panels have been confirmed and announced.

As announced previously, the 2027 conference will be hosted by the University of Papua New Guinea at the Waigani Campus, Port Moresby, from 30 November to 2 December 2027.

- The Call for Panels announcement can be found here on the PHA website.
- You can also link directly to the proposal submission via this Google Form.

For questions about the Call for Panels or the 2027 conference, please contact the conference organisers at pha2027upng@gmail.com.

MEMBER PUBLICATIONS

Alver, J., Pamphilon, B., & Curnow, J. (2026). More than 'Add Women and Stir': Integrating Gender and Social Sciences into Agricultural Research-for-Development. In Dulhunty, A., Bessell, S. (Eds.) Gender and Development: Perspectives from Australia and the Pacific. Gender, Development and Social Change, Gender and Development: Perspectives from Australia and the Pacific. Springer.

Craney, A., & Raisele, K. (2026). How to involve youth in participatory development practice: guidance from the Pacific. Development in Practice. [Open Access] https://doi.org/10.1080/09614524.2026.2711263

Craney, A., Raisele, K., Motusaga, M., Ford, S., & Lee, H. (2026). Gatekeeping of Pacific youth as leaders and active citizens. Journal of Applied Youth Studies . [Open Access] https://doi.org/10.1007/s43151-026-00217-1

Farbotko, C. , Kitara, T., & Suliman, S. (2026). Indigenous mobilities. Encyclopedia of Mobilities, 36-37. https://doi.org/10.4337/9781800888180.00017

Goldman, J. (2026). Speaking the Bomb into Existence, Again: Re-membering Māʻohi Histories in Nu/clear Stories and Témoins de la bombe (Witnesses of the Bomb), ISLE: Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment, isag052, https://doi.org/10.1093/isle/isag052

King, J. M. (2025). 'The West Papuan genocide: United Nations malfeasance, Western complicity and the failure of international law', Griffith Journal of Law and Human Dignity, Vol.13, No. 1 , published 6 August 2026, <https://www.griffithlawjournal.org/index.php/gjlhd/article/view/1293>

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PAULINE REYNOLDS

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DION ENARI

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The impact of Pasifika people in sport and rugby | Intellect

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Tana Umaga isn't a 'token hire', he's a leader the All Blacks need, say experts

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Moana Pasifika to disband at end of Super Rugby season | RNZ

Could Ulberg be our new poster boy to the world? — rthecoconet.tv - The world's largest hub of Pacific Island content.uu

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Many elite athletes live with health impacts long after they retire. Should they carry all the costs?

MEMBER PUBLICATIONS

RUTH FALEOLO

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'Ilaiū Talei, C., Faleolo, R., Enari, D., & Meyers, M. (2026). Pacific Housing Wellbeing in Aotearoa New Zealand. In C. 'Ilaiū Talei, R. Faleolo, S. Manuela, & D. Enari (Eds.). Untangling Notions of Pacific Wellbeing Across the Trans-Tasman Diaspora, Springer Nature. ISBN 978-981-95-8651-6, 2026, Editon 1, XIV, 276 p.

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MEMBER PUBLICATIONS

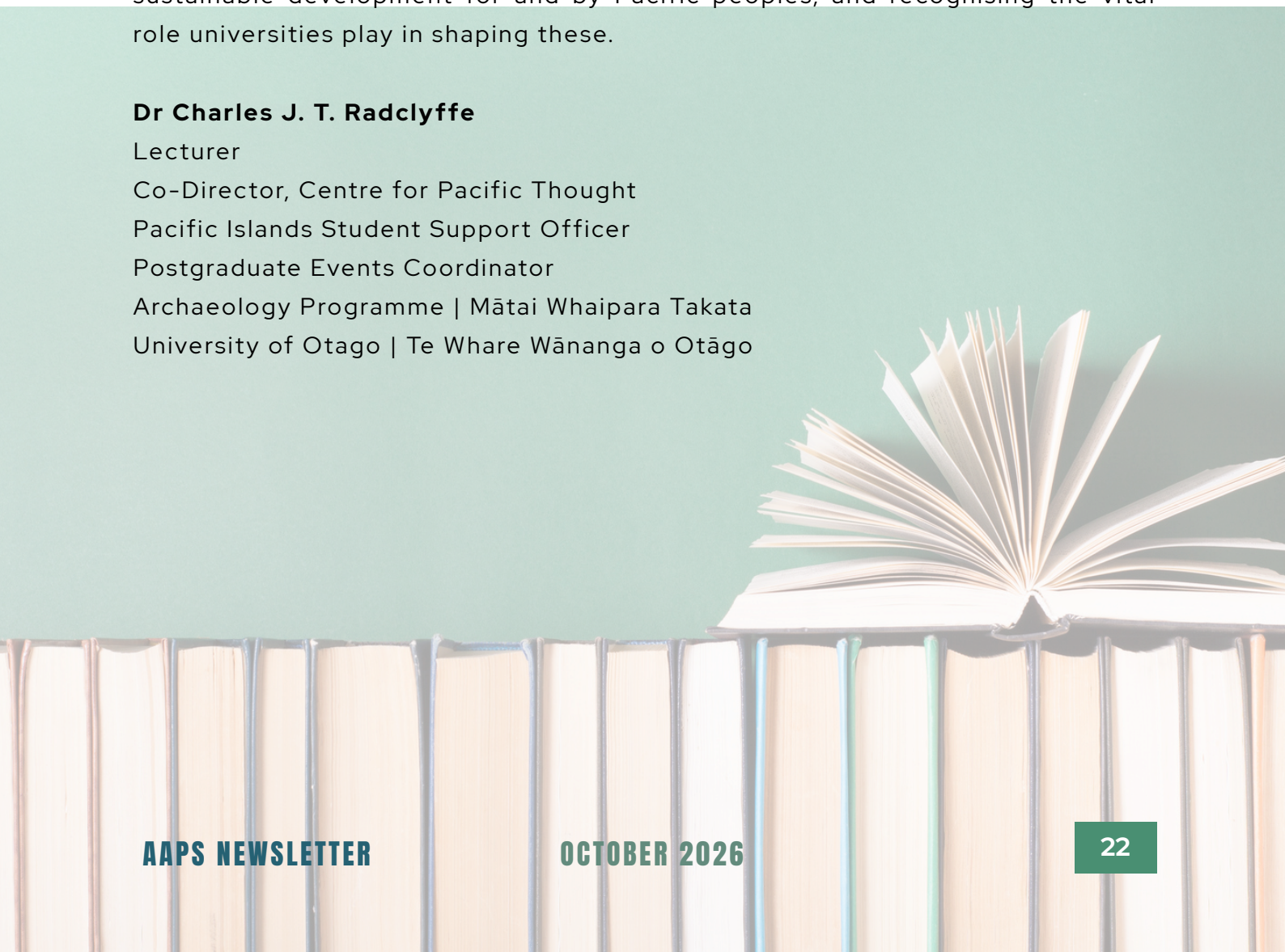
CENTRE FOR PACIFIC THOUGHT

The following publication was coauthored by members of a Pacific research collective at the University of Otago, Centre for Pacific Thought (co-director of the Centre, Dr Allamanda, and founding member, Prof Vakaoti).

https://pacificdynamics.nz/2026/05/21/transformative-leadership-regional-solidarity-and-the-role-of-universities-in-a-changing-world/

Published by Pacific Dynamics, this was the journal's first 'thought piece' centred on our 2025 annual Pacific Lecture which was given by Prof Transform Aqorau and a subsequent Public Panel which featured Assoc Prof Gordon Nanau, Dr Telesia Kalavite (one of our Centre steering committee members) and Dr Ben Levy. The paper is entitled 'Transformative leadership, regional solidarity, and the role of universities in a changing world', and discusses the importance of regional solidarity and cooperation, leadership centred on service and dignity, sustainable development for and by Pacific peoples, and recognising the vital role universities play in shaping these.

Dr Charles J. T. Radclyffe
Lecturer
Co-Director, Centre for Pacific Thought
Pacific Islands Student Support Officer
Postgraduate Events Coordinator
Archaeology Programme | Mātai Whaipara Takata
University of Otago | Te Whare Wānanga o Otāgo





ANU PhD scholar Romitesh Kant wins award for article on masculinity in Fiji's 2022 elections

Congratulations to CAP PhD scholar Romitesh Kant, joint winner of the Best Journal Article by an HDR prize in the ANU Gender Institute Awards!

Romitesh, from the Department of Pacific Affairs in the ANU Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs, has been recognised for his article, 'The contours of masculinity: leadership, ethnicity, and gendered power in Fiji's 2022 elections'.Find out more about Romitesh's work here: https://bellschool.anu.edu.au/people/romitesh-kant

CONGRATULATIONS!

PHD **GRADUATIONS**

DR SOLSTICE MIDDLEBY

An AAPS Executive member for the last three years, Soli Middleby has recently completed her PhD at Adelaide University under the primary supervision of former AAPS President Associate Professor Mandy Treagus. Her thesis, **Beneath the Waves**, is an original empirical history of key consensus decisions from the South Pacific Forum's founding decades (1965–1986).

Soli, a former Australian diplomat, had worked in regional spaces for over 25 years when she started her PhD. She was convinced that the complex ways in which power works, to reproduce or disrupt imperial extractive logics, could be explored using a single regional practice as a lens. Consensus decision-making at the Forum was that lens, and through her work it emerges as the key terrain of struggle in Pacific institutional regionalism, where self-determination and inclusivity are contested, and the mutual contradictions of unity and plurality play out.

Soli loved her journey: the time spent in the Pacific and Australian archives and with Pacific knowledge holders to reconstruct these decisions; the time spent carefully weaving the stories back together through immersive "in the room" detail; and the time spent with an extraordinary cohort of Pacific-focused PhD candidates spanning universities across the region, especially at the ANU, where current AAPS President Professor Katerina Teaiwa kindly gave her a physical and intellectual home.

Her thesis is under embargo while she seeks a publisher, but is available on request at Solstice.Middleby@anu.edu.au. She offers it as a scholarly contribution as well as a resource for those engaged in the complex work of collective regional action.



CONGRATULATIONS!

PHD **GRADUATIONS**

JULIAN MCKINLAY KING

Thesis Title: West Papua and the OPM, submitted July 2026
Institution: University of Wollongong
Supervisors: E. Professor Brian Martin; E. Professor Stephen Hill; Professor Greg Poulgrain



EDITORS' NOTES

As always, kia ora! malo! and faiakse'ea! for taking the time to write to us. We look forward to receiving your stories, images and words in the next call out and issue.
- Dr Ruth Faleolo & Dr Marama Salsano

kia ora! malo!
faiakse'ea



Australian Association for Pacific Studies

NEWSLETTER

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