PACIFIC MEDIA CENTRE
ANNUAL REPORT 2017 - 10 YEARS

School of Communication Studies
February 2018
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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Pacific Media Centre (PMC) reached an impressive milestone this year – a celebration of 10 years of research, publication and advocacy for journalism and freedom of expression.

The PMC hosted Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism (PCIJ) executive director Malou Mangahas and Radio New Zealand International specialist on Melanesian affairs Johnny Blades to present papers at the PMC’s Anniversary celebration on November 30, produced a photojournalism book to mark 10 years of research and publication, filmed two videos providing a historical record, and was treated to a commentary about the centre from an academic who first launched it while Minister for Pacific Island Affairs. Associate Professor Laumanuvao Winnie Laban, Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Pasifika) at Victoria University of Wellington, did the honours.

The book was launched by Head of School, Professor Berrin Yanikkaya. The PMC also published two editions of Pacific Journalism Review: Te Koakoa research journal, and an edition of Pacific Journalism Monographs (in association with the Reuters Foundation) on self-censorship in the media in Fiji.

After being sidelined for more than two months following a double fracture of the right leg in an office accident, the director, Professor David Robie, hosted six researchers from the Universitas Gadjah Mada for two weeks in October, and later visited UGM in November as part of the Indonesian government funded World Class Professor (WCP) programme. PMC Advisory Board member Khairiah Rahman also played a key role in this joint project and UGM’s Center for Southeast Asian Social Studies (CESASS) and its research journal IKAT are collaborating with PMC and PJR into 2018.

The PMC carried out the second year of its Bearing Witness climate change research project with Debate editor Julie Cleaver and Pacific Media Watch freedom project contributing editor Kendall Hutt going to Fiji and reporting on the relocation of a remote village in Ba region.

Asia Pacific Report continued to break many stories covering Pacific issues, including climate change issues related to Fiji-hosted COP23 in Bonn, Germany, and the deportation of a New Zealand Catholic layworker active as a advocate for indigenous land rights in Papua New Guinea.
Documentary maker academic Jim Marbrook led the publication of *Conflict, Custom & Conscience: Photojournalism and the Pacific Media Centre 2007-2017*. He was supported by co-editors Del Abcede, Natalie Robertson and Dr David Robie. Reviewing the book on RNZ’s *Nine to Noon* programme, former *New Zealand Herald* editor-in-chief Gavin Ellis described the collection as “brilliant pictures”:

> What it brought home to me again is the power of the still image. We tend to think now of moving pictures but there is something about the still image – and indeed the black and white image – because some of the images in this book are black and white photos that nail the moment.

The PMC also hosted visiting students from Fiji, Papua New Guinea and Samoa through the *Pacific Cooperation Foundation* media programme, and Hele Ikimotu and Brandon Ulfsby carried out a research reportage project for the *NZ Institute for Pacific Research*.

Once again, the Pacific Media Watch freedom research project produced a series of high-profile audio reports on the Centre's hosted *Southern Cross* programme on Radio 95bFM and video reports on our *YouTube* channel, and the work of PMC was regularly featured by international and regional Pacific news media.

Some key outcomes in brief:

- More than 10,059 news and analysis articles, audio reports and videos have now been published on the Pacific Media Watch database – more than 260 during the current year – since the Centre was established.

- 176,537 unique views (24,485 more than in 2016) and 371 subscribers – 66 more than the previous year – on the PMC’s *YouTube* channel: [www.youtube.com/pacmedcentre](http://www.youtube.com/pacmedcentre)

- More than 25,000 unique visitors to the Asia Pacific Report website and 6000 to the PMC Online website and database.

- Two editions of the peer-reviewed research journal *Pacific Journalism Review*, with a total of two major reports, 28 articles, including Māori-Pacific-Indigenous research papers, and 14 reviews were published, plus one edition of the *Pacific Journalism Monographs*, devoted to post-coup self-censorship in Fiji.

- Recently appointed PMC postdoctoral researcher Dr Sylvia C. Frain completed her doctorate thesis, “Fanohge Fama’la’a’an & Fan’tachu Fama’la’uan: Women Rising Indigenous Resistance to Militarization in the Marianas Archipelago” (National Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, University of Otago).

- More than 31 research and publication outputs were published during the year by the Centre’s director and AUT research associates.
2. CHAIR’S REPORT

Welcome to 2018. The year 2017 has been another productive and eventful year for the Pacific Media Centre (PMC) through the collaborative efforts of the Director, its Advisory Board, Del Abcede, Journal editors and research associates, Asia Pacific Report journalists and staff at the School of Communication Studies.

The PMC celebrated its 10th anniversary as a Centre documenting a decade of significant research, academic publication and accurate and fair journalism while still pursuing justice and freedom of expression. The PMC’s Anniversary celebration on 30 November 2017 was led by Associate Professor Laumanuvao Winnie Laban, Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Pasifika) at Victoria University of Wellington, who first launched the Centre in 2007 as Minister of Pacific island Affairs.

A number of noteworthy events took place for the PMC during the year, including the Bearing Witness climate change research project with Debate editor Julie Cleaver and Pacific Media Watch contributing editor Kendall Hutt, now in its second year. Documentary maker academic Jim Marbrook led the publication of Conflict, Custom & Conscience: Photojournalism and the Pacific Media Centre 2007-2017 supported by co-editors Del Abcede, Natalie Robertson and Dr David Robie.

The PMC published two editions of Pacific Journalism Review, which included two major reports, 28 articles, Māori-Pacific-Indigenous research papers, 14 reviews and one edition of Pacific Journalism Monographs. In addition, more than 31 research and publication outputs were published in 2017 by the PMC’s director and AUT research associates.

The PMC also organised and hosted a number of public media and research seminars, including “Can the Democracy Coalition retain power in Tonga?” by Dr Michael Horowitz, Dean of Atenei University, Tonga, and “Advocating for a free West Papua” by exiled West Papuan MP and lawyer Benny Wenda.

Dr Sylvia C. Frain, who recently completed her doctoral thesis titled “Fanohge Famalao’an & Fan’tachu Fama’lauan: Women Rising Indigenous Resistance to Militarization in the Marianas Archipelago” (National Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, University of Otago), was appointed as a PMC postdoctoral researcher at the end of the year.

The Pacific Media Centre has contributed significantly through its media research to highlighting economic, political and social issues in the Asia-Pacific region. However, to enable the PMC to continue its current level of contribution and advocacy, there needs to be tenure beyond its current director, Professor David Robie. This requires institutional, faculty and school commitment to provide the resources necessary so that we continue to benefit from what the PMC has the capacity and potential to offer.

On a final note, the PMC’s Advisory Board has provided invaluable support and concerted energy to the direction and activities of the PMC and we are very grateful for its committed and enthusiastic members.

Associate Professor Camille Nakhid
Chair, PMC Advisory Board
Auckland University of Technology
3. BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

The Pacific Media Centre is a cross-disciplinary unit and is in a unique position of "diversity" and "inclusive" influence in the media industry and has the potential to develop on a number of strategic fronts through a contribution with media research to economic, political and social change media and development communication in the region. This was reflected in the 2013 Pearson Report external review which deployed the Associate Dean Research's Research Unit profiles criteria and stated that it was vital the university and the school give support through a commitment to structural and resource support:

The Pacific Media Centre (PMC) has grown in its six years of operation from a single person initiative to an AUT asset with a strong research, education and media reputation in New Zealand and beyond, particularly within the Asia-Pacific region of its main focus. However, its operations will not be sustainable beyond the tenure of its current director, Professor David Robie, without institutional, faculty and school commitment to a restructure and resource allocation allowing for others to share in the responsibilities and considerable rewards. (Pearson Report, p. 2)

Professor Pearson advocated a special development budget of an extra $20,000 from the university above the current PMC minimal budget to achieve this. However, major improvements have happened in the past four years with the School Research Committee which has enabled the PMC to become more consolidated with an internal budget grant of $15,000 projected for 2018. The PMC also raises some specific project grants and royalties from the centre's databases and news services.

4. MISSION STATEMENT

The PMC’s mission is based on the belief that robust and informed journalism and media research contributes to economic, political and social development in the Asia-Pacific region. The PMC goals are:

- undertaking and stimulating research into contemporary Māori, Pacific, Asia-Pacific and ethnic/diversity media and culture production
- raising Aotearoa/New Zealand research capability in media production
- presenting and publishing the findings of media research
- winning funding from government and industry partners that support research into media production
- developing collaborations and relationships with other Asia-Pacific centres of research excellence in media and cultural production
- developing social change and development communication editorial and publications capability, including:
  - Asia Pacific Report asiapacificreport.nz
  - Pacific Journalism Review www.pjreview.aut.ac.nz
  - Pacific Media Centre Online www.pmc.aut.ac.nz

5. MARKET ANALYSIS

The PMC is currently the only media research centre of its kind in Aotearoa/New Zealand. There is no other journalism and media research centre that has been created by a due diligence process and officially listed as part of the university’s research structure in the Calendar. A major strength is that it is multidisciplinary, cross-cultural and with a focus on inclusive and diversity journalism. Even with a limited budget, the centre has been able to establish a high-profile presence in the news mediascape and has now co-published eleven Pacific media books with partners in Fiji, Hawai‘i, Manila, Papua New Guinea, Singapore and in AUT University since it was established. According to the Pearson external review report (p. 3):

While the PMC is categorised as a “Recognised Research Centre”, it is predominantly the external funding quantum that holds it back from Institute status on the other required criteria. (It has attracted about $60,000 in external funding over the past three years.)

While only a small team, its research outcomes have considerable impact and influence policy making at an international level. It attracts international students and senior researchers and is internationally acclaimed as a research entity. Leading communication scholar Professor Graham Murdock reviewed the School's research and described the PMC thus: “The School has already seized the opportunity presented by New Zealand being a Pacific nation to develop a world leading Pacific Media Centre” (Murdock Report, p. 8).
6. OBJECTIVES

- Establish the centre as the pre-eminent institution of its kind in Aotearoa/New Zealand.
- Develop financial partnerships that can extend research and publication collaborative opportunities.
- Strengthen cooperative arrangements with comparable centres and institutions and develop them into more structured MOUs, for example with the Centre for Southeast Asian Social Studies (CESASS) at the Universitas Gadjah Mada in Yogyakarta, Indonesia (completed 2017), University of Santo Tomas, Philippines, Journalism programme (under review in 2017) and the Pacific Regional Journalism Programme (University of the South Pacific – completed 2011).
- Expand publishing (eg research monographs, media texts) and digital media programme capacity. (A new series of Pacific Journalism Monographs was started in 2012 and they are archived by the National Library of New Zealand).
- Provide a resource office, workspace and support facilities for School of Communication staff, other researchers and journalists, and students on exchange and internships.

7. KEY PERFORMANCE MEASURES

- Successful media publishing and documentary making programmes based on research-led teaching.
- Enhancing Māori, Pasifika and diversity/cross-cultural research, publication and broadcastying.
- Raising the national profile of the university through critical studies and analytical seminars appealing to media industry, staff and postgraduate and undergraduate students.
- Raising the international profile of the University by developing partnerships with regional and global centres with a synergy matching PMC’s objectives.

8. STAKEHOLDERS AND PARTNERS

Stakeholders in the PMC within AUT include:
School of Communication Studies
School of Social Sciences and Public Polity
Chair of Pacific Studies
Te Ara Poutama
Office of Pacific Advancement

Associates include:
Asian Congress for Media and Communication (ACMC), Singapore – COLLABORATIONS
Asian Media, Information and Communication Centre (AMIC), Manila – PARTNER
Asia New Zealand Foundation, Wellington – COLLABORATIONS
Centre for Journalism and Social Change (UQ), Brisbane – COLLABORATIONS
Edith Cowan University (ECU), Perth, Western Australia – COLLABORATIONS
Freedom House, New York, USA – COLLABORATIONS

Griffith University, Journalism and Social Media, QLD – COLLABORATIONS
Centre for Journalism and Social Change (University of Queensland), Brisbane – COLLABORATIONS
Human Rights Commission, Wellington – COLLABORATIONS
Monash University, Melbourne, Victoria – COLLABORATIONS
Pacific Islands Media Association (PIMA, Auckland) – COLLABORATIONS
Pacific Islands News Association (PINA, Suva) – COLLABORATIONS
Pasifika Media Association (Pasima, Apia) – COLLABORATIONS
Reporters Sans Frontières (RSF), Paris, France – COLLABORATIONS
Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane – COLLABORATIONS
Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM), Yogyakarta, Indonesia – PARTNER
9. STAKEHOLDERS AND THEIR EXPECTATIONS

Stakeholders in the Centre are represented through the Advisory Board (see Governance structure below).

10. GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

An Advisory Board was established in May 2007 and meets quarterly or three times a year to assist the director with governance. The composition of the Board was chosen to ensure a wide range of stakeholders’ interests were represented. The current Board of 11 people also includes the School of Society and Culture and three external media members, including from TVNZ’s Tagata Pasifika and Brown Pages. The current PMC structure as indicated in the Pearson Report 2013, p. 8.

The director and the Advisory Board are accountable to the Faculty and School governance board and the Head of the School of Communication Studies. The director produces regular progress reports of the centre and minutes of the Board meetings. These documents are stored on the Pacific Media Centre space on AUT Online. The Centre also publishes the quarterly newsletter Toktok about its activities.

The current PMC structure as indicated in the Pearson Report 2013, p. 8.
**PMC Advisory Board:**

Chair: Associate Professor Camille Nakhid (AUT School of Social Sciences and Public Policy)
Tui O’Sullivan (Equity Advisor for the Faculty of Creative Technologies, AUT)
Dr Frances Nelson (School of Communication Studies)
John Pulu (Television NZ’s *Tagata Pasifika*)
Iulia Leilua (Brown Pages media consultancy)
Jim Marbrook (*Te Ara Motuhenga – Documentary Research Collective, AUT*)
Paul Janman (Pacific documentary maker, AUT)
Janet Tupou (School of Communication Studies, AUT)
Professor Barry King (Director, Centre for Performance Studies, AUT)
Khairiah A. Rahman (School of Communication Studies, AUT)
Professor Wendy Bacon (independent journalism advocate, PMC external member in Australia and Frontline editor of *Pacific Journalism Review*)

**Ex officio**

Director of Pacific Advancement: Walter Fraser
Chair of Pacific Studies: Professor Tagaloatele Peggy Fairbairn-Dunlop
Faculty Associate Dean (Research): Associate Professor Tony Clear
Faculty Associate Dean of AUT South: Dr Rosser Johnson
Head of School, Communication Studies: Professor Berrin Yanikkaya
Head of School Research, Communication Studies: Professor Geoffrey Craig
Head of School Postgraduate Studies: A/Professor Vijay Devadas
Head of Journalism Curriculum Leader: Louise Matthews
Director of the PMC, Professor David Robie
PMC Postdoctoral Researcher: Dr Sylvia C. Frain (appointed December 2017)
PMC Publications Designer: Del Abcede
Pacific Media Watch project researcher/editor: Kendall Hutt (March-November, 2017)
Postgraduate student representative: Stephanie Tapungu

**PMC research associates include:**

Dr Jon Sinclair (climate change researcher, Massey University)
Associate Professor Evangelia Papoutsaki (International Communication, Unitec, Auckland)
Professor Chris Nash (Monash University, Melbourne)
Professor Mark Pearson (head of journalism and new media, Bond University, Gold Coast)
Dr Lee Duffield (retired, formerly Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane)
Dr Shailendra Singh (Head of Journalism, University of the South Pacific, Fiji)
Associate Professor Trevor Cullen (Edith Cowan University, Perth)
Dr Sione Vikilani (Tonga)
Dr Levi Obijiofor (University of Queensland)
Dr Heather Devere (National Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, Otago University)
Susan O’Rourke (retired, formerly School of Communication Studies, AUT)
Dr Allison Oosterman (retired, formerly School of Communication Studies, AUT)
Professor Steven Ratuva (Director, Macmillan Brown Centre for Pacific Studies, University of Canterbury)

**Research project students and editors:**

Manny Cruz, Guam (doctoral candidate, media in Guam/Micronesia, due 2018)
Pauline Mago-King, Papua New Guinea (MCS candidate)
Associate Editor of *PJR* and research associate Dr Philip Cass
Del Abcede (*Pacific Journalism Review* research journal, Pacific Journalism Monographs and Toktok newsletter layout and production, PMC photographer)
In collaboration with *Evening Report* editor and owner, Selwyn Manning, a former chair of the Pacific Media Centre Advisory Board, the PMC began in late 2015 to develop a new digital news, current affairs and analysis website *Asia Pacific Report* www.asiapacificreport.nz to replace Pacific Scoop as a quantum leap forward in journalism education and publication. The new website was launched in late January 2016. In the two years of publication since then, the website has made its mark internationally, especially with its environmental, human rights, politics and digital media coverage.

Front page display from *Asia Pacific Report* on the unexplained death in November 2017 of award-winning freelance New Zealand journalist Yasmine Ryan, who was an associate of the Pacific Media Centre, and the Paradise Papers tax haven scandal.

### 12. PUBLIC SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES

The centre organised and hosted the following public media and research seminars during 2017:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JAN 26</td>
<td>Can the Democracy Coalition retain power in Tonga? Seminar by Dean of Atenisi University, Dr Michael Horowitz.</td>
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<tr>
<td>FEB 28</td>
<td>Launch of PJR 22(2) and Worlds of Journalism Research: Launch on Open Access Tuwhera platform with Massey’s Journalism Head Dr James Hollings as guest speaker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APRIL 7</td>
<td>Time for independence from a crumbling US Empire CAFCAs Murray Horton on the Donald Trump presidency and NZ’s foreign policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APRIL 29</td>
<td>Hidden stories past and present ... 25 years of the ACIJ: PMC director Prof David Robie addressed this ACIJ seminar at UTS in Sydney.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAY 3</td>
<td>World Press Freedom Day 2017 in Jakarta, Indonesia: PMC director Professor David Robie was a guest speaker at a special “Open Access for Journalists: Free Press in West Papua”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAY 9</td>
<td>Benny Wenda – advocating for a free West Papua: Exiled West Papuan MP and lawyer Benny Wenda speaking at AUT</td>
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<tr>
<td>MAY 27</td>
<td>WILPF celebrating 30 years of nuclear-free Aotearoa/New Zealand, 1987–2017: PMC director Professor David Robie speaking at the Devenport Community Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AUG 24</td>
<td>ACPA: Communicating for our common home – ‘reporting Asia-Pacific’ news: Pacific Media Watch editor Kendall Hutt for Prof David Robie (injured).</td>
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<tr>
<td>OCT 2-13</td>
<td>PMC hosting Gadjah Mada academic researcher team: 6 academics visited – Prof David Robie later visited Yogyakarta for 2 weeks in November as part of Indonesia’s World Class Professor (WCP) project.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOV 30</td>
<td>10TH Anniversary of Pacific Media Centre event – Journalism Under Duress in Asia–Pacific: Speakers included Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism (PCIJ) executive director Malou Mangahas and RNZ Pacific senior journalist Johnny Blades. Full events listing on the PMC website at: <a href="http://www.pmc.aut.ac.nz/events">www.pmc.aut.ac.nz/events</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
13. PROJECTS

The Centre currently has one part-time director, three part-time research project people and volunteers working on the Pacific Media Watch project, NZ Institute for Pacific Research, Pacific Journalism Review, Pacific Journalism Monographs and Toktok. The move of the permanent office location from the tenth floor of the AUT Tower Building in December 2012 to the tenth floor in the Sir Paul Reeves communication precinct building has strengthened the collaboration with other postgraduate staff and students and the journalism programme, and also boosted communication and media resources. The director also has an office in the centre. Among current and recent projects are the Bearing Witness mini documentary initiative and preparing for a proposal to host the Asian Congress for Media and Communication (ACMC) conference themed “Change, Adaptation and Innovation: Media, Communication and Culture” at AUT in 2020.

14. PACIFIC MEDIA WATCH

Kendall Hutt, a Pacific BCS (Honours) student, worked on The Pacific Media Watch research and publication project for 10 hours a week between March and December in 2017. She worked hard on a range of breaking media freedom, climate change and social justice stories and was shortlisted by a global climate agency as a journalist for a scholarship to Bonn to cover the 23rd “Pacific” COP conference. She was selected with Julie Cleaver to travel to Fiji for the second year of the Bearing Witness climate change project. She also hosted the PMC’s weekly Southern Cross programme on Radio 95bFM at the University of Auckland. At the end of the year, the quality of Kendall’s storytelling gained her a reporter’s job with the North Shore Times.

15. BOOK PUBLISHING PROJECTS


This special limited edition book (200 copies) was published to mark the 10th Anniversary of the PMC. The idea of AUT senior lecturer and filmmaker Jim Marbrook, he worked with Del Abcede to select a range of images to represent the centre’s first decade. Drawing on a range of images taken by Pacific and global photographers, Jim and Del selected a compelling series of images published in Pacific Journalism Review and other PMC publications over the years. After his accident, PMC director Dr David Robie joined the team along with Dr Natalie Robertson from Art and Design. Pacific journalism educator and former RNZ broadcaster: Pat Craddock said

“The images are so striking and instill sometimes fear, frustration and so much pain. The woman accused of sorcery reminds me of Papua New Guinea and the awful power of religion, which has many faces – good to evil.”
16. ACADEMIC STAFF CONTRIBUTIONS

Several AUT academic staff and from other universities contributed articles for PMC’s Asia Pacific Report and PMC Online projects, notably the PMC chair, Associate Professor Camille Nakhid. Dr Nakhid followed up her series of articles about the post-Stolen Children controversy in Australia from the previous year with, “'I want my children back’ – fighting for Australia’s indigenous children” (594 readers) on Laura Lyons’ battle with the Australian heartless bureaucracy. Dr James Hollings’ research on the NZ journalists’ profile was also well read.

asiapacificreport.nz/2017/05/19/i-want-my-children-back-fighting-for-australias-indigenous-children/

17. PACIFIC JOURNALISM REVIEW, PACIFIC JOURNALISM MONOGRAPHS AND TOKTOK

Pacific Journalism Review: Te Koakoa has been indexed by SCOPUS since 2005 – the first New Zealand media journal to be indexed by a major global PBRF metrics agency such as this. The journal is also featured on AUT’s Tuwhera indigenous research platform along with Pacific Journalism Monographs. During the year, Pacific Journalism Review published two editions as part of Volume 23, with the first edition featuring “Climate Change”.

The second edition featured many additional papers from the Asia-Pacific caucus of the fourth World Journalism Education Congress (WJEC) in Auckland. Some papers had earlier been published in volume 22(2). Thirty editions of the research journal have now been published at AUT since 2003. The journal is also available on five international databases and royalties from this have contributed to the sustainability of the journal. The databases are now at EBSCO Communication and Mass Media Complete and Gale (USA), Informit (Australia), Newztext (NZ) and PINI (South Pacific).

The school has a Pacific Media Centre page online at the AUT Shop which offers PJR and other centre publications and PMC tee-shirts for direct online sale. Del Abcede has been working on the production and layout of Pacific Journalism Review and also voluntarily does the layout for the Centre’s newsletter Toktok.
Given that climate change is arguably the greatest threat facing the planet and where the impact will be particularly strong in the Asia-Pacific region, especially for the microstates of the Pacific, what is the role of the media and media education in the region? This edition of PJR – the first major volume of Asia-Pacific climate change media research – addresses these issues, and the editorial features the legacy of more than 25 years of the Australian Centre for Independent Journalism (ACIJ) investigations in climate change and social justice in partnership with PMC.

The themed core of this edition includes peer-reviewed papers drawn from media educators and journalists at the JERAA/Pacific Media Centre/Media Educators Pacific preconference on July 13 and World Journalism Education Congress (WJEC2016) conference at Auckland University of Technology on 14–16 July 2016. Attendance by the Pacific delegation at WJEC was thanks to NZ Institute for Pacific Research (NZIPC) funding. This is a second volume of WJEC conference papers following on from ‘Journalism Education in the Pacific’, 22(2) 2016. This was the first edition including the new Te Reo name Te Koakoa.
18. BEARING WITNESS PROJECT AND DART TRAUMA PRIZE

Highlights of the year included the success of Debate editor Julie Cleaver and Pacific Media Watch contributing editor Kendall Hutt in winning the DART Asia-Pacific Prize for trauma journalism at the Ossie Awards at the Journalism Education and Research Association of Australia (JERAA) Conference. They were awarded the prize for a multimedia package for their coverage as part of the PMC’s Bearing Witness climate change project of a remote Fijian village in Ba, Viti Levu, which was being relocated as the result of two devastating cyclones and a landslide. The judge said:

“Cleaver and Hutt’s victim-focused story of climate change in Fiji through the eyes of one woman and her family’s tragedy was sensitive, well-researched and of a high professional standard. The story was informative, and introduced a difficult-to-report climate change story in a very personal yet non gratuitous way.”

Academic paper about this project at Tuwhera: https://ojs.aut.ac.nz/pacific-journalism-review/article/view/257

19. FACEBOOK AND SOCIAL MEDIA

The Pacific Media Centre’s Facebook has passed 3172 “friends” and “followers” – excellent progress for a small and specialised media centre. The PMC’s conventional email list had only 250 members and this has now been phased out. The Centre uses Facebook, Twitter (4091 followers), Instagram (137 followers), Storify, Soundcloud (48 tracks) and other social media as being integral to its communication strategy. A Pacific Media Watch Instagram account was added to the PMC social media portfolio in 2016.

www.facebook.com/PacificMediaCentre/
twitter.com/pacmedcentre
storify.com/pacmedcentre
soundcloud.com/user-688507213

Del Abcede with an image from the PMC 10 Years exhibition. The images are in a video on the PMC YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/watch?v=QIHueai77A
20. INDONESIAN WORLD CLASS PROFESSOR (WCP) PROJECT

Centre director Professor David Robie jetted into Yogyakarta in November on a hectic Indonesian World Class Professor (WCP) programme that swept him across three cities and many hundreds of kilometres. The two-week research and publication collaboration had him giving public lectures and guest seminars, discussions with young emerging scholars, and talks with communication students considering a journalism career. He said:

“The hospitality of our hosts, director Dr Hermin Indah Wahyuni and her Center of Southeast Asian Social Studies (CESASS) team was out of this world.”

At one stage, the visit to Universitas Gadjah Mada, one of Indonesia’s largest universities with some 56,000 students, had seemed doubtful after Professor Robie suffered a serious accident at the end of July, breaking his right leg in multiple places and requiring surgery.

Del Abcede also travelled to Yogyakarta and contributed to workshops. PMC Advisory Board member Khairiah Rahman and Dr Adam Brown, also contributed enormously to hosting the Indonesian researchers in New Zealand and later also visited UGM in continuing the collaboration. Full report:

UGM-WCP Programme Report 2017: Professor David Robie’s collaboration with Universitas Gadjah Mada, October-November

In May, Dr Robie participated in the week-long UNESCO World Press Freedom Day conference in Jakarta, Indonesia, where he delivered an invited guest address at the “Free Press: Open Access for Journalists in West Papua” international seminar.
As in previous years, the operating costs of the Centre have been met by the School of Communication Studies. The Centre is also generating largely self-funding revenue for *Pacific Journalism Review* through subscriptions, database royalties (such as Copyright Licensing Ltd, INFORMIT and Knowledge Basket) and occasional external grants. It has the potential to generate limited funds from projects such as book publishing and royalties. The budget and financial reports are prepared separately within the School by the manager in consultation with the director. The centre continues to need support in identifying potential future funding proposals and partnerships. It also needs more support if the centre is to evolve and grow.

In mid-2017, the NZ Institute for Pacific Research contracted the Pacific Media Centre to provide a research article, video and publication service. Two students provided this service in the second semester. Their work can be viewed at the NZIPR Lali blog: [www.nzipr.ac.nz](http://www.nzipr.ac.nz)
22. RESEARCH AND PUBLICATION OUTPUTS

PMC research indicative outputs in 2017 are listed on and include the following: www.pmc.aut.ac.nz/content PMC-outputs#2017

Edited books:


Edited journals:


Refereed journal articles:


Refereed monographs:


Conference proceedings:


Postgraduate research degree:


Media outputs:

Robie, David (2017, November 18). Tiny Timbulsloko fights back in face of Indonesia’s ‘ecological disaster’. Asia Pacific Report [Online]


Borrowdale, James (2017, July 22). Why Pacific and Maori communities are rising up for a free West Papua. Asia Pacific Report and VICE [Extensive interview with PMC’s David Robie]. [Online].


Nakhid, Camille (2017, May 13). Uncle Shane on Australia’s shame: ‘We’re the vulnerable ones, the ones without a voice’. Asia Pacific Report [Online]


Robie, David (2017, May 7). Rave hospitality, but Indonesia fails West Papua with media freedom hypocrisy. Asia Pacific Report [Online].


Pacific Media Watch (2017, July 13). PNG court silences political blogger’s comments, blogger posts gag image. IFEX [Canada].


Pacific Media Watch outputs at: www.pacmediawatch.aut.ac.nz

Professor David Robie
Director
Pacific Media Centre
3 February 2017
APPENDIX 1. DCT RESEARCH REVIEW BEARING WITNESS PP. 24–25.

BEARING WITNESS 2016 - A PACIFIC CLIMATE CHANGE JOURNALISM CASE STUDY

Contributed by Professor David Robie

In February 2016 Fiji was devastated by Severe Tropical Cyclone Winston, the strongest recorded local storm on the Southern Hemisphere. The category 5 storm with wind gusts reaching 300 km/h left some 40,000 people homeless, an estimated 75,000 hectares affected, and $600 million in damages. In the wake of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) mission to Fiji under the framework of the UNFCCC conference in Bonn, Germany, against this backdrop, the Pacific Media Centre launched two publications online to Fiji for a two-week pilot trial in April 2016 on a bearing research journalism awareness-raising programme in collaboration with the Pacific Centre for the Environment and Sustainable Development (PCESD) and the Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and the University of the South Pacific. This assignment funded six months from UNFCCC Research and Innovation Office was the first stage of which is hoped to become a five-year programme.

Climate change is the most challenging challenge confronting the peoples of the South Pacific. Indeed, some of the world's most vulnerable communities to climate change, the Melanesian, Micronesian and Polynesian islands, are located in the region. The low-lying islands of the are particularly vulnerable to sea-level rise, storm surges and coastal flooding. The region's climate is also characterized by frequent and intense tropical cyclones, which can cause significant damage and loss of life. In the context of climate change, the vulnerable communities in the region need to be prepared and equipped to adapt and mitigate the impacts of climate change. The Pacific Media Centre (PMC) and the University of the South Pacific (USP) have been working together to develop a climate change journalism capacity building project. The project aims to strengthen the capacity of Pacific journalists to report on climate change issues and to promote environmental and sustainable development. The project has been funded by the Pacific Islands Climate Change Trust and supported by the Australian Government. The project is led by the PMC and the USP, with the support of other Pacific media organizations and partners.

The new SPREP Grant 2017–2026 sets priorities and direction for the next decade. The focus is on climate change resilience, ecosystems and biodiversity, protection, waste management and pollution control, as well as environmental governance with ocean as a key cross-cutting theme. The project is a response to the growing concern for the Pacific region by the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

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The Pacific Media Centre at AUT celebrated its 10-year anniversary, fittingly, with a panel highlighting the threats to media freedom in the Asia-Pacific region. An investigative photojournalism book was also launched: Conflict, Custom & Conscience: Photojournalism and the Pacific Media Centre 2007-2017, edited by Jim Marbrook, Del Abcede, Natalie Robertson and David Robie. MATA LAUANO reports

Founded at AUT in 2007, the Pacific Media Centre (PMC) was launched on 12 October 2007 by the Hon Luamanuvao Winnie Laban – acting Minister for Pacific Island Affairs at the time.

10 years later, now Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Pasifika) at Victoria University, Professor Hon Luamanuvao Winnie Laban made the trip up from Wellington to celebrate with, and command, the PMC on a decade of highlighting issues within our region often overlooked by the mainstream media.
She praised the Centre’s work, having herself witnessed the dedication, labour and passion that the PMC’s founding director “David Robie and his colleagues have put into creating a channel for the voiceless to have a voice, a platform for the unseen to be seen”.

In the “Journalism under duress in Asia-Pacific” panel chaired by Dr Robie, special guests Malou Mangahas, executive director of the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism, and RNZ International senior journalist Johnny Blades discussed the challenges to journalists reporting in the Asia-Pacific region.

A minute of silence was also observed for victims of the 2009 Ampatuan Maguindanao massacre.

Former Pacific Media Watch editor, and Tagata Pasifika journalist/presenter Alistar Kata MC’d the evening which included a special video by Sasya Wreksono highlighting the PMC’s achievements over 10 years.

Attendees were also treated to a photographic exhibition of the research centre’s evolution and a special screening of the documentary *Cap Bocage*.

In his address to attendees PMC Director David Robie talked about the important work the PMC has undertaken, and thanked everyone who’s helped make the PMC what it is today, from the Advisory board to colleagues and students who've contributed to the PMC. All with the aim of spreading informed journalism and media research that contributes to economic, political and social development. Along with the hope of seeing the PMC continue to do so for many more decades to come.
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