The Centre for Democratic Institutions

Report on

Pacific Journalists Training
and Placement Program

Brisbane and Regional Queensland
20 November – 8 December
The Centre for Democratic Institutions (CDI) contracted the Centre for International Journalism (CIJ) at the University of Queensland to deliver a training course and work placements program for young journalists from the Pacific region. The objectives of the program were to strengthen an understanding of the links between democracy and freedom of the press among young journalists from the Pacific region and to provide them with an understanding of the workings of the Australian media. The program also sought to establish and foster networks between journalists from the Pacific region and with their counterparts in Australia.

Eleven young journalists from Fiji, PNG, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu participated in the program, which had as its theme skill development in reporting government and the economy. The Participant List is at Annex A. The program, which grew out of recognition of the important role played by the media in promoting democracy, had these major components:

- A five-day workshop on Reporting Government and the Economy delivered by the Centre for International Journalism (CIJ), at the University of Queensland, Brisbane;
- A one-week placement with news media organisations in Brisbane and regional Queensland;
- Participation in the annual conference of the Journalism Education Association at the Sunshine Coast; and
- Other professional visits.

WORKSHOP AT CIJ

The theme of the workshop on Reporting Government and the Economy was inspired in part by a recommendation of the conference on "Cultivating Transparency in the Pacific" held in Fiji in February 2000 for journalists (and financiers) from the Pacific Islands region. One of its recommendations was that "news organisations (in the Pacific region) have a responsibility to make training in financial and economic journalism an important priority."

The workshop was designed by CIJ Director, Associate Professor John Wallace, and Nigel McCarthy, former Network Seven NSW State Political Reporter, SBS Television Finance and Economic Commentator, who led the workshop. Additional instructors were:

- Dr Levi Obijiofor, Department of Journalism UQ – former night editor and sub-editor of Nigeria's The Guardian.
- Dr Steve Tanner, Department of Journalism UQ – previously researcher and personal press secretary to former premier of Tasmania, Robin Gray
- Belinda Weaver, Department of Journalism UQ - Liaison Librarian and Courier-Mail internet columnist.

Guest speakers were:

- Sean Dorney, ABC Pacific region correspondent.

The full workshop program is at Annex B.
MEDIA ORGANISATION PLACEMENTS

The journalists from newspapers were placed in pairs for one week with regional daily newspapers. These were chosen because their scale of operation matched more closely that of participants’ own papers. The selected newspapers were The Morning Bulletin, Rockhampton, The Gladstone Observer, The News-Mail, Bundaberg, and The Sunshine Coast Daily, Maroochydore. Broadcast journalists were placed with the ABC’s Brisbane office.

Placement activity included familiarisation with newsroom processes and actual reporting assignments.

JEA CONFERENCE

The Pacific journalists attended the “Journalism Education Futures” conference of the Journalism Education Association, organised by the Department of Journalism at the University of Queensland and held at Mooloolaba from 5 to 8 December 2000.

The Pacific group made their major contribution as support panelists in a Pacific Focus plenary session that followed the keynote address by Sean Dorney. After several formal panel presentations by JEA members, individuals in the Pacific group offered their views on a range of topics, which included:

- the challenges facing Pacific journalists as they try to report corruption in their countries,
- the relevance of Australian experience in reporting corruption,
- the different levels of media freedom experienced,
- the belief that much of the reporting by Australian news media of the recent coup in Fiji was inadequate, and
- suggestions for improving the awareness by Australian journalists of Pacific issues, history and culture.

John Wallace’s introduction to the Pacific Focus panel discussion is presented in Annex C.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL VISITS

The group took part in several other professional activities, which included:

- The Queensland launch of Quentin Dempster’s book Death Struggle, an insider’s account of ABC boardroom intrigue and politics.
- A tour of the Queensland Newspapers’ publishing operation at Murarrie.
- A tour of the Sunshine Coast Daily conducted by editor Mr Peter Owen.
CULTURAL AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

The CIJ, with help from students and friends, arranged several optional cultural and social activities, which were strongly appreciated by the group and arguably contributed to the success of the overall program. They included:

- A reception at the CIJ to welcome participants.
- A tour of the university grounds and district, with student guides.
- A Brisbane nightlife tour, with student guides.
- An end-of-workshop dinner at the Vietnamese Restaurant, Fortitude Valley, for workshop participants, instructors, and won tok friends resident in Brisbane.
- A day tour to the Gold Coast – for sightseeing and Christmas shopping.
- A tour of the Lone Pine animal sanctuary.
- A reception at the home of Anthony Paul, editor-at-large in Asia for Fortune Magazine.

The Pacific journalists themselves organised two functions:

- Fiji and Vanuatu members of the group organised a kava ceremony and dinner during the JEA conference to introduce other members of the group to this tradition.
- And, as a farewell gesture in appreciation of the CDI/CIJ program, the group turned on a traditional lovo (the Fiji word) dinner at the CIJ, for Journalism Department staff and won tok friends of participants resident in Brisbane.

NEWS MEDIA OUTCOMES

The presence of the Pacific journalists generated a range of coverage:

The Media Report, ABC Radio National, 30 November 2000
www.abc.net.au/rn/talks/8.30/mediarpt/stories/s218638.htm
Mick O’Regan interviewed two of the Pacific journalists, Imraz Iqbal and Vijay Narayan, on their experiences covering the coup in Fiji, and used this as his lead report.

The Morning Bulletin (Rockhampton), 29 November 2000, on page 8 carried a photo story on Pacific journalist interns Brenda Mauli (Solomons) and Neville Choi (PNG).

News Mail (Bundaberg), 1 December 2000, on page 13 carried a photo story on Pacific journalist interns Wilson Toa (Vanuatu) and Gorethy Kenneth (PNG).

The Gladstone Observer carried a photo story on Pacific journalist interns Frederica Delailomaloma (Fiji) and Colin Taimbari (PNG).

Sunshine Coast Daily 7 December 2000, on page 4 carried a report on the JEA conference, which included comment from Pacific journalist Vijay Narayan on a paper presented to the conference by David Robie, coordinator of the journalism course at the University of the South Pacific. Vijay Narayan defended the role of Fiji journalists covering the coup and hostage crisis, and took exception to the title of Robie’s paper: Coup-coup land: the press and the putsch in Fiji.
EVALUATION

The evaluation of the program was conducted by Cathy Boyle, Executive Officer, CDI on the last day of the program. The group discussed the structure of the program and impressions of the media in Australia before completing a written evaluation form.

Overall, the program was rated very highly by the 11 participants: 8 ‘excellent’ and 3 ‘good’.

Course at CIJ
The major strength of the program was the workshop at the Centre for International Journalism. The group felt that the trainers in particular were very experienced and had a lot of knowledge and insight to share with the participants. It was noted that the course was very relevant to the work of the journalists particularly in political and financial reporting and information collection techniques. The course focussed on issues from the Pacific region and issues discussed were relevant to the region and affected all of them such as reporting on crisis and corruption. Some participants suggested that more time should have been allocated to these issues as they are of increasing prevalence in the region.

It was suggested by a couple of the journalists that the workshop component of the program should have run for 2 weeks in order to provide even more information.

Another strength of the program identified was the opportunity for the journalists to meet each other and share experiences. All thought that the program would be useful to their work and many mentioned that the program had broadened their thinking on how to report certain issues and reinforced the importance of Pacific journalists in regional reporting.

Placement Program
Following CDI’s evaluation of the media course and placement program run in 1999, the Centre was particularly keen to establish a solid and mutually beneficial placement program for the journalists. Unfortunately it was reported by nearly all the participants that this was the weakest part of the program. From the previous course CDI had recognised that contracting a newspaper to provide a program for the journalists was more effective than relying on goodwill. It was also thought that the smaller newspapers would be better able to provide a more involved program. For this program CDI decided to base the program with CIJ as they were best placed to promote access to regional QLD newspapers.

From discussion and written evaluation the participants felt there was insufficient commitment on the part of the media groups to involve them in their daily operations. The journalists who took part in the program, while young, are responsible for reporting political and economic developments in their countries and were expecting to more fully contribute during their placement.

JEA Conference
All of the participants greatly enjoyed the conference. It was noted that the conference complemented the knowledge gained through the workshop and provided the participants with an opportunity to network with Australian journalists and also gain some insight into the Australian perspective on events and reporting in the Pacific. Some of the participants stated
they were disappointed with the Australian media’s coverage of recent events in Fiji and the Solomon Islands and felt that the conference provided an opportunity for them to discuss these issues with their Australian counterparts.

The conference was also an enjoyable social activity which allowed the group to continue learning but in a more relaxed environment after an intense two weeks.

**Course Management**
The participants praised the organiser of the course, John Wallace, Director of the Centre for International Journalism for his organisation of the course. CIJ’s staff and management contributed greatly to the success and enjoyment of the program for the participants.

**Positive Outcomes**
Networking with other regional journalists has proven to be a very positive outcome of the program. The group is keen to take advantage of the contacts made and is establishing a website so other journalists can share what they learnt during the program. The website will also act as a forum for discussion of ‘hot’ media topics.

**Future Themes**
During the general discussion most participants expressed an interest in follow up workshops on more specific issues such as corruption and reporting under military rule. Other suggestions including running the workshop in one of the Pacific Island States next time.

**Conclusions**
While all participants rated the program highly and stated they enjoyed the program and would find it beneficial to their work, the placement component of the program could not be deemed a complete success. If CDI is to continue with media projects the evaluation shows that it would be worth considering a far more structured placement program.

**Some comments from the participants:**

**DID YOU GAIN THE THINGS YOU WANTED TO FROM THIS WORKSHOP, AND WHAT WERE THEY?**

“"Yes. A bit more that what I wanted. I came wanting to learn new ways of reporting, which is what we have been doing. But I also take back with me a fair idea of what other Pacific journos are facing in their countries.”

“"The workshop gave me a fair idea on how to expose corruption, but at the same time being careful not to get into trouble with the government.”

“"Yes. An insight into in-depth government and economic reporting. It has also made me understand more about regional issues – when we compared ours with other Pacific islands.”

**WHAT OTHER THINGS DID YOU GAIN FROM THE WORKSHOP?**

“"Contacts from around the Pacific – vital for networking, how to use the internet for research, and also exposure to TV reporting.”
“It was a big gain for us when a former sub-editor from Nigeria [Dr Levi Obijiofor] spoke to us about his country and how the media is continually harassed by the military. This is good for us as we almost all have the same situation.”

WHAT WAS THE MOST USEFUL ASPECT OF THE WORKSHOP TO YOUR WORK?

“Being able to discuss a wide range of issues with experts in the media from around the world.”

“Realising that the issue of corruption is similar in other Pacific countries and how we can work together to fight it.”

ANY OTHER COMMENTS?

“A lot of other Pacific island journalists can benefit enormously from this workshop in future.”

“It should be extended to cover, say, three to four weeks.”

“We could get some Australian journos to be participants too, so that we can really compare and contrast and get new ideas.”

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE PROGRAMS

Members of the group, in formal and other feedback, have made the following useful suggestions:

- There should be more programs like this for other Pacific journalists – to help others improve their skills in reporting government generally, and corruption in particular.
- The workshop period of the program should be extended to at least two weeks – there was a widespread feeling that one week is not enough.
- There might be a follow-up program for participants of this program – most felt they would have liked more.
- Some Australian journalists could join any future workshop as participants – the idea being that the Pacific journalists would gain insights from their Australian colleagues on how to put into effect the lessons from the workshop material.

In addition, the CIJ recommends that

- A future program would include the production of a web publication as part of the workshop activity. This would give the group the opportunity to research and write about issues relevant to their situation, and have their professional work critiqued in more detail by workshop leaders. A web publication would permit journalists from different media to contribute to the one publication – that is, there would be the opportunity for print, radio and video inputs. The publication would stand as a record of the group’s work.
The participants were:

**FIJI**
Mr Imraz Iqbal, Fiji Television
Miss Frederica Delailomaloma, The Fiji Times
Mr Vijay Narayan, FM96/Navtarang/VitiFM

**PNG**
Mr Neville Choi, The Independent Newspaper
Ms Melanie Vari, The National Newspaper
Ms Gorathy Kenneth, The Post Courier Newspaper
Mr Colin Taimbari, The Post Courier Newspaper

**SOLOMON ISLANDS**
Miss Rozalee A Nongebatu, Solomon Islands Broadcasting Corporation (SIBC)
Miss Brenda Mauli, LINK Magazine, Solomon Islands Development Trust (SIDT)

**VANUATU**
Mr Winston Tarere, Trading Post
Wilson Toa, Vanuatu Weekly/Hebdomadaire
## PROGRAM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Accommodation and contact information</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday 19 Nov.</strong></td>
<td>Participants arrive in Brisbane -- met by CIJ representative and taken to Grace College, University of Queensland</td>
<td>Grace College Walcott Street, St. Lucia, 4067. Tel. (61-7) 3842 4000 Fax. (61-7) 3842 4180.</td>
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</tbody>
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| **Monday 20 Nov.** | **Morning: Tour of University of Queensland.**  
Afternoon free;  
5pm: Welcome drinks CIJ terrace;  
Evening: Free | as above |
| **Tuesday 21 Nov.** | **Reporting workshop – Day 1**  
(at Department of Journalism)  
-- led by Nigel McCarthy  
[see draft program below]] | as above  
Day contacts:  
Department of Journalism (Mon-Fri), tel. 617 33653088  
CIJ: 617 3365 9174 |
| **Wednesday 22 Nov.** | **Reporting workshop – Day 2** | as above |
| **Thursday 23 Nov.** | **Reporting workshop – Day 3** | as above |
| **Friday 24 Nov.** | **Reporting workshop – Day 4** | as above |
| **Saturday 25 Nov.** | **Reporting workshop – Day 5** | as above |
| **Sunday 26 Nov.** | FREE | as above |
| **Monday 27 Nov.** | ▪ Newspaper journalists travel to location of their industry  
▪ Broadcast journalists stay on at Grace College | as above |
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 28 Nov.</td>
<td><strong>Industry placement – Day 1</strong></td>
<td>Broadcast journalists start their placement with the Australian Broadcasting Corporation, in Brisbane. Newspaper journalists start their industry placement on regional daily newspaper.</td>
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<td>Wednesday 29 Nov.</td>
<td><strong>Industry placement – Day 2</strong></td>
<td>as above</td>
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<td>Thursday 30 Nov.</td>
<td><strong>Industry placement – Day 3</strong></td>
<td>as above</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 1 Dec.</td>
<td><strong>Industry placement – Day 4</strong></td>
<td>as above</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday 2 Dec.</td>
<td>Newspaper journalists return to Brisbane [FREE for broadcast journalists]</td>
<td>Grace College Walcott Street, St. Lucia, 4067. Tel. (61-7) 3842 4000 Fax. (61-7) 3842 4180.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 3 Dec.</td>
<td>FREE</td>
<td>as above</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 4 Dec.</td>
<td>to be arranged</td>
<td>as above</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 5 Dec</td>
<td>am depart for Sunshine Coast; newspaper visit in afternoon; 6pm Welcome BBQ Journalism Education Association conference</td>
<td>Mooloolaba Outrigger Resort Tel. (61-7) 5452 2600 Fax (61-7) 5452 2888</td>
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<td>Wednesday 6 Dec</td>
<td><strong>JEA conference</strong></td>
<td>as above</td>
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<td>Thursday 7 Dec.</td>
<td><strong>JEA conference</strong></td>
<td>as above</td>
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<td>Friday 8 Dec.</td>
<td>am <strong>JEA conference</strong>; midday depart for Brisbane; 2pm review of CIJ/CDI course at CIJ</td>
<td>Grace College Walcott Street, St. Lucia, 4067. Tel. (61-7) 3842 4000 Fax. (61-7) 3842 4180.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday 9 Dec.</td>
<td>PNG, Fiji, Solomons participants depart</td>
<td>Grace College (Vanuatu participants)</td>
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<td>Sunday 10 Dec.</td>
<td>Vanuatu participants depart</td>
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<td>Organisation</td>
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<td><strong>ABC Brisbane</strong></td>
<td>Grace College</td>
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<tr>
<td>600 Coronation Drive</td>
<td>Walcott Street, St. Lucia, 4067 (Brisbane)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Toowong 4066 (Brisbane)</td>
<td>Tel. (61-7) 3842 4000</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Tel. (61-7) 3377 5222</td>
<td>Fax. (61-7) 3842 4180. (Carol Hayden)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Main contacts:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms Deb Flemming (head of radio and TV news); Mr Paul Barclay (head of Radio National, Bris.)</td>
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| **Sunshine Coast Daily**     | Alexandra Beach Resort                             |
| Newspaper Place              | Cnr Pacific Terrace and Alexandra Parade           |
| Maroochydore 4558            | Alexandra Headlands 4557                           |
| Tel. (61-7) 5430 8000        | Tel. (61-7) 5475 0600                              |
| Fax (61-7) 5430 8099         | Fax (61-7) 5475 0611 (Brett Costello)             |
| Main contact: Mr Peter Owen (editor) (Ros) | |

| **News-Mail**                | Burnett Riverside Motel                            |
| 22-24 Targo Street           | 7 Quay Street, Bundaberg 4670                     |
| Bundaberg 4670               | Tel. (61-7) 4155 8777                              |
| Tel. (61-7) 4153 8555        | Fax. (61-7) 4155 8700 (Garth Usher)               |
| Fax (61-7) 4153 1028         |                                                    |
| Main contact: Mr Rod Rehbein (editor) | |

| **Gladstone Observer**       | Harbor Lodge Motel                                 |
| 29 Goondoon Street           | 16 Roseberry Street, Gladstone                     |
| Gladstone 4680               | Tel. (61-7) 4972 6463                              |
| Tel. (61-7) 4970 3030        | Fax. (61-7) 4972 6463 (Camille Shirvington)       |
| Fax (61-7) 4970 3048         |                                                    |
| Main contact: Mr Jason Purdie (editor) | |

| **The Morning Bulletin**     | Country Comfort Motel                              |
| 162-164 Quay St              | 86 Victoria Parade, Rockhampton 4700               |
| Rockhampton 4700             | Tel. (61-7) 4927 9933                              |
| Tel. (61-7) 4930 4222        | Fax. (61-7) 4927 1615 (Mark Yeaman)               |
| Fax (61-7) 4930 4360         |                                                    |
SESSION 1:

**Introduction and workshop outline** – Nigel McCarthy and John Wallace.

Participants’ self-introduction (individual).

Participants' address (by national grouping): 'My Country' (highlight the major political, social, and economic issues that other participants need to know).

Discussion: Participants' ambitions for the workshop.

SESSION 2:

**What makes political and financial news? Analysing news values** – Nigel McCarthy, former Network Seven NSW State Political Reporter, SBS Television Finance and Economic Commentator.

Workshop session (in three groups): Current stories in the Australian media.

Project: Judging current stories against news values. Write a short presentation that compares news values to the stories under review.

SESSION 3:

**The internet: key sites, and researching politics and finance on the web** – Belinda Weaver, UQ Dept of Journalism Liaison Librarian and Courier-Mail internet columnist.

Workshop session (individual): Find specific information on the net.

Project: Research and write a news story from the net.

SESSION 4:

**The craft of political reporting** – Nigel McCarthy.

Govt/media relationship. Surviving under a dictatorship. Dr Levi Obijiofor – UQ Dept. of Journalism. Former night editor and sub-editor of Nigeria's The Guardian.

Workshop session: Discussion.

SESSION 5:
The cost of corruption – Dr Steve Tanner, UQ Dept of Journalism (was researcher and personal press secretary to former premier of Tasmania, Robin Gray)

Workshop (group with Steve Tanner): How to identify corruption.

Project: Corruption in your country.

SESSION 6:

Reporting the Pacific region – Sean Dorney, ABC Pacific region correspondent.

Workshop (group with Sean Dorney): Q&A

Project: Develop five story ideas and approaches. Do the same ideas work across different countries?

SESSION 7:

The craft of finance reporting – Nigel McCarthy

Discussion: Globalisation. Regional economies.

Workshop: participants consider key financial terms.

Session 8:


Workshop: reading the financial pages.

SESSION 9:

Politics and finance on print, radio and television – Nigel McCarthy.

Workshop (in pairs as the 'presenter' and the 'reporter'): Your moment of fame; you've been covering the story, now explain it in a 1.30 minute television two-way.

SESSION 10:

Presentations and conclusion – Nigel McCarthy and John Wallace

Workshop: Video of 'The War Room' (a television current affairs documentary on the political process), and discussion of political techniques.

Project: Draw up a list of the techniques displayed in the video.
INTRODUCTION TO PACIFIC FOCUS PANEL AT JEA CONFERENCE – ANNEX C

Assoc. Professor John Wallace,  
Director, Centre for International Journalism

“The focus of today’s Pacific panel continues a tradition JEA started 10 years ago, when JEA held its first annual conference outside Australia – in Port Vila, Vanuatu – where we met with journalists and editors from the Pacific to discuss education and training needs for journalism in the region.

At that conference, the only press coverage we got in Australia was a little item in the Financial Review – about plane-loads of journalism teachers going off on a junket to a tropical resort, dining out at chic little waterfront bars – which seemed a bit unfair at the time, but was rather amusing and does seem to have a slightly familiar ring today.

In fact, the proceedings of the Vanuatu conference provided a useful blueprint for those of us involved in journalism training and other professional development programs for journalism in the region. And the work of that conference provided momentum for the development of AusAID’s Pacific Media Initiative.

Ten years ago, after the collapse of communism in Europe, the major powers had less strategic interest in the South west Pacific. And if you could put aside a coup or two in Fiji, the emerging Bougainville problem, and a few other hiccups, it looked as though the Pacific, if left alone, might return to paradise and peace.

As we have seen, this hasn’t happened. Rather, the time bombs of the colonial legacy have shattered any idea of a simple peace. Most threatening of these is the unresolved disputation over traditionally-owned land, something we know about in this country.

In the absence of effective conflict-resolution systems, and effective governance generally, these disputes in the Pacific have flared – as we have seen in the Solomons, or have been exploited by others, as we have seen in Fiji.

On top of this, the less deliberate forces of globalisation have pushed the Pacific into the world community, bringing economic benefits for some and improved communication between the Pacific and other countries. But they have also often brought great disappointment and frustration, as, for example, when the disaffected youth of many Pacific nations find they have no realistic way of emulating the lifestyles of the Western youth they see depicted in the media.

What does the Pacific have to do with journalism education?

1. As Sean Dorney has persuasively argued, for Australian journalism, the Pacific is an increasingly important news round. The South west Pacific is in Australia’s sphere of influence. Journalists of the future in this country need to know how to report this round, and how to make good news judgments on the Pacific. And there are growing links between the Pacific and the region to our north – such as the Pacific interest in West Papuan independence.

2. The experience of journalists working in the Pacific is a source of inspiration and case study material for Australia journalism educators. We can, for example, share experiences on reporting corruption, land rights issues, and other issues of mutual relevance.
3. Many of us have international students from the Pacific. It helps us in our relationship with them to be knowledgeable about their world.

4. For Australia-based journalism educators and researchers, Pacific news media are an important area for socially-useful research. News media ownership patterns, news organisation studies, the way Pacific news media report impending disasters such as HIV-Aids … these are important topics for us to research.

5. At a professional level, Australian journalism institutions, including the journalism education sector, are well placed to share knowledge and understanding with Pacific journalism colleagues, and arguably they have an obligation to do so. The promotion of this philosophy is the major goal of our Centre for International Journalism.

5. Australian journalism educators are also well placed to help journalism teaching colleagues at Pacific universities.

6. And lastly, understanding the Pacific helps us understand more about ourselves, and the position of indigenous people in Australia. It is worth remembering that in this country, the colonisers stayed on as settlers and ultimately the rulers. In most Pacific nations, the colonisers went home, leaving the indigenous people to rule.

On our panel today, we have people with special talent and experience who will be able to expand on these and other ideas.

Panel:

David Robie, University of the South Pacific
Suzanna Layton, University of Queensland
Trevor Cullen, University of Queensland
Mark Pearson, Bond University

We also very pleased to have 11 Pacific journalists, who are currently doing a course on Government and Economic Reporting with the Centre for Democratic Institutions at ANU and the Centre for International Journalism at the University of Queensland. They are:

Neville Choi, The Independent (PNG)
Frederica Delailomaloma, The Fiji Times
Imraz Iqbal, Fiji Television
Gorethy Kenneth, Post-Courier (PNG)
Brenda Mauli, Link Magazine (Solomon Islands)
Vijay Narayan, FM96 (Fiji)
Rozzaalee Nongebatu, Solomon Islands Broadcasting Commission
Colin Taimbari, Post-Courier (PNG)
Winston Tarere, The Trading Post (Vanuatu)
Wilson Toa, The Vanuatu Weekly (Vanuatu)
Melanie Vari-Turia, The National (PNG)

They have chosen to respond to the other panelists.”