

Busy agenda for Christchurch conference

A packed programme has been released for the Christchurch conference, including 12 papers, a panel discussion on industry links, and a workshop with Sam Sefuiva from the Human Rights Commission.

The two-day Jeanz annual conference, themed *The practice of journalism in an increasingly diverse society*, will be hosted by the NZ Broadcasting School at CIPT on Wednesday and Thursday, December 1-2.

The conference dinner at the Christchurch Town Hall will be addressed by Lincoln Tan, a journalist-turned-businessman who organised an anti-racism march in Christchurch earlier this year.

[Conference programme.](#)

[Abstracts](#) of conference papers have been supplied by Philip Castle, Yvonne Densem, Nadia Elsaka, Grant Hannis, Peter Northcote, Allison Oosterman, Venetia Sherson, Ruth Thomas, Jim Tully and Ndaeyo Uko. AL

CIPT is on Madras St. See grid reference T18 on [Christchurch map](#)



Jeanz grants go to AUT student and staffer

AUT masters student Christine Gounder will be at the Christchurch conference, having won the first grant for a journalism/communication student with a Maori or Pacific background to attend a Jeanz conference. This grant is funded by Waiariki Polytechnic and Massey University. Born in Fiji, Christine has a BA in Journalism and Literature from the University of the South Pacific, and is studying for her MA in Communication Studies at AUT. She works as a journalist for *The New Zealand Catholic*. She plans to do her thesis on the media coverage of George Speight's coup.

And congratulations to AUT journalism lecturer Allison Oosterman, the second winner of the annual JEA/Jeanz conference grant. Allison will give a paper at the JEA conference in Fiji next month, with her conference and travel expenses covered by the grant.

The judges felt her paper "Inky Wayfarers" would appeal to a conference of Australian journalism educators, as it discusses trans-Tasman journalism connections in the early 20th century. The research has been part of Allison's PhD study on New Zealand war reporting. She will present the paper in Christchurch before heading to Fiji. Allison was with the *NZ Herald* for five years, and edited a national food business publication for 14 years. She graduated with a Master of Arts (Hons) from AUT in 2000. The judges were pleased with the entries and say the grant is worthwhile to encourage beginning academics and maintain links with our Australian colleagues. RT/AL



Southworth to retire after 10 years at JTO helm

Bill Southworth (62), executive director of the New Zealand Journalists Training Organisation, is retiring at the end of March. Bill, who has held the job since July 1995, introduced the current moderation systems as well as annual sponsored seminars for working journalists.

He says the most satisfactory aspects of his JTO job were to see the National Maori Journalism course at Waiariki get onto a sound footing, and

"the development of a professional cadre of journalism teachers committed to industry standards-based courses".

He says he is retiring early partly due to a superannuation scheme negotiated by his union many years ago but mainly so he can finish the books in his bookcases (while he's not fly-fishing in a remote trout stream.) Bill had been a daily newspaper editor and a network television current affairs producer in New Zealand and Canada.

The executive director's position is expected to be advertised in November. BS/AL

Massey cuts graduate diploma intake to 25 students

Massey's graduate diploma in journalism programme will be restricted to 25 students next year, down from 40. Journalism lecturer Alan Samson says the decision was made partly in response to industry needs, partly to bring the school in line with the country's other top institutions, and partly to better enable the highest of teaching standards.

The teaching year ended with a flourish at Massey with the presentation of the Alex Veysey award - \$500 from the *Dominion Post* - to Derek Cheng. Derek was judged the student who best encapsulates the journalistic flair and love of life of the late Alex Veysey.

Post-exams, students were all on final three-week placements around the country, from Auckland to Invercargill. Four scholars have been selected for two-month stints at the *Phnom Penh Post* and the *Shanghai Daily*. Four others were in full-time work before the course ended.

The school has a new academic appointment: James Hollings, ex-longterm reporter and sub at the now-extinct *Evening Post*, more recently sub at Radio New Zealand, and director of the doco *The Last Post* (about the 2001 merger of the *Post* and the *Dominion*). He will join Dr Grant Hannis, Alan Samson and a soon-to-be appointed assistant lecturer.

Massey's extramural journalism courses for 2005 (non-vocational) have undergone a revamp, with papers available in a stand-alone Applied Diploma in Journalism, or as part of a new Bachelor of Communications degree. Papers available in 2005 include Introduction to Journalism; Freelancing and Feature Writing; Writing, Sub-editing and Publishing; News Media Processes (all Stage 2); and Public Relations; Media Law and ethics; Contemporary Issues in Global Journalism; and Environment and Science Reporting (all Stage 3). The Environment and Science Reporting option represents an exciting new direction in New Zealand, with its emphasis on both understanding science and New Zealand scientists, as well as the reporting. Other papers are in train. It is intended that the new Bachelors' degree will also to some degree feed the internal, vocational course. AS/AL

Waiariki gets another tick in JTO audit

Waiariki journalism programme's advisory committee heard recently that it had been successful in a second audit in two years. The JTO audit checks the school is assessing in line with unit standards and industry expectations.

Programme leader Annabel Schuler says she combined the visit from the journalists and ex-journalists (who are part of the advisory committee) with a panel discussion with students. This was lively and both "sides" enjoyed the interaction, says Annabel.

She adds: "It was an ex-Waiariki student of some years ago who was found to have plagiarized some material for a feature in the *New Zealand Herald*. Last week we had a senior journalist in talking to students who described how she had had to pull a feature together on an issue quickly and had used web-based material as her basis for the feature. Students and tutors agreed more work needs to be done in this area." AS/AL



Pacific programme sends students to Fiji

Two journalism students are off to Fiji next week for work placements on the *Fiji Times* and *Islands Business*, thanks to a new Pacific work placement award.

The Pacific Cooperation Foundation launched its media graduate placement (print) programme in September. The first recipients, Jonathan Dow (AUT) and Duncan Wilson (Canterbury University), start their one-month placement in Suva on November 8. Jon will work at the *Fiji Times* while Duncan is going to *Islands Business*.

Programme manager David Vaeafe says the foundation plans two print placements a year into the Pacific. Next year it will launch a placement programme for electronic media students.

Journalism schools in the Pacific at USP (Fiji), NUS (Samoa) and PNG University (Papua New Guinea) will be offered a programme to enable their students to come to New Zealand for work experience. Programme details: www.pcf.org.nz

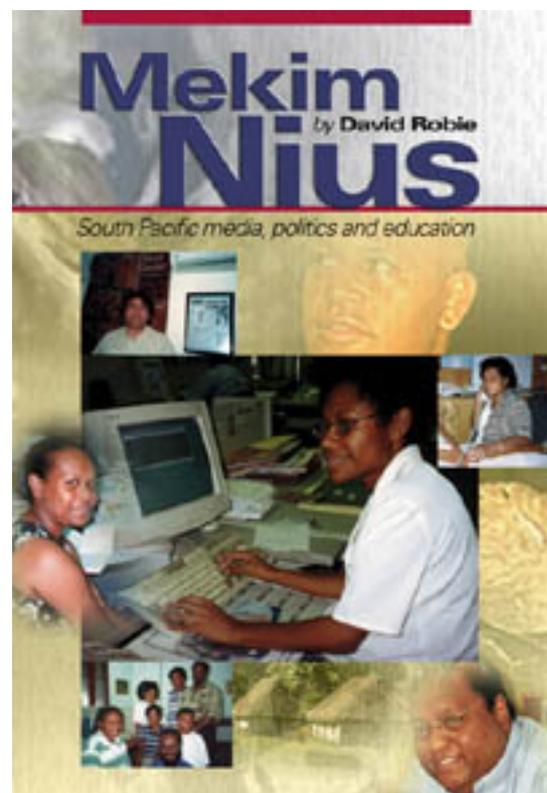
New book challenges Pacific donor training culture

A new book is being published next month that challenges the South Pacific's culture of short course training funded by international donors.

The book, *Mekim Nius: South Pacific Media, Politics and Education*, questions the aid gravy train and makes a strong case for journalism education and training at the region's universities.

Author David Robie, AUT's diversity and publications coordinator, says the region's media industry has become the captive of training donor agencies. He says the university-based journalism schools have the capacity to develop an independent and focused regional industry media training strategy.

Dr Robie, who headed two of the region's journalism schools for most of the past decade (University of Papua New Guinea and the University of the South Pacific), says New Zealand has played a crucial role in developing media education in the Pacific.



From the founding of the region's first journalism school with New Zealand aid at UPNG in 1975, *Mekim Nius* traces three decades of history of South Pacific media education. The author also examines the impact of the region's politics on the media in the two major news countries, Fiji and Papua New Guinea - from the Bougainville conflict and Sandline mercenary affair to Fiji's coups.

Dr Robie interviewed 57 Pacific journalists, educators and media policy makers and conducted two newsroom surveys in Fiji and PNG.



Mekim Nius will be launched at the JEA conference in Suva in December. The New Zealand launch is scheduled for February. Price: F\$25 plus postage. Orders: info@uspbookcentre.com
Further information from David Robie: David.robie@aut.ac.nz

Caption: *Post-Courier* then *Fiji Times* publisher Tony Yianni, one of the Pacific's innovative executives (an image from the book). DR/AL

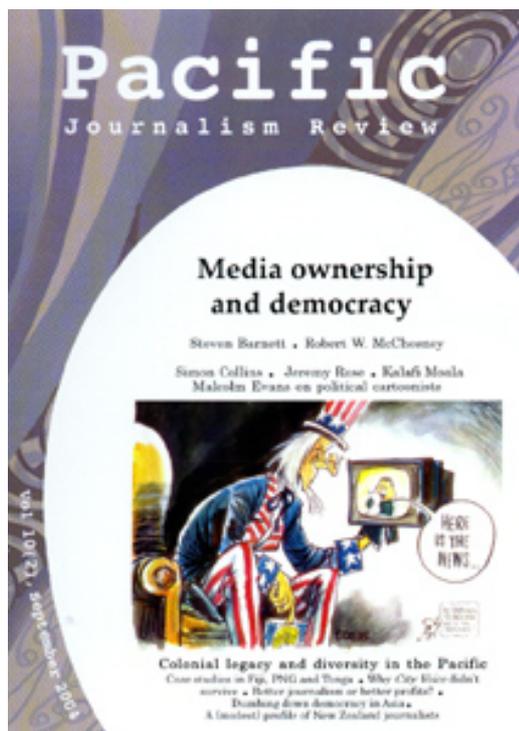
Jesson fund offers \$3000 for quality journalism

The Bruce Jesson Foundation is again offering a \$3000 grant for "critical, informed, analytical and creative journalism or writing which will contribute to public debate in New Zealand on an important issue or issues". The foundation was set up after Jesson's death in 1999.

Foundation chair Professor Andrew Sharp says the fund aims to foster the in-depth critical analysis that Jesson produced in *Metro* magazine, in books and in his own publication, *The Republican*. "Many people - journalists, academics, students, workers and people in all walks of life - have ideas for this kind of work, but can't afford to take the time off paid work, or need help with the cost of phone calls, books or travel," says Sharp.

The first round of applications for the new fund earlier this year drew eight applicants. The award pool was split equally with grants of \$1500 each to journalist Nicky Hager, for a book on New Zealand's alliance links with the US, Australia, Canada and Britain, and to community worker Tina McIvor for a study on the culture of the Ministry of Social Development's Benefit Control Unit.

Applications close on 21 January, 2005. Details at www.brucejesson.com



PJR looks at media ownership and democracy

Media ownership in NZ and the Asia-Pacific region feature in the latest edition of *Pacific Journalism Review* (AUT) mailed out this week to subscribers. Other articles include case studies on *City Voice*, the Malcolm Evans cartoon controversy and media regulation in Fiji, PNG and Tonga.

Contributors include Bob McChesney, Steven Barnett and Geoff Lealand with an article based on his (modest) third national NZ journalist survey for the JTO. Another strong review section is featured.

Papers are now called for the September 2005 edition of *PJR*(11-2), which has the theme "Media accountability and ethics" in Australia, NZ and the Pacific. Professor Claude-Jean Bertrand, the Paris University authority on media accountability systems, is co-editing this edition. DR/AL

Deadline for papers is April 30, 2005: [Call for papers](#)

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