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Australia **PACIFIC**  
Security College

## A Quarter of Extremes

Since our last newsletter, it goes without saying that the security threats facing our region have been brought into stark focus. COVID-19 is certainly adding to the full range of security priorities encompassed in the 2018 PIF Boe Declaration and creating policy challenges, not just in the Pacific but across the globe. Amidst the growing security pressures facing policy development and cooperation, our mandate is stronger than ever.

The rapidly evolving COVID-19 situation is pushing the College to be creative and innovate as we review our 2020 Work Plan in consultation with our partners. We are all on a rapid learning curve to find the best ways to keep in touch and use digital and video technologies to continue to work productively with the region. We are currently developing our PSC Blog series, PSC website and some offerings of on-line learning. We'll keep you posted with relevant links via our emails!

Before COVID-19 disruptions, my team and I have further consulted in Fiji, Vanuatu, New Zealand and in Australia this quarter, meeting with government officials and regional agencies to discuss collaborations. Highlights for this quarter include:



a rewarding visit to Vanuatu to explore how the College could support their national security initiatives, and implement their national security strategy. We were grateful to be able to discuss security issues with a range of agencies including: the National Women's Association, Police, National Disaster Management Office, Customs, Malvatumauri Council of Chiefs, and Ministry of Internal Affairs. On a personal level, it was great to get out for a kayak on Port Vila's harbour before flying to Fiji!

a short follow-up visit to Fiji to plan a second workshop with the Ministry of Defence and National Security to support the implementation of their soon-to-be-launched National Security

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We also benefited from discussions with local universities.

During a valuable second visit to New Zealand, we continued discussions about regional collaboration. It was disappointing for all in Canberra that the topical public lecture on Health Security by New Zealand's High Commissioner to Australia had to be postponed – but we hope to produce a short podcast as a placeholder for the live performance to be held at a later date!

Finally, I was able to present and discuss College matters with the Pacific Island Chiefs of Police at the Australian Institute of Police Management facilities in Sydney (AIPM). We are exploring productive ways to work with, and support, the increasingly complex and diverse work of police and other security agencies.

We'll miss not visiting you for a little while, so for now, keep safe and stay strong.



Professor Meg Keen, Director.

## Inaugural Advisory Board Meeting



- Air Chief Marshall (Ret'd) **Mark Binskin** AC (Chair): former Chief of the Australian Defence Force
- Mr **Ross Ardern**: Administrator of Tokelau, former NZ High Commissioner
- Ms **Audrey Aumua**: Deputy Director-General, SPC
- Ms **Rhea Moss-Christian**: Chair of the Marshall Islands National Nuclear Commission
- Sir **Rabbie Namaliu**: former Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea
- Ms **Teima Onorio**: former Vice-President of Kiribati
- Tuiloma **Neroni Slade**: former Secretary-General of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat
- Ms **Silipa Tagicaki-Kabuabola**: Lieutenant Commander in the Royal Fiji Military Force Naval Division

The Board will help shape the direction of the College and connect us to a diverse range of stakeholders. We are indeed honoured to have Board members with such depth and breadth of experience. A copy of the Communique from the Board meeting can be found at:

<https://psc.crawford.anu.edu.au/news-events/news/16322/advisory-board-communique>

## Anchoring Strategic Analysis



Leaders from across the Pacific are interested in developing stronger analytic skills to assist them to frame key policy decisions and shape security dialogues. PSC has been responding to this request through the 'Anchoring Strategic Analysis' course for security professionals.

The course covers skills and approaches to better conduct strategic analyses and is targeted to government and non-government participants from across the region. Key issues examined include regional, national and international issues related to climate security, health security, transnational crime, border security and cybersecurity. To date, PSC has successfully delivered two 'Anchoring Strategic Analysis' courses to Pacific islands policymakers. The demand for the course is growing.



## Pacific Lecturer: Dr Henry Ivarature

We are pleased to welcome Dr Henry Ivarature to the PSC team as our Pacific Lecturer.

Based in Port Moresby for now – but soon to join us in Canberra (we hope!), Dr Ivarature has extensive development experience in the Pacific Islands from his employment at the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA), institutional strengthening at the Pacific Institute of Leadership and Governance (PILAG), as well as PNG public service and research institutions. He has a PhD in Sociology and a Masters in Public Administration from Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand.

With research interests including human security, regional governance and public sector leadership capacity building and effective education, he will make a great contribution to the PSC team.



## Communications Director: Ben Bohane

We are pleased to welcome Ben Bohane to the PSC this quarter as the College's Marketing and Communications Officer.

Ben is an Australian photojournalist, producer and policy analyst based in Vanuatu. He has formerly worked as the Communications Director of the Pacific Institute of Public Policy and is the founder of Waka Photo Agency and co-founder of the Australian war photographers collective Degree South.

Ben has an MA in Journalism with a thesis exploring "kastom" and cult movements in Melanesia. In 2019 he was commissioned by the Lowy Institute to write their main report ahead of Bougainville's referendum on independence. Ben has worked for many major international news organisations, reporting on conflict from Afghanistan to Burma to the Solomon Islands. His photos are collected by The New York Metropolitan Museum of Art, the British Museum and Australian War Memorial.

***Next newsletter we'll introduce two additional staff members beginning shortly: Ms Ali Gillies (Gender Adviser) and Ms Maima Koro (Program Manager).***

## Reflecting Security and Resilience

The COVID-19 pandemic has heightened human security concerns in the Pacific region. This crisis is demanding countries in our region innovate and take bold steps - despite not knowing the outcome. In this period, we are going to be learning from the actions and practices of countries around us. The College sees



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partner with one the region's premier public policy platforms - Policy Forum - to provides blogs, op-eds and journal articles.

In our first blog, *Professor Meg Keen* takes a look at the regional collaboration which has been fostered, and necessitated by COVID-19.

In our second blog, *Dr Henry Ivarature* writes from Port Moresby about transmission and security risks along the PNG border.

And in our third piece, the College has developed a tracking matrix to monitor policy responses by governments across the region to COVID-19.

[www.policyforum.net](http://www.policyforum.net)

*A Model of Transparency for the Fisheries Industry*, by Grant Walton, Meg Keen, Quentin Hanich

<https://devpolicy.org/a-model-of-transparency-for-the-fisheries-industry-20200317/>



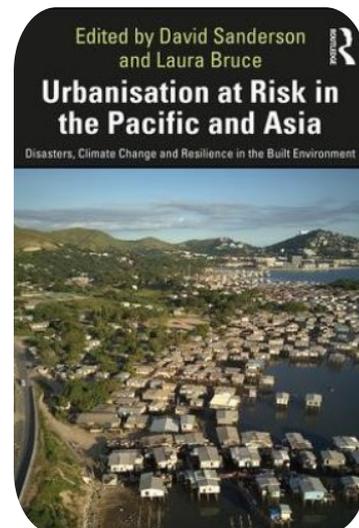
(Credit: ABC/Greg Wilesmith)

A new book is coming out from Routledge about urbanisation, resilience and human security.

Chapters addressing Pacific island issue include:

- M Keen and J Connell, "*Urbanization at Risk: Towards a Framework for Urban Resilience in Pacific Small Island Developing States*"
- M Keen and P Jones, "*Resilience in Pacific Towns and Cities: The Social Dimensions of Change*"

<https://www.routledge.com/Urbanisation-at-Risk-in-the-Pacific-and-Asia-Disasters-Climate-Change/Sanderson-Bruce/p/book/9780367258474>.



## Sharing our Experience - Putting Pen to Paper

Our new Communications Manager, Ben Bohane, is helping us to establish our website and a Blog series on COVID-19, Security and Collaborations. We welcome your contributions of 700-1000 words to our Blog on issues such as how COVID-19 is impacting on life, policy and security – broadly defined! This is not an academic blog, it is all about Pacific (and Pacific concerned) voices providing useful insights and stories that can help all respond, recover and raise resilience in the face of COVID-19 and other security challenges. Got an idea – discuss it with Ben - [bbohane@netspace.net.au](mailto:bbohane@netspace.net.au).

We are also starting work on a Special Edition of the *Development Bulletin* which will focus on *Pacific Island Regional and National Security*. This publication will be out at the end of the year and freely available in electronic and hard copy versions. We want to explore the diverse initiatives and insights that respond to the PIF *Boe Declaration on Regional Security* and advance climate, resource/environment,

If you have an idea for a contribution, contact: [pamela.thomas@anu.edu.au](mailto:pamela.thomas@anu.edu.au)

## Save the Date!

With most of us 'locked down', it's nice to have something to look forward to post-COVID-19. So we are doing our bit to keep planning for the future. We have begun to plan for our conference on **Urban Resilience in the Asia Pacific (3-4 December)** to be hosted in Sydney with UNSW, Harvard Humanitarian Initiative, ARUP and SEEDS India. This year we'll be focusing on the Pacific islands, so we welcome interest in presentations from those with direct experience of how the Pacific island countries are dealing with resilience issues from COVID-19 to Climate to Cities. Some themes are:

- Difficult trade-offs: high impact low-frequency events versus everyday risk
- Black swans or white elephants? Planning for the unexpected while not wasting resources
- Communicating threat without causing panic
- Readiness: how to enact preparedness in a time of unprecedented need.

PSC is interested to hear from Pacific island policymakers wanting to attend and share their experiences.

Visit the website: <https://urap2.com/conference>

## Keep in touch!

We recognise the importance of regional connectivity and the need for dialogue, knowledge sharing and collaboration in an increasingly crowded Pacific. Through bespoke courses and technical assistance, we will create opportunities for further learning and the exchange and development of ideas to advance the security agenda of the Pacific islands.

If you have suggestions for workshops, training, or future collaborations, please get in contact.

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