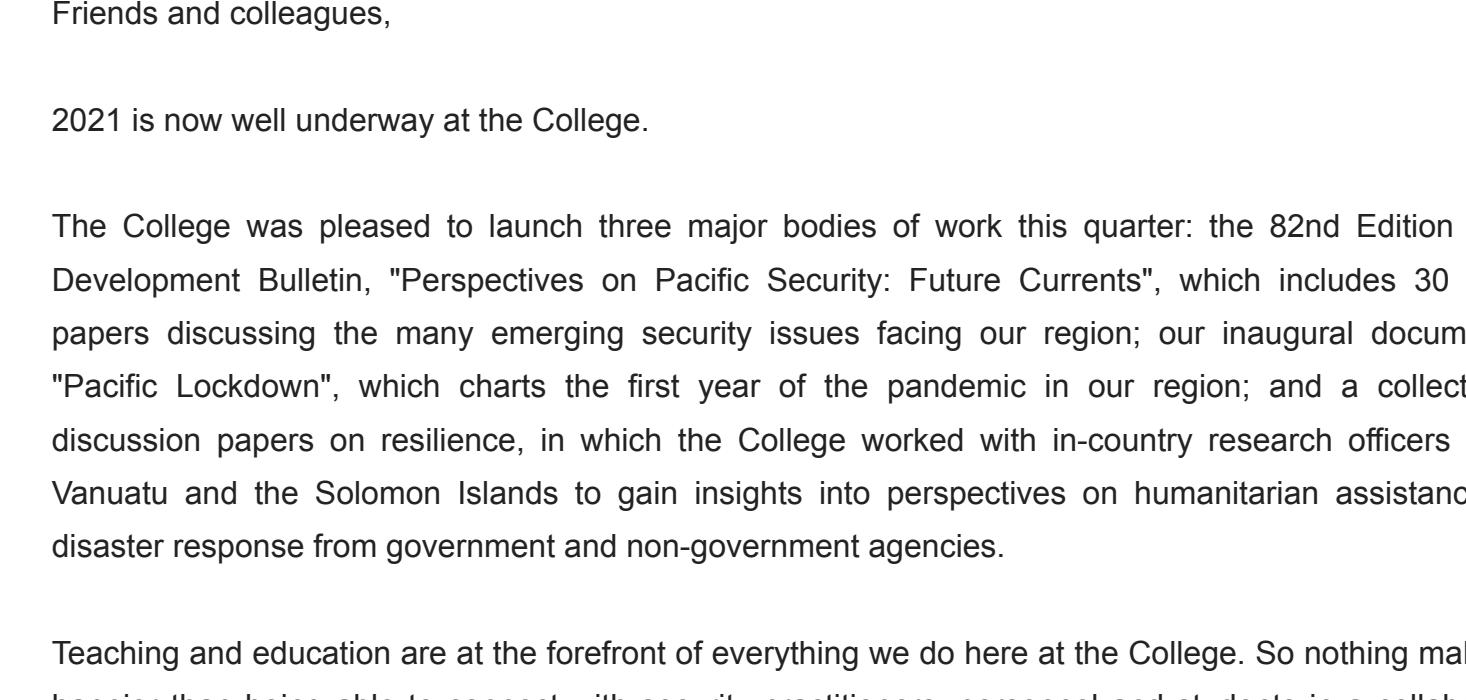


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Friends and colleagues,

2021 is now well underway at the College.

The College was pleased to launch three major bodies of work this quarter: the 82nd Edition of the Development Bulletin, "Perspectives on Pacific Security: Future Currents", which includes 30 expert papers discussing the many emerging security issues facing our region; our inaugural documentary "Pacific Lockdown", which charts the first year of the pandemic in our region; and a collection of discussion papers on resilience, in which the College worked with in-country research officers in Fiji, Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands to gain insights into perspectives on humanitarian assistance and disaster response from government and non-government agencies.

Teaching and education are at the forefront of everything we do here at the College. So nothing makes us happier than being able to connect with security practitioners, personnel and students in a collaborative learning environment. This quarter we were pleased to coordinate a number of education programs, including a regional law enforcement exercise and our popular Anchoring Strategic Analysis course.

Our friends, family and colleagues in Papua New Guinea are constantly in the College's collective thoughts and prayers. The loss of a great leader and father, Sir Michael Somare, was deeply felt. The unfolding, truly distressing COVID-19 outbreak in PNG, is putting an enormous strain on the country's health system and requires a strong, rapid and well coordinated approach by PNG and its partners. The College continues to accurately write and report on the [evolving situation in PNG](#), in order to provide analysis to policymakers, and engage with leaders across the region. Further afield, our new Pacific Policy Fellow, Jose Sousa-Santos, has been commenting on [Al Jazeera](#) and SBS World News about the twin crises faced in Timor-Leste.

Finally, have a look at our new website <https://pacificsecurity.net/>. It's a one-stop-shop for all your Pacific security resources.

Sincerely,

Meg,

Professor Meg Keen, Director.

Documentary Launch Pacific Lockdown - a Sea of Resilience

We launched our inaugural documentary "Pacific Lockdown" in March.

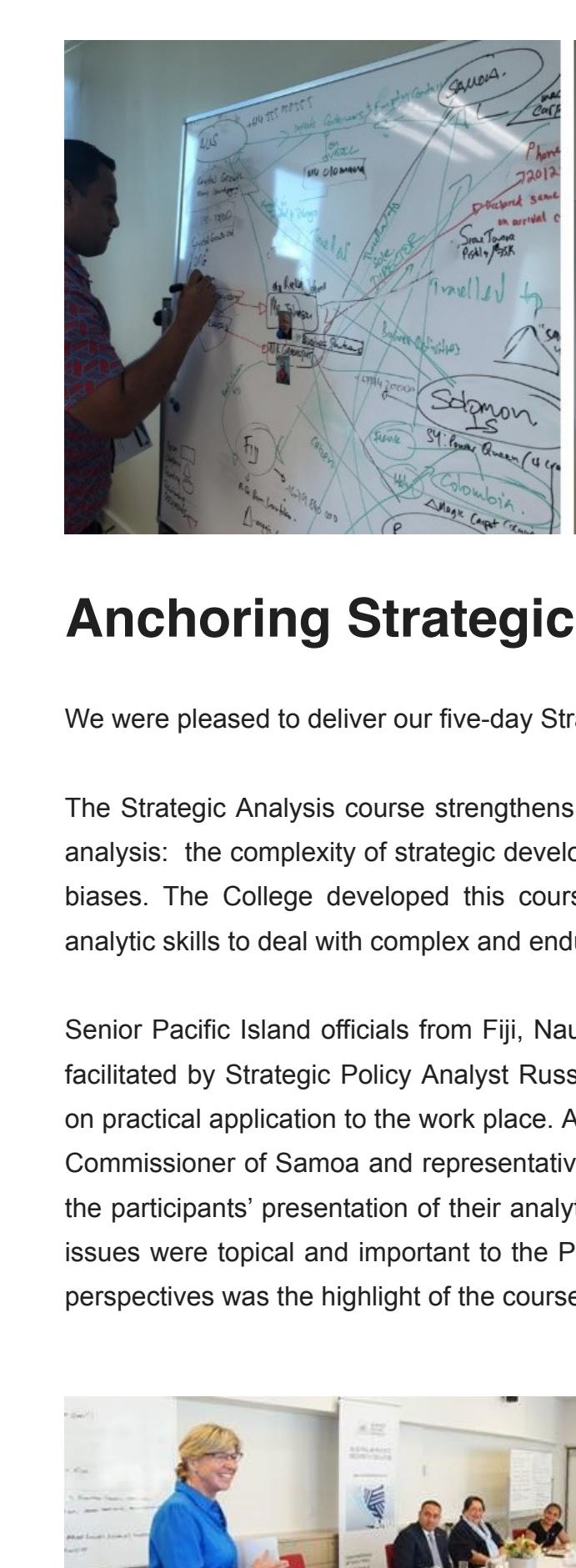
The documentary follows four video diarists in Samoa, Fiji, Papua New Guinea and Yap (Federated States of Micronesia) as they experience life during the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic. It combines their experiences with insights and analysis from experts include Dr Paula Vivili from SPC, Dr Henry Ivarature from our College and Vani Catanaiga from the NDMO in Fiji.

We were fortunate to have Senator the Hon. Zed Seselja, Minister for International Development and the Pacific, as well as ANU Deputy Vice Chancellor Sally Wheeler, as well as many members of the Pacific diplomatic community, and the Pasifika community here in Canberra join us for the launch. And we are thankful for the storytelling craft shown by the film's director, our Communications Manager Ben Bohane.

The documentary will be available to broadcasters in the region before eventually being made available online internationally. You can watch a trailer for it, [here](#).



Reporting on Trends in Pacific Security



Development Bulletin 82 - Perspectives on Pacific Security: Future Currents

Regional and national security challenges are mounting in the Pacific Islands, and they demand new approaches to respond.

PSC joined with the Development Studies

Network to produce a special edition of the *Development Bulletin* that takes a critical look at contemporary security issues facing the region.

This special issue, *Perspectives on Pacific Security: Future Currents*, considers how Pacific Islanders are addressing security pressures and charting new ways to secure their resources, food, health and way of life.

You can download a copy of the Bulletin [here](https://pacificsecurity.net/resource/development-bulletin-82/) or if you would like to request a hard-copy, please email PSC@anu.edu.au

Resilience

In partnership with in-country research officers in

Fiji, Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands, PSC has

produced three discussion papers on resilience in

Melanesia's urban environments. These papers

included input from stakeholder interviews with

representatives from government, CSOs, NGOs

and INGOs who reflected on humanitarian

assistance and disaster response.

These discussion papers found that all three countries have successfully strengthened their disaster response systems through significant investment, including financial, human resources and policy development. These strengthened systems contribute to stronger national response mechanisms. Systems are getting better at considering the needs of the most vulnerable, but there is still scope for improvement, strengthened collaboration and more integration across local to regional scales.

The three discussion papers are available for download [here](#).

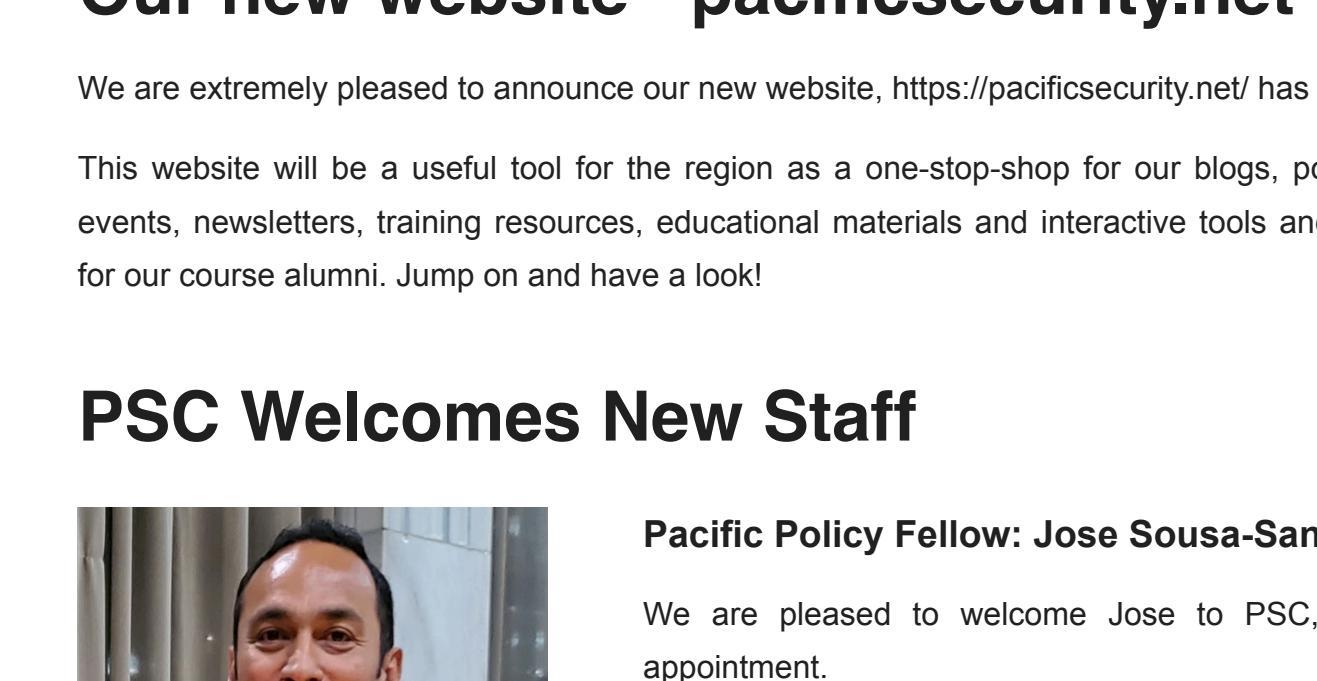
Regional Law Enforcement Exercise

The College was delighted to work with the Secretariats of regional law enforcement organisations – Pacific Islands Chiefs of Police (PICP), Oceania Customs Organisation (OCO) and the Pacific Immigration Development Community (PIDC) – to conduct a pilot desktop exercise on improved law enforcement cooperation. The Secretariats invited three countries to take part in the exercise — Fiji, Samoa and the Solomon Islands. The countries provided 'teams' that included police, customs, immigration and Transnational Crime Unit members.

The exercise scenario addressed intersections between trafficking of illicit goods, irregular border crossings, smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons. Themes also included aspects of financial crime, money laundering and identity fraud. The focus of the exercise was on how law enforcement agencies cooperate, share information, and work with other parts of government to deliver improved security outcomes.

National taskforces presented findings and recommendations during the group sessions at the end of each day. These included a number of substantive recommendations for change. The role of in-country facilitators was critical to the success of the pilot exercise and PSC is indebted to the exercise facilitators for their commitment and preparation of the activity.

"It was the most successful exercise in a long time in igniting senior management discussion around law-enforcement collaboration" - course participant

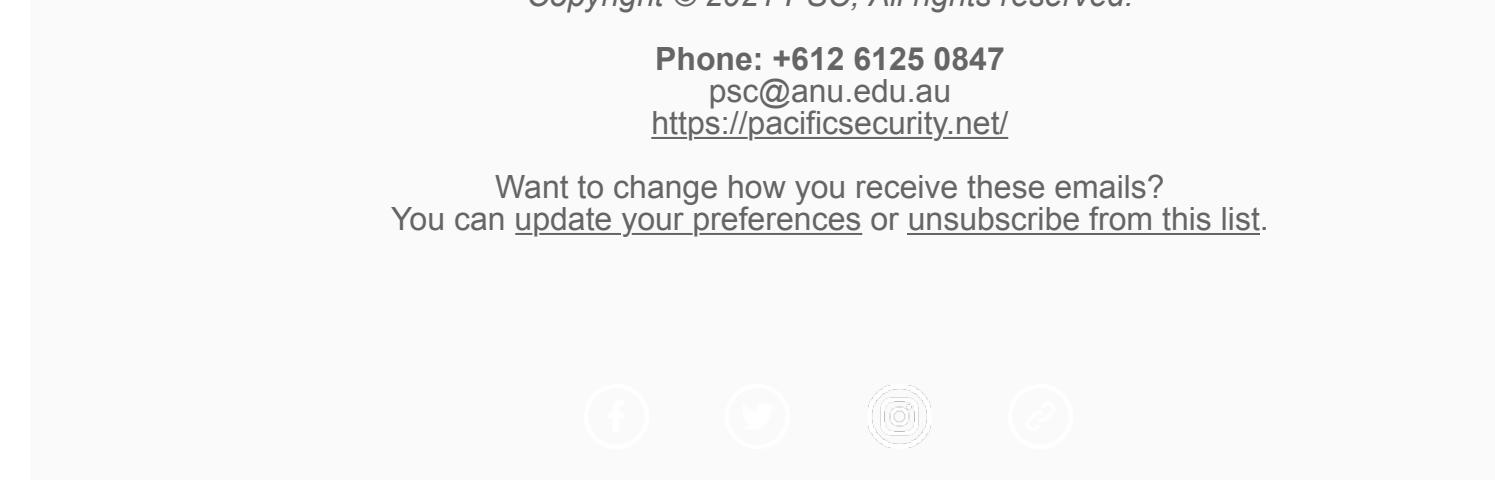


Anchoring Strategic Analysis

We were pleased to deliver our five-day Strategic Analysis course again this quarter.

The Strategic Analysis course strengthens participants' skills in grappling with the perennial problems of analysis: the complexity of strategic developments, incomplete and ambiguous information, and cognitive biases. The College developed this course in response to requests from Pacific security leaders for analytic skills to deal with complex and enduring security challenges.

Senior Pacific Island officials from Fiji, Nauru, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Tonga attended the training facilitated by Strategic Policy Analyst Russell Swinnerton. The course was interactive, with an emphasis on practical application to the work place. A clear element of the success was the participation by the High Commissioner of Samoa and representatives from Fiji and Tonga in Canberra as panel members to hear the participants' presentation of their analytical products on transnational crime issues in the Pacific. The issues were topical and important to the Pacific, and the sharing of government policies and practitioner perspectives was the highlight of the course.



Our new website - pacificsecurity.net

We are extremely pleased to announce our new website, <https://pacificsecurity.net/> has now launched.

This website will be a useful tool for the region as a one-stop-shop for our blogs, podcasts, upcoming events, newsletters, training resources, educational materials and interactive tools and a learning portal for our course alumni. Jump on and have a look!

PSC Welcomes New Staff

Pacific Policy Fellow: Jose Sousa-Santos

We are pleased to welcome Jose to PSC, on a short-term appointment.

A member of the New Zealand Government's Pacific Reset Advisory Group, Jose's areas of expertise are transnational crime, regional security and non-state actors in the Pacific islands and Southeast Asia. He has formerly worked at the United States Pacific Command, Special Operations Command Pacific Cooperation Against Transnational Threats, the Pacific Area Security Sector Working Group, and held roles with Victoria University (Wellington) and the Australian National University. He also worked as an advisor to former Timorese Prime Minister Jose Ramos-Horta.

Keep in touch!

We recognise the importance of regional connectivity and the need for dialogue, knowledge sharing and collaboration in an increasingly crowded Pacific. Please keep in touch with us via email and also our new social media platforms! Please click on the links below to catch us on Facebook, Twitter and our website.

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