

Special Edition: Alumni Executive Fellowship to Australia

The Alumni Executive learning curve they will never forget



Serious group discussions at SCIT (L to R), Elsie Maino PNG, Teburea Mario KIRIBATI, Ahokava Fonokalafi TONGA, Kotone Alatimu SAMOA.

Learning from others

A large part of the Fellowship was dedicated to small workshops with Sunshine Coast Institute of TAFE, Box Hill Institute of TAFE, University of Sunshine Coast, Queensland University of Technology and Southern Cross University. Having workshops with both TAFE colleges and universities helped the participants identify the critical aspects of running Alumni associations. Two TAFE colleges explained that the vocational sector traditionally does not have strong, active and structured Alumni associations. They shared how they are developing effective Alumni

activities using web-based communication, social media tools and other strategies.

Universities have a long and strong history of active Alumni associations with chapters or branches geographically dispersed in parts of Australia and overseas. They explained that Alumni organisations can be quite formally structured, supported by detailed constitutions and underpinned by university by-laws and regulations. They can also be more informal and unstructured to suit the needs of different groups. Chapters and branches can be organised around graduate disciplines, country of origin, or even sporting and cultural interests.

All workshop hosts were unanimous in congratulating the fledgling APTC Alumni Chapters on the remarkable progress they had achieved in such a short time, and the strong support and contributions they had already made to their communities.

In support of these observations, **(continued on page 2)**



Box Hill's Exec Manager, Development & Graduate Services, Leonie Pope travelled from Melbourne to Queensland to share her Alumni management experience, seen here chatting with Amelia Kanalagi FIJI.

Why make the Journey?

The definition of fellowship is sharing similar interests, ideals or experiences.

"This was certainly the rationale, and eventual outcome of taking 12 APTC Chapter Chairs from eight different countries to Australia to study the organisation of Alumni associations in both universities and TAFE colleges," said Antoine Barnaart, GM APTC.

More specifically, the expected outcomes of the Fellowship were for Chapter Chairs to acquire the necessary knowledge and skills for the effective operation of Alumni committees, to broaden

their concept of leadership and management and to further develop their capacity to mentor other executive members.

"I can confidentially say that all these outcomes were well and truly achieved," said Liz Algar who was one of the four staff who travelled with and supported the Alumni Fellowship Team. She added that the Fellowship "was very informative, with lots learned, rewarding, and even though it was at a fast pace and left us all exhausted, it left me thinking more deeply and broadly about leadership."



William Tovehi TONGA presents Anita Edmonds Alumni Coordinator, University of Sunshine Coast with a gift of appreciation.



Alumni Fellowship group with Andrew Pentland and Anita Edmonds, University of Sunshine Coast.

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Julie Mannion, Alumni Relations Manager QUT said, "It was an honour to meet with the APTC representatives, but especially the APTC Chapter Chairs, who travelled from so many different countries. APTC is to be congratulated on starting work to develop the Alumni community. An Alumni program is concerned with mutual benefit to the members of the Alumni and the institution. After hearing the work that some of the Alumni Chapters are undertaking it is clear that the

Chapters are already undertaking valuable community service."

Good things can be achieved from effective Alumni associations and each organisation stressed that the resources required to run an Alumni association should be considered an investment, not a cost. Alumni allow the institutions to maintain close communication with former graduates and past staff for the obvious advantages of ongoing fellowship, promotion of the institution and courses, and significant philanthropic outcomes.

Leadership and Management

An important part of the Alumni fellowship program was dedicated to exploring new and existing concepts of leadership and management that are important in any organisation, regardless of its size and purpose.

As part of the Fellowship, APTC GM, Antoine Barnaart, conducted a two-day workshop at Greenmount, Coolangatta. He first explained to the delegates that to lead and manage teams, change and conflict in any environment, and particularly in a cross-cultural context, requires the ability to identify different types of workplace behaviours. Accepting and valuing this diversity of behaviour can be an advantage, not a disadvantage.

The first activity undertaken by the delegates was to explore and identify their own behaviours using the DiSC Behavioural Inventory. On completion of this task, the next step was to explore the difference between leadership and management, and the many types of leadership and management styles.

Reflecting on the workshop John Kuvi, Vice President said, "What a rewarding experience! The new skills and knowledge we learned are essential in any leadership role. For me, it was ideal, practical training to become a sound and better leader. This training should extend



Unexpected treat : Josaia Wainiu FIJI meets with Qld State of Origin hero, and Fijian born, Petero Cironiceva.

to all Alumni groups. I would recommend such training be provided in the Solomon Islands for all APTC graduates."

Team building

Running a successful Alumni Executive or Chapter requires a team approach. Teams need to communicate, plan and work hard together to be effective. They also need to be able to learn, laugh, relax and enjoy new experiences together.

The Fellowship program offered the opportunity for participants to do all of these things. For many, it was their first trip to Australia and for some it was the first time traveling out of their countries.

Every opportunity was made for them to experience Australian culture, the unique wildlife and environment, city and country, with visits to Sunshine Coast, Gold **(continued on 4)**



Getting closely acquainted with the local wildlife (L to R) Alelia Nagatalevu FIJI, Tarafina Saro FIJI, Amelia Kanalagi FIJI.



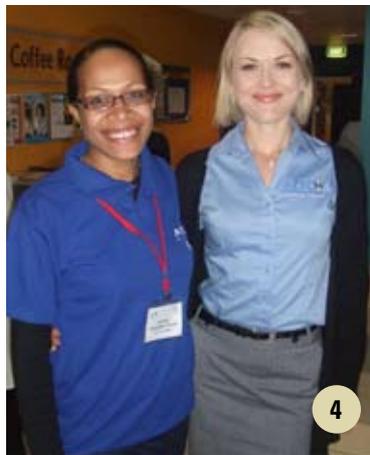
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1. Getting together after a successful workshop at SCIT.
2. Dancing up a storm during the Fellowship Cultural Night Liz Algar FIJI exchanging both dance and culture.
3. Wendy Hornsby Marketing Manager SCIT preparing for her workshop presentation.
4. Colleagues Kate Presswell ACEM AUST and Tarafina Saro ACEM FIJI take the rare opportunity to speak face to face.
5. Sharing an unusual Japanese dining experience in downtown Brisbane, don't drop the eggs!!!
6. Aho Kava Fonokalafi Fakaha Ma TONGA presents Lana Nancarrow SCU with a thank you gift.
7. Who is not sure of who ??? Charlie Vira VANUATU meeting his first kangaroo.
8. Planting the alumni friendship tree.
9. Charlie Vira VANUATU and James Matariki VANUATU explain the birthday gift they will give to Liz Algar FIJI.



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Who was elected el presidente?



Enjoying a remarkable Alumni workshop at QUT (L to R) Julie Thornton SCIT, Amelia Kanalagi FIJI, Julie Mannion Alumni Relations Manager QUT, Marisa Vecchio President QUT Alumni Board, Morag Hocknull QUT Alumni Board, Alelia Nagatalevu FIJI, Sarina Tamakin NAURU and Tarafina Saro FIJI.



Vice President, John Kuvi, SOLOMON ISLANDS taking in the scenery and greenery at Natural Bridge National Park.

The APTC Alumni draft constitution currently provides for an overall Alumni Executive, made up of all the Country Chapter Chairs, to provide broad leadership for the APTC Alumni. This Executive will be headed by a President and Vice President, elected by vote.

During the group's discussion on the constitution, Kotone Alatimu, Chapter Chair Samoa, proposed that instead of a vote, why not adopt the rotating chair concept used by the Pacific Island Forum so that each country gets a turn to lead the Alumni Association. This was unanimously endorsed, but it

was agreed the outcome had to reflect campus/non-campus and gender diversity. Fiji was chosen to provide the first President and Alelia Nagatalevu was elected as interim President, with John Kuvi, Solomon Islands elected as Vice President.

A big "congratulations" to both!

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Coast, Brisbane city centre, a bird sanctuary, Natural Bridge National Park and Movie World.

APTC Alumni Interim President Alelia Nagatalevu said, "I just keep on smiling, thinking about all the great experiences we had. It was so enriching that I believe that we returned

with lots of knowledge and great enthusiasm, ready for a new level of challenge."

James Matariki, Vanuatu commented, "It was a special event for all of us to join together to plant an Alumni banyan tree in Australia to represent our future friendship and growth as a leadership group. We know that having it planted at Antoine's place will

mean it will get good care and attention and will be safe in the years to come."

Liz Algar, Fiji added, "For me it the most significant event of the tour. It is our 'Tree of Knowledge' to give everyone of us the courage, wisdom and understanding to face all odds in life."

BIG THANKS

The interim APTC Alumni President, Vice President, APTC General Manager and Fellowship participants would like to thank all the generous hosts and speakers in Australia (see below) and AusAID (in particular Tina Seniloli) for being a strong supporter and approving this remarkable fellowship and experience.

SUNSHINE COAST INSTITUTE OF TAFE

- Ross Hepworth, Director SCIT,
- Wendy Hornsby, Marketing Manager,
- Julie Thornton, Director ACEM,
- Kate Preswell, ACEM

BOX HILL INSTITUTE

- Leonie Pope, Exec Manager, Development & Graduate Services

UNIVERSITY OF SUNSHINE COAST

- Anita Edmonds USC Alumni Coordinator
- Andrew Pentland, Executive Officer, Foundation

QUEENSLAND UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

- Scott Sheppard, Deputy Vice Chancellor
- Julie Mannion, Alumni Relations Manager
- Marisa Vecchio, President of QUT Alumni Board

- Morag Hocknull, QUT Alumni Board member
- Leesa Watkin, Alumni Relations Officer
- Tara Lynch, Information Officer
- Josephine Pacey, Alumni Events Officer
- Kym MacDonald, Annual Giving Officer
- Joanne Venturato, Senior Alumni Relations Officer

SOUTHERN CROSS UNIVERSITY

- Lana Nancarrow, Alumni Relations Manager

EAGER PARTICIPANTS

Alelia Nagatalevu, Chapter Chair, FIJI EAST, Certificate/Diploma in Children's Services

John Kuvi, Chapter Chair, SOLOMON ISLANDS, Certificate III in Hospitality Operations

Mohenes Singh, Chapter Chair, FIJI WEST, Certificate III in Children's Services/ TAA

Josaia Wainiu, Chapter Executive member LABASA FIJI, Certificate in Plumbing

William Tovehi, Chapter Chair, TONGA TONGATAPU, Certificate III in Hospitality Operations

Aho Kava Fonokalafi Fakaha Ma, Chapter Exec member, VAVA'U TONGA, Certificate III in Hospitality Operations

Charlie Vira, Chapter Exec member, SANTO VANUATU, Certificate III in Hospitality Operations

James Matariki, Dep Chapter Chair, PT VILA, VANUATU, Certificate III in Plumbing

Teburea Maio, Chapter Chair, KIRIBATI, Certificate IV in TAA

Sarina Tamakin, Chapter Chair, NAURU, Certificate IV in TAA ACEM

Kotone Alatimu, Chapter Chair, SAMOA, Certificate III in Automotive

Elsie Maino, Chapter Chair, PNG, Certificate IV in Hospitality Supervision

Antoine Barnaart, General Manager, APTC, FIJI

Amelia Kanalagi Scholarship & Alumni Officer, FIJI

Fina Saro, Scholarship Coordinator, ACEM SUVA, FIJI

Liz Algar, Student Welfare Officer, STH NADI, FIJI