

Alumni Newsletter

JUNE 2014

Message from the CEO



Welcome to the first edition of the Alumni Newsletter.

APTC has nearly 5,800 graduates. The Alumni Association has been formed to

ensure that our graduates stay connected with each other and with the College.

We take great pride in the work we do in the Pacific, and the impact that our network of Alumni have in this region and beyond.

We recognise the achievements of our graduates and their contribution towards advancing their industries and their own careers, as well as sharing their expertise with others they work with.

There are significant achievements, activities and positive news stories in relation to our Alumni community and this newsletter will serve as a platform to share these stories with you.

This will enable us all to celebrate these positive experiences.

As APTC Alumni, you have an important

role to play. You are a valuable representative of APTC and an advocate of the high quality Australian qualification you have received, to your place of employment and industry, your community and family.

I encourage you to actively participate in promoting the opportunity for the women and men of the Pacific to share in the opportunities you have had at APTC.

I also encourage you to stay in touch and to share with us your achievements beyond APTC.

With warm regards,

Denise O'Brien
 Chief Executive Officer
 Australia-Pacific Technical College

Alumni Facebook Page Launched



The Australia-Pacific Technical College Alumni Facebook page was officially launched during the APTC Nadi Graduation ceremony at Novotel Hotel on 14 March 2014.

APTC's Alumni presence on social media will strengthen links with graduates and offer another platform to stay connected with APTC and each other. All APTC graduates are encouraged to "like" the Facebook page and to share it with their friends and family to stay updated on all Alumni activities.

The APTC Alumni Facebook Page can be found at the following link: [f apts.alumni](https://www.facebook.com/aptc.alumni)

APTC welcomes new Alumni Coordinator



APTC welcomes Sangeeta Asre as their new Alumni and Student Recruitment Coordinator. Sangeeta will act as the APTC staff representative for all matters relating to Alumni. We encourage you to stay in contact with Sangeeta and to forward any suggestions for positive news stories that may be of interest to the Alumni community. You can also update your details to ensure that you stay in touch with each other and with the Alumni Association. Sangeeta's details are as follows:

Sangeeta Asre
 Coordinator of Alumni & Student Recruitment
 Australia-Pacific Technical College
 Phone: +679 672 8777
 Email : alumni@aptc.edu.au

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ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS

Alumni Provide Learning Resources to Child Care Centres

The Australia-Pacific Technical College (APTC) Alumni Association, Fiji, donated learning kits to children at three child learning centres in Suva in March 2014. The kits were made from timber cuttings and transformed into colourful blocks by Carpentry students of APTC Suva.

The three centres that benefited were Korovuto Kindergarten, Sabeto Muslim Kindergarten and FNU Play Centre, Lautoka. Each centre was provided with a box of learning materials. Another box of materials was also sent to Ulinakorovatu Preschool on Beqa Island.

APTC was represented at the donation event by Sangeeta Asre – Coordinator Alumni & Student Recruitment, Taraifina Saro - Student & Scholarship Services Supervisor and Nalini Kumar – Tutor Children Services, Namaka Campus.



Students at Korovuto Kindergarten playing with their wood blocks.

This was a project coordinated by the APTC Alumni Chapter Fiji-West headed by their Chapter Chair, Mohenesh Singh. APTC Carpentry students in Suva played a key role in facilitating this project.

According to Mohenesh, “block play is one of the important learning tools for children at their early stage of development. This helps children in fine motor skills, cognitive

skills, communication skills and socialising skills.” APTC Alumni have on their wider communities, sharing the skills they learnt at APTC through these types of community service projects.

Neha Ram, a teacher at the Korovuto Kindergarten said, “This sort of kindly donation will be put to great use and upon receiving the blocks, the young ones were right at it. They even asked for extra time to spend with their new tools”.

“There are many pre-schools in Fiji and its outer islands that face a scarcity of basic resources for example wood blocks and are constantly looking for donations to cater for the learning needs of young children,” noted APTC Tutor, Nalini Kumar.

APTC Alumni welcomes new students

The Australia Pacific Technical College (APTC) Samoa recently welcomed more than 200 students into courses ranging from trades, hospitality/cookery, and community services.

More than half of the new students are Samoans. As part of their orientation, the students were hosted by the APTC Alumni at a traditional Ava ceremony.

Students from Samoa, Niue, Tonga, Fiji, Marshall Islands, PNG, Solomon Islands, Kiribati, and Vanuatu took part in the welcome ceremony.

The Samoa Alumni President, Masoe Iosefa Tautua, said the ava ceremony was a fitting way to welcome the new students. “The Ava ceremony is very important,” said Masoe. “We are officially welcoming special guests to make them feel at home



Ava Ceremony

and accepted in the community.”

This is a new initiative by the Samoan Alumni, and one that is greatly appreciated by students and the management of APTC.

“The new students are special to everyone in APTC Samoa. Although we are all different I believe in unity in diversity as a common goal amongst all of us. “I wish the International and local new students the

best of luck in their studies and to live their dreams for their families and countries.”

The students in Samoa are studying courses in trades, hospitality/ cookery, community services and health. Skills acquired at APTC are internationally recognised, and help create pathways to future careers.

Among the students are enrollees to a new course this year - Certificate III in Allied Health. All of the 17 students enrolled for this semester are Samoans employed by the National Health Services as supporting staff. This is the first Health course for APTC anywhere in the Pacific.

Alumni members are hosting many of the international students at their homes and in their churches.

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Big celebrations for Samoa Graduation

The Honourable Prime Minister of Samoa, Afioga Fatialofa Tuilaepa Sailele Lufesolai Malielegaoi was the keynote speaker when 86 students graduated at the Australia-Pacific Technical College in Samoa in March 2013

The graduation ceremony was held at the Fale at the National University of Samoa with over 150 invited guests including the APTC CEO, Ms Denise O'Brien, graduating students, their families, and employers as well as other APTC supporters in the Samoan community.

The Prime Minister maintains to be a strong supporter of the Australia-Pacific Technical College since it began delivering training in the Pacific in 2007.

The 86 graduating students were all from Samoa and have successfully completed their studies in 16 APTC courses. They included Certificate III or Certificate IV in Tourism, Commercial Cookery, Hospitality



Samoa 2014 Graduation Ceremony

(Lodge Stream), Hospitality Supervision, Children's Services, Disability, Youth Work, Hairdressing, Home/Community Aged Care, Carpentry, Fabrication/Welding, Refrigeration & Air Conditioning, Automotive, Plumbing, Diesel Fitting and also Training and Assessment.

Highlights of this graduation and APTC included:

- First Samoan graduates in two new courses, which commenced in Samoa in July 2012 as a result of industry demand. All graduates from these programs are now

employed in Samoa.

- Certificate III in Children's Services (all graduates are preschool teachers)
- Certificate III in Disability (graduates are working with both children & adults with disabilities)

- First Samoan graduates in the following programs studied at APTC campuses in Fiji

- Certificate III in Painting & Decorating
- Certificate III in Home and Community Care/ Aged Care (dual Certificate)
- Certificate IV in Youth Work

- Four APTC tutors graduated in the Certificate IV in Training and Assessment – these local nationalisation of our training programs.

All APTC qualifications are recognised Australian awards, which is an additional advantage to Pacific region graduates who are interested in seeking employment opportunities and experience beyond their home countries.

ALUMNI PROFILE



Jenny Budara from Papua New Guinea graduated from APTC in 2012 with a Certificate III in Children Services.

Fun, laughter, smiles and sharing experiences with trainees and students from different Pacific Island countries are some

Jenny Budara

of Jenny's most memorable moments While studying at APTC Vanuatu Campus in Port Vila.

According to Jenny, being able to receive training from APTC was a golden opportunity as she had no prior qualifications.

Prior to receiving training from APTC, Jenny was an assistant at a local kindergarten. After graduating from APTC, she was promoted to become a class teacher in the same kindergarten.

Jennie has since migrated to Australia where she is working at the Ranstad Education Agency in Brisbane as a casual Childcare Educator.

According to Jennie, "It didn't take me long to get a job in Brisbane because my APTC certificate is under the Australian Framework.

I go to different Childcare Centres in Brisbane each day and I have learnt so many different things and the work I do is exactly the same as what I was taught and trained for by APTC. If it wasn't for APTC I wouldn't be doing the job I love. APTC has changed my life and my working standard."

KEEP IN TOUCH

Update your current contact details so we can keep in touch with APTC news and potential Alumni opportunities.

Visit the following link to update your contact details:

www.aptc.edu.au/index.php/alumni

You may also contact us to update your contact details.

Email: alumni@aptc.edu.au

Phone: (679) 672 8777