

THE ALUMNI

VOLUME 1

APRIL/MAY

Your APTC Alumni - your future

SINCE 2007 APTC has graduated more than 2800 students, opening doors of opportunity in a number of businesses throughout the region.

Most of you have received either a Certificate III or IV or Diploma that has qualified you to Australian standards. Yet 98% of you and your fellow graduates have opted to remain and contribute to the economy of your island countries.

You are fulfilling a goal set by APTC since its beginning, to help fill the shortage of skilled labour in Pacific Island Forum countries.

But now you have another role to play.

As graduates, if you have not already done so, you are now eligible to become a member of the Alumni Chapter in your country.

APTC General Manager, Antoine Barnaart reminds graduates that as Alumni, "you will always be a part of APTC: you take not only your certificates but also the future reputation of the College.



Nearly half the total graduates of APTC have now registered as Alumni in their island countries. And more are set to join. A significant number of these students from a recent graduation in Samoa have already expressed interest in being a part of their Samoan Alumni Chapter.

"I know that you will accept this responsibility seriously and not only be good ambassadors for the

APTC but also strong leaders in your industry and communities," said Mr Barnaart.

This Alumni newsletter will be produced quarterly to share chapter activities and personalities to help keep you up to date with your fellow members.

Because of your status as Alumni of APTC, you will have the opportunity to develop close working relationships with your country's business community and hear about jobs that can be shared with your and other Chapters in the region.

And because you have graduated from APTC you are aware of what is required for other students, not only when enrolling but in attending the College. You can be an enormous help to new students.

As an Alumnus, you can contribute towards developing community projects that reflect the principles of APTC in improving the lives of others.

As a member, you would participate with your Alumni Chapter in strengthening friendships through Alumni activities.

Chapter Directory

Country	Chapter Chair	Email Address
Tonga Nuku'alofa Vava'u	Mr William Tohovehi Ms Elina Lavulavu	wtovehi@gmail.com valinalavulavu@yahoo.com / ehavealin@ltschurch.org
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Vanuatu Vila Santo	Ms Viran Brown Mr Charlie Vira	vbrown@vanuatu.gov.vu hotelsanto@vanuatu.com.vu
Fiji - West Fiji - East	Mr Mohenesh Singh TBC	mohensh@gmail.com
Samoa	Mr Kotone Alatimu	kalatimu@yahoo.com

APTC constitution on the way

IN developing an Alumni APTC is well aware of the importance of presenting a Constitution that will provide guidelines for all Chapters.

The Constitution, now in the process of finalisation, states the Alumni's purpose: *To foster a beneficial relationship between the College, the Alumni and the community in support of the*

College goals to enhance the development of local, regional and international employment opportunities in the Pacific Island Forum countries.

As a living document, it is open to changes, and the APTC Coordination Office will always welcome suggestions that will help improve the Association and Chapters.



After the first graduation on Santo, Vanuatu, graduates established the Santo Chapter. (back, left to right) Steven Tari, Charlie Vira (President) and Kency William. (front, left to right) Joyce Bage (Treasurer), Joyline Tabianga (Vice President), Doris Nako (Secretary) and Manson Willi. (story page 2.)

Country	Graduates	Registered Alumni Numbers
Cook Islands	1	0
Fiji	847	570
FSM	4	0
Kiribati	71	53
Marshall Islands	3	0
Nauru	30	6
Niue	3	1
PNG	735	265
Palau	4	1
Solomon Islands	213	117
Tonga	170	80
Tuvalu	42	6
Vanuatu	379	244
Samoa	332	205
Grand Total	2834	1548

Chapter News

Samoa recruits new members



New members Louisa Saupo and Papali'i Natuitasina Tugaga.

MEMBERS of the Samoa Chapter have undertaken to actively seek out APTC graduates and invite them to join the Alumni.

All Alumni members concur that the personal approach, rather than relying on radio advertisements and newspaper notices, is more effective in attracting graduates to join the Association.

Being proactive has seen twenty new members join the Association at the most recent meeting.

Members have also agreed to gather on a weekly basis to recruit new members and progress work on the Samoan Alumni Six-month Activity Plan, which will be finalised at a large meeting planned for the 2nd of May.

Nauru active in community participation



Edward Grundler and Benjamin Pickering make Palm Pledges to stop violence against women.

MEMBERS of the Nauru Alumni are active in promoting community events.

In collaboration with the Nauru Public Health Department, the Chapter hosted a Walk4 Life event at the airstrip, which they identified as an APTC Alumni occasion with a blue, theme banner; Skills for Life. The invited employers, trades employees, Alumni members, and their friends were asked to wear blue shirts to promote TVET on Nauru at the event.

Amongst topics under discussion by the Executive Committee are ways in which to share skills with disadvantaged members of the community.

Kiribati chapter plans future activities



Kiribati members proudly wear their Alumni t-shirts to all meetings.

AFTER three meetings in 2011 and a successful fundraiser barbeque, the Kiribati Alumni Chapter is looking ahead to future activities.

Alumni members contributed food for the barbeque, an all-day affair held at the Betio roundabout that was used to promote APTC as well as raise money for future Alumni activities.

The Alumni members plan to host a formal dinner for members of the diplomatic community, and industry and business leaders, as a way of showcasing the results of APTC training and qualifications.

Vava'u assists departing students



Hingano Te'ekiu advising Alatinu Taufelungaki of Vava'u, on his way to study Certificate III Tourism Operations at the APTC Samoa Campus.

THE Vava'u Chapter is actively involved in preparing students for overseas study with APTC.

Of the twenty-seven Vava'u graduates, twenty-one are based on their home island. At the recent departure of 10 students, six from Vava'u and four from Tongatapu, Vava'u Alumni member Hingano Te'ekiu joined in assisting and farewelling the new students.

Planned activities under way in Vanuatu



Alumni President Viran Brown (centre) with members Linneth Kalmet (left) and Gladis Kamen (right).

THE year of activities planned by the Vanuatu Chapter of the APTC Alumni is well under way, with members taking an active role in the February Orientation program for new students at the APTC Vanuatu Campus, a Chapter meeting in March, and assisting in the April Graduation ceremony.

Alumni Fundraisers are planned in May and July, and an August meeting is planned to organise activities for the 16 Days of Activism later in the year.

PNG Alumni build strong foundation

WITH Elsie Maino as its Chairperson, and with 265 members already registered, PNG APTC Alumni have begun building a strong foundation to ensure it will grow from strength to strength over the coming years.

It is introducing a year planning calendar for 2011, a database that will include all PNG APTC graduates, and a Chapter leadership course is planned.

The Chapter, which has already had three meetings, is working with students before they leave for their APTC courses, with the Alumni advising them on the "challenges" they will face.

Full agenda at Solomon Islands inaugural meeting

THE full agenda of guest speakers at the inaugural meeting of the Solomon Islands Alumni was indicative of the wide-ranging interests of the newly formed Chapter.

The introduction of the newly elected interim committee was followed by new Chair John Kuve's power point presentation on his experiences as a national representative at the Shanghai Expo in 2010. The Committee wishes to develop relationships and involvement with community services stakeholders and activities. Potential partner organisations are being identified, and a letter to initiate meetings is being drafted.

Focus on youth by Tonga Nuku'alofa Chapter

THE Tonga Nuku'alofa Alumni have already raised the profiles of the Chapter and APTC within the local community by participating in the annual Tonga Trade Fair, and have agreed to do so every year.

As well as assisting members' employment opportunities, and fund-raising activities to assist the needy, the Chapter members plan on establishing relationships with local youth through setting up an outrigger canoe sports club.

Santo prioritises communication

EFFICIENT communication is a priority of the newly formed Santo Alumni Chapter. Each hotel and resort that employs APTC graduates has a representative on the Executive Committee. The members agree that this makes for the speedy dissemination of information, and helps foster closeness within the Chapter.

The March APTC graduation ceremony on Santo, a northern Vanuatu island, saw 29 enthusiastic new members join the Chapter and receive their Alumni t-shirts.

The members intend to meet every to meet every Monday, and look forward to setting their annual plan

Fiji Chapters organise



Vilikesa Saronicava, Makelesi Kulavere, Luisa Ruqima Kuini Tuicakau and Jone Valau at the initial meeting in Suva.

TO underscore the enthusiasm of graduates towards joining their Alumni Chapters, none is more evident than in Fiji.

To date, 847 students have graduated from APTC, of those, 570 have registered as Alumni.

To accommodate these numbers, three Alumni Chapters have been organised, one in Labasa on Fiji's second largest island, and two on its main island, Viti Levu, in the nation's capital Suva, and in Lautoka. The second meeting will address the official setting up of the Chapters, according to Amelia Kanalagi, APTC College Alumni Officer.