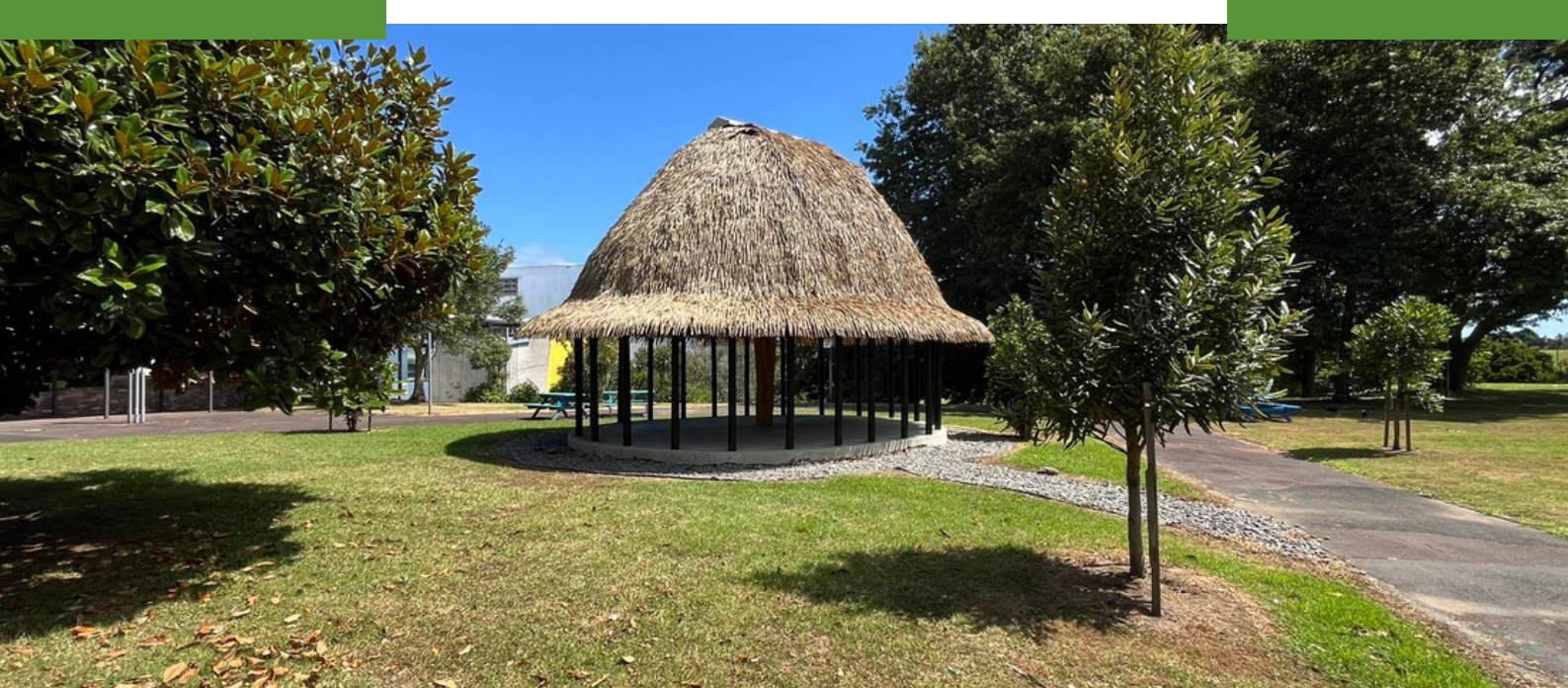


UNITEC PACIFIC QUARTERLY

>>> NEWSLETTER <<<



A NOTE FROM THE PACIFIC CENTRE



PESETA SAM LOTU-IIGA

*Tumu Whenua ā-Rohe 1
Executive Director, Region 1*

We acknowledge your leadership in supporting Pacific Success at Unitec and the region.
Fa'afetai lava!



Talofa Lava, Kia Oranā, Malo e lelei, Fakatalofaatu, Fakaalofa Lahi Atu, Ni Sa Bula Vinaka, Malo Ni, Noa'ia, Mauri, Halo olaketa, Warm Pacific Greetings!

Happy New Year and welcome back to work!

This year, our Pacific Centre Team are responding to requests for a Pacific newsletter to keep our staff informed, and to ensure we remain connected as Pacific staff. Hence, we are resuming this after many years as the Unitec Pacific Quarterly Newsletter! We invite all Pacific staff to let us know what is happening in your Programmes/ Schools by submitting details that you want to share with everyone. We will post anything that you send to us to create wider awareness and support for you. We hope for a great year for everyone!

Please remember to reach out for support if/ when needed!

"Continuous improvement is better than delayed perfection." Mark Twain

Fa'afetai lava!



2023 HIGHLIGHTS

2023 was a busy and challenging year for many of us as we navigated the changes that were anticipated as being part of Te Pūkenga (TP), and we can look back and reflect on the highs and lows we experienced in our respective areas and as a Pacific community at Unitec. Our sincere apologies if we miss mentioning some of the milestones you or your team celebrated last year. We can always add it in the next issue.

The year kicked off as it had many times before with the initial return to work in preparation for powhiri and orientations including our **Semester 1 Pacific Orientation** in February where we welcomed hundreds of new Pacific students across the 10 Schools. In April, we celebrated Pacific Success with our **Pacific Graduation Celebration** before the exciting graduation at the Town Hall!

In June, we farewelled our then Director Pacific Success, **Seulupe Dr Falaniko Tominiko**, who left Unitec after 18 + years serving our Pacific peoples and Unitec. In September, our **Pacific Unitec Alumni (PUA)** was launched after a lot of planning by our PUA Komiti; malo lava for your efforts in ensuring we continue to remain connected with our graduates! We hope to see some great partnerships with them in 2024 and beyond!

In October, our Pacific community was invited to celebrate **Fijian Language Week** at the Fale by our Fijian vuvale where we enjoyed the delicious banquet prepared by our generous hosts. In November, *Chantal Baker-Smith, Jason Hallie, and Joseph Pitovao* were promoted to Senior Lecturers in the **2023 Senior Appointments and Promotions (SAAP)** round. Congratulations everyone!

Also, we gathered to celebrate the milestones and all of us at the **Unitec Staff Awards** where many of our Pacific staff were nominated, and some named as winners in their respective categories. Jone Tawaketini was the sole nominee and winner for the **Supporting Pacific Learners Award**!

In December, we had our first combined ITP and WBL **Pacific staff So'otaga**, which allowed us to spend the day as Pacific staff and network. Also in December, we hosted our inaugural Vocational Education Pacific Research Symposium, in which we heard from Pacific staff doing amazing research in our communities, country and in the region.

Thank you all for your dedication and ongoing support for our students and colleagues at Unitec. We hope for a blessed 2024 and we pray for God's blessing upon you all in all you do!

Please reach out to us and stay tuned for more updates via email.

ORIENTATION - SEMESTER 1, 2024

➤➤➤ ORIENTATION STARTS SOON - FOR INDIVIDUAL SCHOOL INFORMATION MAKE SURE YOU CHECK OUT THE LINK BELOW

[ORIENTATION](#)



**PACIFIC
ORIENTATION**

**INTERNATIONAL
ORIENTATION**



Wednesday , 14 February

10am-12pm

Unitec Fale

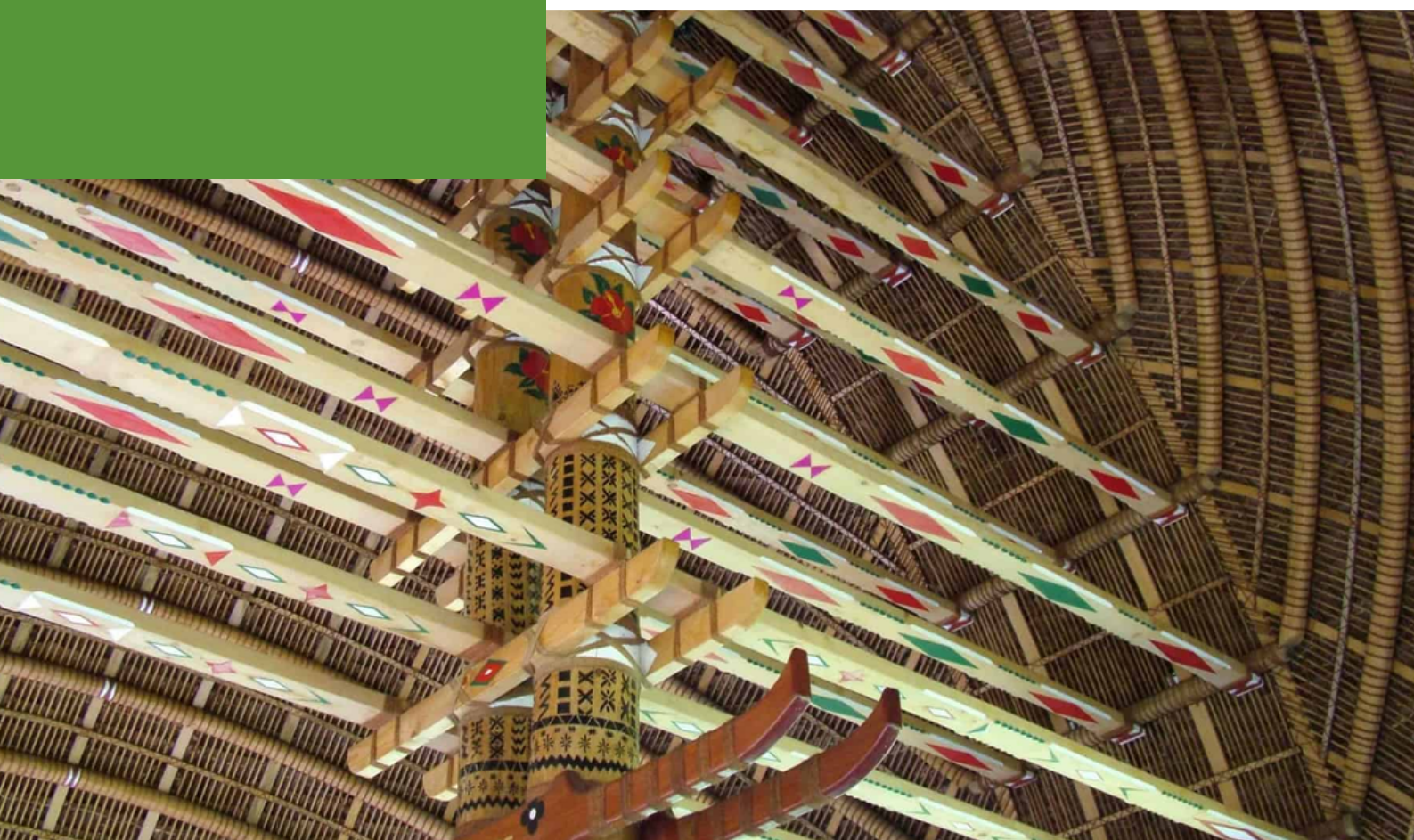
All Pacific staff are invited for lunch with the students. Please bring a plate or pot. Comms with details of the programme will be sent separately.



Wednesday, 12 February

9am-3.30pm

Red Lecture Theatre



STAFF PROFILES

>>> DR LINDA TINAI AUMUA

Head of School, Healthcare & Social Practice and Waitakere Campus Manager

Years at Unitec: Approximately 23 years

Positions held: Internal– Unitec Recruitment, Pacific Liaison, Pacific Co Ordinator, Director Pacific Learning Teaching and Research, Head of School- External– Primary School teacher, Manager Private Training Establishment, Senior Policy Analyst -Education, Director Higher Education Commission

Ethnicity: Fijian / Kaivalangi

Milestone at Unitec: Established the Pacific Centre

Personal milestone: My three children and 2 Grandchildren

Pearls of wisdom: How blessed are you that you can serve your communities and still be paid for doing so!

Congratulations Linda on the successful completion of your PhD!

>>> ADAM NEE

Student Advocate, Student Support and Scholarships

Years at Unitec: Started October 2023

Positions held: Student Advocate

Ethnicity: Māori, Samoan, Chinese, Irish, Yugoslavian

Family: I come from a large extended whānau on my dad's side. My Nan, Caroline Leef is Māori from Panguru, Ngā Puhi/Te Rarawa and my Grandfather, John Chong Nee is Samoa/Chinese from Alesia, Samoa. On my mother's side, I am Irish and Yugoslavian. I am the middle child of 3. My older brother has 5 kids and my sister is... 'enjoying life'. I have 2 boys aged 9 and 6 years old. My partner, Sammy is Māori/Pakeha from Whangape, Te Rarawa and is a Supportive Resolutions Sergeant based at Henderson Police Stations. We live in West Auckland where I was born and raised.

Milestone at Unitec: I am privileged to be filling in the Student Advocate position for Arya whilst she is on maternity leave. As the Student Advocate, I tautoko ākonga going through informal and formal complaints, appeal processes, issued and grievances, reconsideration of assessment and final grade processes and anything else that involves policy, regulations and procedures. The success of this service is dependent on whakawhanaungatanga and manaakitanga with both ākonga and staff. I look forward to building on these relationships and having a positive impact in this role.

Personal milestone: Being awarded junior coach of the year for Suburbs RFC in 2022. Paddling (waka ama) for TNT, Waitākere OCC

Pearls of wisdom: Be grateful and look for the good in the life



STAFF PROFILES



MOLIA ALAMA TULAFONO

School Administration Assistant



Years at Unitec: I have been working at Unitec for 5 years

Positions held: School Administration Assistant

Ethnicity: Tuvaluan

Family: I'm a mother of 4 children and a wife. Also surrounded and supported by a village which is both my immediate and extended family.

Milestone at Unitec: Working as a programme coordinator on the real estate programme.

Personal milestone: Pacific Dance NZ 2020 Residency recipient and Kupu o Fatele author.

Pearls of wisdom: I would like to share a quote or words of wisdom from the Kupu o Fatele book.

"A muna mo pati tuku o te fale. Se niu fakamauganiu o te olaga". This translates to 'Wisdom and pledges share in the home, are valuable life lessons'. This quote signifies the importance of family life and share Tuvalu values like alofa (love) aava (respect) etc in the home. The home is considered the first classroom, where love, nurturing and learning coexist. By embracing these home values, one can grow and thrive.

My passion and love for Fatele, the traditional dance and cultural artform of Tuvalu, is what inspired me to write my first ever book - Kupu o Fatele. It is a collection of Tuvaluan songs, chants and words of inspiration. These 'kupu o fatele' have encouraged and empowered me over the years. Additionally, it serves as a reminder of my identity and my journey thus far. My hope is that this book will inspire the next generations of Tuvaluan's or anyone who wants to share and tell their story.

CELEBRATING PACIFIC SUCCESS



Lele Talagi is one of 12 recipients of the Prime Minister Scholarships for Asia (PMSA)

[Her story can be read here.](#)



Byron Iosia is a recipient of this year's Massey University Pacific Postgraduate Scholarship.

STUDENT PROFILE



>>> JIMMY MA'IA'I

Master of Creative Practice contemporary art graduate, Jimmy Ma'ia'i is exhibiting alongside 23 other Kiwi artists in the exhibition: Spring time is heart-break: Contemporary Art in Aotearoa currently on at the Christchurch Art Gallery - Te Puna o Waiwhetū until 19 May 2024.

This exhibition explores the transitions between places and across time. In Paradise, Ma'ia'i has made a hybrid fale structure from poolside 'hula' umbrellas and milk crates. The work reflects on Jimmy's father's work ethic and the strong Pacific presence in the trades workforce. These works are underpinned by ideas of cross-cultural exchange.



NOTICES

CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

STUDENT SUPPORT

MANAAKI NEW ZEALAND SCHOLARSHIPS



Maori and Pacific Student Hui
Hui #1 Monday, 4 March (week 2)
12.30pm-11.15pm
Manaaki (Wharekai)
Introduction to Unitec and support services



Student Support will be running StudyLink Application Support drop-ins on: Tuesday 20 February, 27 February & 5 March 11am-1pm at Pacific Centre.

From Tuesday 12 March our Student Support Advisor, Rahwa, will hold Pacific Centre drop-ins from 11.30-1pm to support with StudyLink (throughout the year), financial assistance, informal complaints and anything affecting a student's studies (pastoral care).

Students can also book in for financial assistance and StudyLink application support [here](#) or book at the Ask Me desk.



The Manaaki New Zealand Scholarships are open for application!
New Zealand offers scholarships to eligible citizens from developing countries to study abroad at a New Zealand education institution. Students from across the Pacific currently living in their home countries can apply from now until 29 February.

All the information including eligibility criteria, study subjects and how to apply can be found [here](#).

Any questions please email nzscholars@unitec.ac.nz

NOTICES

2024 PACIFIC SCHOLARSHIPS



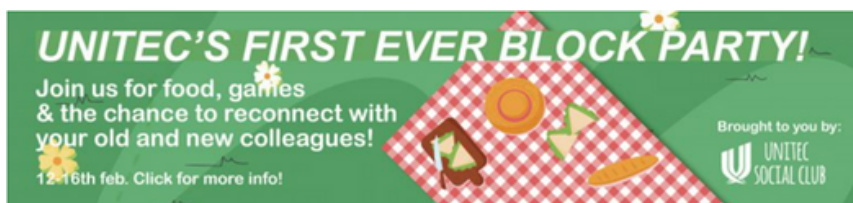
2024 Scholarships for Pacific Students are now open for applications. This year we have the following Pacific scholarships on offer:

- \$2,000 Unitec Pacific Success Scholarships for NEW students at Unitec
- \$2,000 Unitec Pacific Academic Excellence Scholarships for high achieving Pacific learners in an undergraduate diploma or bachelor degree level programme, and with a GPA of 6.0 (B+ average) or higher
- \$2,000 Unitec Pacific Progression Scholarships for students who have successfully completed their programme of study at Unitec and want to continue their higher education in a new, higher level programme of study.

Closing date for applications is 11 March

Unfortunately, due to resource constraints Byron is no longer supporting ākonga with their scholarship applications as he is focussing on supporting the pastoral care needs of our Youth Guarantee and Manaaki Scholarship ākonga. Luckily, the wonderful women in our Careers and Employability team have offered their services and expertise to help ākonga with their applications. If any ākonga need support with their scholarship applications, please refer them [here](#) to book an appointment with Di, Elizabeth

STAFF WELLBEING



NOTICES

WAITAKERE OUTREACH



Every year, we provide our students **FREE good second-hand clothes, which have proven to be very popular, and we are always surprised at the needs of our students.**

We plan to set up our free clothing racks again for the beginning of the year for our students who will be out to placement and need good work clothes/outfits.

Agnes and Anne will be setting this up for us. We temporarily place the clothes bags in the student support offices on level one in Rangimarie (student study area). Please bring clean clothes, shoes, jackets, etc. that are suitable. We will also take kitchen appliances, utensils, pots, and pans, items that you think students could use as they set up their apartments/homes.

If you have spare coat hangers, this will also help. Drop off at Waitakere Campus or the Pacific Centre, Mt Albert.



Unitec is committed to ensuring the health, safety and welfare of all those on campus, including all kaimahi/staff, ākonga/students, contractors and visitors.

Workplace Wellbeing and Safety is everyone's responsibility.

Collectively, we can ensure we send everyone home safe and well at the end of each day by:

Taking reasonable care of our own wellbeing and safety

Ensuring that our acts or omissions do not adversely affect the wellbeing and safety of others

Live Unitec's Kaupapa through the values framed by living Te Noho Kotahitanga

Acting in accordance with Unitec's and Te Pūkenga's policies and procedures

Our role is to engage, educate and promote healthy and safe work practices so that everyone who comes to work, goes home safely.

We also offer first aid and fire warden trainings throughout the year. Email safety@unitec.ac.nz with any questions

WORKPLACE WELLBEING AND SAFETY

ANNA SMITH



We are thrilled to share a heartwarming update on a special project that has been in the works - a tribute video for the late Anna Smith.

The production of the video is well underway and nearing completion, thanks to the dedicated efforts of three talented students, **Helen Polamalu, Nancy Levuiloa, and Lina Cokanasiga**, who have graciously contributed their time and skills. This heartfelt project aims to capture and celebrate Anna Smith's lasting influence on Pacific Nursing Students at Unitec.

The collaboration between the students, the Pacific Centre, and Student Support and Scholarships has been instrumental in making this tribute a reality. Their combined support has not only fueled the production but has also exemplified the strength and unity within our community.

As we approach the final stages of completion, we eagerly anticipate sharing this touching tribute with all of you. Stay tuned for the official release, where we'll come together to honor Anna Smith's legacy and the impact she had on the lives of Pacific Nursing Students.

We extend our sincere gratitude to everyone involved in making this project possible. Your commitment to preserving Anna Smith's memory and fostering a sense of community among Pacific Nursing Students is truly commendable.



Rest in peace and love, Anna



RESEARCH

Pacific Research Fono (PRF)

Fono is on the first Thursday every month from 2.30- 3.30 pm on Teams. Anyone keen on sharing their research aspirations and journey are welcome to join. Please contact Daisy (dbentleygray@unitec.ac.nz).

Unitec Research Strategy 2020- 2024

Research Outputs Management System (ROMS)

Performance Based Research Fund (PBRF) 2025

Guidelines for Pacific Social & Cultural Responsiveness – this document outlines some important information for us to be aware about, **but it is dated**.

Vocational Education (VE) Pacific Research Symposium – Unitec and MIT co-convened the inaugural VE Pacific Research Symposium in 2023! We hope this continues in 2024!

TALA

We are excited to introduce the Tala Forum, an engaging online platform exclusively for Pacific postgraduate students to share and explore Pacific ideas and topics. "Tala" means to speak or tell in Pacific languages, and this forum is designed to encourage and inspire Pacific students embarking on their postgraduate journeys.

Interactive Presentations: Students are invited to share a Pacific topic or idea through a concise online presentation. Each presentation should include at least one academic reference to enrich the discussion.

Centralized Platform: All presentations will be exclusively shared on our dedicated website, providing a space for students to easily explore and draw inspiration from the diverse perspectives of their fellow students.

Short and Sweet: Presentations are designed to be succinct, with a minimum duration of 3 minutes and a maximum of 5 minutes, ensuring that the content is engaging and accessible.

Flexible Participation: The project is tailored to accommodate the busy schedules of postgraduate students. After an initial meeting, students have the flexibility to record and submit their presentations at their convenience. Once reviewed, presentations will be uploaded to the forum.

We believe that this initiative will not only foster a sense of community among Pacific postgraduate students but also create a dynamic space for the exchange of ideas and knowledge. We invite you to be a part of this exciting endeavor and share your unique perspective with the community.

To join the Tala Forum or learn more about the submission process please contact Venusi vtaumoepeau@unitec.ac.nz

Let's amplify Pacific voices in postgraduate studies together!

UNITEC PACIFIC CENTRE

DAISY BENTLY-GRAY	ROKOSIGA MORRISON	LUPETI FIHAKI	PAVA SAIFOLOI	IOANE ALEKE FA'AVAE	VENUSI TAUMOEPEAU
Interim Manager Pacific Success	Pacific Success Navigator	Pacific Success Navigator	Pacific Success Navigator	Pacific Learning Advisor	Pacific Learning Advisor
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Studies • Healthcare and Social Practice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applied Business • Building & Construction • Environment & Animal Sciences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achitecture • Creative Industries • Healthcare & Social Practice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trades & Services • Computing, Electrical & Applied Technology • Bridgepoint 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building & Construction • Bridgepoint • Computing, Electrical & Applied Technology • Environment & Animal Sciences • Trades & Services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applied Business • Architecture • Bridgepoint • Computing, Electrical & Applied Technology • Creative Industries

PACIFIC BADGES



The Pacific options for those thinking about Individual/ Team PDs and 2024 ADEPS are:

- TCD- Teaching Pacific Learners
- TCD- Pacific Learners: Success and Retention
- Engaging Pacific



Please keep an eye out for the 2024 Pacific Language Weeks Schedule when it is released by the Ministry for Pacific Peoples (MPP). We are excited to share the addition of two new language week celebrations, **Solomon Islands Pidgin** and **Papua New Guinea Tok Pisin**.

PACIFIC LANGUAGE WEEKS 2024

Please let us know if you or a Pacific Colleague are not on the DG-Pacific email list



THANK YOU!

Thank you all for your dedication to our students and the work you do!

We pray for blessings as we continue to support our students and colleagues!

Please reach out to us if/ when you need our support. Also, feel free to pop into the Pacific Centre anytime you are at Te Puna (B180).



ASKPACIFIC@UNITEC.AC.NZ