

Cook Islands Research Association &
University of the South Pacific, Cook Islands Campus
Cook Islands Library & Museum Society and
Rarotongan Beach Resort & Spa

Festschrift *for* Ron Crocombe Conference Handbook

Programme and Abstracts



August 12th - 13th 2010
University of the South Pacific, Cook Islands Campus

Festschrift for Ron Crocombe

A Conference to Celebrate the Life of Emeritus Professor Ron Crocombe

12th & 13th August 2010

University of the South Pacific, Cook Islands Campus

sponsored by

Cook Islands Research Association

University of the South Pacific, Cook Islands Campus

Cook Islands Library and Museum Society and

The Rarotongan Beach Resort and Spa





Ronald Gordon Crocombe
1929 - 2009

*I shall pass through this world but once
So any good that I can do or kindness
I can show, let me do it now
For I shall not pass this way again.*

Kia Orana Colleagues, Families and Friends,

Welcome to Rarotonga. We are very pleased that you have given your time to join us in celebrating the life of Papa Ron. As many of you know, out of this gathering, a book will be published in honour of his many achievements.

On behalf of the Cook Islands Research Association Executive Committee, I wish to thank all those who have contributed to the conference and to the upcoming Festschrift publication.

We hope you will have the time to explore our island paradise and take with you our thanks and well wishes,

Kia manuia

President
Cook Islands Research Association

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Conference papers will be available from the USP computer server.
Please bring your memory stick to download copies.

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| DAY ONE: | THURSDAY 12TH AUGUST |
| 8.30 am | Everyone to gather at the "Peace Garden" at the Cook Islands Library & Museum (opposite USP, Takamoa), walk across to the USP foyer for the official welcome |
| 9.00 am | TUROU, ORO MAI: WELCOME by Makiuti Tongia / Piritau Nga Opening Prayer: Pastor Tevai Matapo (Religious Advisory Council, Chairman USP Cook Islands Campus Advisory Committee) |
| 9.30 am | WELCOME SPEECH: President of the Cook Islands Research Association welcomes and invites Hon. Jim Marurai, the Prime Minister of the Cook Islands and USP Council Member to address the gathering. |
| 9.45 am | Tata Crocombe, USP Council member welcomes Keynote Speaker, Emeritus Professor, Albert Wendt, Auckland University. |
| 9.50 am | Emeritus Professor Albert Wendt <i>"Ron, Mentor and Friend"</i> |
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| 10.20 am | MORNING TEA - USP verandah. |
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| 10.55am | Chair of two papers: Dr. Marjorie Crocombe. Unveiling of portrait by Dominic Crocombe |
| 11.00 - 11.30am | Dr. Doug Munro (Victoria University, Wellington) <i>Ron Crocombe and Harry Maude</i> |
| 11.30 - 12.00pm | Profesor Brij Lal (Australian National University) <i>The Road from Laucala Bay</i> |
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| 12.00 - 1.00pm | LUNCH: Sponsored by the Rarotongan Beach Resort & Spa <i>Screening of 'O Rongo i Tai'</i> |
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| | Chair of three papers: Makiuti Tongia (Cook Islands Research Association) |
| 1.00 - 1.30pm | Dr. Howard Van Trease (Honorary Research Fellow, USP, Emalus Campus, Vanuatu) <i>The Resolution of Customary Land Disputes in Vanuatu</i> Chair: Makiuti Tongia (Cook Islands Research Association) |
| 1.30 - 2.00pm | Dr. Ueantabo McKenzie (Campus Director, USP Kiribati Campus) <i>Negotiating the Political Cul-de-Sac - Traditional Leadership and Local Governance in Kiribati</i> Chair: Makiuti Tongia |
| 2.00 - 2.30pm | Dr. Peter Larmour (Australian National University) <i>Ron's writing on corruption</i> Chair: Makiuti Tongia |
| <hr/> | |
| 2.30 - 2.40pm | AFTERNOON BREAK |

- 2.40 - 3.10pm** **Professor Peggy Fairbairn-Dunlop** (Foundation Professor of Pacific Studies, AUT University)
More than nice: Youth connecting through Poly
Chair: Professor Vilsoni Hereniko (Director Pacific Studies & Oceania Art Centre, USP, Fiji)
- 3.10 - 3.40pm** **Dr. Elise Huffer** (Human Development Programme Advisor, Secretariat of the Pacific Community, Fiji)
Pacific Studies and Integrating Culture into Development Policy
Chair Professor Vilsoni Hereniko
- 3.40 - 4.10pm** **Professor Hiroshi Moriwaki** (University of Kagoshima, Japan)
Geomorphic development of the coastal landforms on Rarotonga, Cook Islands, South Pacific Ocean
Chair: Ian Karika (Cook Islands Library & Museum Society)
- 4.10 - 4.40pm** **Dr. Kei Kawai** (University of Kagoshima, Japan)
Shell colour polymorphism of the intertidal gastropod 'Nerita Plicata' inhabiting the Cook Islands
Chair: Ian Karika
- 4.40pm** **Closing Prayer: Ina Teiotu**
- 6.30pm** **CONFERENCE BBQ - USP Foyer**

DAY TWO: FRIDAY 13TH AUGUST

Opening Prayer: Pastor Tevai Matapo

- 9.00- 9.30am** **Professor Jon Tikivanotau Jonassen** (Brigham Young University, Laiea, Hawaii)
Cook Islands political reform to 2055
Chair: Iaveta Short
- 9.30 - 10.00am** **Makiuti Tongia** (Cook Islands Research Association)
Absentee landowners in the Cook Islands: consequences of change to tradition
Authored by Makiuti Tongia, Ron Crocombe and Tepoave Araitia
Chair: Lynsay Rongokea Francis
- 10.00 - 10.20am** **Iaveta Short** (Lawyer, Businessman) & **Ross Holmes** (Lawyer)
Problems and Practical Solutions for Cook Islands Land Tenure and Law
Chair: Lynsay Rongokea Francis
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- 10.20 am** **MORNING TEA**
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- 10.30 - 11.00am** **Linda Crowl** (Divine Word University, Papua New Guinea)
Book Publishing and National Identity: Presbyterian Presses in Vanuatu
Chair: Jean Tekura Mason (Cook Islands Library & Museum Society)
- 11.00 - 11.30am** **Lisa Lahari-Williams** (Coordinator International Federation of Journalists, Cook Islands)
From Chaos to Clarity - the crisis of Pacific media regionalism
Chair: William Framhein (Matariki FM)
- 11.30 - 12.00am** **Address by Hon. Wilkie Rasmussen** (Minister of Finance, Cook Islands Government)
- 12.00 - 12.30pm** **Professor Vilsoni Hereniko** (Director of Pacific Studies & Oceania Art Centre, USP, Fiji)
Cultural Translation and Contemporary Filmmaking in Oceania
Chair: Professor Albert Wendt

12.30 - 1.30pm **Pacific Artists and Writers Forum - *The Business of Art?***
Albert Wendt, Filipe Tohi, Eruera Nia, Mahiriki Tangaroa, Michael Tavioni, Makiuti Tongia, Jean Tekura Mason, Vaine Wichman, Vereara Maeva-Taripo

1.30pm **L U N C H** - Sponsored by Navy & Kimi Epati and Family
The Long Walk ...Home - Stageplay directed by Tereapii Napa

2.00 - 2.30pm **Neti Tamarua Herman** (University of Auckland)
Investing in our future: A Model to Promote the Health and Wellbeing of Young People in the Cook Islands
Chair: Angie Tuara

2.30pm **Professor Hugh Laracy** (University of Auckland)
In Memoriam
Tata Crocombe
Eulogy

“The Other Side of Ron” - Family Presentation
Chair: Kevin Crocombe / Sam Crocombe

“Atiu Connections” - Introduced and chaired by Rongomatane Ada Ariki
Ina Teiotu - *Writings about Atiu*
Paiere Mokoroa - *Te Ata o Ron*
Mrs Vereara Maeva-Taripo - *‘The Might Hero’*
Liz Ponga - *The Maori Side of Ron*
John Hermann - *Political Reform Commission experiences*
Bill McGrath - *Early PNG Days and Philosophy for (any) Old Age*
Hiro Kurashina, Rebecca Stephenson, Yosi Sinoto - **Powerpoint Presentation**
Papa Ron’s Last Voyage in Oceania- Presented by family friend Tangata Vainerere

5.30pm Conference report and acknowledgements by CIRA President
- Publication of Festschrift - Editor Linda Crowl (Divine Word University, Papua New Guinea)
- Suggestions for conference for 2011-Reprinting of ‘Land tenure in the Cook Islands’

Closing Prayer: Pastor Tevai Matapo

Conference ends

CONFERENCE SPEAKERS & ABSTRACTS

KEYNOTE: WENDT, Albert (Auckland University)

Ron, Mentor and Friend

This discussion looks at how Ron (and Marjie) came into my life and influenced and changed it. And through that, looks at some of Ron's research, writing, work and teaching and how those shaped and developed the whole field of Pacific Studies and generations of Pasifika scholars, researchers, teachers, historians, academics and artists. In short, how Ron changed the ways we look at the Pacific and ourselves.

CROWL, Linda (Dean, Faculty of Arts, Divine Word University)

Book publishing and national identity: Presbyterian presses in Vanuatu

In 1848 Rev John and Charlotte Geddie and Isaac Archibald and his wife of the Presbyterian mission and Thomas Powell and his wife of the London Missionary Society arrived in the then New Hebrides (now Vanuatu). With Samoans Simeona, Munumunu, and Sakaio, Geddie and Powell constructed a printing office and set up a press, which Geddie had brought from Scotland. This printing operation was the first in the western Pacific islands. In the 1800s Presbyterians took more presses to Vanuatu than any other mission group took to any other island group in Oceania-although the population was not as large as that of many other island groups. Ni-Vanuatu mission workers vastly outnumbered European mission workers. Wumra, Lathella, Lune and many other Ni-Vanuatu translated documents, set type, pulled the press, sewed sheets, and bound books. They publicized the books and their contents as they delivered sermons, taught literacy, and established schools, thus magnifying the effects of book publishing and expanding text culture from island to island. Presbyterian publications became symbols and rituals that bound workers, readers, and listeners together, with greater implications for nationhood. Without Presbyterian advocacy, which heightened indigenous and expatriate awareness of what became the island group, England and France might have partitioned it. For better or worse, the independent state of Vanuatu owes much to Presbyterian book publishing.

FAIRBAIRN - DUNLOP, Peggy (Foundation Professor of Pacific Studies, AUT University)

More than nice: Youth connecting through Poly

There is a widely held view that school Poly Clubs are 'nice', 'colourful' and 'good entertainment'. These views were tested in the *Youth Voices, Youth Choices* project (FRST and VUW) which explored a) how Pacific youth construct their identities and negotiate issues relating to cultural maintenance and participation in the wider New Zealand society and more specifically b) how participation in Polynesian clubs (customs, practices, language, values and world views) promotes positive identity, integration, and social and cultural connectedness. Findings from this study carried out in a single sex male secondary school were that membership of Poly built youth sense of self esteem, identity and belonging, how they related to others and leadership. In addition, participation was positively related to school achievement. These findings have significance given the rapid increase in New Zealand's Pacific population (projections are that by 2021 the Pacific population will form 9% of the total population): Pacific students' generally lesser educational outcomes and, the significantly better educational outcomes of Pacific females over males and the integral place of the arts, dance and music to the Pacific world view - 'from the depth of understanding and value of traditional form students will gain a strong sense of cultural identity and an understanding of who they are.... and set the foundation for the development of further skills and knowledge bases, contexts and understandings for life in the 21st century (UNESCO 2002). The context?:

The issues of Pacific self-identity and cultural preservation have emerged as key issues for Pacific people particularly for Pacific youth. For some second-generation Pacific peoples, the bonds of Pacific culture are not as strong or dominant and have resulted in a loss or weakening of Pacific identity, particularly for those of mixed marriages, who increasingly do not identify as Pacific. This has implication in terms of cultural and language preservation, Pacific identity and traditional Pacific values (Ala Fou Report of New Pathways: Strategic Directions for Pacific Youth in New Zealand (MPIA 2005)

HERENIKO, Vilsoni (Director Pacific Studies & Oceanic Art Centre, USP, Fiji)

Cultural translation and filmmaking in Oceania

Whale Rider, No.2, Sione's Wedding, and The Land Has Eyes are recent examples of Pacific Islanders' efforts to translate Oceanic cultures into feature films for a global audience. Inevitably, all translations of this nature result in some loss of nuance and cultural specificity as these films cater to mainstream Euro-American tastes, values, and sensibilities. We need not see this as a negative development but a concession that is necessary if these works are going to reach global audiences. An understanding of the business of filmmaking allows us to be critical as well as better-informed viewers of recent Pacific feature films.

HERMAN, Neti (Ph.D Candidate, Auckland University)

Investing in Our Future: A Model To Promote The Health And Wellbeing Of Young People In The Cook Islands.

Generally, the health and wellbeing of young people in the Cook Islands has not been a priority concern because they are usually less vulnerable to diseases than children and older populations. However young people are highly vulnerable to ecological changes such as biological, social, economic, cultural, spiritual, and political situations, which can have a profound effect on their health and wellbeing. Today, the most significant and problematic health issues and concerns among young people relate to their risk taking behaviours. And as a result, morbidity and mortality affect them more than any other groups. There has been wide debate, discussion and intervention to counter these concerns. Unfortunately not all efforts or programs have been successful and sustainable. The aim of this study is to develop a “Health Promotion Model in a Cook Islands Maori Context” using a Community Based Participatory Research (CBPR) approach, to promote the health and wellbeing of young people in Vaka Takitumu, Rarotonga. The philosophy here is to take a holistic, intersectoral, and culturally competent approach that focuses on risk taking behaviours in general, rather than approaches that target specific problems.

HUFFER, Elise (Human Development Programme Advisor, Secretariat of the Pacific Community, Fiji)

Pacific Studies and Integrating Culture into Development Policy

JONASSEN, Jon Tikivanotau (Brigham University, Hawaii)

Cook Islands Political Reform: Towards 2055

The Cook Islands attained self governance in free association with New Zealand in 1965, some 45 years ago. Since then, despite its small geographical size, the Cook Islands has emerged as a major innovative contributor toward the development and promotion of many Pacific regional organizations (SPEC, SPC, CRGA, SPREP, and USP) and issues (Rarotonga Treaty or SPNFZ). The island nation’s status of free association itself has been an innovative political category and served as a useful model for internal management of resources and projection of a unique international personality for micro states.

While there have been external and internal successes, Cook Islands national politics has at times been top heavy, wasteful and misdirected with disastrous social, economic, cultural and political consequences. For example, the “vote with your feet” policy by government in the 1980s led to the “flying voters” fiasco which in turn led to an “overseas parliamentary seat” for Cook Islanders living overseas. That saga continues with overseas Cook Islanders currently losing voting rights after only 6 months absence from their home in the Cook Islands. Million-dollar losses from hotel, energy, or other government projects exasperate already disappointed voters, who, have increasingly elected to leave their island home for New Zealand or Australia. It is not surprising therefore that the established 1965 political system has undergone several constitutional changes since its inception, marking a dynamic society still in search of a more acceptable modern system of authority that improves the quality of life without destroying positive traditional elements.

In more recent years several ideas have been floated including the recommendations of a political review, undertaken by Javeta Short, John Herrman, and Professor Ron Crocombe. Their recommendations for change have continued to fuel public discussions with various concerns and ideas emerging from such non government interest groups as Te-Kura-O-te-Au and Mou Piri. Business leaders, community organizers, public servants, and traditional chiefs have also articulated their concerns. These discussions highlight anxiety about the next 45 years

KAWAI, Kei (Kagoshima Univ. RCPI), H. Moriwaki, T. Nagasako (Kagoshima Univ. LEH), M. Okuno (Fukuoka Univ. Sci), G. Cowan (Cook Islands Government Service), G. McCormack (Cook Islands Natural Heritage Trust), P. T. Maoate (Department of Works, Cook Islands)

Shell colour polymorphism of the intertidal gastropod *Nerita plicata* inhabiting the Cook Islands

The intertidal region is the interval zone between the sea and land where sharp variation is observed in various environmental factors (e.g. temperature, humidity, and salinity). Especially, the temperature in the upper part of the intertidal zone increases sharply at the time of ebb tides, and the temperature of the rocks increases to 50°C or more in many cases. Several living beings such as shellfish have adapted to and inhabited these intense environments with sharp environmental variations. The gastropod *Nerita plicata* is widely distributed over the upper parts of the intertidal region in the Indian-Pacific Ocean and is reported to exhibit shell colour polymorphism. The types and colours of the habitat substratum are also diverse, for example, basalt rock (black colour) and beach rock (white/gray colour).

This study examined the adaptive strategy of the gastropod *Nerita plicata*; the adaptive strategy involving diversity in shell colour according to the type of substrate, which is related to the body temperature of the living gastropod. The study was performed in August 2008 on Rarotonga Island and in September 2009 on Aitutaki Island; these islands are part of the Cook Islands. Shells of 4 colours (completely black, completely black banded, partially black banded and completely white) were observed in basalt and beach rock; however, the distribution of the shell colours differed between the shells found in the 2 habitats. On measuring the surface temperatures of the rocks inhabited by the gastropods, no significant difference was observed between the surface temperature of basalt and that of beach rock. However, significant differences were observed in the body temperature of the gastropod between different shell colour types and between habitat types. In this presentation, I will discuss the adaptive strategy of the gastropod in intertidal regions.

KURASHINA, Hiro Ph.D.(Emeritus Director, Micronesian Area Research Center, University of Guam)

STEPHENSON, Rebecca A., Ph.D. (Professor Emerita of Anthropology, University of Guam)

SINOTO, Yosi, Sc.D. (Kenneth Emory Endowed Chair of Anthropology, Bernice P. Bishop Museum, Hawaii)

Papa Ron's Last Voyage in Oceania

Papa Ron Crocombe was not only a prolific scholarly writer, but also a particularly enthusiastic globe-trotter. For him, traveling and writing occurred hand-in-hand. His intellectual curiosity about the Pacific Region led him to keenly observe events at first hand and to engage with people in a wide range of geopolitical areas near and far in Oceania. Papa Ron made his last ocean voyage on board the Abercrombie and Kent's Clipper Odyssey, from Tahiti to Fiji as an Invited Special Lecturer aboard the ship making port calls at Atiu, Mitiaro, Aitutaki, and Palmerston in the Cook Islands, then Niue, Tonga and the Southern Lau Islands of Fiji, before reaching her final destination of Lautoka. Papa Ron was accorded highest honors whenever the ship stopped during the voyage. Especially memorable was the excitement generated by the first-ever historic port call at Mitiaro by a large ocean liner. In this paper, two of the present authors who had the rare privilege of sailing together with Papa Ron provide a narrative and visual chronicle via PowerPoint of Papa Ron's last voyage across the central Pacific.

LAL, Brij (Australian National University)

The Road from Laucala Bay: Reflections on an academic journey

The founding of the University of the South Pacific at Laucala Bay in 1968 was one of the significant moments in the life of the Pacific islands in the latter half of the 20th century. The university trained a whole generation of Pacific islanders who went on to play important roles in their own island communities and in the region at large. In this paper, one of its early graduates reflects on what it meant to be an undergraduate at the institution in its salad days, the various ways in which that experience influenced his outlook and intellectual journey, the things he learned and then had to un-learn as he entered the portals of the western academy. Now nearing the end of his career, the author wonders whether his experience may have some meaning and relevance for those island scholars who are preparing for a career in the academy. The paper is also a tribute to Professor Ron Crocombe who was a leading academic figure at the University of the South Pacific when the author studied Pacific history under him.

LARMOUR, Peter (Australian National University)

Ron's writing on corruption

Talk about corruption is now widespread in the Pacific. For example, recent surveys have found 47% of people in Fiji believing that “politics is largely affected by corruption”, and 62% of rural Solomon Islanders believing that their government was corrupt. Ron was a pioneer of the study of corruption in the region, first through chapters on ‘Nepotism’ and ‘Money’ in the book which he edited on Cook Islands Politics in the late 1970s, and latterly devoting a whole chapter to corruption in his survey of the region in 2001. ‘Corruption’ is a strong word, and there is often disagreement over whom or what it should be applied to. Ron also had strong ideas about its opposite - integrity or leadership. This paper will trace these ideas through his writing.

LARACY, Hugh (University of Auckland)

In Memoriam

Given the quantity and quality of his works, both personally written and edited, Ron Crocombe stands out as one of the foundation contributors to the emergence of Pacific History as a distinctive scholarly discipline. But that contribution was not limited to the many items within the corpus of historiography that bear his name on the title page. For Ron was also conspicuously concerned to get other people, notably Pacific Islanders themselves, into print on the Pacific past, and on its shaping of their present. His motive here was unashamedly both political and ethical (in addition of course, to that of academic enquiry). Politically it represented an effort to continue and expand the process of undoing colonial influences, and of complementing the institutional re-arrangements that were already well under way, with a form of intellectual creativity that would enhance Pacific Islanders’ sense of liberation and assertiveness.

McKENZIE, Ueantabo (Campus Director, USP Kiribati Campus)

Negotiating the Political Cul-De-Sac-Traditional Leadership and Local Governance in Kiribati

As Richardson (2009) rightly observed, “[t]he realities of governance processes at the island level [in Kiribati] are far more complex and contested than is envisaged in the Local Government Act.” A major factor in the complexity and contested nature of local governance in Kiribati has been the power and strong influence of traditional leaders, Te Botaki ni Unimwane, over the legally constituted Island Council. This has, and continues to be, a long-standing and unresolved issue in local governance ever since the establishment of Island Councils under the colonial Local Government Ordinance thirteen years before Kiribati became independent in 1979. After a major reform of local governance immediately after independence which resulted in the enactment by the Maneaba ni Maungatabu (Parliament) of the Local Government Act 1984, the principal post-independence local governance legislation, and its subsequent ten amendments (the latest in 2006) the traditional power structure remains outside the ambit of the Act, and continues to exert strong influence over island affairs, in most cases, to the extent of undermining the legally constituted and democratically elected Island Councils.

Recognising the power and strong influence of the unimwane and te Botaki ni Unimwane at island level, the State has often found itself impotent in dealing directly with it in its attempts to improve and strengthen local governance since independence.

This paper examines the often turbulent relationship between traditional authority exercised by Te Botaki ni Unimwane (elders) and the Island Councils which derived their powers from the Local Government Act, and the challenges faced so far by the State in integrating and reining in informal traditional governance institutions into the modern local governance structure at island level. The paper will conclude by advancing some thoughts on how this political cul-de-sac might be negotiated.

MOKOROA, Paiere (Atiu)

Te Ata o Ron

“E ngaro te ata o Ikurangi kareka te poaki i Kuekue, kore rava ia e ngaro.” (Korero taito ne Atiu)

Kua tata ia teia ‘ata’ e Papa Paiere Mokoroa ei akamaara-anga ia Papa Ron no tana au angaanga i rave mei te tuatau i akamata mai ei aia it e angaanga i Atiu. Kua akaari ia mai te reira na roto i tana tata’anga no runga it e ‘Tikaanga Atu Enuu’. Kua akapupu katoa aia i tetai pupu Atiu kia tata it e korero o Atiu - tena kua ‘ata’ ki roto it e puka “Atiu - an Island Community”; E au nga puka ke atu ta Papa Ron i akaoti no runga it e au tua ‘taito’ o Atiu e Takutea. Kua akara katoa teia ‘ata’ ki te uki ki mua e takau ma rima mataiti ite akamata i te akamaka’anga i to tatou kaveinga ki mua.

MORIWAKI, Hiroshi (Kagoshima University), NAGASAKO, Toshiro (Kagoshima University), OKUNO, Mitsuru (Fukuoka University), KAWAI, Kei (Kagoshima University), McCORMACK, Gerald (Natural Heritage, Cook Islands), COWAN, George (Cook Islands Government Service) and MAOATE, Paul. T (Department of Works, Cook Islands)

Geomorphic development of the coastal landforms on Rarotonga, Cook Islands, South Pacific Ocean

Coastal landform distributions, postglacial and last interglacial geomorphic systems and Holocene shoreline changes are examined on the coastal plains and fringing reefs on Rarotonga, Cook Islands. The results are as follows. The combined width of Holocene coastal plains and coral reef flats are nearly uniform through the entire coast of Rarotonga, although coastal plains and coral reefs each have distinct regional differences in width, probably due to the differences in their geomorphic development. Holocene and Pleistocene coastal landforms essentially comprise alluvial fans and coral reefs arranging from inland to seaward. Last interglacial alluvial fans are distinctly wide compared with those of Holocene age and there is no distinct beach ridge feature in the last interglacial coastal geomorphic systems. The beach ridge plains that developed along the entire coast are higher on the eastern coast than on the southern coast, for which the grain sizes of the deposits are responsible. The initial emergence of Holocene coastal lowlands on Rarotonga was probably around 4,000 -5,000 cal BP. Holocene shoreline changes on the eastern coast are not uniform. The shoreline has continuously advanced to the seaward on the southern part, Ngatangiia since c. 4000 cal BP, while it has been nearly stable on the northern parts, Matavera and Tupapa, probably due to persistent areas of last interglacial limestone ridges.

MUNRO, Doug (Victoria University, Wellington) & GRAY, Geoffrey (Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Studies & University of Queensland)

Ron Crocombe and Harry Maude

Ron Crocombe and Harry Maude enjoyed a friendship of almost forty years. When Ron arrived at the ANU as a PhD student, he was highly unimpressed at being assigned to Harry Maude, whom he regarded as a superannuated colonialist (Maude having had an earlier career in the British Colonial Service). In short order they got over initial difficulties and got down to business; and the sometimes abrasive Ron never lost his affection for the painfully shy Harry. As well as supervising Ron’s theses, Harry was the series editor for Ron and Marjorie’s seminal book *The Works of Ta’unga*, and was never slow to defend his former student. Theirs was a remarkable example of a student-supervisor relationship that survived the passage of the moment and of time, to the enormous benefit of Pacific Studies.

SHORT, Iaveta (Lawyer, Businessman) & HOLMES, Ross (Lawyer)

Problems and Practical Solutions for Cook Islands Land Tenure and Law

This paper gives an overview of the historical background to the establishment of the land laws of the Cook Islands and the applications of those laws through the Native Land Titles Court. It reviews attempts by the Colonial Administrators to enforce westernized concepts of law under the guise and background of traditional native custom which had been the basis of land ownership in the Cook Islands. The paper identifies the difficulties faced by the courts in endeavoring to define customary and traditional rules resulting in decisions which have long lasting almost permanent application to the land. These decisions have had the added effect of cementing and stultifying social structure in Rarotonga and other islands of the group where land titles investigation has been carried out.

On the other hand the granting by the Courts of freehold title has enabled the land owners to have some security of tenure and to use their lands by lease and other devices to generate economic development and establish family homesteads with secure title.

This paper demonstrates a need to upgrade and overhaul the land recording and decision making system in line with modern realities and technologies. It also highlights the need to allow local landowners to make up their own minds on how they should utilize their lands and not be controlled by the state especially when dealing within family groups.

The paper identifies problems and suggests practical solutions which will assist policy makers review and perhaps adopt or provide better solutions than those previously applied. The paper does not intend to attribute blame but rather to highlight some of the main problems and provide practical solutions. It recognizes that land matters are politically problematic but that is no reason to ignore problems which must be attended to urgently.

TONGIA, Makiuti, CROCOMBE, Ron, ARAITIA, Tepoave

Absentee landowners in the Cook Islands: consequences of change to tradition

Land Court decisions, particularly the 1957 Appellate Court decision, and the Unit Titles Act 2006 have contributed significantly to the fragmentation of land rights in Rarotonga. Tourism development has contributed to land rights acquiring more of a monetary than a cultural value, which has, in turn, encouraged absentee landowners (who outnumber those who live in the country) to activate their fragmentary rights. Recent trends, including an increasing number of mortgage sales, has favoured the alienation of leases to foreign investors and decreased land available to Cook Islands residents, contributing to outmigration. This paper reviews these developments and makes suggestions addressing the issues raised.

VAN TREASE, Howard (Honorary Research Fellow, USP, Emalus Campus, Vanuatu)

The resolution of customary land disputes in Vanuatu

At independence in 1980, alienated land in Vanuatu was returned to custom owners. The effect of this constitutional provision was to nullify all registered titles that had been granted during the colonial period. What the framers of the Constitution did not fully recognize, however, was that embedded in this provision was a problem that would grow to become an extremely disruptive issue, that of determining ownership of disputed custom land. Under the Constitution, disputes between Ni-Vanuatu over rights to custom land, are to be resolved by appropriate customary institutions or procedures. Anticipating problems in dealing with this issue, the new post-independence Land Reform Act included a provision, as allowed under the Constitution, for the Minister of Lands to grant a lease pending resolution of the dispute, any income to be held in trust. This provision was used quite often in the early years after independence to deal with disputes over custom ownership when, as allowed by the Constitution, the owners of previously alienated land sought to lease back their properties. In most cases, however, such disputes have remained unresolved and the use by Ministers of Land of their power to grant leases has become commonplace with allegations of the misuse of power.

Initially, the island courts were given responsibility to deal with land disputes between Ni-Vanuatu, but after nearly two decades the system became unworkable. The Supreme Court found that it could not cope with the number of appeal cases that came before it, nor did it have the expertise to decide on specific cases given Vanuatu's extreme cultural diversity. As a result, the Chief Justice announced in February 1999, that the Court would no longer accept land cases. This led the Department of Lands to initiate discussions to find an appropriate alternative and the subsequent passage in 2001, of the Customary Lands Tribunals Act, which mandates the establishment of tribunals to deal with land disputes involving the recruitment as adjudicators of chiefs and individuals knowledgeable in custom in the areas concerned. This new system is quite innovative and, as a recent evaluation has found, has proved to be an effective means of dealing with most customary land disputes. Many of the Customary Land Tribunals have, however, been constituted in response to approaches by foreign investors to lease land for development purposes, which has created concern among a growing number of Ni-Vanuatu that the system is simply facilitating the loss of valuable lands which will be needed by future generations of the country's fast-growing population.

WILLIAMS - LAHARI , Lisa (Coordinator ,International Federation of Journalists, Cook Islands)
From chaos to clarity: The crisis of Pacific media regionalism

There is little doubt that Pacific media regionalism is in crisis. The reasons for this goes beyond the current leadership turmoil evidenced by disagreement and public comment amongst its elected executives, and poor coordination. The paper argues that a media in crisis affects all of us, and its evidence is everywhere, from negative perceptions by leaders and gaps in FOI legislation, to a lack of disclosure regimes and rigorous public information posts in regional agencies. But from chaos comes clarity and vision. The birth of new regional media networks which practice inclusion and innovation as part of their work ethic have shown the way forward. The Cook Islands media have played an important role in this process of developing better Pacific media.

ABSENT SPEAKERS / CONTRIBUTIONS TO FESTSCHRIFT

FOSSEN, Antony (Griffith University)

Pacific Futures

The chapter will examine Ron Crocombe's Asianisation and Ethical Decision scenario for the South Pacific, briefly consider its differences from other visions of the region's future, and comment on Ron's interpretive style and brilliance in showing a way forward.

EHRHART, Sabine (Professor of Ethnolinguistics, University of Luxembourg)

Language Ecology of Palmerston Atoll, Cook Islands

In my contribution to the Festschrift for Ron Crocombe I would like to communicate the recent results of my work on the language ecology of Palmerston Atoll in the Cook Islands, in the light of postmodernist theories of language acquisition (Pennycook). Since I started to work on this particular contact language in 1990, Ron Crocombe has helped me with his advice on Pacific Culture and patterns of social life, through his writings as well as through our lively discussions full of constructive criticism. We met for the last time during the presentation of my research on Palmerston at the Cook Islands Campus of the South Pacific in summer 2007. As usual, his comments were extremely interesting and a precious guidance for my future work. With my husband Yves we are very grateful to Ron for the attention he paid to the subjects of our studies in the Pacific: forestry in island countries - and language contact phenomena.

Within the Cook Islands, Palmerston is a special place: of very small size, well off the traditional routes of travel in the Pacific and with a language born of the encounter between British and Polynesian culture. In 1863, the Englishman William Ma(r)sters settled on Palmerston - an atoll with no continuous settlement up to this stage - with several Polynesian women from Penrhyn Island in the Northern Group of the Cooks. The forefather ruled on the island in an autocratic style. Only English was allowed to be spoken and it is recorded that the children of his different wives spoke English with a strong regional British accent. In several publications (Ehrhart, Mair and Mühlhäusler 2006, Ehrhart and Mühlhäusler 2007), we have shown parallels with the situation on Pitcairn and Norfolk Island. Like the mutineers from the Bounty (and despite his excellent

knowledge of Polynesian) William seems to have chosen a language policy of rigorous monolingualism in English for Palmerston Island. More research on language acquisition strategies might help us to understand the learner-variety of English that must have been used by his wives, at least in his presence. How is this first learner-variety linked to present-day Palmerston English? When did the flexible variation of the learners' accommodation in English as a foreign language (for the three wives) and as a second language (for the generations of his children and maybe, grandchildren) become the norm of speech for the whole Island community? How did the specific way of speaking of the Palmerston Islanders get its particular shape? In the 1920s and 1940s, the island was extremely isolated due to severe hurricanes (1923, 1926, 1931, 1935, 1942) and also due to WWII. Whenever it was possible, Palmerston people sought partners in the Pacific neighbourhood but they had great difficulty in doing so during this period and there were several marriages between two partners from the island. Creolization is likely to have occurred within this locally-oriented third or fourth generation, when the learner variety of English used by the Polynesian wives of William Marsters become the mother tongue of the speech community.

FAIRBAIRN, Te'o I. J (University of Newcastle)

Crocombe on New Guinea's First Development Plan, 1968

This paper explores Ron Crocombe's foray into the arcane world of economic planning and development in the context of Papua and New Guinea in the 1960s. This was triggered off by the publication, in 1968, of Papua and New Guinea's first Development Plan against which Ron launched a trenchant and powerful attack (The Administrator 1968). It would not be an exaggeration to say that Ron's criticism of the Plan, published in an article in the Papua New Guinea Magazine in 1968, came as something of a bombshell not only for the planning authority but doubtless also for the Administration (Crocombe 1968). This paper reviews the limitations and implications of what turned out to be a significant intervention for which New Guineans surely owe Ron much.

PATERSON, Professor Don (Emeritus Professor of Law, USP, Emalus Campus, Vanuatu)

Ron Crocombe's Contribution to the Development of the USP Law Program

The name of Professor Ron Crocombe is most usually associated in academic circles with land in the South Pacific. Not many know of the contribution which he made to the establishment of the law program at USP. The purpose of my short paper is to record with gratitude the various ways in which Professor Ron Crocombe contributed to the development of the law program at USP: first by publication of the *Constitutions of Polynesia*, and later of Melanesia and Micronesia, and then in 1984-85 in encouraging and supporting the development of a sub-degree program in law which would be taught by extension from what was then the USP Centre in Port Vila, Vanuatu.

PULEA, Mere

Regional courts for the Pacific

This festschrift pays tribute to the contributions made by Emeritus Professor Dr. Ron Crocombe of the University of the South Pacific and the enormous impact he has made on the people of the Pacific.

This article is organized around the analysis Professor Crocombe provides on regionalism, the multiple regional arrangements in the Pacific and the many challenges faced by small island nations. Political instability, corruption and multilateral regional agreements suggest that the law and legal systems in the Pacific are at a point where there is a unique opportunity to explore our responsibility to justice in order to bring about stability to the people of the Pacific region.

Issues of national sovereignty, independence and costs are often obstacles that constrain expanding justice in the Pacific region. In the past 38 years, two Pacific regional judicial initiatives emerged. The first in 1972, the South Pacific Judicial Conference (now the Pacific Judicial Conference) and in 2000, the Pacific Judicial Education Programme (now the Pacific Judicial Development Programme). A brief account of the two regional initiatives is given to help us engage in the challenges of developing regional institutions and open up meaningful discussions with all parties concerned. The origins of the proposal for a regional court is described and the exchanges that have taken place after *A Regional Court of Appeal for the Pacific* was first published by the Institute of Pacific Studies in 1980. The debates that ensued focused principally on national sovereignty and costs.

This article revisits the proposal to establish an independent Regional Court of Appeal for the Pacific as evidence suggests that there is some distrust in the justice system, brought about by a breakdown of law and order, coups, failure of good governance, corruption, and the inability to protect civil liberties and human rights. Elevating local issues to a regional court level, offers the opportunity of objectivity, fairness and impartially.

Given the many changes brought about by the plethora of new legislation, the multiplicity of regional and international agreements and law specialization, the judiciaries in the Pacific require a permanent base for training and skills development. A second proposal is made in this article for the establishment of a Pacific Regional Judicial Training Institute. A Pacific Regional Court and a Pacific Regional Judicial Training Institute proposes to widen the current limits on justice in the Pacific. "Involving as many people as possible in achieving the fullest potentials will require leaders in every field with intelligence, energy and integrity."(Crocombe).

WARD, Alan

Crocombe on land tenure

Ron Crocombe revolutionised the study of Oceanic land tenure. His book, *Land Tenure in the Cook Islands* (OUP 1964), arising from his Ph.D research in the Department of Pacific History at the Australian National University, began to transform the perceptions, not only of scholars and administrators but even of Oceanic peoples themselves.

Ron Crocombe's work exposed how Maori and Cook Islands customary tenure was radically changed by processes which had purported merely to define it. From this and from my own research into New Zealand Maori tenure, I drew the conclusions that it is better not to meddle at all with customary Oceanic land tenure systems unless all concerned - the local people in particular - had a very clear idea of what they are moving away from, what they are moving to, and whether they would have control over the future of their land. None of those conditions appeared to be met in Papua New Guinea in the years leading to decolonization.

This paper examines Ron Crocombe and Alan Ward's period as advisers to the PNG Commission of Inquiry established to devise forms of land tenure which would at one and the same time preserve an underlying foundation of customary rights, promote cash cropping on land genuinely surplus to subsistence needs, and accommodate internal migration from land-short districts and urban growth. Plus new processes of dispute settlement to replace those of the retiring Australian administration. Ron Crocombe's knowledge and personal skills were essential.

FURTHER CONTRIBUTIONS

PAI-CHUAN

HIDE, Robin

NEDELJKOVIC, Maryvonne (*Head of Research Centre on Pacific Strategies, Caen- France*)

THAMAN, Konai & Randy

WOLFERS, Ted

PETERSON, Glenn (*Professor of Anthropology, CUNY, New York*)

Cook Islands Research Association

The Cook Islands Research Association was founded at a public meeting at the University of the South Pacific on 30 August 2007 attended by 25 interested people. The Association now has over 100 members.

The Association has no political, religious or other affiliation, and focuses on research on or about the Cook Islands or Cook Islanders. The main functions it agreed on are to organize its main conference each year in February, where any interested person can present the findings of research, or considered opinion and experience, on topics of current interest. Other conferences can be held during the year, as well as sponsoring public lectures on topics of interest drawing on visitors or locals with relevant information to share.

The Association has co-sponsored some research, and plans to publish subject to funds and expertise.

Officers of CIRA 2009 / 2010: President: Angie Tuara; Vice-President: Ina Teiotu ; Secretary: Liz Ponga; Treasurer: Anna Koteka; Executive Committee: Noeline Brown, Marjie Crocombe, Rod Dixon; Jon Tikiv-notau Jonassen, Jean Tekura Mason, Makiuti Tongia, John Hermann, Ina Hermann.

Past CIRA Conferences:

2008 Inaugral CIRA Conference, University of the South Pacific, Rarotonga

2008 Marae o Rongo, University of the South Pacific, Rarotonga

2009 Economic Crisis Forum, National Auditorium, Rarotonga

2009 The year 2050, University of the South Pacific, Rarotonga

Membership Details:

1-year membership \$20

5-year membership \$100

Life members \$1,000

Life Patron \$10,000.

Student members \$10 p.a.

For CIRA membership please contact the Treasurer, Anna Koteka, P.O Box 11 Rarotonga, COOK ISLANDS, email: kotekas@oyster.net.ck

WEBSITE: [www.http://cookislandsresearchassociation.wordpress.com](http://cookislandsresearchassociation.wordpress.com)

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1 yr

5 yr

Life

Patron

Student

TE TANE KAMAATU

E Taunga oki koe,
No te au tu karape
Tei akamarokura ia e te Atua
Kua aka korona ia koe
Ki te natura o te tane kamaatu
Kare atu kare mai, i toou tu
Tu aroa, te inangaro e te tauturu
I roto i te pa moana Pasifika
Kua totoa toou rongo, taau i rave
E tu akamoeau, e tu rangatira
E tu, no te tane kamaatu

You are an icon
Of many wisdom
Blessed by the Almighty God
You were crowned
With the wisdom of nature
There's no other like you
Your kindness, loving and helpful nature
Throughout the whole Pacific
You were well known, by your deeds
Your humbleness and integrity
Portrays an image of a man of wisdom

*(A song dedicated to Aunty Marjie and Family, in loving
memory of a dear friend and Father of the Nation - Papa Ron Crocombe)*

Vereara Maeva - Taripo

