

Oceania Institute 2025 Report

January 2026



Welcome dance by Letteine Polynesian Dance Academy at the Forum Theatre for the Oceania Oration delivered by Hon. Prof. Biman Prasad, Aug 2025. Photo by James Henry.

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(Unless otherwise noted, photos contributed by participants or Oceania Institute staff)

The Oceania Institute acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the unceded land on which we work, learn and live across the University of Melbourne: the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung and Bunurong peoples (Burnley, Fishermans Bend, Parkville, Southbank and Werribee campuses), the Yorta Yorta Nation (Dookie and Shepparton campuses), and the Dja Dja Wurrung people (Creswick campus).

We acknowledge and are grateful to the Traditional Owners, Elders and Knowledge Holders of all Indigenous nations and clans who have been instrumental in our reconciliation journey.

We recognise the unique place held by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the original owners and custodians of the lands and waterways across the Australian continent, with histories of continuous connection dating back more than 60,000 years. We also acknowledge their enduring cultural practices of caring for Country.

We pay respect to Elders past, present and future, and acknowledge the importance of Indigenous knowledge in the Academy. As a community of researchers, teachers, professional staff and students we are privileged to work and learn every day with Indigenous colleagues and partners

Overview

Across 2025, the Oceania Institute continued to work to bring staff, students, collaborators, and members of the Pasifika community together to focus on some of our region's most pressing challenges.

To this end, we welcomed Honourable Professor Biman Prasad, Fiji's Deputy Prime Minister, who delivered the inaugural Oceania Oration with an address entitled "Securing and Sustaining our Blue Pacific."



Oceania Oration in August 2025. Honourable Professor Biman Prasad (third from left) with Co-Director A/Prof Debra McDougall, Dean of Arts Prof Jennifer Balint, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Michael Wesley, Dean of Science Moira O'Bryan, and Co-Director Prof Jon Barnett.

Within the Conversation series on "Geopolitical Change in Everyday Life," Professor Transform Aqorau from Solomon Islands National University reflected on the changing geopolitics of higher education; Pacific climate activist Teresa Lifuka Dreca-Peyster shared Tuvaluan perspectives on the Falepili Union; and veteran journalist Dorothy Wickham discussed challenges facing Pacific journalists.

These were just three of ten conversations showcasing research and partnerships from around the region and featuring fifteen Pasifika scholars from PNG, Fiji, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu, Tahiti, Rapanui and Aotearoa.

We have continued to build connections with Pasifika communities in Melbourne, particularly through the Vaka Pasifika leadership program that brings promising Pasifika students to our Dookie and Parkville campuses. We have worked with the Pacific Islands Student Association to connect students with staff and visitors.

A key focus for 2025 was consolidating relationships with the regional universities, and we have had productive engagements with the University of the South Pacific, National University of Samoa, and Solomon Islands National University. These new and emerging partnerships build on long-standing relationships between staff, and they open new potential collaborations.

The Oceania Institute would not have been able to achieve all we have in 2025 without the research, teaching, and engagement of hundreds of academic colleagues; funding and professional support from colleagues in the Faculty of Arts, Faculty of Science, and Chancellery; and a wonderful cohort of students who have contributed immensely to our events. We are grateful to all who have climbed aboard the canoe and picked up a paddle.

Like the entire University of Melbourne community, we ended 2025 shocked and saddened by news of the passing of our Vice-Chancellor Professor Emma Johnston AO. On a [University Condolence Book](#), hundreds have paid tribute to Professor Johnston's visionary leadership, scholarship, mentorship, and deep care for people and the environment. Professor Johnston was enthusiastic about the work of the Oceania Institute and keen to connect with Pacific scholars and academic leaders. Despite her short time as Vice Chancellor, she has left a powerful legacy. We mourn her loss and extend deepest sympathy to her family and loved ones.



Above: Hon Biman Prasad, Professor Michael Wesley, and Professor Emma Johnston at the Oceania Oration

Below: Dorothy Foliaki garlanding Professor Johnstone with beautiful tēfui from Rotuma

Aims and organisation

The Oceania Institute is an initiative under the University's *Advancing Melbourne Globally* strategy. It is financially supported by the Global, Culture, and Engagement portfolio in Chancellery, the Faculty of Arts, and the Faculty of Science, a shared funding arrangement for the first three years of the Institute's operation (2024-2026).

The core aims of the Oceania Institute are:

1. enhance collaboration among University academics and graduate researchers and showcase the research, teaching, and engagement activities that focus on Oceania
2. create a welcoming and supportive environment for people from the Pacific Islands who work and study at the University, and for Pasifika communities in Melbourne
3. strengthen relationships that leverage the University's research expertise to better understand and address key challenges faced by people of Oceania
4. develop communities of learning connecting the University with educational programs and institutions in Oceania

Since its establishment, the Oceania Institute has been led by Co-director Prof Jon Barnett (School of Geography, Earth, and Environmental Sciences, Faculty of Sciences), Co-director A/Prof Debra McDougall (School of Social and Political Sciences, Faculty of Arts), and Oceania Institute Fellow Dr Rita Seumanutafa-Palala (School of Social and Political Sciences, Faculty of Arts).

The Institute's Advisory committee was established in 2025, consisting of Te'o Lau Dr Viliamu (Vili) Iese (Senior Research Fellow in School of Agriculture, Food, and Ecosystem Sciences), April Pokino (Executive Support Officer in the School of Culture and Communications), Ellen Tunumafono (Senior Coordinator of Indigenous Stem Outreach, Faculty of Science), Prof Michael Wesley (Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Global Culture and Engagement), and Koto Qalo (President of the Pacific Islands Student Society).

The Institute has established an informal meeting space / lounge for use by staff and Pasifika students in the building at 221 Bouverie Street. It maintains a website (<https://www.unimelb.edu.au/oceania>); an internal SharePoint site and mailing list for over 200 members of staff and PhD students; and an external mailing list with nearly 300 subscribers.

In May, we convened a meeting attended by thirty colleagues to discuss how best to achieve our core aims in coming years, with a particular focus on barriers to and strategies for developing teaching collaboration with Pacific universities and reciprocal student mobility. We also canvassed ideas about the future structure of the Oceania Institute, with strong support for the Institute continuing to work as a decentralised network that adds value by brokering relationships across the University, between the University and Pasifika communities in Melbourne, and with people, universities, and other organisations across the region. There was also broad affirmation of the importance of contributing to all core domains of academic work: research, teaching, and engagement.

Interdisciplinary Pacific-led collaborations

A core aim of the Oceania Institute is fostering collaborations across University of Melbourne faculties and research centres, especially collaborations led by Pacific scholars. In 2025, this work has begun to bear fruit through several initiatives.

The **Melanesian Biodiversity Conservation Network (MBCN)** is being led by **Dr Jeffrey Noro**, an expert on biodiversity, climate resilience, and science policy who has played a key role in developing the Bougainville Green-Blue Economy Policy. Dr Noro's research fellowship is jointly supported by the Faculty of Science and the Oceania Institute, with additional funding from the Melbourne Biodiversity Institute. The MBCN combines biological science and Indigenous knowledge, and it engages with scholars and community activists from New Caledonia, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, and Bougainville.

Te'o Lau Dr Vili lese has been awarded a grant to lead **Yarning for resilient and healthy people and environment in Oceania**, a project funded through the Embassy of France in Australia through its "On the Road to the COP31: Pacific Knowledge and Knowledge of the Pacific" grant scheme. The project will develop a collaborative platform of researchers, educators, and Indigenous-led organisations across the Pacific region, French Pacific territories, and Australia that may respond to the urgent need for integrated research and education to address the nexus of climate change, food systems, health, culture, and resilience.

A research-practice partnership supporting Solomon Islands National University to improve teacher training is being led by **Rebecca Spratt and Rhonda Di Biase** at the University of Melbourne and Catalpa International with funding from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. This two-year relationship builds on interdisciplinary connections within University of Melbourne and our new partnership with Solomon Islands National University.

The Moana Wan-Solwara Sound Archive Project, a joint project led by **A/Prof Kalissa Alexeyeff, Dr. Rita Seumanutafa-Palala** and Melbourne Museum's Pacific curator **Ms Jade Hadfield**. The 12-month project focuses on traditional Pacific musical instruments stored at Museum Victoria's Moana Wan-Solwara collection and will provide a digital archive that utilises the expertise of Pacific cultural knowledge-holders. The project is funded by the University and Museum Victoria's partnership grant, the McCoy Seed Funding.

Janine Tewid has been awarded a School of Geography, Earth, and Atmospheric Sciences Art-Science engagement award for a project titled ***Between the Land and the Sea*** to visually represent mangrove environments as critically important and changing natures that are concurrently vulnerable and resilient to sea-level rise. Janine is an accomplished digital artist from Palau, studying the Executive Master of Arts at Melbourne University. They are the 2024 Woman Champion of Creativity and Art, and the co-founder of "Create Belau" which promotes, develops, and organises contemporary traditional arts and culture events, shows, workshops, and art pieces in Palau.

Oceania Oration

In August, we hosted the inaugural [Oceania Oration](#) delivered by **The Honourable Professor Biman Prasad, Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Fiji** and Minister for Finance, Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics. In his address ‘Securing and Sustaining our Blue Pacific – What Will This Take?,’ Professor Prasad emphasised the



importance of reframing perspectives on the Pacific, addressing climate change and development challenges, and fostering stronger partnerships between Australia and Pacific nations. Performances by a Cook Islands drumming and dance group energised the University’s Arts West building for this well-attended event.



Above left: Honourable Professor Biman Prasad with Vice Chancellor Professor Emma Johnston AO. Above right: Batetaba Aselu garlanding Prof Prasad
Below: Professor Prasad with Dr Rita Seumanutafa-Palala and members of the Pacific Islands Student Association. Photos by James Henry

Public lectures

In April, the Oceania Institute team contributed to the Dean of Science's Science at Melbourne series on the subject of [Australia and the Pacific Islands: Solidarity in a time of climate crisis](#).

In August, 2025/26 Macgeorge Fellow Dr Lily George delivered a public lecture on **Trauma informed healing initiatives: seeking the summit of health for a Māori tribe in Aotearoa New Zealand**, which reflected on work of by her small rurally based hapū (tribe) in addressing historical trauma and contemporary health challenges. Dr George's visit was supported by the Macgeorge bequest; she was hosted by the Anthropology program in the School of Social and Political Sciences in collaboration with the Oceania Institute and the Indigenous Research Development Network in the Faculty of Arts.



Professor Jon Barnett, Professor Celia McMichael, Ms Dorothy Foliaki, Professor Moira O'Bryan, Te'o Lau Dr Viliamu Iese and Professor Michael Wesley

Conversation Series

Across 2025, our **Conversation series** has featured 15 Pasifika scholars from PNG, Fiji, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu, Tahiti, Rapanui and Aotearoa.



Antonina Lee Vegar and Keyonce Lee Hang (left) listening to Aliilemanu Dr. Bernadette Samau-Sila (right)

May 26th **The Transfer of Meaning: A Material Culture Preservation Journey**. Aliilemanu Dr. Bernadette Samau-Sila (National University of Samoa, Samoa).

May 30th **Leading a Learning Health System in the Pacific.** Speakers: Dr. Raymond Keshwan (Fiji National University, Fiji), Dr. Antoinette David (Suva National Hospital, Fiji), Dr. Sero Kalki (Vila Central Hospital, Vanuatu) in conversation with Prof. Amy Gray (The Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne).

June 19. **Building a Centre for Solomon Islands Languages.** Leonora Rotomane Houma (Solomon Islands National University) in conversation with A/Prof. Nick Thieberger.

June 20. **Weaving New Pacific Futures: Pacific Pathways through Academia.** Lefaoali'i A/Prof Dion Enari (Unitec Aotearoa NZ), Seuta'afili A/Prof Patrick Thomsen (University of Auckland).

June 24. **Geopolitical Change and Everyday Life in Oceania – Higher Education.** Prof. Transform Aqorau (Vice-Chancellor, Solomon Islands National University) in conversation with Prof. Michael Wesley.



Susana Kausea and Teresa Lifuka Drecala-Peyster

August 4. **Doing Indigenous Archaeology in Rapanui: How, Where and When.** Enerike Ngaara Te Manu Carrusco Hotus in conversation with Dr. Michelle Richards.

August 19. **An Island in the World, the World in an Island: Mangareva Islands.** Dr. Emilie Perez and Moanatea Claret.

September 3. **Tuvaluan Perspectives on the Australia-Tuvalu Falepili Union.** Teresa Lifuka Drecala-Peyster In conversation with Susana Kausea.

September 17. **Beyond Geopolitics: Challenges for Pacific journalists and journalism.** Dorothy Wickham (Melanesian New Network), Mary Louise O'Callaghan, Sue Ahearn (The Pacific Newsroom) and Jo Chandler



Great turnout to hear colleagues from Fiji and Vanuatu on learning in health systems.

October 29. **Too Kae Lago: Addressing Loss and Damage in Pacific Island Communities through Disaster Risk Financing**. Speakers: Te’o Lau Dr. Vili Iese, Tony Siamomua (Pacific Catastrophe Risk Insurance Company) and Richard Poulter (Pacific Catastrophe Risk Insurance Company).



Gerard Anapu (Student, Pacific Islands Student Association) conducting a Pacific welcome to the Conversation event with speakers Richard Poulter, Tony Siamomua, and Te’o Lau Dr. Vili Iese (Photo by R. Seumanutafa-Palala).

Funding schemes

Oceania Institute engagement grants

These small grants support activities that grow the capacity of researchers, students, and professionals in Pacific Island Countries and Pasifika communities in Australia. This scheme was awarded on an ongoing basis across 2025. Awardees included:

Aneley Getahun Strobel, Kylie Hui and Ben Howden (Microbiology and Immunology, Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences) to support a May visit from colleagues from Fiji’s War Memorial Hospital and the Ministry of Health and Medical Services to focus on descriptive study of antimicrobial resistance profiles of critical and high priority pathogens in a tertiary hospital in Fiji (2022-2024).

Nick Thieberger

(School of Languages and Linguistics, Arts) and **Debra McDougall** (School of Social and Political Sciences, Arts) to support Leonora Houma (Solomon Islands National University) to attend the Conference on Oceanic Linguistics and the University of Melbourne to work on plans for a centre for Solomon Islands languages. Leonora and Debra spoke with Agnes Tupou on [ABC Pacific Beat](#) about this initiative.



Bright and early in ABC's Southbank studio: Pacific Beat presenter Agnes Tupou, Leonora Houma, and Debra McDougall

Kalissa Alexeyeff (School of Social and Political Sciences, Arts) for "Reviving the Sounds of a Tongan Nose Flute," a project that enabled Niulala Helu, a Fangufangu Tufuga (Nose flute expert), to take up a residency in September 2025 with the Moana Wan Solwara Sound Archive at Melbourne Museum. The project is also supported by the University and Museum Victoria's partnership McCoy Seed Funding.

Vili lese (School of Agriculture, Food and Ecosystem Sciences) for an October collaboration on the role of insurance in addressing loss and damage on Indigenous people's food systems in Pacific Island Countries with Mr. Aholotu Palu Mr. Tony Siamomuma of the Pacific Catastrophe Risk Insurance Company and Professor Airini of Thompson Rivers University in Canada and member of the FAO's Global Hub on Indigenous Peoples Food Systems.



Niulala Helu recording and playing the fangufangu (Tongan nose flute) with Dr. Rita Seumanutafa-Palala at the Melbourne Museum studio

Rhonda Di Biase (Faculty of Education) for collaboration with colleagues from Solomon Islands National University's Faculty of Education and Humanities on improving teacher education, also the focus of a DFAT supported project led by Rhonda. SINU colleagues will be visiting early in 2026.

Student Grants

The Oceania Institute support the activities of University of Melbourne research higher degree students from the Pacific Islands, students of Pacific Island heritage, and students whose research focusses primarily on the Pacific Islands. **PhD fieldwork grants** supplement funding available through Schools and Faculties to help cover expenses of research in the Pacific. **Conference grants** support students attend conferences related to their Pacific-focused research and career development.

This year's awardees were

Chris Paul, a PhD candidate in the School of Geography, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, who will undertake the first phase of fieldwork in Solomon Islands for research on monitoring the impacts of climate change on wellbeing in the South Pacific.

Dorothy Foliaki, a PhD candidate in the School of Geography, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, to undertake research on the sustainability of land reclamation in Tonga.

Chethna Ben, a PhD candidate in Architecture, Building, and Planning, who presented her research on "Connecting and Contesting Disconnections: Urban Dispossession and Displacement," at the European Society for Oceanists conference held in June 2025.

Rupert Azzopardi, Master of International Relations, who joined a delegation of Australian and Papua New Guinean scholars for a short course on Australia-PNG relations hosted by the Deakin Centre for Contemporary Histories and Australia Awards Papua New Guinea in Canberra in June 2025.



Master of research student Grace Morita Manuleleua presenting her research at the recent OCIES event in New Zealand. Photo by G. Manuleleua.

Grace Morita Manuleleua, Master in Education, who presented "From policy to practice: Evaluating factors shaping bilingual education in Samoa" at the annual Oceania Comparative and International Education Society conference at the University of Canterbury in Otautahi/Christchurch in November 2025.

Representatives from UoM's Pacific Island Student Association (Keyonce Lee Hang, Antonina Lee Vegar, and Gerard Tuui Anapu) to attend and present a paper at the Australia Pasifika Educators Network conference in Brisbane in November.

Gerard Tuui Anapu, Master of Environment, who attended an Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Writeshop in Samoa in November 2025.

Student updates

The Institute works with the University's new Pacific Islands Student's Association to support students from the region and Pasifika students in Melbourne, including through regular talanoa sessions in Te-Maneaba (the Oceania Institute lounge), student involvement in conversations and visiting delegations, welcome events, and making garlands to present to new graduates.



Welcome BBQ in February 2025

Congratulations to the University's 2025 Pacific graduates, including

- Keyonce Lee Hang, Samoa (Master of Public Policy and Management)
- Catherine Fiu, Samoa (Master of Engineering and Management)
- Emannuel Etimani, Samoa (Master of Environment)
- Vakaola Maka, Tonga (Master of Biomedical Science)
- Talie Munda, Samoa
- Ema Jane Foster, Fiji (Master of Journalism)
- Kelly Pukai, Papua New Guinea (Master of Management in Accounting and Finance)
- Mearold Tinai-Viliamu, Samoa (Master of Laws)
- Rita Seumanutafa-Palala, Samoa (PhD – Ethnomusicology)
- Tangineimoana Kioa, Tonga (Master of Development Studies)
- Salome Bill, Papua New Guinea (Master of Development Studies)
- Grace Manuleleua, Samoa (Master of Education)
- Maino Saroa, Papua New Guinea (Master of Laws)
- Denelise Lualuaba, Papua New Guinea (Master of Laws)
- Susana Kausea, Tuvalu (Master of Commercial Law)
- Saufua Tepa Maiava, Samoa (Master of Public Policy and Management)

Community building

Vaka Pasifika

Following a successful inaugural event last year, the Institute's **Vaka Pasifika** Student Leadership Program 2025 comprised three engagement events for Pasifika Year 10 students and their families. In partnership with the University's Engagement and Partnerships office, Goulburn Valley Partnerships office, Future Students (Student and Scholarly Services) office as well as community initiatives Pasifika Schools Network (Department of Education) and Know Your Roots Inc., the Institute hosted two student university days at the [Dookie campus in Shepparton](#) (May) then Parkville campus (October) followed by a community day (November). The two student university days utilised members of UoM's Pacific staff network, who facilitated lectures and workshops for the students. This year the program engaged 365 Victorian Pacific community members, including 220 Year 10 students.



Vaka Pasifika at Dookie campus in May



Alumita Lekenau, PhD Candidate in Law, presenting at Vaka Pasifika in Parkville in October



Vaka Pasifika Student Day



Rita Seumanutafa-Palala in conversation with undergraduate students Joseph Passi and Tyra Gray at Vaka Pasifika community day



Performances by *Spirit of Kiribati* and *Whare Haka o Narama* groups at Vaka Pasifika community day



University partnerships

The year started with a three-nation visit led by Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Global, Culture, and Engagement) Michael Wesley [extending our engagement with the Pacific through education and research](#). An MoU was signed with the University of the South Pacific (USP) to facilitate broad academic collaboration to enhance research, teaching and learning, professional development and research supervision, and provide opportunities for inbound and outbound student flows. A similar agreement with the National University of Samoa (NUS) is underway.

In Honiara, the signing of a partnership agreement with Solomon Islands National University was combined with a well-attended public seminar on “Solomon Islands and Australia in the evolving higher education landscape” (check out these [video highlights](#)). The delegation included Prof Wesley, Tyrone Lavery (BioSciences), Debra McDougall (Anthropology), Tanya Miletic (Initiative for Peacebuilding), Nick Thieberger (Linguistics), Alexei Trundle (Melbourne Centre for Cities), along with Blaze Puksand and Lia Carrick from the AsiaLink Diplomacy team who organised the seminar. Spending several days in intensive conversations with SINU colleagues allowed us to develop concrete plans for ongoing collaboration.



MoU signing ceremony with SINU and UoM delegates, Feb 2026. Photo credit Pixel Safe

These conversations continued in a June visit from SINU’s Vice Chancellor Professor Transform Aqorau and Executive Officer Siona Koti, who met with colleagues from across the University to further our collaborations in areas including peacebuilding, Indigenous knowledge, climate change, and health as well as university governance, higher education, and commercialisation and innovation. Highlights from the visit included Dr Transform’s contribution to the Oceania Institute Conversation series with a talk focused on the changing geopolitics of the region and a session where research students from the

Pacific shared insights from their work. Listen to him here on [ABC Pacific Beat](#) in an interview recorded after his talk at the University.



Above: Attendees at Prof Aqorau's talk; Below: Prof Aqorau speaking with PhD Candidate Chris Paul; Vice-Chancellor Michael Wesley presenting gifts to Prof Aqorau and Ms Koti

Delegations and visitors

In March, a delegation from the Ministry of Education of Tuvalu visited the University. Uluaipouomalo Hon. Hamoa Holona (Minister of Education), Corinna Ituaso (Permanent Secretary), and Fineaso Tehulu (Director of Education) engaged in discussions about challenges and possibilities of education in this small island state over a luncheon hosted by Michael Wesley, met with students at University of Melbourne from Tuvalu, and made time for a kava session with the Pacific Islands Student Association.



Back row: Gerard Tuii Anapu, Christopher Kausea, Susana Kausea, Vili Iese, Debra McDougall, Bateteba Aselu, Monica Minnegal. Front row: Rita Seumanutafa-Palala, Mr Fineaso Tehulu, Hon. Hamoa Holona, Ms Corinna Ituaso Laafai, Koto Qalo

In November, we welcomed Mr Gideon Kaevakore, Deputy Secretary Institutional Projects at the Department of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology, Papua New Guinea Government; Ms Laura Marson, Counsellor, Education and Leadership, Australian High Commission in Papua New Guinea; Ms Artilla Devi, Senior Manager, Higher Education Partnerships, Australia Awards Papua New Guinea; Ms Katherine Epikana, Program Manager, Education, Australian High Commission in Papua New Guinea; and Dr Lien Pham, Higher Education Partnerships Advisor, Australian Awards Papua New Guinea. In a meeting with colleagues in the Centre for the Study of Higher Education and the Faculty of Education, we discussed challenges and opportunities associated with online delivery of tertiary education, with plans for sharing expertise and experience. The meeting was followed by morning tea with colleagues and students from, or with experience in, PNG.

We also convened a roundtable with twelve female researchers from Papua New Guinea, who joined a program aimed to strengthen their research capabilities, network and strengthen their links with organisations in Australia. The program was led by Simon Feeney, Professor of Development Economics at RMIT with the Australian Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Study Centre. The networking events connected the PNG researchers with their counterparts at the University of Melbourne.

In November, we hosted a roundtable discussion with 15 emerging Pacific Island climate change activists from seven Pacific Island nations who were visiting Australia as part of the Pacific Climate Diplomacy Training Program. The meeting was led by PhD candidate Jason Titifanue and supported by the Atlantic Fellows for Social Equity team.

The Oceania Institute team has also met with representatives visiting the University, including from: the Asian Development Bank, Australian Academic Volunteers Abroad, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the French Embassy in Australia, the International Science Council, the Pacific Catastrophe Risk Insurance Foundation, and PLAN international.

The Oceania Institute leadership team continues to forge connections across the University, including meetings with the Atlantic Fellows for Social Equity program, the Australia India Institute, the Centre for the Study of Higher Education, the Deputy Vice Chancellor Indigenous, the Engagements and Partnerships team, the Global Strategy Forum, the Melbourne Energy Institute, the Sustainability Strategy team, and the Community Engaged Research network of the School of Social and Political Sciences and Melbourne Social Equity Institute.

Oceania Institute in Rome

The University of Melbourne and the Potter Museum of Art have curated an **Oceania exhibition in the new Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) Museum in Rome**. The exhibition features a series of videos called Feeding the World Hope: Indigenous Peoples' foods from Oceania and was curated by Dr Michelle J Richards (School of Geography, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences), Shanysa McConville (Potter Museum of Art) and Dr. Rita Seumanutafa-Palala (Oceania Institute). It showcases research from across the university and includes an interview with Professor Marcia Langton talking about the work of Professor Dorin Gupta (School of Agriculture, Food and Ecosystem Sciences), Bruce Pascoe and Black Duck Foods, and artworks by Naomi Hobson. Check out these [video stories](#) recorded by Te'o Lau Dr Vili lese (School of Agriculture, Food and Ecosystem Sciences) and Rita Seumanutafa-Palala on the Potter Museum of Art website.



Melbourne delegation at the FAO exhibition in Rome: John Clarke, Rita Seumanutafa-Palala and Lau Dr Vili lese.

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