

# *Experiences from the Pacific*

**Place-based research methods  
and approaches**

Monica Wabuke & Lea Kinikini



# Background



Rachel George – Director



Marcel Kaba – Assoc Director



Monica Wabuke – Assoc Director



Richard Bell – Assoc Director



Grace Nicholas – Assoc Director



Denise Ng – Senior Consultant



Merve Hosgelen – Assoc Director



Amanda Mottershead – Consultant



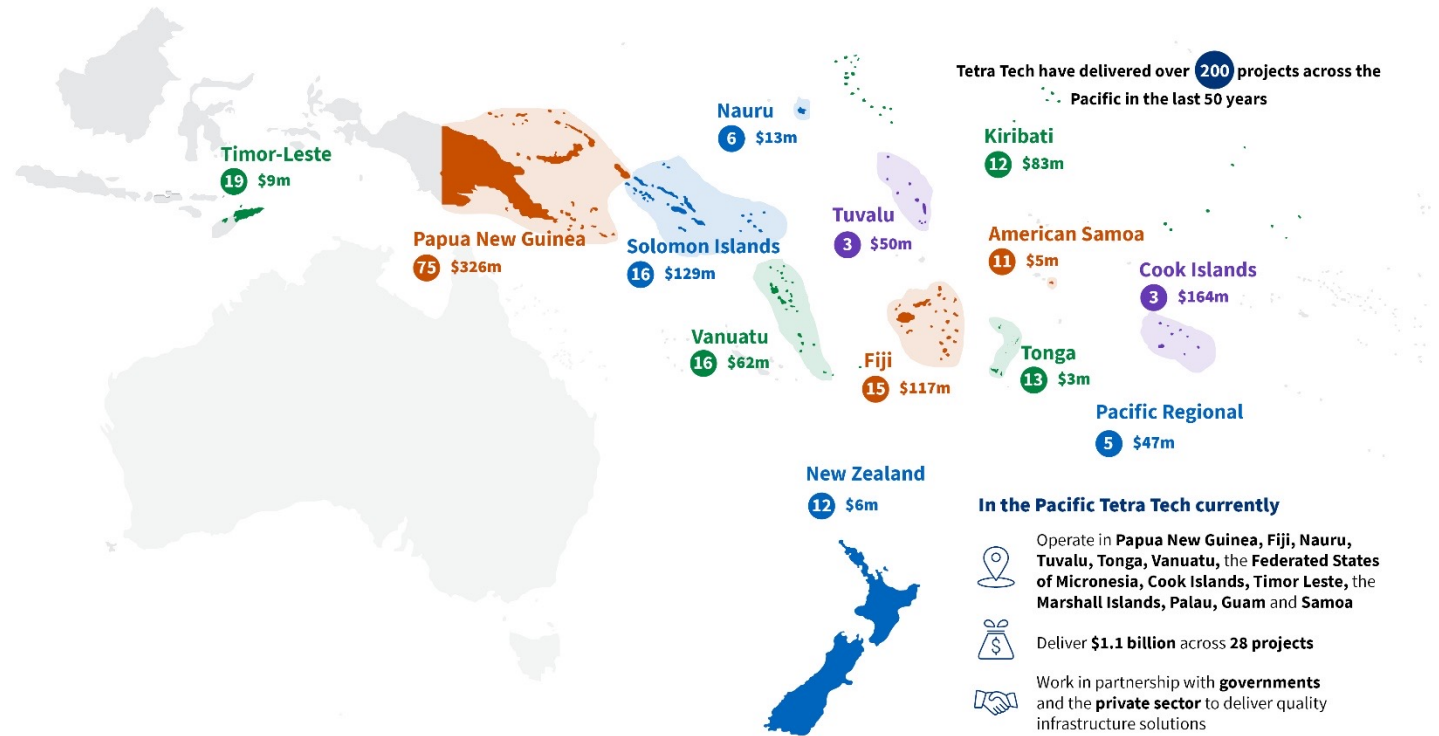
Richard Bell – Assoc Director



Paul Lee – Graduate



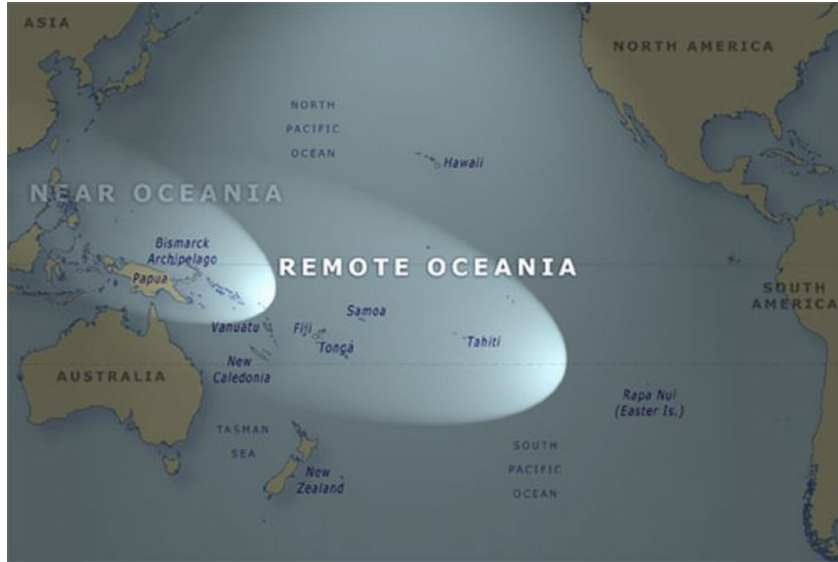
Johan Haris – Assoc Director



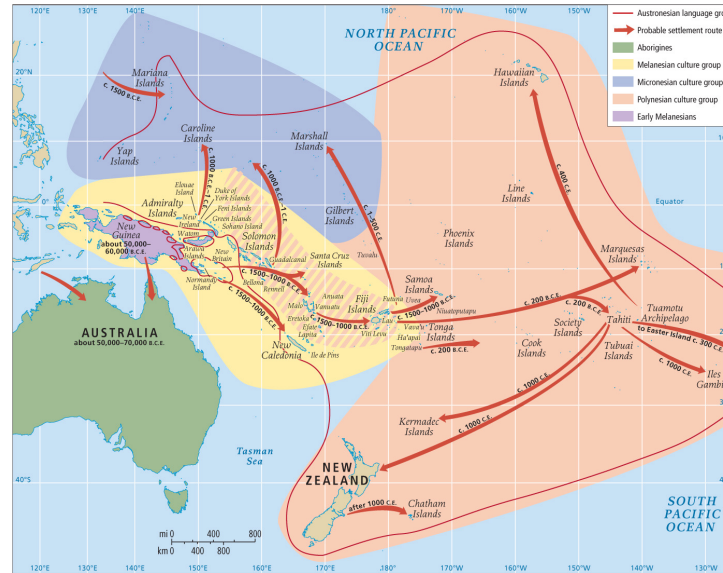
# People and place: locating ourselves



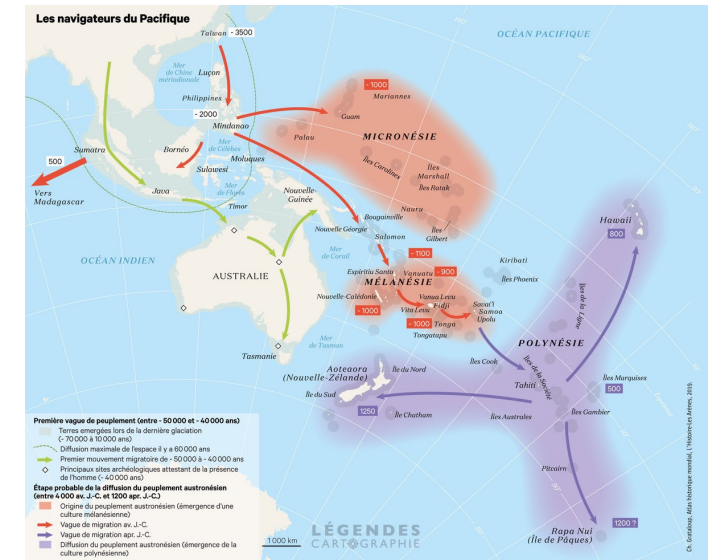
# Contextualising Deep Time Pacific Region: Past, Present, Future



Near Oceania – settlement 40,000 years ago



Remote Oceania (Micronesia & Polynesia) – 3,000-500 years ago



Sub-regions; Polynesia, Micronesia and Melanesia

# Pioneering Pacific Approaches in Academia & Leadership: Experiential, Reflexive Transformative

- **PLACE: Vanua Framework**

- Asesela Ravuvu / Ilaitia Tuwere **Place, Power and Relational Approaches**

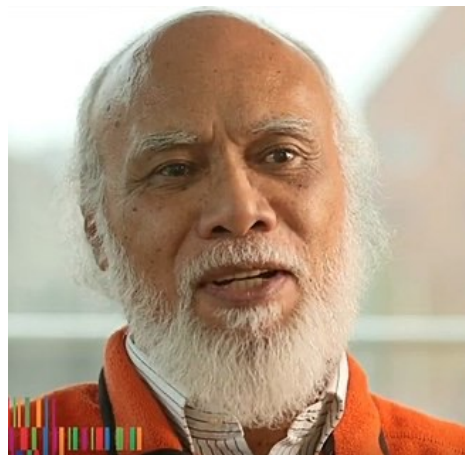
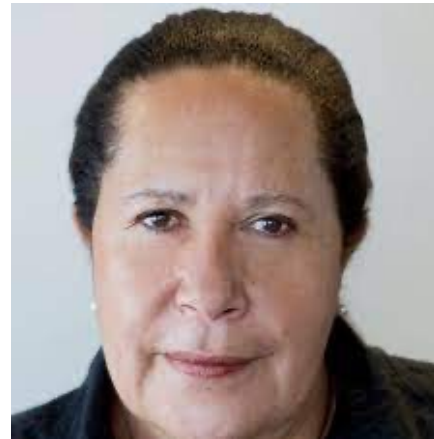
- **PEOPLE: Kakala Framework** – Konai Helu Thaman **Reciprocal Processes**

- **POWER & POSITION: Talanoa Orality/Talking Title** – Sitiveni Halapua & Timote

- Vaioleti **Discourse and Intervention**

- **SPACE:**

- **Teu Le Vā** – Melani Anae **Social Space & Ethics**
  - **Fonofale Model** – Fuimaono Karl Pulotu-Endermann **Relational & Power Relations Support**



# *Approaching Pacific Community-Driven Research & Evaluation Approaches: Pacific Values & Metaphors for Research*

Kakala & Salusalu

**RESOLVES:** inflexible Western research paradigms and evaluation strategies

**SOLUTION:** to the problems of interpretation and accessing information for improvement

**MITIGATES:** research exploitation of indigenous peoples and natural resources

# Pacific Innovation Approach

## Talanoa & Kakala framework



**TEU**  
*(The Preparatory stage)*  
Teu is the concept stage, identifying and designing why engagement is necessary. The Talanoa process starts and is weaved throughout.

**PLANNING, FRAME & ENGAGE**

**TOLI**  
*(Collection stage)*  
Toli involves deciding and selecting the different flowers. The flowers are deliberately chosen to suit whom Teu has chosen.

**FRAME & ENGAGE**

**TUI**  
*(Analytical stage)*  
The sense making and weaving together of all the diverse flowers. The opportunity to discuss in detail, information and data presented. The most time-consuming stage.

**EXPLORE & CONNECT**

**LUVA**  
*(Gifting stage)*  
Luva means a gift from the heart, or giving away of the Kakala. To Luva a gift is to give with sincerity, without expecting anything in return.

**IMAGINE & CREATE**

**MALIE**  
*(Appreciation stage)*  
Malie expresses a sense of gratitude, the recipient is affirming an understanding has been reached. Opportunity to reflect and evaluate the process.

**IMAGINE & CREATE/  
MAKE & TEST**

**MAFANA**  
*(Inclusive stage)*  
Mafana is the final stage where the recipient(s) acknowledge their appreciation of those who design Kakala. Consolidating information evaluated in the Malie stage.

**TEST, LEARN & EMBED**

John Christopher Faitala,  
Pacific Business Trust (2020).  
Source: Linked In:

‘Ike i ke au nui ke  
au iki: He alo a he  
alo

*The top of the cliff  
isn't the place to  
look at us;*

Come down here and  
learn of the big and  
little currents.

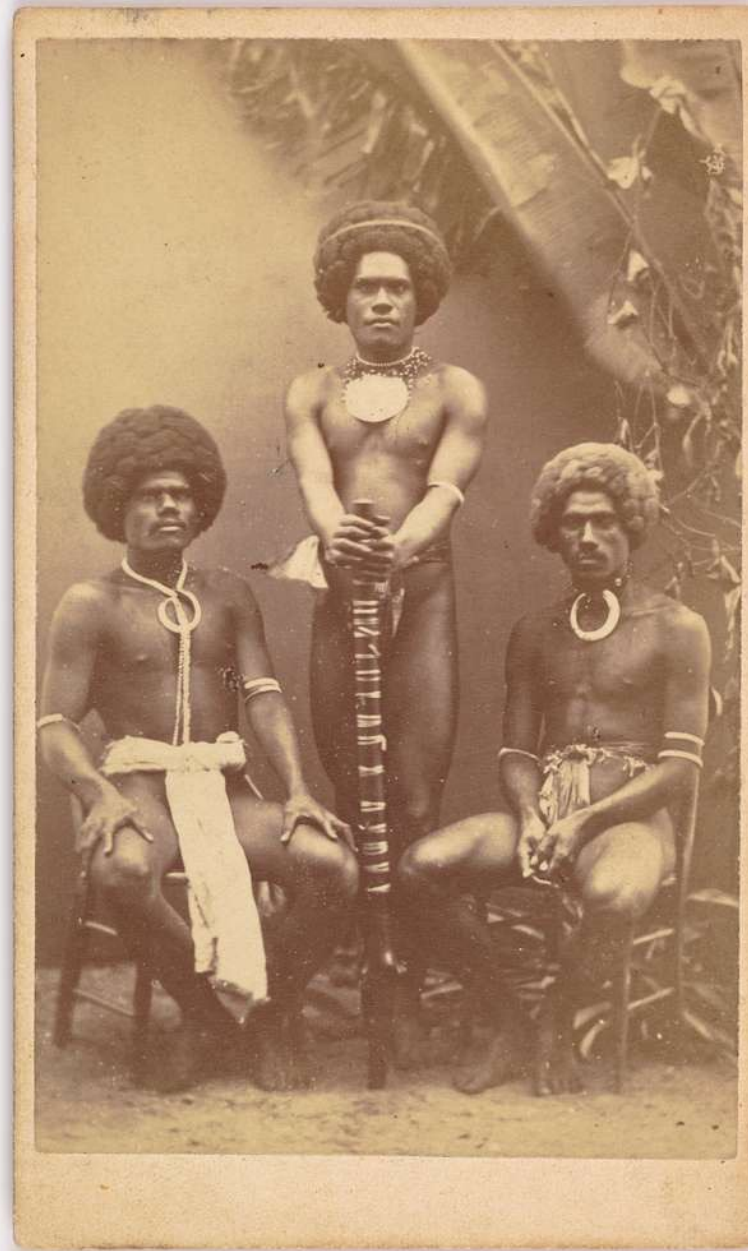
‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i Proverb cited in Pukui 2011

## Insights from the inside

- ❑ **Process/Protocols:** Understand who the key stakeholders are. In the community, the chief facilitates the meeting, “a storian to solve the issue”. Understand what is common practice (i.e. gift of lei, salusalu, something from your country)
- ❑ **Trust and relationship building with local people:** not just performance. Relationship building with ministries
- ❑ **Local governance mechanisms;** who makes decisions and who holds power in what contexts.
- ❑ **Relational dynamics:** understanding how age, seniority and position play in the community
- ❑ **Cultural protocols:** Use our cultural protocols to solve issues as the best approaches.
- ❑ Know who you are in relation to the competing demands.
- ❑ **The primacy of religion:** religion plays a very large role. Understand deeply held convictions.



# Ancestral Wisdom and Culture



Source: [Kai colo. Museum of New Zealand collection](#)

**Thank you for  
your time!**