



SHARED IDENTITY

A VISION FOR AUSTRALIA 2022
VIRTUAL GAP SUMMIT

FRIDAY, 23 SEPTEMBER 2022
8:30AM – 1:15PM AEST

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS
& RECOMMENDATIONS



“A common identity that would help us act together for the advancement of our collective interests, including the protection of the ocean for the general good, is necessary for the quality of our survival in the so-called Pacific Century when important developments in the global economy will be concentrated in huge regions that encircle us.”

- Epeli Hau'ofa in *“The Ocean in Us”*



CONTENTS

Global Access Partners Pty Ltd

ACN 000 731 420

ABN 74 000 731 420

Global Access Partners (GAP), 2022

24-30 Wellington Street, Waterloo
Sydney NSW 2017
AUSTRALIA

T +61 2 8303 2420

www.globalaccesspartners.org



The report is released under a
Creative Commons Attribution 4.0
International Public License
(CC BY 4.0),
[https://creativecommons.org/
licenses/by/4.0/](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/)

Copies of this publication can be
obtained by contacting (02) 8303
2420 or downloaded at
www.globalaccesspartners.org

DISCLAIMER: This Report
represents a wide range of views
and interests of the participating
individuals and organisations.
Statements made during discussions
are the personal opinions of the
speakers and do not necessarily
reflect those of the organisers and
sponsors of the Summit.

Executive Summary.....	4
Recommendations.....	5
Acknowledgements.....	6
Proceedings.....	7
Welcome and Setting the Scene.....	7
Session One – <i>Governance</i>	9
Session Two – <i>Jobs and Skills</i>	16
Session Three – <i>Shared Identity</i>	22
 Appendices	 30
Programme.....	30
Thought Leader Profiles.....	32
Sponsor Profiles.....	40
Delegates.....	44

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

“Shared identity will build the trust required to make tough decisions, push the status quo beyond zero-sum calculations and co-create solutions to secure collective benefits. However, the construction of shared identity requires continual collective effort, through good times and bad, and rallying around shared values.” – Prof Brian Schmidt AC, ANU Vice-Chancellor and 2011 Nobel Prize laureate in physics, speaking at the 2022 GAP Summit

The GAP Summit on Shared Identity took place on 23 September 2022. Hosted online to facilitate multinational involvement, it was a joint session of Global Access Partners' two flagship events – the long-standing *Vision for Australia* Summit and the GAP Summit for the Pacific and Small Island Nations, launched in 2021.

A diverse range of Australian and international thought leaders discussed the concept of shared identity and Australia's relations in the Pacific. They stressed the value of democracy and women's rights as a common bond, digital technology as an engine for progress, and the importance of respectful interactions, equitable economic development, and mutual social and cultural understanding.

The Summit brought together a select group of 120 senior representatives from business, government, academia and the not-for-profit sector across 18 countries. The distinguished thought leaders included **Dr Kurt Campbell AO CNZM**, Deputy Assistant to the US President and Coordinator for Indo-Pacific Affairs on the National Security Council, **His Excellency Mr Jean-Pierre Thébault**, Ambassador of France to Australia, and **His Excellency Anote Tong**, the 4th President of the Republic of Kiribati.

The Summit's three plenary sessions were chaired by the **Hon. Cr Philip Ruddock AO**, Mayor of Hornsby Shire Council, **Tanya Stoianoff**, Head of Government Affairs, DXC Technology Australia and New Zealand, and **Prof Brian Schmidt AC**,

Vice-Chancellor and President of the Australian National University (ANU) and the winner of the 2011 Nobel Prize in Physics.

Discussions were facilitated under the Chatham House rule by **Stephen Hayes MBE**, Chairman of Gravity Labs, **Michael Collins**, Chief Executive Officer of Strategic Development Group, and **Catherine Fritz-Kalish**, Co-founder and Managing Director of Global Access Partners.

Participants offered their personal perspectives on related national and international issues, including the urgent threat of climate change, the power of education, and the 'brain drain' of Pacific talent to the Australian labour market. The Summit proposed several recommendations to progress over the coming year, including a radical rethink of traditional governance and economic models, to be discussed at a future GAP event.

About the GAP Annual Summit

GAP Summits have become an important feature of Australia's policy landscape. These high-level, invitation-only gatherings are known for their unique format, networking opportunities and focus on economic activity and practical results. Traditionally held in a State Legislative Assembly Chamber, GAP Summits made a successful transition online over the last three years, broadening their reach and facilitating a truly global dialogue.

<https://globalaccesspartners.org/gap-summit/>



RECOMMENDATIONS

The Summit offered a range of recommendations for decision makers, stakeholders and GAP alumni to progress in 2023:

1. Encourage companies and organisations to extend their social impact strategies to give back to their communities, broaden opportunities for disadvantaged people, and encourage growth and prosperity across marginalised communities in Australia and the Pacific;
2. Work with technology companies and public authorities to generate training and employment opportunities for Pacific and Indigenous people to participate in the digital economy while remaining in their communities;
3. Support the preservation and exchange of traditional knowledge in the Pacific and Australia through meetings, centres and digital platforms to build respect and engagement and give Indigenous people a greater voice in decision making;
4. Support the work of the International Centre for Democratic Partnerships (ICDP) to deepen the pool of Pacific and Indigenous leaders, entrepreneurs, mentors and professionals through a range of measures, including 'feeder' career paths and development plans;
5. Expand opportunities for Australian students to study in Fiji and other Pacific Island nations to build greater affinity between Australia and the Pacific;
6. Discuss new forms of national and international governance, economic value and social interaction at a GAP event in 2023.

Global Access Partners plans to create several projects and partnerships based on these recommendations, most notably:

- **Shared Identity and Australia's relations in the Pacific** – Continue discussions with Dr Kurt Campbell on potential collaboration opportunities between the US and Australia through ICDP
- **Value of Democracy** – Progress the Pacific governance project with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
- **Women's Rights** – Encourage women's empowerment through the GAP Taskforce on Women in Politics
- **Digital Technology** – Develop a joint educational project with DXC Technology to build capacity in the Solomon Islands, Samoa, Fiji and Papua New Guinea (PNG)
- **Equitable Economic Development** – Conduct a radical re-think of traditional governance and economic models through a collaborative research project with Prof Peter Söderbaum and Prof Erik Bjurström
- **Climate Change** – Seek fresh thinking and approaches to tackle climate change through the Nobel Prize Dialogue Australia 2023-24; invite HE Anote Tong to join the Dialogue's global Advisory.
- **'Brain Drain' of Pacific talent to Australia's labour market** – Support ICDP's Pacific Tech Academy to create skilled employment opportunities for Pacific talent

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Host

The Hon. Anthony Roberts MP, Minister for Planning, Minister for Homes
NSW Government

Partners

Global Access Partners
DXC Technology Australia and New Zealand
Event Frog
First 5000
Open Forum

In collaboration with

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

Summit Steering Committee

Alexander Benze von Fritz, Olga Bodrova, Michael Collins, Tania Constable PSM, Peter Dunne, Martin Forst, Peter Fritz AO, Catherine Fritz-Kalish (Chair), Sarah Fyson, Stephen Hayes MBE, Taholo Kami, Peter Kenilorea Jr, Simone Pensko, Hon Cr Philip Ruddock AO, Michele Rumsey, Prof Brian Schmidt AC, Dr Melis Senova, Alison Sheehy, Prof Nara Srinivasan, Tanya Stoianoff

Global Access Partners (GAP)

Olga Bodrova, Peter Fritz AO, Catherine Fritz-Kalish, Helen Hull, Nicholas Mallory, Alison Sheehy, Chelsea Wilson



PROCEEDINGS

WELCOME & SETTING THE SCENE

Introduction & Acknowledgement of Country

Catherine Fritz-Kalish

Co-Founder & Managing Director, GAP
Director, International Centre for Democratic
Partnerships (ICDP) & ICDP Foundation



Catherine Fritz-Kalish opened the 2022 GAP Summit on Shared Identity by welcoming its 15 thought leaders and 120 participants from 18 different countries. She paid tribute to the late Queen Elizabeth and her immense contribution to the global community, noting that eight of the Summit's participating nations are members of the Commonwealth.

Global Access Partners has united some of Australia's most talented and influential figures over the last 25 years to discuss and implement solutions to the nation's most pressing issues.¹ Through a recently signed partnership with Nobel Prize Outreach,² GAP is now evolving into a global network of 'thinkers and doers' from business, government, not-for-profits and academia. This Summit offers participating stakeholders an opportunity to define and strengthen their common

regional identity at a time of geopolitical tension, environmental crises and economic downturn.

Stressing the factors that unite us, while respecting our differences, should foster stability and trust in a rapidly changing world and signpost positive strategic directions for the future. As a director of the International Centre for Democratic Partnerships,³ Ms Fritz-Kalish has been involved in the delivery of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT's) *Pacific Connect* programme⁴ for the last five years. She welcomed the insight that involvement afforded her into Pacific challenges, including the impact of climate change on small island nations.

Australia faces many of the same issues, including post-pandemic recovery, integrating Indigenous people into the digital economy, and dealing with natural disasters exacerbated by climate change. Ms Fritz-Kalish said her immersion in Pacific cultures, languages and values in recent years has inspired her to seek new ways to share ideas and make decisions. She invited participants to suggest practical ways to build closer connections based on mutual respect and collaborate on projects promoting cultural interchange, economic prosperity and ecological responsibility through GAP's Second Track process.

Ms Fritz-Kalish thanked DXC Technology for co-sponsoring the Summit, the steering committee for their work over the last twelve months, and the GAP team and online platform provider EventFrog for organising and presenting the event.

She then acknowledged the traditional custodians of the land, before inviting Taulapapa Brenda Heather-Latu, Director of ICDP, to offer a Pacific greeting.

PACIFIC WELCOME

Taulapapa Brenda Heather-Latu
Director, ICDP, Partner, Latu Lawyers,
Former Attorney-General of Samoa

Ms Heather-Latu welcomed participants in several Pacific languages, framing the Summit as a gathering of chiefs from different lands and disciplines. She then introduced the Hon. Anthony Roberts MP, Minister for Planning and Minister for Homes in the NSW Government, to open proceedings.

WELCOME ADDRESS

The Hon. Anthony Roberts MP
Minister for Planning, Minister for Homes
NSW Government



Minister Roberts thanked Pacific and international participants for joining this year's GAP Summit and stressed the value of previous GAP Summits in building collective resilience and adapting society to new ways of living. Inflation and supply chain shortages are impeding the global economy as the world reopens after COVID-19, and nations must work together and 'think outside the box' to restore growth and stability.

The NSW Government is strengthening services and driving strategic reform to give its citizens a brighter future. The Department of Planning and Environment aims to encourage affordable and

inclusive housing for the state's growing population in cities and regions through its *Housing 2041* strategy.⁵ Planning reforms will release more land for new homes and speed planning approvals, backed by a \$2.8 billion public investment program to boost the supply of social and Indigenous housing.

Minister Roberts said he was looking forward to the results of the day's debate, and Global Access Partners turning these ideas into action.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Dr Kurt Campbell AO CNZM
Deputy Assistant to the President
Coordinator for Indo-Pacific Affairs
National Security Council
The White House
Washington DC

The Summit's keynote speaker **Dr Kurt Campbell** stressed the importance of strengthening existing alliances and building ever-closer relationships between the United States and the Asia-Pacific region.

The US is 'stepping up its game' in the region⁶ and will tackle Pacific challenges, from climate change and illegal fishing to unemployment and economic development, in partnership with Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and Japan through the new *Partners in the Blue Pacific* initiative, announced in June 2022.⁷

This informal but significant partnership builds on each partner's longstanding commitment to the region, and the \$2.1 billion in annual development aid they provide, to support Pacific sovereignty, improve transparency and assure accountability, guided by the Pacific Islands themselves.

The US and its partners aim to deliver results for the Pacific more effectively and efficiently in line with the Pacific Islands Forum's upcoming *2050 Strategy for*



“We fully recognise that for us to be effective in the Pacific, we must meet the Pacific peoples where they live, we must address their needs and their interests, we have to be clear that we can work with them as partners.”

Dr Kurt Campbell AO CNZM



the Blue Pacific Continent.⁸ They will work with Pacific partners to map existing projects and plan future ones, targeting resources, removing duplication and closing gaps in provision.

Partners in the Blue Pacific will also bolster Pacific regionalism by forging closer connections with Pacific governments and the Pacific Islands Forum, and facilitating stronger and more regular engagement with allied governments. The partners will also expand opportunities for cooperation between the Pacific and other nations which share Pacific values and want to work constructively and transparently to benefit the people of the region.

The allies will seek Pacific guidance on its strategy and projects on climate mitigation, online connectivity, marine transportation, naval security, environmental protection, citizen health, economic prosperity, and training and education.

Dr Campbell welcomed GAP's initiatives on Pacific development and technology and shared GAP's desire to 'meet Pacific peoples where they live,' and address their needs in transparent, democratic ways in this age of regional strategic competition.

Catherine Fritz-Kalish thanked Dr Campbell for his address and hoped to discuss ideas and projects arising from the Summit with him in the future.

SESSION ONE - Governance

SESSION CHAIR

The Hon. Cr Philip Ruddock AO
Mayor, Hornsby Shire Council

THOUGHT LEADER PANEL

- **His Excellency Mr Jean-Pierre Thébault**
Ambassador of France to Australia
- **The Honourable Peter Kenilorea Jr**
Member for East 'Are'are
National Parliament of Solomon Islands
- **Taulapapa Brenda Heather-Latu**
Partner, Latu Lawyers
Director, ICDP
Former Attorney General of Samoa

Session Chair the Hon. Cr Philip Ruddock AO opened the session on governance by reflecting on his 43 years in Parliament and numerous ministerial appointments. Australia has one of the world's highest rates of overseas born citizens, but its strong democratic systems and institutions have melded people together from all over the world. These systems have evolved through constant debate to address the needs of every citizen.

The preamble to the 2007 Australian Citizenship Act defines citizenship as a “common bond involving reciprocal rights and obligations, uniting all Australians, while respecting the diversity”. It calls on citizens to pledge the first loyalty to this country, share its democratic beliefs and respect the rights and liberties of others. While acknowledging that people of all nations and cultures come to its shores, Australia’s governance promotes just and fair outcomes for all.



Cr Ruddock introduced the Session’s thought leaders and invited them to offer their own perspectives on governance in the region.

Mr Jean-Pierre Thébault **Ambassador of France to Australia**

Mr Thébault outlined his nation’s commitment to addressing the challenges and opportunities facing the Pacific. He saw the region’s nations as ‘large ocean,’ rather than ‘small island’ states, and praised the vibrancy of these diverse communities. The Pacific’s tightly knitted network of cultures and the ‘Pacific way’ of interacting must be respected, and with project processes tailored to ensure Pacific recipients and partners remain on board.

France is proud to be part of the Pacific family, as half a million French citizens live⁹ in French Pacific territories. France supports their economic and strategic security and monitors their vast marine domains. Climate change and the pandemic are

shared challenges, and France has taken important steps to mitigate climate threats, react to natural disasters, and build Pacific capacity.

President Emmanuel Macron has announced¹⁰ a range of initiative in recent years to combat illegal fishing¹¹ and ecological degradation,¹² the One Ocean Summit held in February 2022.¹³ The next United Nations’ (UN) ‘Our Ocean’ conference, to be held in Greece in 2024,¹⁴ will see a raft of further international measures.

France stands beside its Pacific neighbours when disaster strikes, most recently during Tonga’s volcanic eruption in January 2022.¹⁵ The 2,800 French military personnel, stationed in the Pacific¹⁶ to protect the security and maritime resources of this vast region, transported humanitarian supplies from New Caledonia and French Polynesia and collaborated with local authorities to safeguard communities.

This year marks the 30th anniversary of arrangements between France, Australia and New Zealand to coordinate regional emergency responses, and France and its European Union (EU) partners also work to build a better future for the region by strengthening partnerships and pursuing projects within it. The EU has earmarked almost a billion Euros for the region up to 2027, while the French Development Bank has invested in a range of regional projects, including construction of the National University of Vanuatu, energy transition schemes in PNG and biodiversity in Fiji.

France also works with regional organisations to strengthen the Pacific community and encourages New Caledonia and French Polynesia to play their proper role in the Pacific Islands Forum. France will uphold Pacific values with action as well as words, and remains committed to a stronger, safer and more prosperous Pacific.

“France is a nation of the Pacific, and we are proud of being a part of this family. We are proud to belong to the region, and being part of the region comes together with great responsibilities – responsibilities towards our citizens.”

HE Ambassador Jean-Pierre Thébault



“Good Parliamentary Governance in the Solomon Islands”

The Honourable Peter Kenilorea Jr
Member for East ‘Are‘are
National Parliament of Solomon Islands

Mr Kenilorea focused on the Parliamentary aspect of governance in the Solomon Islands and beyond. The region’s democracies are younger than many nations, and are still finding their way, but democracy – like the Ocean itself – should unite rather than divide them. Each country has its own unique culture and form of government, from parliamentary monarchies to presidential republics, but a shared ethos of democracy should offer Pacific Island nations common cause with developed countries around the world.

Unfortunately, the development of authoritarian tendencies in the Solomon Islands¹⁷ and elsewhere in the Pacific¹⁸ cannot be dismissed as growing pains. The Solomons’ 2018 Anti-Corruption Act¹⁹ has been starved of the resources required to enforce it, for example, with its office left short of desks, printers, and staff. Such neglect allows corruption to fester and grow, while measures to ban dissent and peaceful protests in the country, imposed under the pretext of COVID-19, are now enforced by the government to silence any opposition. The Solomons’ economic dependence on China has now spread to the political and defence spheres, and the signing of its controversial security pact with China in April 2022 raised alarm bells across the region.²⁰

Democracy comes in many flavours, but there is a clear difference between apples and oranges. Democracy in the Solomons is severely threatened, and its people need the support of democratic partners such as Australia, the US, the UK and France to stand firm against authoritarianism. While no democracy is perfect, the ideals on which democracies are built offer something everyone can share. Pacific Islanders understood the value of freedom and liberty long before Western nations came to their shores, but democratic systems are the best way to protect them.

Climate change is another challenge in the region, and Pacific nations and their partners must work to reduce emissions and ‘climate-proof’ the region. This cooperation towards common goals generates ‘shared wins’ which benefit all concerned, rather than adversarial ‘win-wins’ which merely serve particular interests of participating nations.

Taulapapa Brenda Heather-Latu
Partner, Latu Lawyers
Director, ICDP
Former Attorney General of Samoa

Taulapapa Brenda Heather-Latu paid tribute to the late Queen Elizabeth II, whose state funeral had taken place earlier that week on Monday 19 September 2022, noting the scale of global interest and great respect in her long reign. The Commonwealth took a prominent role in the pageantry which followed the Queen’s passing, and recognition of the core values of the



“We're looking towards Australia, France, USA, other democratic powers, and while no democracy is perfect, the ideals on which democracies are built offer something everyone can share. Pacific Islanders understood the value of freedom and liberty long before democracy hit our shores.”

The Honourable Peter Kenilorea Jr

Commonwealth which include the importance of democracy in all its parts, including respect for human rights, the defence of peace and security, freedom of expression, the rule of law, good governance, the separation of powers, and tolerance and respect for others, which are ideals we should all share.

Whilst Pacific Island nations are young democracies with their own unique cultures and traditions, they should be vigilant and resist the ever-present risk of autocracy, oligarchy and dictatorship. The Pacific has seen both successes and failures in governance, but a failure to safeguard these democratic values and governance principles has allowed domineering and belligerent ‘strongmen’ to seize office for their own ends.

Such figures invariably subvert and ultimately seek to weaken the democratic institutions which should contain them, often changing or suspending the Constitution, firing or suspending uncooperative judges, and acting to undermine the rule of law. They hijack public funds for their own gain, serve only the interests of their supporters, and set corruption as the driver of their agenda, rather than the welfare of their people.

Such behaviour stands in stark contrast with the men and women who have championed democracy and fought for regional unity before them. The Pacific therefore needs development partners which support the Commonwealth’s democratic values, the rule of law and human rights. Her Majesty the Queen was faithful by word and deed to her values and her humanity. She offered sympathy in times of

stress and was a pillar of stability in turbulent times. More than ever, the Pacific needs leaders who will heed her example and the voices of their own people, and use the power they have been given by the voters to strengthen their societies and economies for the benefit of all.

The shared interests, entwined history and common geography of Pacific Island nations should see them support and draw strength from each other under threat of rising seas and growing geopolitical competition. Both individuals and nations lose their way when left alone, and the opportunity for introspection offered by the Queen’s passing should encourage us all to recommit to the values and sense of duty which characterised her reign.

Progress in the Pacific must be founded in democracy, human rights and the rule of law, in order to succeed. Pacific nations should embrace international allies who defend these ideals, rather than destroy them, and cooperate to restore peace, freedom and stability wherever one falters. Electorates across the Pacific should ensure the people they elect to office are personally committed to democracy and the common good, as their nations and personal futures are at stake. Pacific people must stand up to protect the values, democracy and rule of law that protects them from tyranny and reject every assault and challenge to their freedom.



“Progress in the Pacific must be founded in democracy, human rights and the rule of law, in order to succeed. Pacific nations should embrace international allies who defend these ideals, and cooperate to restore peace, freedom and stability wherever one falters.”

Taulapapa Brenda Heather-Latu



DISCUSSION

Stephen Hayes MBE, Chairman of Gravity iLabs, and **Catherine Fritz-Kalish** facilitated the subsequent session discussion, in which participants raised a host of related issues.

Mr Hayes welcomed the interest of France in the region, its commitment to Pacific investment and security, and the EU's efforts to fight climate change. He praised the thought leaders' commitment to shared democratic values and the value of an independent judiciary in the face of geopolitical threats, and added his voice against the regional trend towards autocracy.

The first speaker to open the debate critiqued neoclassical economics for justifying social neglect, political abuses and personal greed in the name of economic rationalism. He urged the incorporation of ethical issues into economic discussions and called for a wider range of costs and benefits to inform multidimensional management of resources in democratic states. He suggested new models of government be discussed at a future GAP Summit, to prevent established processes generating the same set of failed economic-centric solutions over and over again.

The next speaker drew on his experience in the education sector to recall a Year 12 Pacific Island student in an Australian high school viewing life after school in terms of four F's – faith, family, food and footy. A fifth – freedom – might be added to that list.

A strong Christian faith unites many cultures in the Pacific, although its symbiosis of freedom and religion is not appreciated in the West, which views religion as a restriction rather than a liberator in the way people live their lives. Faith-based organisations in education and other sectors form a bulwark against political authoritarianism, as their loyalty lies to a higher power. The speaker therefore suggested greater support for them and other 'small platoons' of civil society, in the words of Edmund Burke. Furthermore, less than 60% of children in the Solomon Islands enter primary school, and only 72% of those who do attend complete it. This means barely half the young people in the Solomons complete primary school, opening major opportunities for progress through education.

Other participants agreed that economic rationalism and individual self-improvement have dominated social and political discourse with a consequent neglect of people's spiritual needs, a particularly important factor in the Pacific.

One speaker urged a greater sense of optimism in the region and worldwide to dispel the fog of pessimism which engulfs it, as this limits vision and options for change. Liberalism was once understood as the liberation of living spiritual energy, and the speaker hoped that could be rediscovered. He offered the shining example of Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in galvanising his people and the world against barbaric aggression, quoting Zelenskyy's 'belief in people' as his driving force. People yearn for positive leadership, and the speaker expressed hope that the people of the Solomons,

France and other nations could develop and implement the solutions they need.

The following speaker praised President Zelenskyy's belief in people and Pacific people's faith in God to send them strength in troubled times. While people in the Solomons may lack formal education, they retain the innate wisdom to see when things are going wrong. People tend to support a governing party to protect their own interests, but naked abuse of that power prompts a turning of the tide. A recent by-election in the Solomons saw an opposition candidate defeat the government appointee by a landslide despite slender resources, offering hope that change is possible.



Facilitator - Stephen Hayes MBE

The next speaker said her country had once endured a government lasting 41 years which held 49 out of 52 parliamentary seats at its peak, but a public ready for change had voted it out. Everyone hopes for a better tomorrow, but people in the Pacific must be willing to cast their vote for progressive causes and put themselves up for local and national office. If they want change, they must vote for it.

The next discussant echoed other speakers' faith in people, but said electorates require appropriate mechanisms for their voice to be heard. The Pacific remains full of natural resources, but they must be used for the benefit of its citizens, and education is the key to improving outcomes. The French

Development Bank is looking for international partners in the EU, Oceania and beyond to support Pacific training for the jobs of tomorrow. These jobs will be created in small, rather than large, scale industries in the Pacific, and allow people to make a decent living and support themselves.

It was observed that well-intentioned efforts to improve education and training, tackle climate change, and defend freedom and democracy will only succeed through engaging Pacific governments in a respectful manner. The West should not allow others to accuse it of imposing foreign values on the region, as these are universal human rights, and the speaker urged partnerships with the EU and regional powers to safeguard shared values while respecting cultural diversity.

The next speaker argued that neoliberalism has failed to generate the solutions required by the Pacific and said the growing gap between rich and poor should be closed with a greater emphasis on community and women's education.

The following speaker asked if tensions between traditional cultural governance and Western democratic systems can undermine community empowerment. Grassroots consultation in the Solomons is also complicated by the plethora of languages spoken by its 700,000 people, but better platforms to hear proposals from the people will allow novel solutions to appear.

The final speaker in the discussion underlined that shared democratic values enable disparate people to collaborate towards common goals while respecting cultural diversity. The Pacific is a patchwork of many ethnic groups and interests, particularly in the Solomons and Melanesia, but the Solomons' adoption of a constitutional monarchy, headed by the British monarch, gave it stability and unity.



ONLINE COMMENTARY

In the Session's online chat, one participant agreed that fresh governance frameworks to pursue shared prosperity and better socio-environmental balance are required for human civilisation to thrive at global, regional and local scales.

Another participant backed a shift towards a circular economy which regenerates nature and minimises waste and pollution by recycling products and materials using renewable energy. Decoupling economic activity from the consumption of finite resources would improve social and environmental outcomes as well as enabling governance reform. The next commentator said co-design offered a way for communities to collaborate in new ways, secure consensus and ensure transparency and good governance.

The final commentator reiterated the importance of hope in the face of the climate emergency, and the need for spiritual strength and mental health support as part of mitigation programmes.



SESSION TWO – Jobs and Skills

SESSION CHAIR

Tanya Stoianoff

Head of Government Affairs
DXC Technology ANZ

THOUGHT LEADER PANEL

- **Maka Kama**
Managing Partner
Federal Public Sector Industry
Consulting and Analytics Practice
DXC Technology ANZ
- **Taholo Kami**
Special Representative for Oceans
Government of Fiji
- **Dr George Carter**
Research Fellow in Geopolitics and
Regionalism, Department of Pacific Affairs,
The Australian National University
Director, ANU Pacific Institute



Session Chair Tanya Stoianoff paid respect to the traditional owners of the land before opening the session on jobs and skills in the Pacific. She said stakeholders at the Australian Prime Minister's Jobs and Skills Summit, held in Canberra on 1-2 September 2022, agreed the need for a bigger, better trained and more productive workforce, and DXC works with universities, TAFE and other training organisation to prepare graduates for work

and transitions workers from other industries into the IT sector.

“Improving pathways in the advancement of digital skills”

Maka Kama

Managing Partner, Federal Public Sector Industry
Consulting and Analytics Practice, DXC Technology

Mr Kama cited the late Tongan writer and anthropologist *Epeli Hau'ofa* who believed that the concept of 'Pacific Islander' offered a common identity which helps diverse people pursue collective interests for the common good. While the Pacific Island nations retain fervent pride in their distinct national heritages, they are united by the many stories, traditions, beliefs and relations they share.

The ocean itself is their greatest connector but, in the age of climate change, now poses existential threat. Pacific Island nations need the help of their allies in Australia, New Zealand and across the world to help overcome its rising seas.

Mr Kama remembered his sense of alienation as a youth of Tongan descent growing up in Australia, and the instinctive bonds he made with strangers of a common heritage, as Pacific Island culture is always open and welcoming. He then described how his father gained a degree in criminology and rose to govern Bathurst Jail, impressing on his son the value of education and the limitless possibilities for people of Pacific descent.

In the late 1990s, his father became governor of Sydney's Parklea Correctional Centre and was invited by Blacktown mayor Charlie Knowles and then Minister for Skills the Hon, Ed Husic to create a programme for at-risk youth in Mount Druitt, a hotspot for youth crime. His father opened a homework centre in a local community centre with a sausage barbecue and encouraged their parents and



“I share ocean identity as both our common connector and at the same time, our greatest existential threat. Now more than ever, the islands need the assistance of their perennial allies in Australia, New Zealand and across the world to help transcend these major challenges and overcome these rising tides.”

Maka Kama



students from Western Sydney University to support the local children aged from Kindergarten to Year 12.

The children chose to complete their schoolwork, rather than roam the streets, and got to know each other, their parents and local leaders, and form closer social bonds. They took part in cultural and social group activities once their work was done, learning about the cultures they came from and reconnecting with their heritage. They also learned the IT skills required to cross the ‘digital divide’ which excludes disadvantaged groups and individuals from the online education, training and access taken for granted in the rest of society.

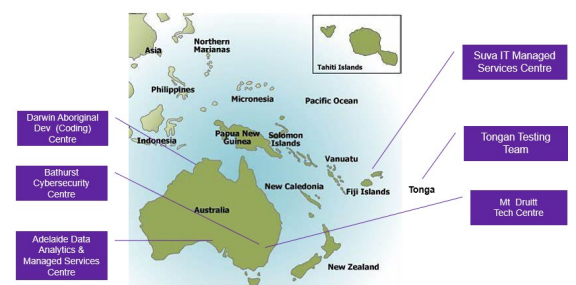
People from rural areas, Indigenous groups, poor and aged Australians, the disabled and new migrants can all need help to get online, and so Mr Kama devoted himself to rolling out the results of this successful community group on a larger scale and encouraging more equitable access to technology.

Large IT companies can play a key role in scaling digital transformation projects to help underprivileged people and give back to the community. DXC’s ‘Dandelion’ programme,²¹ for example, supports neurodiverse people, while other programmes offer a range of co-designed educational business, employment and community opportunities to help Indigenous, Māori and Pacific Island people. DXC provides training to ex-service people, helping them to transfer their skills to the IT sector. The company is also developing a talent academy, digital futures programme, and a social impact scheme for women.

These activities help DXC and its staff develop their skills as well as the programme recipients, and it will build on the recommendations of the Jobs and Skills Summit to reduce barriers to employment, spur female participation, and improve training and skills. When people from the regions move to metropolitan areas for work, their home-towns and regions are denuded, and so DXC aims to foster a remote Indigenous and Pacific technology workforce, allowing them to hold skilled jobs without physically relocating.

A data centre at Charles Darwin University managed by Indigenous staff²² and a cybersecurity centre in Bathurst²³ are already operating. The future could see the addition of a Mt Druitt tech education centre, coding centre in Darwin, an Adelaide Data analytics centre, a Tongan IT Testing Centre and an IT Managed Services centre operating out of Suva. Such projects, supported by government and local community groups as well as private enterprise, can in turn bridge the digital divide and turn good intentions to promote equality into reality.

VISION: Remote Indigenous & Pasifika Tech Centres





“The Pacific needs partnerships and integration as well as packages of aid, and training which benefits its citizens, rather than fills holes in the Australian labour market. Pacific islands need physicians at home more than fruit pickers abroad.”

Taholo Kami

Mr Kama urged participants to bolster social impact efforts in their own organisations, fund the infrastructure required and drive political and commercial goodwill to make it happen. He also urged people in difficult circumstances to retain hope of a better tomorrow, as they can find support from organisations to build and realise their aspirations. Companies can broaden their focus from their own bottom line to help vulnerable and underprivileged people play a fuller social and economic role where they live through digital transformation.

Epeli Hau‘ofa said, “we must tie historical and culture to empirical reality and practical action” to substantiate and animate our common regional identity. Mr Kama expressed hope that Summit participants could help build digital pathways and bridge the digital divide.

Taholo Kami
Special Representative for Oceans
Government of Fiji

Mr Taholo Kami offered his perspective on the skills debate. He noted the Pacific’s long-standing reliance on Australia’s labour mobility scheme,²⁴ which allows eligible Australian businesses to hire workers from nine Pacific islands and Timor-Leste, and Australian Award scholarships, but warned that Pacific workers are being tempted with an increasing array of new training opportunities.

While Australia’s intentions have been good, the practical result of these policies is extractive, with skilled people being drawn from the Pacific to live and work in Australia. Even if their stays are short-term, they deprive Pacific communities of the human resources they need to maintain agriculture, run community groups and hold society together.

The Pacific needs partnerships and integration as well as packages of aid, and training which benefits its citizens, rather than fills holes in the Australian labour market. Pacific islands need physicians at home more than fruit pickers abroad. If Australia is part of the Pacific family, it must embrace two-way relationships between peers. Mr Kami quoted a local businessman in Fiji saying he had to seek workers from Bangladesh because all his best workers had moved to Australia.

Removing additional overseas fees would enable more Pacific families to send their children to Australia for education and training, allowing them to champion the benefits of Australia to the world while maintaining their strong links to home. An ethos of reciprocity should underpin reform of these arrangements, and ensure their outcomes produce mutual benefit, rather than extracting human resources from the Pacific to serve Australian convenience.

Mr Kami said Australian rhetoric about their special relationship with the region is often at odds with reality. If Australia is part of the Pacific family, it should not be easier for students from other

“The islands in the Pacific and Australia need to transition and explore climate careers or green jobs; where the jobs and skills of our region cater towards our needs in agriculture, renewable energy and even education.”

Dr George Carter



countries to access Australian universities than young people from the Pacific.

The discussion of shared identity should explore deeper questions of what partnership, access and investment look like, and the outcomes stakeholders want for the future. Freedom of movement that worked both ways would ease relations, increase integration and reduce the heat of influence peddling. Australia benefits from the Pacific in many ways, and so additional investment, rather than aid, is the key to ensure other nations do not secure the region's attention.

Dr George Carter
Research Fellow in Geopolitics and Regionalism
Department of Pacific Affairs
The Australian National University
Director, ANU Pacific Institute²⁵

Dr George Carter reflected on his research into Pacific history and current trends, and his personal views on shared identity between Australia and Pacific Island nations. The region faces troublesome turning points as the pandemic wanes and economies transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy, but this flux creates opportunities. Australians can learn much from the Pacific, and Dr Carter stressed the importance of context, culture, climate change and relationships in discussions about everything, including jobs and skills. The islands in the Pacific and Australia need to transition and explore climate careers or green jobs; where the jobs and skills of our region cater towards our needs in agriculture, renewable energy and even education.

He traced the development of Pacific regional organisations from the South Pacific Commission of 1947²⁶ through the Pacific Islands Forum's formation in 1971 to the new 'Blue Pacific' partnership of Western powers to strengthen regional security. Pacific nations share vulnerabilities as well as geography and history, but sharing knowledge and taking responsibility is the key to facing them.

Agricultural labour was transported from the Pacific to toil on Australian plantations in the late 18th and early 19th century,²⁷ and the current labour mobility scheme plays a similar role in importing Pacific labour to fill shortages on Australian farms. The poaching of the Pacific's best talent creates labour shortages at home, with nations such as Fiji suffering a serious 'brain drain.' While Australia's population is ageing, the Pacific is dominated by the young, and ensuring they have the education, skills and jobs they need in the future is a significant issue.

Australia should empower and strengthen Pacific nations to increase their resilience to natural disasters, but also ensure they educate and employ their 'youth bulge,' as the alternative is social dislocation. As well as encouraging more Pacific people to study in Australian universities, we must ensure there are more Pacific leaders, academics and researchers inside Pacific universities.

COVID-19 forced Australia and Pacific Island nations to close their borders for unprecedented periods and concerted effort is now required to rebuilt relationships and promote integration. Dr Carter backed shared efforts to diversify and decarbonise national economies, boost jobs and skills across the

region, and encourage people-centred development through local initiatives which incorporate local knowledge and traditions, and respect the realm of nature as well as the world of man. The Pacific and Australia have a shared identity in climate green careers, jobs and skills.

DISCUSSION

Michael Collins, Chief Executive Officer of the Strategic Development Group, and **Catherine Fritz-Kalish** facilitated the following discussion.



Mr Collins thanked the thought leaders and encouraged a free and frank debate on the issues they had raised. He invited participants to take the initiative and pledge positive action, rather than wait for governments to take the lead.

The co-founder of an Australian company keen to sell in the Pacific asked how it might promote its business there. It was suggested finding appropriate partners interested in a circular economy approach, however, the company might struggle to gain traction, despite its environmental branding, if it did not fill a practical need at reasonable cost.

Another participant asked how Indigenous people and Pacific islanders could connect with firms to become part of the digital workforce through remote working. It was noted that attending events such as this Summit was a positive first step towards forging the right connections.

The next speaker agreed with the earlier observation that recruiting talented Pacific Islanders for Australian jobs drained their home nations of the people they need to succeed. He asked how this point could be impressed on policy makers.

The panellists agreed it was a major issue. The consequences of Australia's seasonal worker policies can damage rather than enhance local economies and so future relationships should not result in human resource extraction. Educating more Pacific Islanders at the University of the South Pacific, for example, could be a step forward.

Past migration patterns in the Pacific which saw waves of islanders work or move to New Zealand, Australia and the US should inform future policy, and more effort is required to reintegrate these workers when they return home. Generating suitable jobs in the Pacific would encourage more qualified and experienced workers to return to their communities, and the social impact of working abroad should be considered alongside the value of remittances. Australia should consider if it offers the housing, cultural and religious organisations, and other social capital that guest workers need, as well as ensuring Pacific Island nations have the capacity to welcome back returnees.

One of the participants, who recently spent four months in Fiji, said she had learned much from the people she met there and praised their reverence for their religion and environment. Given the centrality of religion to Fijian lives and education, she asked how its values of identity, culture, respect and a willingness to contribute to society could be inculcated into secular Western thinking, which downplays human factors in favour of economic rationalism.

Another participant outlined his efforts to create educational experiences using immersive digital technology such as virtual and augmented reality. His company is launching an online platform for people



in Vanuatu, PNG, the Solomons, Fiji and Samoa and is looking for partners.²⁸

This initiative was welcomed by the next speaker as exemplifying the way that connections can be made, and businesses created by fusing a sense of social responsibility with digital technology and finding the right partners to turn exciting visions into commercial reality. The speaker agreed that creating vibrant home economies was the best way to reverse the region's 'brain drain' and allow Pacific Islanders to build prosperity and society at home. He urged participants to act on their good intentions and connect with each other to develop further opportunities.

The following speaker said he had recently spent a fortnight with students studying regional policy making in Fiji and agreed the power of reverence and tradition should inform decision making. Community interactions could see village elders teach university students about sustainability, or church leaders show students the power of faith, in Australia as well as the Pacific.

Other participants agreed the importance of environmental issues, respect for first nations traditions and the potential of reciprocal relationships. Linking to the opening session, one participant observed that good governance was founded in accountability for outcomes and asked how common ground on jobs and skills could be defined for stakeholders to work towards. A set of preferred outcomes in health, education and work would then prompt a set of policies to achieve them.

The next speaker recounted her involvement in *Pacific Connect* over recent years, and her efforts to support Pacific dialogues and training. She highlighted a business which uses remote Pacific workers as 'virtual assistants' and the need for more training in the region regarding Australian business practices.

Several speakers stressed the need for Australian firms to understand Pacific cultures to trade and recruit in the region and agreed that cultural knowledge and sensitivity was required to secure closer engagement. Digital technology can help bridge the Pacific's geographical and cultural divides if solutions are co-designed with their Pacific users. Regional communities must be included in the online world and empowered in the digital economy through remote working opportunities. Education and training should provide the skills marginalised people need to secure well-paid jobs, rather than sink to the bottom of the online labour market.

Participants backed the importance of reciprocity and mutual respect to build better relations and learning from Pacific Islanders as well as teaching them. One speaker noted the shared challenges facing the Pacific and Indigenous Australians, while two others acknowledged the persistence of internalised and institutional racism in Australia. It was noted that Australia need to 'decolonise' its approach to become more humble, curious and respectful of other nations, and grapple with its racist past in building a better future.



The final speaker in the discussion stressed the cultural, social and economic problems caused by Pacific emigration, noting that 2,000 out of 11,000 natives of Palau²⁹ had left for the US since the last census,³⁰ Indeed, there will soon be more foreigners than Palauans in the islands if this trend continues.

SESSION THREE – Shared Identity

SESSION CHAIR

Prof Brian Schmidt AC

Vice-Chancellor and President
The Australian National University
Winner of the 2011 Nobel Prize in Physics

THOUGHT LEADER PANEL

- **His Excellency Anote Tong**
Distinguished Global Leader-in-Residence,
University of Pennsylvania
4th President of the Republic of Kiribati
- **Prof Tom Calma AO**
Chancellor
University of Canberra
- **The Hon. Sussan Ley MP**
Deputy Leader of the Opposition
Shadow Minister for Women
Shadow Minister for Industry,
Skills and Training
Shadow Minister for Small and
Family Business



Session Chair Prof Brian Schmidt AC advocated global sustainability, human capital building and knowledge sharing to meet contemporary challenges and strengthen shared identity. This shared identity will build the trust required to make tough decisions, push the status quo beyond zero-sum calculations

and co-create solutions to secure collective benefits. However, the construction of shared identity requires continual collective effort, through good times and bad, and rallying around shared values.

The ANU has the most Pacific scholars in the world, studying everything from history, culture and politics to geology and wireless technology. These students are interlocutors between the Pacific, Australia and the rest of the world, help strengthen our sense of shared identity and build human capacity in the Pacific and beyond.

Prof Schmidt admired the tireless work of his Excellency Anote Tong, 4th President of the Republic of Kiribati, to protect the marine environment and rally the fight against climate change. The islands he hails from stand just two metres above sea level, and their very existence is imperilled by rising seas.

“Our Respective Roles in Our Collective Security”

His Excellency Anote Tong

Distinguished Global Leader-in-Residence,
University of Pennsylvania
4th President of the Republic of Kiribati

His Excellency Anote Tong said common social and political elements, including democracy and the free market, underpin our shared identity. Historical and geographical links between the Pacific and Australia remain strong, although immigration policies and race relations must be tackled by Australia to improve equity and remedy the wrongs of the past.

Phosphate mining ravaged Kiribati to serve the Australian agricultural industry, and extraction companies can still view these resources as rightfully theirs, rather than the property of an independent, sovereign country. Pacific Island nations must be treated with respect, and while resisting China’s overtures in the region, they can use superpower rivalry to enhance their bargaining position over climate change and other issues.



“I want to make it very clear that climate change remains the primary security issue for the Pacific Island countries. In spite of the ongoing debate over China's initiatives in the region, we believe it should not distract us from the primary focus of our concern, which is climate change.”

His Excellency Anote Tong



Climate change remains the primary security issue for Pacific Island nations, and action on emissions remains paramount. The recent surge of interest in the region follows decades of complacency in Australia, New Zealand and the United States, and the undoubted goodwill that underpins Pacific relations with Australia does not undermine the need to actively develop and strengthen closer ties.

Dating from the early 1970s, the Pacific Islands Forum may have lost the authority it once had to keep the region united, a trend which began with Fiji's suspension in 2005, as its subsequent efforts to establish bilateral relations with other nations encouraged others to follow suit.

The Pacific tends to vote with Australia on UN resolutions, and Pacific Island votes helped vote this country onto the National Security Council as a rotating member in 2012. However, Kiribati was disappointed by Australia's failure to mention climate change or the Pacific in the report it submitted at the end of that year on its tenure, highlighting the problem Mr Tong outlined.

The Honourable Sussan Ley MP
Deputy Leader of the Opposition
Shadow Minister for Women
Shadow Minister for Industry, Skills and Training
Shadow Minister for Small and Family Business

Ms Ley paid her respects to the passing of Queen Elizabeth, before examining Australia's place in the Pacific through the lens of shared identity. She

stressed Australia's determination to focus on the Indo-Pacific and help its neighbours across the Pacific and Southeast Asia achieve their potential. Like Kiribati, Australia has also earmarked large marine zones for protection, including new reserves in the Christmas and Caicos Islands.

Ms Ley highlighted the role of women in politics, business and communities across the region and her work to promote women's rights and inclusion across the world. She noted the female-led protests in Iran against the theocratic regime but argued women's issues encompass economic participation alongside social justice, and equality is an engine of practical benefits as well as a moral imperative.

Data from the International Monetary Fund reveals higher female labour force participation is synonymous with faster, more resilient and more inclusive economic growth.³¹ Developed countries like Australia must lead the way in encouraging women's entry into paid work across the region, as men still outnumber women in the non-agricultural workforce two to one.

Ms Ley called for women's rights and progress to play a key role in strengthening shared identity, as equipping women with the training and skills they need will boost prosperity, resilience and growth across the Pacific and beyond.

The Indo-Pacific's 4.3 billion people will generate 60% of global growth up to 2050,³² and Australia will play its role in terms of trade as well as security. Australia's vision for the Indo-Pacific rests on the



“In the Pacific outside the agricultural sector, men outnumber women in the workforce by approximately two to one. So I would like us all to commit to making the advancement of women and their standing in our communities a key part of any consideration when it comes to shared identity.”

The Honourable Sussan Ley MP

principles that have underpinned decades of stability and prosperity. Open and secure markets facilitate the flow of goods, people and ideas, while inclusiveness allows many voices and perspectives to blossom. Indeed, making human connections can mean as much as megatrends.

Australia will strengthen regional resilience to coercion, natural disasters and climate change, and uphold the rules and norms of international law, in which the rights and sovereignty of all countries are respected, regardless of size or power. We are not bystanders in our own future, we have the capacity and agency to shape the region and ensure a better future, and stronger shared identity, for all its citizens.

The Australian Government boosts Pacific education and skills through its \$4 billion Development Programme,³³ including the Australia Awards which offered 2,075 scholarships and short courses to individuals from 27 developing countries at a cost of \$200 million in 2022.³⁴ The Australia Awards Women's Leadership Initiative³⁵ will invest \$5.4 million to increase the number of Pacific women in influential positions in all sectors and spheres of society, while the Australia Pacific Training Coalition³⁶ delivers vocational education and training qualifications in nine Pacific nations, including PNG and the Solomon Islands.

Ms Ley backed His Excellency Anote Tong's call for partnerships between equal peers, and the need for governments, industry, and non-government

organisations to collaborate in creating new opportunities. She was confident the GAP Summit would generate a range of fresh solutions, and participants would institute action to build on their debate.

Prof Tom Calma AO
Chancellor
University of Canberra

Prof Calma honoured the traditional owners of the land and the young Ngunnawal people of Canberra who will become leaders and care for their stories, culture and languages over time.

He outlined the work of *Ninti One*³⁷ (Clever One) in delivering a billion dollars of DFAT aid initiatives across Australia and the Pacific, and his involvement in the *Living First Language* platform³⁸ which offers a globally scalable programme to support Indigenous communities in their efforts to preserve, revitalise and teach their languages.

There are many commonalities between Pacific Island peoples and Indigenous Australians, from the number of languages they speak³⁹ to geographical isolation and economic exclusion. Remote Pacific communities are scattered across wide blue ocean waters, just as communities in Australia are separated by vast stretches of red desert.

However, research by the Whitlam Institute at Western Sydney University in 2020⁴⁰ revealed that stakeholders in Pacific Island countries thought



“Pacific people should not be treated as a homogenous entity. The notion of a ‘shared Pacific identity’ should recognise the diversity of Pacific Island nations characterised by traditional cultures, distinct ethnic groups and a plethora of languages.”

Prof Tom Calma AO



“Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders were almost invisible in Australia’s relations with the Pacific, and this has limited our understanding of – and potential for engagement with – the region”.

Ninti One’s experience delivering DFAT aid programs across the Indo-Pacific shows the high value placed on the two-way transfer of traditional and Indigenous knowledge. Prof Calma praised Penny Wong’s announcement of an Ambassador for First Nations people⁴¹ who will head an Office of First Nations Engagement within DFAT to listen to and partner with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to embed Indigenous perspectives, experiences and interests into Australian foreign policy and boost First Nations’ trade and investment. He acknowledged the impacts of European colonisation on First Nations people, including the transportation of indentured labourers from the Pacific to Australia in the past, and supported steps to reform the Pacific Australia Labour Mobility (PALM) scheme. He also championed the power of traditional knowledge networks to boost economic activity and record and preserve threatened Indigenous languages.

A stable and prosperous Pacific is essential for Australia security and foreign policy; however, the complexity and urgency of regional challenges demands fresh approaches. Prof Calma warned that Pacific people should not be treated as a homogenous entity. The notion of a ‘shared Pacific identity’ should recognise the diversity of Pacific Island nations characterised by traditional cultures, distinct ethnic groups and a plethora of languages.

DISCUSSION

Facilitator **Catherine Fritz-Kalish** thanked participants for their commitment and encouraged them to have their say and offer concrete suggestions.

One participant explained the dichotomy between the traditional matriarchal system in Palau⁴² and modern economic and democratic systems. Palau has a gift economy which operates alongside the monetary system, for example, and a group ethos of consensual decision making alongside modern concepts of individual freedom and majority votes. Pacific development should not aim to make it another homogenised mass-consumer society – indeed, the whole concept of growth may have to be rethought, given humanity’s over-consumption of Earth’s finite resources. Money distorts relationships between people, and between people and the natural environment. Alongside efforts to use modern technology, the culture and traditional skills of society must also be strengthened and valued properly.

The next speaker agreed with the importance of acknowledging cultural differences within our common humanity and praised Palau’s culture of respect for relationships over material things. He hoped democratic societies could reform capitalism to inculcate values, rather than view everything – even climate change measures – in terms of trading. A dollar value cannot be placed on every aspect of life, and we all can learn from Bhutan’s adoption of gross domestic happiness⁴³ as a measure of progress, rather than gross domestic product. Traditional

systems prioritise values over products, and so are not valued in Western economic terms, but these traditional values are themselves being corrupted. While hospitality still trumps productivity in the Pacific, as people are worth more than money, the region can still learn from Western norms, not least in combatting corruption. Education and mutual learning are required from both traditional cultures and advanced nation states.

The following speaker drew from her experience in systems thinking⁴⁴ to suggest considering these issues at a different scale. To an astronaut in orbit, we all appear Indigenous to this planet, and this shared identity should trump all others in tackling global problems like climate change. While we may feel vulnerable and even helpless sometimes, our common bonds should always console us.

The next speaker asked what Australia should expect from the Pacific in return for its aid. In response, it was observed that the Pacific had furnished Australia with plenty of resources, including phosphates,⁴⁵ fisheries and agriculture labour. Paying for a development project should not mean the donor owns it, whoever that donor might be. Relationships must be founded on mutual equity and respect, and common problems such as climate change – long ignored or downplayed in Australia – must be tackled together. The treatment of Indigenous people in Australia and New Zealand must improve to right historical wrongs and build trust in the Pacific.

One Australian participant who works in Fiji observed that the Pacific can teach the world about happiness and valuing more important things than money. However, growth and prosperity generate the resources which improve education and social wellbeing, although many of Fiji's graduates are then tempted abroad by higher salaries.⁴⁶ In welcoming Australia's support for training and education in the region, the speaker agreed the need to combat the subsequent 'brain drain' abroad and its weakening of local economies and communities.

The next speaker outlined one leading Australian university's extensive efforts to support Pacific education⁴⁷ in the aftermath of COVID-19, including the creation of joint professors with regional universities, and agreed that Australia should talk with Pacific countries, rather than at them.

The next participant acknowledged tensions between traditional and modern cultures, particularly when economic aspirations for young Indigenous people are raised but then frustrated. He advocated greater cultural and language education at a younger age for Indigenous communities, better mental health support and acknowledgment of social and emotional factors in wellbeing alongside economic factors.

The next speaker traced his personal journey from the fossil fuel industry to a climate activist. He demanded a fundamental reboot of the global economy to combat global warming and social inequality. For all the talk of global solidarity and action, little has been done to curb emissions, or accept the dire consequences of inaction. The climate crisis should be treated as an emergency in deed as well as word, instead of pursuing business as usual with a little greenwashing. The incremental adjustments offered by Australia's new government will not be enough when real urgency is needed.

The next speaker suggested expanding programmes which allow Australian students to study for a fortnight in Fiji to other Pacific nations. Australia cannot outspend China to gain influence, but it can use its soft power to mutual advantage.

The following speaker believed older Australians could learn from the close social networks maintained by Pacific elders to ease their all too common sense of purposeless and isolation. The next speaker said the corrosive power of money could be reduced by 'negative interest' on savings. Money is an abstract, invented concept, rather than a natural law, and a focus on reducing consumption, rather than increasing production,



should help humanity live within its planetary means. She recommended Kate Raworth's book⁴⁸ and TED talk⁴⁹ on Doughnut Economics,⁵⁰ which advocates measures to place human society between the concentric rings of sufficient social provision and the ecological limits of Earth's life-supporting systems.

The following two speakers recognised the tension between unpaid cultural and family activities and paid employment, and suggested the Australian National Development Index⁵¹ as a measure of non-economic value.

The next participant encouraged an Australian University to buy a small campus property in Vanuatu to offer Australian students experience in the Pacific. Another participant suggested creating a Centre for Pacific Traditional Knowledge and Culture at the site, while another favoured a Pacific/Australian learning hub for older people.

It was noted that neoclassical economic theory does not treat money as an end in itself, but as a catalyst to optimise market equilibrium.⁵² Economics is not the problem per se; indeed, it offers insight into the environmental, technological and psychosocial issues raised in the discussion. Behavioural economics⁵³ could inform a range of fresh approaches to nudge individuals in more thoughtful and socially beneficial directions, and underpin the language and protocols required to discuss and assess the effectiveness of interventions and so tailor them for greater success.

Catherine Fritz-Kalish thanked all Summit speakers for their contribution, alongside the participants of other GAP forums on the Pacific, including the Pacific and Small Island Nations Summit last year which was supported by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.⁵⁴

Closing Remarks

Peter Fritz AO

Group Managing Director, TCG Group
Chairman, Global Access Partners

In his closing remarks, Peter Fritz AO argued that people's primal loyalties are hardwired into their psyche, complicating efforts to secure broader coalitions for change. He hoped new forms of government could divert these immediate, innate drives towards collective long-term goals, and welcomed the willingness of stakeholders and participants to turn hope into action.

GAP offers people from every background a platform to collaborate on projects and policies, and access to be heard by public and private decision makers. Mr Fritz encouraged the Summit's thought leaders and participants to join the GAP community's efforts and for everyone to take responsibility for changing the world.



Individual rights and national sovereignty must be respected, opportunities made available regardless of race, gender or heritage and difference should be acknowledged within the framework of a common good. Mr Fritz suggested that while the Summit has shown that shared identity has many facets, above all it means learning to share.

Catherine Fritz-Kalish thanked the Summit's sponsors, planners, organisers and presenters again before drawing proceedings to a close.

REFERENCES

- ¹ <https://globalaccesspartners.org/initiatives/>
- ² <https://www.nobelprize.org/the-nobel-prize-organisation/the-nobel-foundation/>
- ³ <https://www.icdp.com.au/>
- ⁴ <https://www.icdp.com.au/Pacific-connect/>
- ⁵ <https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/Policy-and-Legislation/Housing/A-Housing-Strategy-for-NSW>
- ⁶ President Joe Biden held a Pacific summit in Washington on September 28-29, a week after this GAP event, to discuss new investment opportunities in the region and underline his nation's commitment to a free and prosperous Pacific. He also announced an additional \$810 million for Pacific programmes, including \$130 million on climate adaption and mitigation schemes.
- ⁷ <https://www.reuters.com/world/us-japan-australia-new-zealand-united-kingdom-form-Pacific-group-2022-06-25/>
- ⁸ <https://www.forumsec.org/2050strategy/>
- ⁹ Most of these people live in New Caledonia, a French territory comprising dozens of islands with a population of 270,000 or French Polynesia, where 280,000 people live across more than 100 islands stretching for more than 2,000km.
- ¹⁰ <https://www.iseas.edu.sg/articles-commentaries/iseas-perspective/2022-12-frances-third-path-for-the-indo-Pacific-credentials-and-challenges-by-eric-frecon/>
- ¹¹ <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/jun/14/why-the-worlds-most-fertile-fishing-ground-is-facing-a-unique-and-dire-threat>
- ¹² <https://borgenproject.org/environmental-challenges-in-the-Pacific-islands/>
- ¹³ <https://presidence-francaise.consilium.europa.eu/en/news/one-ocean-summit-a-summit-to-take-action-against-the-threats-to-our-ocean/>
- ¹⁴ <https://unric.org/en/un-oceans-conference-call-for-a-new-chapter/>
- ¹⁵ The eruption of the Hunga-Tonga-Hunga-Ha'apai submarine volcano on 15 January 2022 was the largest event of its kind since the destruction of Krakatoa in 1883. It triggered tsunami waves of up to 15 metres which struck the west coast of Tongatapu, 'Eua and Ha'apai and travelled to Japan and the Americas. Ashfall covered at least five square kilometres and the volcanic plume rose 58 km (36 mi) into the mesosphere. The event followed smaller eruptions in 1912, 1937, 1988, 2009, 2014–15 and 2021–22.
- ¹⁶ Eight thousand French defence personnel are permanently located throughout the Indo-Asia-Pacific: 4,500 in the Indian Ocean, 2,800 in the Pacific Ocean and 700 sailors on deployment. The French military in the Pacific operates two surveillance frigates, four patrol vessels, two multi-mission ships, five maritime surveillance aircraft, four tactical transport aircraft, and seven helicopters.
- ¹⁷ <https://ipdefenseforum.com/2022/04/solomons-a-step-closer-to-authoritarianism/>
- ¹⁸ <https://www.lowyinstitute.org/publications/instability-Pacific-islands-status-report>
- ¹⁹ <http://extwprlegs1.fao.org/docs/pdf/sol202774.pdf>
- ²⁰ <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/apr/20/the-deal-that-shocked-the-world-inside-the-china-solomons-security-pact>
- ²¹ <https://dxc.com/au/en/cp/social-impact-practice/dxc-dandelion-program>
- ²² <https://itbrief.com.au/story/darwin-to-become-home-to-world-s-first-indigenous-operated-data-centre>
- ²³ <https://www.nsw.gov.au/media-releases/new-bathurst-cyber-security-centre-launched>
- ²⁴ <https://www.palmscheme.gov.au/>
- ²⁵ <https://Pacificinstitute.anu.edu.au/>
- ²⁶ The South Pacific Commission was established in 1947 when Australia, France, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Great Britain, and the United States signed the Canberra Agreement. It aimed to 'strengthen international cooperation in



promoting the economic and social welfare and the promotion of the welfare of the peoples of the non-self-governing territories in the South Pacific’.

- 27 <https://www.nma.gov.au/defining-moments/resources/islander-labourers>
- 28 DP Immersive has led Immersive Education (a world first) across the Pacific with real business outcomes and world-class showcases (Venice Biennale 2021) over the last three years. The company provides capacity building for Pacific communities and has a large and growing network across the region, with teacher-led hubs in PNG, Fiji, Samoa, Vanuatu and Solomon Islands; https://globalaccesspartners.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/CAYA_Pacific_and_Australia.pdf
- 29 Palau lies in the western Pacific where its 340 islands cover 466 square kilometers (180 sq mi) and comprise the western chain of Micronesia's Caroline Islands.
- 30 <https://www.macrotrends.net/countries/PLW/palau/immigration-statistics>
- 31 <https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/fandd/issues/2019/03/closing-the-gender-gap-dabla>
- 32 <https://www.dfat.gov.au/sites/default/files/minisite/static/4ca0813c-585e-4fe1-86eb-de665e65001a/fpwhitepaper/foreign-policy-white-paper/chapter-two-contested-world/indo-pacific-will-create-opportunity.html>
- 33 <https://www.dfat.gov.au/development/australias-development-program>
- 34 <https://www.dfat.gov.au/people-to-people/australia-awards>
- 35 <https://www.dfat.gov.au/people-to-people/australia-awards/Pages/australia-awards-womens-leadership-initiative>
- 36 <https://www.aptc.edu.au/>
- 37 <https://www.nintione.com.au/>
- 38 <https://www.livingfirstlanguage.org/>
- 39 There were more than 250 Indigenous languages in Australia at the time of European settlement, each specific to a particular place and group of people. Many are now extinct or endangered and only 13 are currently learnt by children. Seven of the most widely spoken Australian languages, including Warlpiri, Murrinh-patha and Tiwi, retain between 1,000 and 3,000 speakers. Around 1,400 languages have been recorded in the Pacific, with 700 on New Guinea and its surrounding islands alone.
- 40 <https://www.whitlam.org/publications/2020/2/13/Pacific-perspectives-on-the-world>
- 41 <https://www.foreignminister.gov.au/minister/penny-wong/media-release/ambassador-first-nations-people>
- 42 <https://www.hawaiipublicradio.org/arts-culture/2016-01-20/women-in-palau-the-velvet-glove>
- 43 <https://ophi.org.uk/policy/gross-national-happiness-index/>
- 44 Systems thinking promotes an integrated, holistic approach as system components tend to act differently when isolated or connect with others.
- 45 <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/1031461X.2015.1082609>
- 46 <https://www.fbcnews.com.fj/news/brain-drain-remains-a-challenge/>
- 47 <https://chl.anu.edu.au/about-us/pasifika-australia>
- 48 <https://www.amazon.com.au/Doughnut-Economics-Seven-21st-Century-Economist-ebook/dp/B01BUOGF58>
- 49 https://www.ted.com/talks/kate_raworth_a_healthy_economy_should_be_designed_to_thrive_not_grow?language=en
- 50 <https://doughnuteconomics.org>
- 51 <https://www.andi.org.au/>
- 52 Neoclassical economics links supply and demand to the individual consumer's perception of a product's value rather than the cost of its production. Supply and demand find equilibrium at a price which consumers are willing to pay and a quantity which manufacturers are willing to deliver.
- 53 Behavioural economics studies the effects of psychological, cognitive, emotional, cultural and social factors on the decisions of individuals or institutions. While classical theories assume economic actors make rational, informed and self-interested decisions to maximise gains, behavioural models integrate insights from psychology, neuroscience and microeconomic theory to study how decisions are made in real life and thus suggest ways to influence them.
- 54 https://globalaccesspartners.org/PacificSummit2021_flyer.pdf

PROGRAMME

8:15am Online registration open. Participants dial in



WELCOME & SETTING THE SCENE

8:30am – 9:00am

8:30am Introduction and Acknowledgment of Country



CATHERINE FRITZ-KALISH

Co-Founder and Managing Director
Global Access Partners
Director, International Centre for
Democratic Partnerships (ICDP)
Director, ICDP Foundation

Pacific Welcome



Taulapapa BRENDA HEATHER-LATU

Partner, Latu Lawyers
Director, ICDP
Former Attorney General of Samoa

Welcome



The Honourable ANTHONY ROBERTS MP

Minister for Planning
Minister for Homes
NSW Government

Keynote Address



Dr KURT CAMPBELL AO CNZM

Deputy Assistant to the President
Coordinator for Indo-Pacific Affairs
National Security Council
The White House
Washington DC

9:05am



SESSION ONE

Governance

9:05am – 10:15am

Session Chair



The Honourable Cr PHILIP RUDDOCK AO

Mayor, Hornsby Shire Council

Thought Leader Panel



His Excellency Mr JEAN-PIERRE THÉBAULT

Ambassador of France to Australia



PETER KENILOREA Jr

Member for East 'Are'are
National Parliament of
Solomon Islands

*"Good Parliamentary Governance
in the Solomon Islands"*



Taulapapa BRENDA HEATHER-LATU

Partner, Latu Lawyers
Director, ICDP
Former Attorney General of Samoa

9:35am

Zoom Discussion



Co-facilitators



STEPHEN HAYES MBE

Chairman
Gravity iLabs



CATHERINE FRITZ-KALISH

Co-Founder and Managing
Director, GAP
Director, ICDP and
ICDP Foundation

10:15am Break

10:30am



SESSION TWO

Jobs & Skills

10:30am – 11:45am

gap

Session Chair



TANYA STOIANOFF

Head of Government Affairs
DXC Technology

Thought Leader Panel



MAKA KAMA

Managing Partner, Federal Public Sector
Industry, Consulting and Analytics Practice,
DXC Technology ANZ

*"Improving pathways in the advancement
of digital skills"*



TAHOLO KAMI

Special Representative for Oceans
Government of Fiji



Dr GEORGE CARTER

Research Fellow in Geopolitics and
Regionalism, Department of Pacific Affairs,
The Australian National University
Director, ANU Pacific Institute

11:00am

Zoom Discussion



Co-facilitators



MICHAEL COLLINS

Chief Executive Officer
Strategic Development
Group



CATHERINE FRITZ-KALISH

Co-Founder and
Managing Director, GAP
Director, ICDP and
ICDP Foundation

11:45am



SESSION THREE

Shared Identity

11:45am – 1:15pm

gap

Session Chair



Prof BRIAN SCHMIDT AC

Vice-Chancellor and President
The Australian National University
Winner of the 2011 Nobel Prize in Physics

Thought Leader Panel



His Excellency ANOTE TONG

Distinguished Global Leader-in-Residence,
University of Pennsylvania
4th President of the Republic of Kiribati

*"Our Respective Roles in Our
Collective Security"*



The Honourable SUSSAN LEY MP

Deputy Leader of the Opposition
Shadow Minister for Women
Shadow Minister for Industry,
Skills and Training
Shadow Minister for Small and
Family Business



Prof TOM CALMA AO

Chancellor
University of Canberra

12:15pm

Zoom Discussion



Facilitator



CATHERINE FRITZ-KALISH

Co-Founder and
Managing Director, GAP
Director, ICDP and
ICDP Foundation

1:15pm

Close

SPEAKER PROFILES

CATHERINE FRITZ-KALISH



**Co-Founder and Managing Director
Global Access Partners**
**Director, International Centre for
Democratic Partnerships (ICDP)
and ICDP Foundation**

Catherine Fritz-Kalish is co-founder and Managing Director of Global Access Partners Pty Ltd (GAP) and Director of the International Centre for Democratic Partnerships (ICDP). Over the last 25 years, under Catherine's guidance, GAP has grown to be a highly respected and influential public policy and implementation institute, with over 1,000 active members. It initiates and facilitates high-level discussions at the cutting edge of the most pressing commercial, social and global issues of today. GAP's current initiatives span the industry sectors of Health, Education, Security, Energy and the Environment, Productive Ageing and Digital Engagement.

Catherine's broader business experience includes coordination of a number of international initiatives as part of the annual programme for the small and medium-sized enterprise unit of the OECD (Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development), at headquarters in Paris, France; marketing and brand management within all seven divisions of the George Weston Foods Group; and just prior to establishing GAP, working within the TCG Group of companies, particularly in the area of start-up incubator establishment.

Catherine is the Chair of the Board of the Fritz Family Foundation; Member of the Board of the Social Impact Hub; and former Chair of social justice charity *Stand Up*. She also sits on the boards of the Fritz Family Office and ICDP Foundation. She co-founded *Thread Together* which provides brand new clothing to disadvantaged communities across Australia. Catherine is also part of a significant giving circle which engages whole families in the act of giving to those in need.

She holds a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of NSW and a Masters of Business in International Marketing from the University of Technology, Sydney.

Taulapapa
BRENDA HEATHER-LATU

Director, ICDP
Partner, Latu Lawyers
**Former Attorney-General of
Samoa**

Taulapapa Brenda Heather-Latu is the former Attorney General for Samoa, and Partner in the family-owned law firm – Latu Lawyers in Apia, Samoa. Brenda has been in practice for 33 years in both New Zealand and Samoa.

She worked at Crown Law Office in New Zealand from 1988-1996 and was appointed a Crown Counsel in 1991. In 1996, she went to Samoa under a New Zealand Aid Scheme as Principal State Solicitor in the Attorney General's Office. Then in 1997, she was appointed Attorney General of Samoa. Heather-Latu held the post for three consecutive terms from 1997-2006.

Brenda is also the Honorary British Consul to Samoa and is a serving Judicial Officer with World Rugby. She is also a Board Member for Habitat for Humanity (NZ) and holds the chiefly title of Taulapapa from the village of Fogapoa in Savaii, Samoa.

Brenda is a highly respected leader with outstanding, high-level connections across the Pacific. She is the director of the International Centre for Democratic Partnerships (ICDP).

**The Honourable
ANTHONY ROBERTS MP**



**Minister for Planning
Minister for Homes
NSW Government**

The Hon Anthony Roberts MP is the Minister for Planning, and Minister for Homes in the NSW Government.

A Member of the New South Wales Legislative Assembly, he has represented the Electorate of Lane Cove for the Liberal Party since 2003.

Anthony has been a Minister in the Liberal Government since 2011 when he was appointed the Minister for Fair Trading in the O'Farrell Government.

Anthony was then promoted in 2013 to the portfolio of Resources and Energy and following the Baird Governments electoral victory in 2015, assumed the role of Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy.

In 2016, under Gladys Berejiklian, Anthony was promoted to Minister for Planning, Housing and Special Minister of State.

After the 2019 election, Anthony was given the Corrections Portfolio until the resignation of Premier Berejiklian.

In 2021, Premier Perrottet appointed Anthony to serve as the Minister for Planning and Minister for Homes.

Dr KURT CAMPBELL AO CNZM



**Deputy Assistant to the President,
Coordinator for Indo-Pacific
Affairs, National Security Council,
The White House
Washington DC**

Dr Kurt Campbell AO CNZM serves as Deputy Assistant to the President and Coordinator for Indo-Pacific Affairs on the National Security Council.

He was previously Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of The Asia Group, LLC, a strategic advisory and capital management group.

From 2009 to 2013, Dr Campbell served as the Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, where he is widely credited as being a key architect of the "pivot to Asia". For advancing a comprehensive US strategy that took him to every corner of the Asia-Pacific region, Secretary Hillary Clinton awarded him the Secretary of State's Distinguished Service Award (2013), the nation's highest diplomatic honour.

He was formerly the CEO and co-Founder of the Center for a New American Security and concurrently served as the director of the Aspen Strategy Group and Chairman of the Editorial Board of the Washington Quarterly.

Dr Campbell is the author or editor of ten books, including *Difficult Transitions: Why Presidents Fail in Foreign Policy at the Outset of Power* and *Hard Power: The New Politics of National Security*.

He received his BA from the UC San Diego and his doctorate in international relations from Brasenose College at Oxford University.

**The Honourable Cr
PHILIP RUDDOCK AO**



**Mayor
Hornsby Shire Council**

Philip Maxwell Ruddock is Mayor of Hornsby Shire and President of the NSW Liberal Party.

Mr Ruddock was a Liberal Member of the House of Representatives from 1973 to 2016. First elected in a 1973 by-election, by the time of his retirement he was the last parliamentary survivor of the Whitlam and Fraser Governments. He was both the Father of the House and the Father of the Parliament from 1998 until his retirement. He is the second longest serving parliamentarian in the history of the Australian Parliament.

Mr Ruddock served continuously in federal ministry and cabinet during the Howard Government, as Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs from 1996 to 2003, and then Attorney-General from 2003 to 2007. He also served as Minister for Indigenous Affairs and Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for Reconciliation.

In February 2016, Mr Ruddock announced his retirement from politics and was appointed Australia's Special Envoy for Human Rights. He has wide committee experience, having served on the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade; the Joint Standing Committee on Intelligence and Security; Coalition Foreign Policy and Defence Committee; and Coalition Legal and Immigration Committee.

Mr Ruddock served as Chair of the Human Rights subcommittee of the Joint Standing Committee of Foreign Affairs Defence and Trade, and the Joint Standing Committee on Human Rights. He chaired the expert panel of the Australian Government's 2017-2018 Religious Freedom Review and was a Member of the Joint Committee on Corporations and Financial Services.

With degrees in Arts and Law from Sydney University, Mr Ruddock practised law prior to entering parliament. He lives in Pennant Hills with his wife, Heather.

**His Excellency
Mr JEAN-PIERRE THÉBAULT**



**Ambassador of France to
Australia**

Mr Thébault was appointed Ambassador of France to Australia in November 2020.

His previous postings included the Ambassador in charge of the preparation of the French G7 Presidency (2018-2020), Ambassador to Ireland (2014-2018), Ambassador at large for the Environment, Paris (2010-2014), Consul General of France in Hong Kong and Macao (2005-2009), Deputy Head of Mission at the French Embassy, Tokyo (2002-2005), Counsellor to the Minister for Public Sector and Civil Service, Paris (2000-2002), Political Counsellor, French Embassy, Berlin (1999-2000), Counsellor to the Minister for Regional Planning and the Environment, Paris (1997-1999), Counsellor, Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations, New York (1995-1997), Deputy Head of Mission, French Embassy, Zagreb (1994-1995), Regional Head of Mission, European Community Monitor Mission in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Albania and Croatia (1993-1994), Diplomatic Counsellor to the Minister for Justice, Paris (1992-1993), and the Counsellor (European integration) at the Prime Minister's Office, Paris (1991-1992).

Mr Thébault has earned several important distinctions, including Knight of the Legion of Honor (2014) and Officer of the National Order of Merit (2019).

Mr Thébault has a BA in History from Sorbonne University. He is fluent in German and English and has two children.

PETER KENILOREA Jr

**Member for East 'Are'are
National Parliament of
Solomon Islands**

Peter Kenilorea Jr was elected to the National Parliament of Solomon Islands in 2019. He is Member of Parliament for East Are'Are and Chair of the Parliamentary Foreign Relations Committee (FRC).

In 2021, he was appointed President of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) Parliamentary Assembly and Co-President of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly, the first Solomon Islands MP to serve in these roles.

Peter has previously held the position of the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade in the Solomon Islands government and was International Civil Servant with the United Nations Secretariat in New York. From 2000-2017, he held positions in the UN Office of Legal Affairs, the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the UN Department of General Assembly and Conference Management, the UN Office of the Higher Commissioner for Human Rights, and the UN Office of the High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries, and Small Island Developing States.

From 1996-2000, he was employed by the Solomon Islands Government, serving in the Attorney General's Chambers and from 1994-1995 he was employed by Jennifer Corrin Barrister & Solicitor.

Peter has obtained an LLB from the University of Waikato in New Zealand which he attended from 1991-1994. He also obtained an LLM in International Law from the University of Nottingham in the UK which he attended from 1997-1998.

STEPHEN HAYES MBE

**Chairman, GAP Standing
Committee on National Resilience
Chairman, Gravity Group
Naval Shipbuilding Industry
Facilitator**

As part of his philanthropic work, Stephen is the Chairman of the GAP Standing Committee on National Resilience, a high-level advisory focusing on areas such as Pandemics, Energy, Health, Industry and Sovereign Capability. The Committee aims to establish an independent National Resilience Institute to coordinate research and provide advice to all levels of government. Stephen's Fellowships include the International Institute for Economic Research – Australia (IIER-A).

Stephen was appointed the National Defence Industry Workforce and Skills Facilitator in May 2018. The Defence Shipbuilding Industry subsequently engaged him to continue the role with a focus on shipbuilding, and he is currently the Naval Shipbuilding Industry Facilitator and Secretary of the Australian Naval Shipbuilding Industry Group. He is also the Chairman of Gravity Group and spearheads strategic relations and global ecosystem development.

Stephen is a Board Member of Palm Branch Group that is establishing Space Centre Australia in Weipa as a full-spectrum sovereign launch facility. He is also a Partner and mentor for SMETEC Services located in the Shoalhaven region of NSW. SMETEC is a fast-growing company focused on supporting the supply chain for military platforms.

Previously, following a successful 29-year career in the Royal Australian Air Force, Stephen became the founding Managing Director and CEO of the International Centre for Complex Project Management and founding Chair of the International Complex Project Management Research Council. He chaired the International Task Force that developed the seminal report 'Complex Project Management – Global Perspectives and the Strategic Agenda to 2025'.

Stephen was appointed a Member of the Order of the British Empire following an exchange posting with the Royal Air Force. In addition to several military commendations, he received the US Defense Acquisition University President's medal for international leadership in the field of complex project management.

TANYA STOIANOFF



**Head of Government Affairs
DXC Technology
Australia and New Zealand**

With over 20 years of government relations and public affairs experience, largely gained in the online, telecommunications and financial services sectors, Tanya is the ANZ Head of Government Affairs at DXC Technology – one of the world's largest independent end-to-end ICT service providers culminating from the merger of CSC and Hewlett Packard Enterprise (HPE) Services.

Prior to her time at HPE, Tanya was General Manager of External Relations at Veda (now Equifax) with responsibility for government and stakeholder relations and regulatory affairs. Equifax is APAC's largest credit reporting and data analytics company.

Tanya was the first Asia Pacific Director of Government Relations for PayPal – she established the function in Singapore and helped cultivate regulatory environments in various countries to open up new markets for online payments in Asia – that was after two years as Director of Government Relations at eBay Australia & New Zealand. Before that, she was Executive Director of the Mobile Carriers Forum where she played a leadership role in building community stakeholder relations and shaping the regulatory environment for the rollout of 3G technology enabling Australia's smart phone adoption.

Tanya's non-corporate experience includes managing government engagement campaigns for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation where over a two-year period she was instrumental in securing \$35 million in Federal Government funds for clinical trials and \$43 million for carers of children with Type 1 diabetes.

Tanya is an AmCham Governor, CEDA Trustee, and holds a Masters in Legal Studies (UTS), Masters in Public Policy (UNSW) and a Bachelor of Agricultural Economics (University of Sydney).

MAKA KAMA



**Managing Partner
Federal Public Sector Industry,
Consulting and Analytics Practice
DXC Technology ANZ**

Maka Kama leads DXCs Consulting and Analytics Practice for the Australian Government.

Maka is a trusted advisor and delivery partner to government departments across the country. He is currently completing a PhD thesis about *"How leaders leverage technology for the benefit of underprivileged people"*. Maka spends his private time driving social entrepreneurship initiatives focused on directly benefiting Indigenous Australians and the indigenous cultures of the South Pacific.

Maka is of Pacific Islander descent, being a second generation Australian of Tongan heritage. He grew up in country NSW and studied econometrics and statistics at the University of Sydney. He became an ACT Supreme Court admitted solicitor in 2005 with an LLB, LLM and GradDip (Legal Practice) from the Australian National University.

Maka transitioned to technology delivery after winning an Australia Day medal for his role in driving the Attorney-General's Department's new internal and external cloud presence and website, and delivering risk and quality consultancy to the Department of Health. He entered into private consultancy with Accenture, serving government departments including the ATO, Defence, Health and Education. Maka subsequently worked with other large multinationals such as Unisys, SAS and ThoughtWorks, as well as NSW Police, negotiating some of its largest contracts (1.4B Mark43, 100M IBM contract).

TAHOLO KAMI



**Special Representative for Oceans
Government of Fiji**

Taholo is based in Suva and is a well-respected leader across the Pacific who has led regional organisations, developmental coalitions, and various initiatives across the region.

Taholo was part of Fiji's COP23 team as Special Representative for the Ocean from 2017-2020, where he was responsible for creating a dialogue for the Ocean within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. He was also Sherpa for the Fiji PM on the High Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy and co-chair of the Pacific Blue Shipping Partnership.

He is a senior Advisor to Nia Tero in developing the Pasifika Programme and has completed 10 years as head of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Oceania office, where he established a strong regional programme in conservation, sustainable development and high-level policy frameworks.

A Tongan native, Kami grew up in Papua New Guinea and graduated with an accounting degree from the University of Technology of PNG. He completed an MBA in marketing/eCommerce as a Fulbright scholar at Vanderbilt University.

Dr GEORGE CARTER



**Research Fellow in Geopolitics and
Regionalism, Department of
Pacific Affairs, The Australian
National University
Director, ANU Pacific Institute**

George Carter is a Research Fellow in Geopolitics and Regionalism at the Department of Pacific Affairs at The Australian National University (ANU). He is also the Director for the ANU Pacific Institute, a network hub of over 200 scholars – connecting and promoting Pacific Studies – research, teaching and training at the university. He lectures courses in international relations, diplomacy, security, environment and climate change, policy, cross-cultural communication and Pacific studies.

George attained his PhD from ANU, having completed a Masters of Arts in International Relations with Honours, and a Masters of Diplomacy as an Australian Awards scholar. Subsequently he received the Prime Minister's Australia Pacific Award and the SSGM/DPA Pacific Scholarship for his doctoral studies. He has a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Pacific Studies from Victoria University of Wellington.

Prior to coming to Australia for studies, he was the Political Advisor at the US Embassy in Apia.

George's research and teaching interests are informed by his education, work experience in the Pacific and upbringing through his proud Samoan Tuvaluan, i-Kiribati, Chinese and British ancestry. He serves his family and village in Samoa, where he holds the matai/chiefly title of Sala.

MICHAEL COLLINS

**Chief Executive Officer
Strategic Development Group**

Strategic Development Group is a consulting firm that works across Australia and overseas. Strategic helps clients to engage effectively with their communities and stakeholders, to plan how to achieve the best outcomes for business and people, and to measure the effectiveness of what they do.

Michael leads Strategic's team of exceptional personnel and oversees project delivery for clients.

He is also a Director of not-for-profit Opportunity International Australia, and Chair of not-for-profit Immanuel Afrika Australia.

Prior to joining Strategic in 2014, Michael held a variety of diplomatic, policy and analysis roles across the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) and the Office of National Assessments (ONA).

Prof BRIAN SCHMIDT AC

**Vice-Chancellor and President
The Australian National University
Winner of the 2011 Nobel Prize
in Physics**

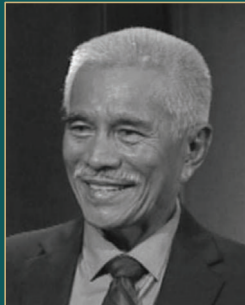
Professor Brian P. Schmidt was appointed Vice-Chancellor and President of The Australian National University (ANU) in January 2016.

Professor Schmidt is the 12th Vice-Chancellor of The Australian National University. Winner of the 2011 Nobel Prize in Physics, Professor Schmidt was an astrophysicist at the ANU Mount Stromlo Observatory and Research School of Astronomy and Astrophysics before becoming Vice-Chancellor.

Professor Schmidt received undergraduate degrees in Astronomy and Physics from the University of Arizona in 1989, and completed his Astronomy Master's degree (1992) and PhD (1993) from Harvard University. Under his leadership, in 1998, the High-Z Supernova Search team made the startling discovery that the expansion rate of the Universe is accelerating.

Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science, The United States Academy of Science, and the Royal Society, he was made a Companion of the Order of Australia in 2013.

His Excellency ANOTE TONG



**Distinguished Global
Leader-in-Residence,
University of Pennsylvania
4th President of the Republic
of Kiribati**

Anote Tong was President of the Republic of Kiribati, having served the maximum three terms between 2003 to 2016. He was responsible for drawing international focus of attention to the human dimension of climate change by highlighting the existential threat faced by his people and those of other vulnerable countries on the frontline of the impacts of climate change, many of which are in the Pacific Region. On leaving office, he joined Conservation International as a Distinguished Fellow from 2016 to 2018, and continues to speak on a worldwide basis at conferences and institutions, as well as joining Perry World House from the University of Pennsylvania as a Visiting Fellow from 2020 to 2022.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) projections of sea level rise will render these island nations uninhabitable and even submerged well within the century. President Tong has been campaigning for credible options for securing the future of these communities. He was responsible for declaring what was then the largest marine protected area when he closed off more than 400 thousand km² of the Phoenix Islands Protected Area (PIPA) in 2008 from extractive industries. PIPA has been listed by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site. For his advocacy work on climate change and ocean conservation, Anote Tong has been nominated twice for the Nobel Peace Prize, was awarded the Sun Hak Peace Prize, Peter Benchley Award, Edmund Hillary Award and a number of other awards.

He received his BSc degree from the University of Canterbury, NZ, his Masters in Economics from the London School of Economics, UK, an Honorary Master of Philosophy in Human Ecology from the College of the Atlantic at Maine, USA, an Honorary Doctorate in Engineering from The Pukyong National University, South Korea, and an Honorary Doctorate in Law from the University of the South Pacific, Fiji.

He resides in his home country of Kiribati, a group of 33 atoll islands which are narrow strips of land which are on average less than 2 meters above sea level located in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. He is married with more than twenty grandchildren hence his deep concern for the future of his people and of the global community.

The Honourable SUSSAN LEY MP



**Deputy Leader of the Opposition
Shadow Minister for Women
Shadow Minister for Industry,
Skills and Training
Shadow Minister for Small and
Family Business**

Born in Nigeria to British parents, Sussan spent her early childhood in the United Arab Emirates, before migrating to Australia at the age of 13 with her parents and older brother.

Schooled in the UK, QLD and ACT, her later tertiary study led to a Bachelor of Economics, Master of Taxation Law and a Master of Accounting. Developing an early fascination with the skies and flying, a young Sussan worked a variety of odd jobs and hours to finance this passion, obtaining a commercial pilot's license which she still holds.

During a livestock and dairy farming partnership (near Tallangatta in North East Victoria) of seventeen years, Sussan experienced the highs and lows that routinely test the resolve of farming families.

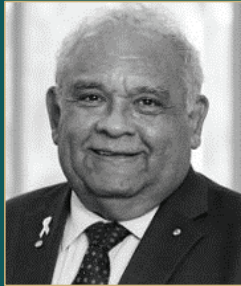
Starting university when her first child turned one led to ten years of part-time study, on the way to three children and three finance degrees.

Still helping to manage the farm, she took up a position with the Australian Taxation Office at Albury, graduating to the role of Director, Technical Training, before seeking Liberal Party pre-selection for the Federal seat of Farrer in 2001.

Returned as the Member for Farrer at six subsequent elections, Sussan regards it as an honour to represent the people living in this substantial part of southwest NSW, making time to routinely travel the electorate, hearing the views and concerns of her constituents.

Now in her 19th year of federal politics, Sussan has been appointed to a number of ministerial and parliamentary positions, most recently as Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

Prof TOM CALMA AO FFA



Chancellor
University of Canberra

Professor Tom Calma is an Aboriginal Elder from the Kungarakana (Koong ara kan) tribal group and a member of the Iwaidja (Ee wad ja) tribal group whose traditional lands are southwest of Darwin and on the Cobourg Peninsula in the Northern Territory of Australia, respectively.

He has been involved in Indigenous affairs at a local, community, state, national and international level and worked in the public sector for over 45 years. He sits on a number of boards and committees focusing on rural and remote Australia, health, mental health, suicide prevention, all levels of education, culture and language, justice reinvestment, research, reconciliation and economic development.

In 2010, after a distinguished career of 38 years in the Australian Public Service, Professor Calma retired and currently works as a consultant, volunteer and academic.

He was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia in 2012 and named ACT Australian of the Year in 2013 for his work as a human rights and social justice advocate.

Professor Calma's research interests include pharmacological application for scabies control, genomics, Indigenous cancers, tobacco control, and micro-biome, as well as health, mental health, and suicide prevention.

Professor Calma has been a fierce advocate for progress and change for many decades, and his work continues to have an enduring impact on public discourse in Australia and beyond.

SPONSOR PROFILES

DXC TECHNOLOGY

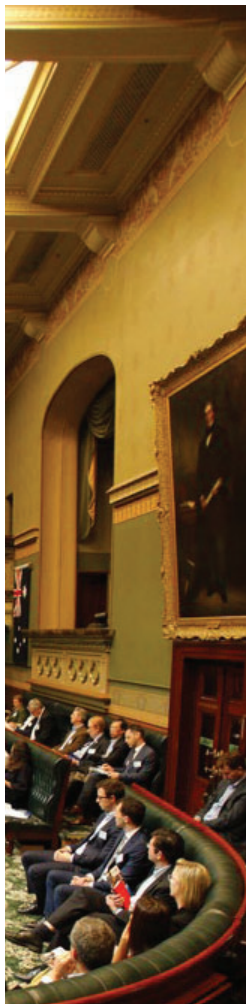


DXC Technology is the world's leading independent, end-to-end next generation IT services company, uniquely positioned to help our clients harness the power of innovation to thrive on change. Our mission is to lead digital transformation for our clients and deliver new beneficial outcomes for their organisation. We have the resources, global reach and scale to help clients apply the power of technology and confidently guide them toward the future.

DXC Technology's independence, global talent, expertise, and extensive partner network combine to provide greater benefit to you. Our strength comes from: Our technology independence and extensive partner network, including key strategic partnerships such as Amazon Web Services, AT&T, Dell EMC, HCL, Hitachi, HPE, HP, IBM, Lenovo, Micro Focus, Microsoft, Oracle, PwC, SAP, ServiceNow, and VMware. Our industry-leading partner relationships work together to deliver the right solution and the right team to address complex, critical client business challenges:

- A differentiated operating model – encompassing the building, selling and delivery of technology solutions – that enable seamless interaction with you.
- A clear and confident vision, forged over 60 years of delivering results for thousands of clients across all industries.

dxc.technology



GLOBAL ACCESS PARTNERS

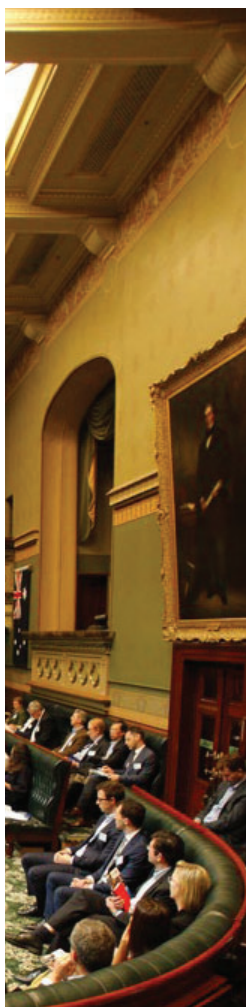


Global Access Partners Pty Ltd (GAP) is an independent not-for-profit institute for active policy that initiates strategic discussions on the most pressing social, economic and structural issues and challenges facing Australia today. Through its pioneering 'Second Track' process, GAP seeks to foster links between community, government, industry and academia to increase stakeholder participation in the development of government policy and promote novel, cross-disciplinary approaches to regulatory problems.

Since its establishment in 1997, GAP has been running multidisciplinary taskforces, forums, conferences, seminars, consultative committees, research and feasibility studies, online collaboration and executive consultancy, both internationally and in Australia. The GAP alumni network comprises over 4,000 members, with more than 1,000 people actively engaged in various GAP projects on a regular basis.

GAP works with Federal and State governments, major corporate enterprises, peak industry and community bodies, universities and research institutes.

globalaccesspartners.org



ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT

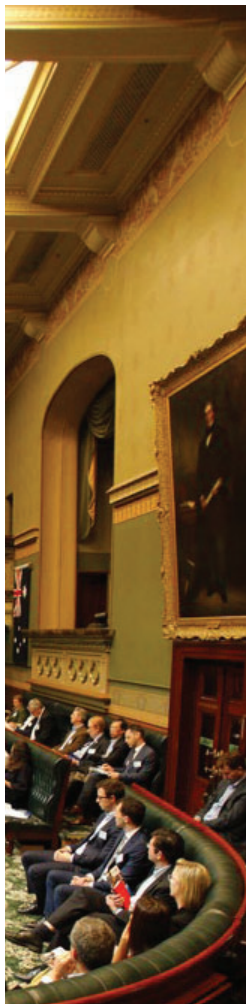


The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) is an international organisation comprised of 38 member countries that works to build better policies for better lives.

The OECD's mission is to promote policies that will improve the economic and social wellbeing of people around the world. Together with governments, policy makers and citizens, we work on establishing evidence-based international standards, and finding solutions to a range of social, economic and environmental challenges. From improving economic performance and creating jobs to fostering strong education and fighting international tax evasion, we provide a unique forum and knowledge hub for data and analysis, exchange of experiences, best-practice sharing, and advice on public policies and international standard-setting.

The [Public Governance Directorate](#) supports countries to promote good governance through more strategic, agile and action-oriented public sectors that improve the functioning of national economies and support more inclusive and sustainable growth. It helps governments design and implement strategic, evidence-based and innovative policies to strengthen public governance, respond effectively to diverse and disruptive economic, social and environmental challenges and deliver on government's commitments to citizens.

The [Public Governance Reviews Unit](#) supports governments in addressing key governance challenges by assessing and providing whole-of-government recommendations on the capacities of a country's central public administrations to design and deliver public policies and services inclusively and sustainably. In so doing, it supports strategies to implement governance reform agendas successfully so that governments can, and can be seen to, improve outcomes for citizens and businesses.



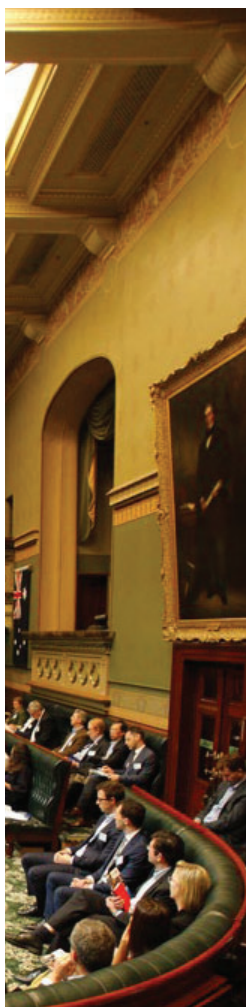
gap 

ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT

The [OECD Unit on Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development \(PCSD\)](#) works, in collaboration with other OECD Divisions and Directorates, with members and partner countries to strengthen the capacity of governments to design, implement and monitor coherent and integrated policies for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in line with the [OECD Council Recommendation on PCSD](#). It supports countries through analysis, guidance tools and recommendations, providing targeted country support and engaging in global dialogue. This entails strengthening governance mechanisms and capacities for fostering synergies across economic, social and environmental policy areas; identifying trade-offs and balancing domestic and international objectives; and addressing the spillovers of domestic policies on other countries and on future generations.

More recently, in response to country demands, including from Small Island Developing States, the work also focuses on informing government efforts to equip civil servants with skills that take them beyond their traditional operating environment and challenge them to think and act in new, cross-disciplinary ways. This becomes even more important as countries strive to ensure a [sustainable recovery from COVID-19](#) – one where short-term economic recovery measures do not come at the expense of long-term commitments such as the SDGs and the Paris Climate Agreement.

oecd.org



gap 

FIRST 5000

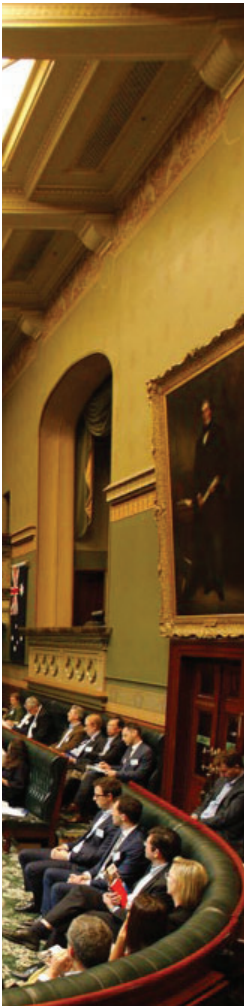


First 5000 is the leading online community for medium-sized enterprises in Australia.

Officially launched by GAP on 20 October 2010 at NSW Parliament House, *First 5000* provides news and commentary as well as general business support for the mid-market, the engine room of the national economy.

First 5000 tackles the issues businesses face and facilitates commentary and debate among its unique membership.

first5000.com.au



OPEN FORUM



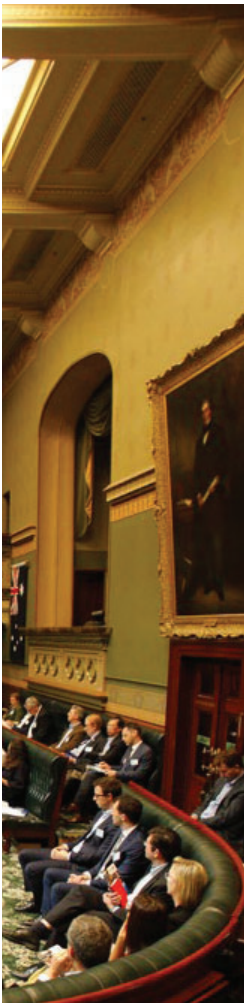
Openforum.com.au is an interactive policy discussion website hosted and moderated by GAP. It offers a platform for free thought, open debate and policy discussion from an Australian perspective and welcomes blogs and comments from everyone who wishes to contribute.

The website has now showcased over ten thousand articles since it went live in May 2007. We feature unique articles written for the site by academics, GAP alumni and members of the public, as well as breaking scientific news and the best articles curated from a range of authoritative Australian sources.

At least three stories are published every day on a range of topics related to GAP taskforces and the forces shaping modern Australia. Regular topics include domestic business, economic and political issues; energy, climate change and the environment; infrastructure and technology; and the international science in the Pacific, Asia, China and the USA. The weekends often showcase wide-ranging articles on culture, history and human psychology.

In 2012, Open Forum held a successful public consultation on strata reform in New South Wales, whose results helped shape the biggest shake-up in the state's strata law for decades.

openforum.com.au



EVENT FROG



EventFrog are vibrant leaders delivering ideal technology solutions for onsite registration and virtual experiences.

EventFrog offer a complete end-to-end registration service that is dedicated to providing a seamless customer journey from online through to onsite. Their new virtual services on offer can help to deliver the onsite event experience to an online platform.

The EventFrog team understands each event is unique and requires a tailored approach to delivery.

eventfrog.com.au

DELEGATES

Ms Zha Agabe-Granfar
Executive Director
Verge (PNG)

Dr Transform Aqorau
Chief Executive Officer & Founding Director
iTUNA Intel & Pacific Catalyst

Mr Sergio Arzeni
President, International Network for Small and
Medium Enterprises (INSME), Italy

Ms Caroline Awaita
Business Development Manager
TraxionTraining

Mr Armen Ayyazyan
Product Development Manager
Formtrap

Mr Stephen Bartos
Director
Pegasus Economics

Mr Rodney Begley
COO, Operations Division
PNG Ports Corporation

The Hon Dr Annabelle Bennett AC SC
Chancellor, Bond University
Chair, Australian Nuclear Science and Technology
Organisation (ANSTO)

Ms Wiebke Benze von Fritz
Managing Director
HydroCon Australasia

Mr Alexander Benze von Fritz
Consultant, Information Integrity Solutions
Board Member, Fritz Family Foundation

Mr Keith Besgrove
Vice-Chair
Internet Australia

Hon Bruce Billson
Australian Small Business and Family Enterprise
Ombudsman (ASBFEO)

Prof Erik Bjurström
Associate Professor of Accounting
Department of Business and Management
Aalborg University Business School

Dr Anna Blackman
Co-Founder, Talent Insight Solutions
Associate Professor, James Cook University

Mr Benjamin Blackshaw
Project Officer
Australian Business Volunteers

Mr William Blank
Business Development Manager, Hall Contracting
Executive Committee Member
Australia Pacific Islands Business Council

Dr Dean Blomson
Sextant Consulting

Ms Olga Bodrova
COO & Director of Research, GAP

Mr Martin Bowles AO PSM
National Chief Executive Officer
Calvary Health Care

Ms Sandra Brandin
Event Director
Nobel Prize Outreach AB

Ms Tina Briggs
Program Manager
ICDP

Mr David Burt
Director of Entrepreneurship
University of New South Wales

Prof Laurie Buys
Australian Catholic University

Ms Annette Cairnduff
Executive Director
Learning Creates Australia

Prof Thomas Calma AO
Chancellor, University of Canberra
Co-Chair, Reconciliation Australia

Dr Kurt Campbell AO CNZM
Deputy Assistant to the President
Coordinator for Indo-Pacific Affairs
National Security Council
The Whitehouse, Washington DC

Ms Nicky Carp
Co-Founder
Unified Healthcare Group

Mr Andrew Carriline
Chairman, ICDP Foundation

Dr George Carter
Research Fellow, Geopolitics and Regionalism
Department of Pacific Affairs
Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs
ANU College of Asia and the Pacific
Director, ANU Pacific Institute



Ms Renee Chan
Folktales

Mr Michael Collins
Chief Executive Officer
Strategic Development Group

Ms Tania Constable PSM
Chief Executive Officer
Minerals Council of Australia

Mr Robert Crompton
Managing Director
Optias Pty Ltd

Ms Alison Crook AO
Managing Director
Women's Village Collective

Dr Michelle Cunich
Senior Research Fellow
Health Economics Charles Perkins Centre
University of Sydney

Mr Thomas Daemen
Director of Corporate, External and Legal Affairs
Microsoft Australia and New Zealand

Prof Alan Davison
Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
University of Technology Sydney

Mr David de Carvalho
Chief Executive Officer
Australian Curriculum Assessment and
Reporting Authority (ACARA)

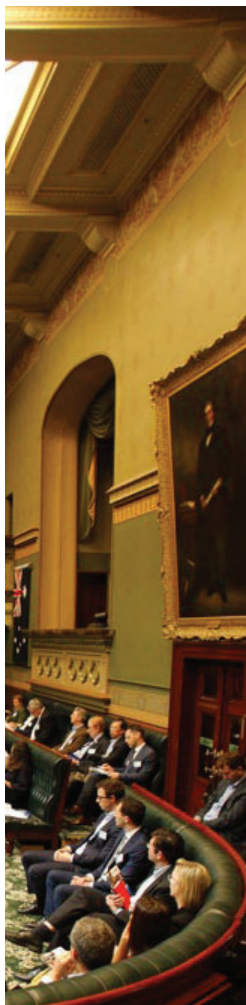
Prof Marc De Rosnay
Academic Director, Early Start
Professor of Child Development
University of Wollongong

Mr Keith Drewery
Director, Family and Private Enterprise
KPMG Australia

Prof Uwe Dulleck
Behavioural Economist
QUT Business School

Mr Ian Dunlop
Director
Chôra Foundation

Mr Peter Dunne
Partner
Herbert Smith Freehills



Ms Cheryl Durrant
Climate Councillor
The Climate Council

Ms Teya Dusseldorp
Executive Director
Dusseldorp Forum

Ms Elizabeth Eastland
Advisor
Greenhouse Advisory Board

Dr Lindley Edwards
Group Managing Director
AFG Venture Group

Mr Ruari Elkington
Senior Lecturer in Creative Industries
Qld University of Technology

Ms Kylie Ellwood
Co-Founder
Talent Insight Solutions

Ms Marie-Florence Estimé
Former Deputy Director
Organisation for Economic Co-operation
and Development (OECD) Centre for
Entrepreneurship, SMEs and Local Development

Ms Valérie Estimé-Trouillot
Managing Director
Miami Office CGI Merchant Group
Formerly -CEO & Franchise Owner
OneClick Cleaners Miami
Division CEO, Digicel Group

Mr Denis Etournaud
President, Bluescope ACIER NC
Vice-President, Australia Pacific Islands
Business Council

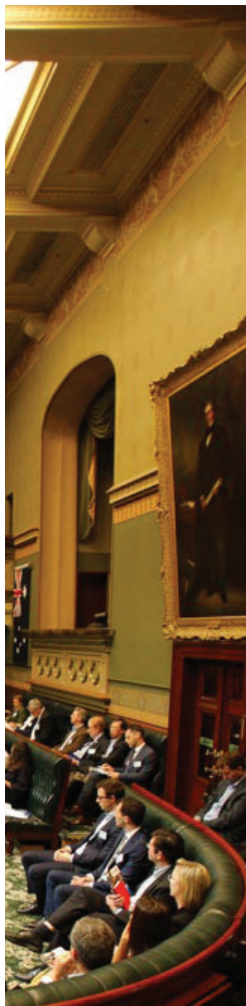
Mr Ralph Evans AO
Author

Mr James Fraser
Ambassador, ICDP

Mr Neville Fredericks
Property Developer
Fountaindale Group

Dr Anne Fritz
International Education Consultant

Mr Peter Fritz AO
Group Managing Director, TCG
Chairman, Global Access Partners



Mrs Catherine Fritz-Kalish
Co-Founder & Managing Director, GAP
Director, ICDP and ICDP Foundation

Dr Kari Gibson
Research Fellow, Phoenix Australia,
Centre for Posttraumatic Mental Health,
Department of Psychiatry
University of Melbourne

Prof Sharon Goldfeld
Director, Centre for Community Child Health
The Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne

Ms Niki Goulding
Network Facilitator
Australia Pacific Climate Alumni Network

Ms Kim Graham-Nye
CEO, gDipers

Colonel (Retd) Neil Greet
Director
Institute for Integrated Economic
Research (IIER) Australia

Ms Kathryn Greiner AO
Chair
NSW Ministerial Advisory Committee
on Ageing (MACA)

Mr Daniel Grynberg
Chief Executive Officer
My Specialised Accommodation Solutions

Emeritus Prof James Guthrie AM
Editor-in-Chief
Journal of Behavioural Economics and
Social Systems (BESS™)

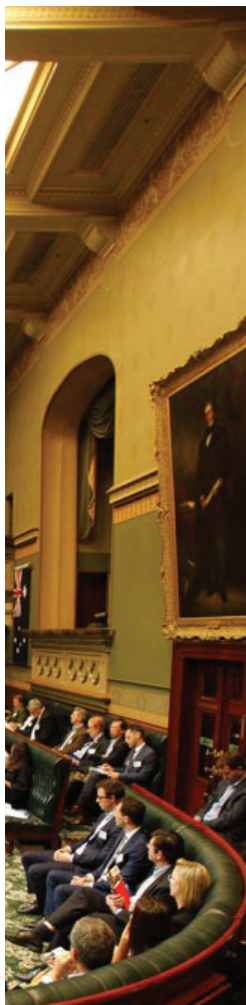
Air Marshall (ret) John Harvey AM
NSW Defence Advocate
NSW Government

Ms Allison Haworth West
Chief Executive Officer
Captain Cook Cruises Fiji
President, Australia Fiji Business Council

Mr Stephen Hayes MBE
Chairman
Gravity iLabs

Taulapapa Brenda Heather-Latu
Director, ICDP
Partner, Latu Lawyers

Mr Herrick Henriquez
Director
Aruban Trade and Industry Association (ATIA)



Prof John Hewson AM
Professor, Crawford School ANU
Director, Graphite Energy
Chairman, Council for the Human Future

Dr Will Howard
Lead Climate Scientist
Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment

Mr Ian Irving
Managing Director
Altius Pty Ltd

Dr Henry Ivarature
Pacific Fellow
Australia Pacific Security College

Mr Liam Jones
Senior Advisor
Office of the Hon. Sussan Ley MP

Mr Aden Kalish
Student
The Australian National University

Ms Torika Kalman
Program Assistant
V-lab

Mr Knox Kalounisiga
Founder
Knox Entertainment

Mr Maka Kama
Managing Partner, Federal Public Sector Industry,
Consulting and Analytics Practice
DXC Technology ANZ

Mr Taholo Kami
Specialist Representative for Oceans
Government of Fiji
Chief Executive Officer,
Kami Pasifiki Solutions

Mr James Kana
Managing Director
Ueniusu'unu Agribusiness Group

Mr Nick Karno
President & Founder
Climate Cents

Mr Kenneth Katafono
Managing Director
TraSeable Solutions Pte Ltd

Mr Peter Kenilorea Jr
Member for East 'Are'are
National Parliament of Solomon Islands

Ms Samantha Kies-Ryan

Director, Communication
Community Engagement And Social Impact
Earth Water People

Mr Michael Kingston

Curriculum Developer and Teacher
Growth Through The Middle Years

Ms Jasmine Koria

GSC, Global Shapers Apia

Ms Emma Koster

Founder, Hello Cass

Ms Anita Kumar

Senior Consultant, Early Childhood Australia
Chair, GAP Standing Committee on
Early Childhood Education and Care

Ms Dorothy Kukum

Acting Director
Community Development Division
Enga Government
Community of Practice Facilitator in Agribusiness
PNG Australia Alumni Association

Ms Amanda Lamont

Co-Founder and Vice President, Australasian
Women in Emergencies Network
Strategist in Disaster Resilience and
Disaster Risk Reduction

Mr Michael Larui

National Head of Nursing
Ministry of Health and Medical Services (MHMS),
Solomon Islands

Ms Meagan Lawson

Director
Nexus Public Affairs

The Hon Sussan Ley MP

Shadow Minister for Women
Shadow Minister for Industry, Skills and Training
Deputy Leader of the Opposition
Shadow Minister for Small and Family Business

A/Prof Dr Michael Liffman

Adjunct Associate Professor
Swinburne University of Technology

Mr David Lloyd-Lewis

Co-Founder
Folktale

Ms Philippa Louey

PhD Candidate
The Australian National University

Mr Drew Mackey

Student, Institute of Public Policy & Governance
University of Technology, Sydney

Ms Sarah Mak

Co-Founder & CEO
Folktale

Mr Christopher Mallam

Earthist
eARTHchitecture Fiji

Mr Brian Mangi

Hub Coordinator, Pacific Connect
IT Consultant, Catalpa International & ITSUP

Dr George Margelis

Chair, Aged Care Industry
Information Technology Council

Dr Simona Marinescu

Resident Coordinator for the Cook Islands,
Niue, Samoa and Tokelau
United Nations

Ms Catriona Martin

Pro Bono Director - Asia Pacific
DLA Piper Australia

Ms Joanna Maxwell

Director, Age Discrimination Team
Australian Human Rights Commission

Ms Sophie Mayo

Consultant, FTI Consulting

Ms Prudence Middleton

Parliamentary Adviser
Office of the Hon Natalie Ward MLC.
Minister for Metropolitan Roads
Minister for Women's Safety and the Prevention
of Domestic and Sexual Violence

Ms Antonia Miles

Ms Matilda Milford

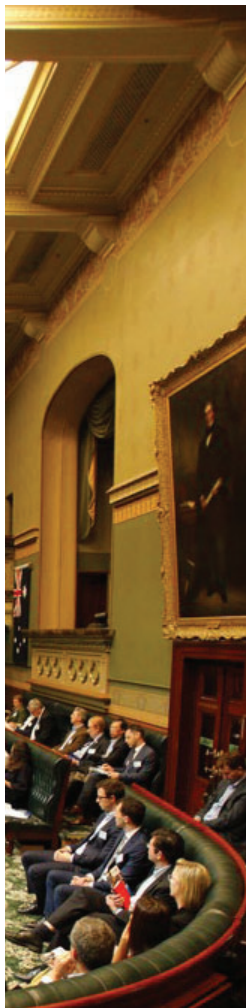
Program Support Officer, ICDP

Ms Marie O'Brien

Director, The Partnership People

Mr Patrick O'Reilly

General Manager, Pastoral Services
CatholicCare



Ms Suzanne Orudiana
Managing Director
Intellectual Solutions Solomon Islands

Ms Samantha Page
Chief Executive Officer
Early Childhood Australia

Mr Steve Patrick
Head of Strategic Projects and General Counsel
DMTC Ltd

Ms Simone Pensko
Chief Executive Officer
ICDP

Mr Victor Pertion
Chief Optimism Officer
The Centre for Optimism

Dr Sandra Peter
Director, Sydney Business Insights
The University of Sydney Business School

Mr Michael Pilbrow
Chairman
Strategic Development Group

Mr Chris Quin
Project Director
Resilient Projects

Ms Martha Raka
Chief Executive Officer
Sere J Pacific

Dr Darryn Reid
Principal Scientist: Autonomy, Behaviour,
Complexity & Control
DSTG

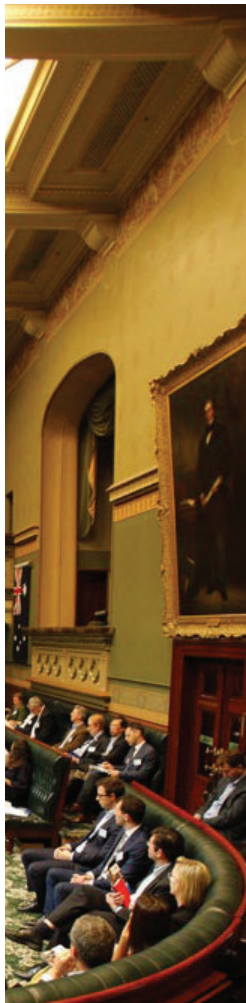
Mr James Ritchie
International Resilience Advisor
The Resilience Advisors Network

The Hon Anthony Roberts MP
Minister for Planning, Minister for Homes
NSW Government

Ms Maja Romic
Research Assistant, GAP

Mrs Heather Ruddock
Strategic Engagement Consultant

The Hon Cr Philip Ruddock AO
Mayor, Hornsby Shire Council



Dr Mike Rungie
Director
Global Centre for Modern Ageing

Mr Chris Sampson
Director
Digital Society Foundation

Mr John Sanday
Director and Owner
Kava Korporesen Pte Ltd

Prof Brian Schmidt AC
Vice-Chancellor and President
The Australian National University
Winner of the 2011 Nobel Prize in Physics

Prof Deborah Schofield
Director, Centre for Economic Impacts of
Genomic Medicine (GenIMPACT)
Faculty of Business and Economics,
Department of Economics
Macquarie University

Mr Deon Schoombie
Chief Executive Officer
Consumer Healthcare Products Australia

Mr John Scollen
Director of Global Strategy
GEOObjects

Dr Melis Senova
Co-Founder, Huddle
Author of *This Human*

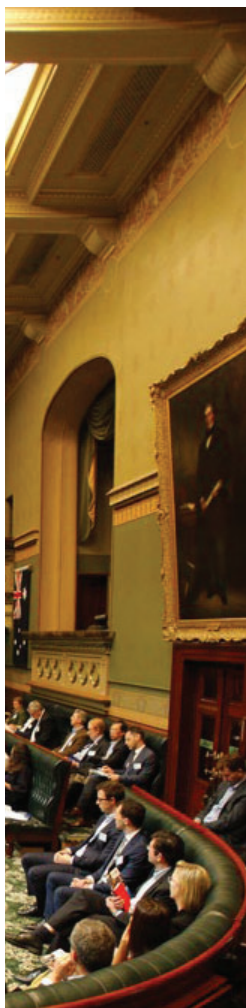
Mr Prashanth Shanmugan
Director
Serendipity Ventures

Ms Alison Sheehy
Project Manager, GAP

Dr Tony Sherbon
Specialist Consultant
Sherbon Advisory

Mr Harpreet (Harry) Singh
Regional Head & Global Lead
Australia and New Zealand
Account Management Team
VFS Global

Ms Kim Skildum-Reid
Director
Power Sponsorship

**Ms Laura Sprechmann**

Chief Executive Officer
Nobel Prize Outreach

Ms Tanya Stoianoff

Head of Government Affairs
DXC Technology

Prof Natalie Stoianoff

Director, Intellectual Property Program,
Faculty of Law
University of Technology, Sydney
Chair, Indigenous Knowledge Forum Committee

Ms Ashleigh Streeter-Jones

Founder
Raise Our Voice Australia

Mr Daniel Stricker

Director
DP Immersive

Mr Tony Surtees

Chairman, Entrepreneurs Programme Committee
Innovation Australia
Director, Menzies Foundation
Chairman, Laava.id
VP, Stanford Australia Association

Mr David Sykes

Corporate Board Member & Interim Executive
David Sykes & Associates

Mr Amin Taumoeofolau

Founding Partner
Kaila Media

His Excellency Jean-Pierre Thébault

Ambassador of France to Australia

Prof Karen Thorpe

Professor, Early Childhood Education & Care,
Institute for Social Science Research
The University of Queensland

His Excellency Hon Anote Tong

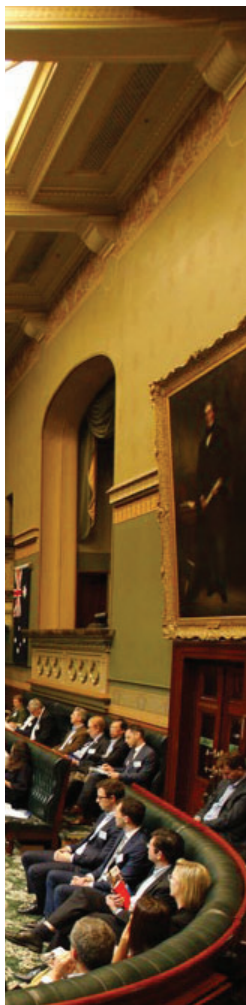
Distinguished Global Leader-in-Residence
University of Pennsylvania
Fourth President of the Republic of Kiribati

Mr Michael Trovato

Managing Director
Information Integrity Solutions

Mr Beau Tydd

Chair
Australian Computer Society (ACS)

**Ms Linda Uan**

Liaison Officer
Betio Hospital

Ms Ida Walker

Director of Public Discourse, Sydney Office
The Office of External Affairs, Australian Baha'i
Community

Prof Joanne Wallis

School of Social Sciences, Faculty of Arts,
Business, Law and Economics
The University of Adelaide

Ms Salote Waqairatu-Waqainabete

Co-Founder, Landscaping Solutions Fiji
Hub Coordinator, Pacific Connect

Dr Ian Watt AC

Chairman, ICDP
Director, O'Connell Street Associates

Dr Matt Wenham

Manager, Policy & Governance
Department of Defence

Dr Damian West

Deputy-Director General
Workforce Capability and Governance
Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic
Development Directorate ACT Government

Dr John White

Chairman
Regenerative Australian Farmers Pty Ltd (RAF)

Ms Chelsea Wilson

Research Assistant
Global Access Partners

Mr Mark Wood

Managing Director & Senior Partner
GEOObjects

Ms Hannah Wood

University of Technology, Sydney

Mrs Miri Wunsh**Mr Christopher Zinn**

Consultant
Consumer Engagement and Media Strategies
Determined Consumer