

Pacific Media Partnership Conference 2024




Speakers and Moderators

Monday 29 April 2024

<p>09:00 – 10:00 Welcome to Country</p> 	<p>Auntie Kathryn Fisher, the tribal sister of Turrbal Elder, Songwoman Maroochy.</p> <p>Auntie Kathryn Fisher is an Aboriginal elder who was born on and grew up on Cherbourg Aboriginal Reserve. She now lives in Brisbane where she is linked to the Turrbal People through kinship ties. She has a strong spiritual connection to her people, the land and traditions. Auntie Kathryn is here today with the blessing of Turrbal Elder, Songwoman Maroochy, to deliver the Welcome to Country on behalf of the Turrbal People of Brisbane and perform a Smoking Ceremony.</p>
<p>10:30 – 11:30 – Roundtable</p>	
 <p>Moderator: Francis Herman, CEO VBTC</p>	<p>Francis specialises in Media for Development. He has extensive and high-level experience in the media and communications industry in the Pacific Islands spanning 37 years with 25 of those years in senior management roles overseeing a wide range of media initiatives across 14 Pacific Island states. For his contribution to media development work in the Pacific, he was honoured with the Order of Australia (OAM) medal by the Commonwealth of Australia in 2015. He remains one of the very few Pacific Islanders awarded the OAM. He is current role is part a strategic reform programme commissioned by the Vanuatu Government and funded by the Australian Government to salvage Vanuatu’s national radio and television services.</p>
 <p>Poonam Nandani, Acting GM Fiji TV</p>	<p>Poonam has been Acting General Manager at Fiji TV for 10 months. She was formerly Fiji TV’s Finance Manager. She is a member of the Fiji Institute of Accountants and has 20 years’ experience in management and finance.</p>
 <p>Johnson Honimae, CEO SIBC</p>	<p>Johnson Honimae is a highly experienced media professional and is the CEO of the Solomon Islands Broadcasting Corporation (SIBC). He has been in the media industry since 1984 and has held various senior positions in both the main-stream media and public affairs. Career highlights include serving as the first local SIBC Editor of News and Current Affairs, President of the Pacific Islands News Associations, Director of the Government of Information Service, General Manager of SIBC during the challenging years of ethnic tensions in the Solomon</p>

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	<p>Islands, and Media Officer at the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat. In 2020, he received a British Empire Medal from the late Queen Elizabeth II for his contribution to media.</p>
 <p>Tarun Patel, CEO FBC</p>	<p>Tarun Patel is the newly selected Chief Executive of the Fijian Broadcasting Corporation, stepping into the role in April 2023 after being appointed acting CE in February. Tarun is an industry veteran with over 30 years of experience in broadcasting, having previously worked in various management roles for Fiji TV.</p>
 <p>David Anderson, MD ABC</p>	<p>David Anderson, the Managing Director of ABC, has over 30 years of experience in the broadcast television and media industry, having joined ABC in 1989. Throughout his career, he has been recognized as a creative leader in television production, commissioning successful Australian programs across various genres. David has been instrumental in transforming ABC from a traditional broadcaster to a modern digital media organization, focusing on providing trusted on-demand content to meet evolving audience demands.</p> <p>In his previous roles at ABC, including Director of Strategy & Planning and Director of Digital Network, David focused on reallocating ABC's funding towards content, products, and services tailored to audience needs and pioneered new methods to engage online audiences through personalized and connected digital services. Before becoming Managing Director in May 2019, he served as Director of Entertainment & Specialist, overseeing ABC's television networks, on-demand products, and all associated digital platforms, in addition to managing ABC's radio music networks and specialist radio content. David was also a board member of Freeview Australia until June 2020.</p>
 <p>Natasha Meleisea, CEO PCBL</p>	<p>Natasha embeds an inclusive approach to all aspects of how she operates in business. Of Samoan heritage, she weaves cultural diversity into her management style and embraces difference as a strength. Natasha brings more than 25 years of business management and marketing experience to the organisation with 20 years specifically in broadcast media and advertising; including senior executive roles in both commercial and not-for-profit media organisations with a focus on building Indigenous media performance, capacity, and capability. She was integral in the establishment of PCBL - Pasifika TV in 2015 and later became its first CEO with the aspiration to</p>




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	strengthen the broadcasting collective of Indigenous broadcasters across the Pacific.
 Faiese Matafeo, Managing Director SBC	<p>Faiese Matafeo has over 35 years of experience in radio and television, with more than half of that time spent in management positions. She currently serves as the Managing Director of Samoa Broadcast Co. Ltd and as the Chairperson of Pacific Media Partnership. Previously, she served as the CEO of the Government Public Broadcasting Service for seven years and worked as an External Relations Specialist at the UNDP Regional Office in Samoa.</p>
 Viola Ulakai, CEO TBC	<p>Viola has worked with the Tonga Broadcasting Commission (TBC) for 33 years, starting as a journalist before becoming Manager of the News & Program Department in 2012, and ultimately being appointed Chief Executive Officer in 202. She was a director for several years at the Pacific Islands News Association, currently serving as a Director and Vice President of the Tonga Sports Association and the National Olympic Committee. Viola obtained a Diploma in development journalism and a Diploma in leadership, governance, and human rights from the Indian Institute of Mass Communication.</p>
 Timoa Tokataam, CEO BPA	<p>Previously served as First Secretary at Kiriba High Commission. Officer in Charge of the Ministry of Employment and Human Resources and spent six years in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Immigration. Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Arts (BA) degrees from the University of South Pacific.</p>
11:30 – 11:45 Business Continuity presentation	
 Anthony Frangi, Manager ABC Brisbane	<p>Anthony has more than 30 years' experience in media management, broadcast media, journalism education, training, and consultancy. He maintains a teaching role in journalism & communications and is a conference speaker and international trainer on media and natural disasters. Was a guest speaker at AIBD 2024 Radio Web-Summit; Fire, Cyclone & Flood Disaster Management and Recovery Forum; the UN Regional Workshop on social media & disaster risk in South Korea; UQ School of Public Health and at the Reimaging Resilience Speakers Series in Australia. He has conducted content training and disaster workshops in India, Vanuatu, Tonga, Solomon Islands and Kuala Lumpur for AIBD-IPDC UNESCO and hosted media workshops in Malaysia and Sri Lanka. Co-founder of the 'Ready Qld Emergency App' Author of three books on media and business presentations.</p>





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11:45 – 12:00 Cyber Security presentation	
 <p>Ben Vandenberghe, CEO Skyline Communications</p>	<p>Ben Vandenberghe, the CEO of Skyline Communications, stands out as one of the industry's thought leaders and visionaries in the realm of digital transformation, advocating for robust DevOps teams and an Agile mindset. Ben has reoriented and led Skyline Communications to be recognised as the global leading provider of digital transformation software solutions for ICT media and broadband.</p>
13:00 - 14:00 The Future of News: Algorithms, disinformation & media freedom in the digital age.	
 <p>Moderator: Deborah Steele, Director ABU News</p>	<p>Deborah is a former ABC news executive, editor, and journalist. She led the ABC's Asia-Pacific newsroom from 2009-2017 and established Australia's first 24/7 multiplatform newsroom producing content for digital, television and radio for domestic and international ABC services. From 2004-2008, she was the Executive Producer of Radio Australia news and current affairs. Before joining the ABC, she was a newspaper, magazine, radio, and television journalist at numerous commercial media outlets. Deborah organises the annual Global News Forum and is a member of the World Broadcasting Unions' news committee.</p>
 <p>Bay Fang, President & CEO Radio Free Asia</p>	<p>Bay first joined RFA as Managing Director for East Asia, overseeing the management and editorial content of RFA's five East Asian language services. She went on to become RFA's Executive Editor, supervising coverage across all of Asia. She began her 20-plus year career in journalism as the Beijing Bureau Chief for US News and World Report, where she won the Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Award for her story "China's Stolen Wives." She went on to cover the wars in Afghanistan (2001-2002) and Iraq (2003-2004) for US News, and then became the Diplomatic Correspondent for the Chicago Tribune. Before joining RFA, she also served as a Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, overseeing public diplomacy and public affairs for Europe and Eurasia.</p>
<p>Sharon Engnui, Senior Journalist EMTV</p>	<p>Sharon joined EMTV two years ago after graduating from university with a major in journalism. She is from Western Highlands.</p>
<p>Gardenia Elisaia, News Editor TV1 Samoa</p>	<p>Gardenia joined TV1 in 2020. As well as being a television and print journalist, she has worked in public relations and communications. She helped launch TV5.</p>




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 <p>Stuart Watt, Head News Distribution and Strategy, ABC News</p>	<p>Stuart Watt has been a journalist for more than 30 years, operating mostly at the intersection of journalism and technology. He was part of a small team that launched the ABC's first news website back in 1997. More recently he has overseen ABC News output across television, radio, digital and third-party platforms.</p>
 <p>Nic Suzor, member of the Meta Oversight Board</p>	<p>Nic is a professor at the Law School at Queensland University of Technology, and a Chief Investigator at QUT's Digital Media Research Centre and the ARC Centre of Excellence for Automated Decision-Making and Society. He's also a member of the Oversight Board, an independent organisation that hears appeals and makes binding decisions about what content Facebook and Instagram should allow or remove, based on international human rights norms. His research examines the governance of the internet and social networks, the regulation of automated systems, digital copyright, and knowledge commons. Nic teaches intellectual property and technology law at QUT and is an award-winning educator.</p>
<p>14:00 – 14:45 International donor discussion: priorities and processes, including Q&A</p>	
 <p>Moderator: Claire Gorman, Head ABC International Services</p>	<p>Claire M Gorman is Head of the ABC's International Services division and manages the ABC's International broadcasting activities and the ABC's media development and capacity building arm. Claire has been with the ABC for twenty years and is passionate about preserving and promoting the role of public service broadcasting in vibrant media ecosystems. Her career in the ABC has spanned Radio, TV, Commercial, and International at a time of significant digital disruption. Claire has a Bachelor of Science degree and a Master of Environmental Studies from the University of Melbourne. She has previously worked in international development assistance and human rights research.</p>
 <p>Jo Elsom, Head ABC International Development</p>	<p>As head of ABC International Development (ABCID), Jo Elsom's role encompasses leadership, team and project management and business development. Jo's team works across the Indo-Pacific region supporting media development and communications (building capacity, content creation, research), with staff across Australia, PNG, and the Pacific. ABCID is part of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation. Jo has specialist expertise in the areas of media development, communication for development (C4D) and corporate communications. Her development, government, communication and media</p>





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	experience and skills provide a valuable combination of strengths.
Felicity Bollen, Director of Pacific Connections at the NZ Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade	
 <p>Rachael McGuin, Asia Pacific Regional Partnerships Director, BBC Media Action</p>	Committed media & development professional with 25+ years leading impactful projects across Asia Pacific. Masters in International Development. Passionate about using communication for positive social change.
 <p>Paul Marszalek, Office of Business Development, US Agency for Global Media</p>	Paul Marszalek leads Major Projects, Collaborations, and Media Strategy within the Office of Business Development at the United States Agency for Global Media (USAGM). The USAGM is the parent Agency for international news brands Voice of America, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, Radio Free Asia, Alhurra Television, and Radio and TV Marti. Combined, these broadcasters reach more than 410 million people each week in 62 languages. Paul's recent projects include the deployment of multiple OTT/Video-on-Demand products, modelling of cloud-based pop-up television channels, content development, and management of the Agency's West Africa office based in Accra, Ghana. A Peabody Award-winning producer with an entrepreneurial mindset, he held executive programming positions at MTV Networks, large market U.S. commercial broadcasters, and consulted extensively in public media prior to USAGM.
14:45 – 15:00 A call to action: Diversity and Gender Equity in the Media	
 <p>Kathy McLeish Supervising Producer, ABC Back Roads (Women in Media)</p>	Kathy McLeish is a senior journalist and producer with the ABC. Currently, the Supervising Producer of the 'Back Roads' TV program, she's reported and produced across a wide range of ABC programs including 7.30 Qld, 7.30, Landline, Australian Story, ABC TV and radio News and current affairs.




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 <p>Belinda Kora, ABC Pacific Local Journalism Network reporter in PNG (PNG Women in Media).</p>	<p>Belinda Kora, Secretary of the Media Council of PNG, played a crucial role in setting up PNG Women in Media. A journalist with over 15 years of experience, Kora has observed a lack of equal opportunities for women's professional growth in the media industry.</p>
<p>15:30 – 15:45 Saving life, Serving resilient society: public service media in disaster risk reduction</p>	
 <p>Yasuhiko Hoshina, Head of Disaster and Safety Information Center, News Department, NHK</p>	<p>Hoshina joined NHK in 1991 as a journalist. He covered many natural disasters, including the eruption in 2000 of Miyake jima a volcanic island southeast of Tokyo, and the Indian Ocean tsunami in 2004. In 2008 he was transferred to the Sendai Broadcasting Station in Miyagi Prefecture, northern Japan, where he took the lead of news coverage of the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011. After he was assigned an editorial director and then editor in chief in the News Department of NHK headquarters in Tokyo, he oversaw NHK's flagship news programs such as Ohayo Nippon (Good Morning Japan) and "News 7". Since 2022 he has been Head of Disaster and Safety Information Center, responsible for NHK's disaster coverage and weather news.</p>
<p>15:45 – 16:00 Fiji TV Drama showcase</p>	
 <p>Poonam Nandani, Acting GM Fiji TV</p>	<p>Poonam has been Acting General Manager at Fiji TV for 10 months. She was formerly Fiji TV's Finance Manager. She is a member of the Fiji Institute of Accountants and has 20 years' experience in management and finance.</p>
<p>16:00 – 17:00 Accessible technology solutions for the Pacific (5G, Apps, AI, cloud solutions)</p>	
 <p>Moderator: Nadeem Ahmed, ABU Secretary-General</p>	<p>Ahmed Nadeem, who is the chief executive of the ABU and is responsible for all the Union's activities. He reports to the ABU Administrative Council and the General Assembly. The Secretary-General's office handles the administration, staffing, public, international relations, finance and information systems of the ABU. The Secretariat has four other departments: ABU Programming, ABU Technology, ABU Sports and ABU News, each headed by a director who reports to the Secretary-General.</p>

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 <p>Aale Raza Director, Whiteways Systems</p>	<p>Aale is the founder and Managing Director of Whiteways Systems Pte Ltd. He is a thought leader and visionary. His company - Whiteways is a leading systems integration and consultant focused on providing solutions to broadcast houses. Prior to founding Whiteways, Aale worked for numerous well-known companies. Under his stewardship, Whiteways has become one of the fastest growing companies in the Asia Pacific region. Whiteways has more than 100 customers in 20+ countries.</p>
 <p>Richard Phelps Manager, Operations, All in Media XPERI</p>	<p>Richard works closely with Australian and New Zealand broadcasters of all sizes, to help grow their audiences using visual broadcast systems, mobile apps, and smart speakers. As Senior Digital Producer for All in Media (part of Xperi), Richard works closely with broadcasters and industry bodies with innovation strategies to succeed on existing and emerging platforms.</p>
 <p>Prasanna Meemaduma Regional Sales APAC, Kathrein Broadcast</p>	<p>Prasanna Meemaduma is heading Kathrein Broadcast Melbourne Office as the APAC Salesperson. Prasanna has been involved with Broadcast, Defence and Telecommunications projects in various roles around Asia Pacific region during his professional life. He is an Ex- Navy Officer. He is a Telecommunications/Broadcast Engineer and in the past, he has undertaken roles which involves providing solutions related to Digital TV, Radio (AM/FM/DAB+), integration of systems and management of projects related to Broadcast, Defence and Telecommunication solutions. He also carries experience in sustainable business development/management related to Broadcast sector. He is a leader when it comes to introduction of New Technologies.</p>

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11:30 – 12:00 New tools for radio from the world of podcasting	
	<p>James is Editor of Podnews, the daily podcast newsletter. He is a radio futurologist - a writer, consultant and public speaker on radio's future. James has worked in audio since 1989 as an award-winning copywriter, radio presenter, and internet strategist. He pioneered the world's first streaming radio smartphone app for Virgin Radio in 2005 and worked on the BBC iPlayer in 2007. He has advised broadcasters like Canada's Vista Radio, ABC and talkSPORT, and contributed to radio conferences around the world. James also founded the hybrid radio technology association RadioDNS.</p>
12:00 – 13:00 Building leadership capacity	
	<p>Kelly Williams, a proud Bundjalung woman from Northern New South Wales, boasts an impressive career spanning over 30 years at the ABC. Throughout her tenure, she has made significant contributions across various programs, including Australian Story, Landline, and Back Roads. Her expertise extends beyond on-air content, as she has also designed and produced television specials. Kelly Williams holds the distinction of being the ABC's first Indigenous and Diversity HR Case Advocate.</p>
	<p>As Acting Director of SBS Audio she is leading the Audio and Languages Content division of SBS, with over 60 language services delivering news, information and entertainment to multilingual and multicultural Australians. In her role as Head of Planning and Development, she oversees strategy and the delivery of content projects, training, and media systems. With a background in radio news and producing, she's managed content, live broadcast events, developed podcast series and led producing teams working in radio, online and social media. She also has experience managing projects in the procurement and IT sectors.</p>
<p>Pamela Cook, Acting Director Audio & Languages SBS</p>	


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	<p>Solomone Finau is the Technical Manager/Deputy CEO of the Tonga Broadcasting Commission and has been with the organisation for the last 28 years. He oversees the station's satellite services, repairs and maintenance, technical operations, radio and televisions studios, and transmission installations.</p>
<p>Solomone Finau, Technical Manager TBC</p>	<p>Janice has 13 years of experience in Human Resource Management with a passion for championing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives. She has been instrumental in developing and implementing initiatives that prioritize DEI at the Fijian Broadcasting Corporation. Janice is a graduate in Human Resources and General Management. She also holds a Master of Business Administration from the University of the South Pacific.</p>
	<p>Pasai has been working in Port Vila, Vanuatu, as a Radio Presenter and Radio Producer since 2007. He has worked at the Radio station Capital FM107 and Buzz 96.3FM. He currently works with Paradise 98FM which is part of the Vanuatu Broadcasting and Television Corporation radio offerings.</p>
	<p>14:00 – 14:20 Proposal: Fiji Learning Centre for Pacific Island broadcasters</p>
	<p>14:20 – 14:40 VBTC Triumph: UB40 Concert</p>
<p>Sitiveni Halofaki, Manager TV, FBC</p>	

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 <p>Francis Herman, CEO VBTC</p>	<p>Francis specialises in Media for Development. He has extensive and high-level experience in the media and communications industry in the Pacific Islands spanning 37 years with 25 of those years in senior management roles overseeing a wide range of media initiatives across 14 Pacific Island states. For his contribution to media development work in the Pacific, he was honoured with the Order of Australia (OAM) medal by the Commonwealth of Australia in 2015. He remains one of the very few Pacific Islanders awarded the OAM. He is current role is part a strategic reform programme commissioned by the Vanuatu Government and funded by the Australian Government to salvage Vanuatu’s national radio and television services.</p>
<p>14:40 – 15:00 SIBC: Pacific Games</p>	
 <p>Johnson Honimae, CEO SIBC</p>	<p>Johnson Honimae is a highly experienced media professional and is the CEO of the Solomon Islands Broadcasting Corporation (SIBC). He has been in the media industry since 1984 and has held various senior positions in both the main-stream media and public affairs. Career highlights include serving as the first local SIBC Editor of News and Current Affairs, President of the Pacific Islands News Associations, Director of the Government of Information Service, General Manager of SIBC during the challenging years of ethnic tensions in the Solomon Islands, and Media Officer at the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat. In 2020, he received a British Empire Medal from the late Queen Elizabeth II for his contribution to media.</p>
<p>15:30 – 16:30 2034 Pacific Media Landscape: Issues and priorities</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderator: Marian Kupu, Pacific Local Journalism Network reporter in Tonga, ABC • Patricia Popei, Deputy CEO EMTV • Anthony Roebeck, Operations Manager SBC • Moses Cakau, Head of Content VBTC • Mark Rogers, Kordia NZ: Mark has over 40 years’ experience in Radio and Television broadcast transmission engineering. He has extensive experience in the installation, maintenance, fault restoration and design of a wide range of broadcast and radio systems. Broadcast and Transmission technologies, such as AM, FM, HF (Short wave) microwave, satellite and fibre technology form part of this portfolio. This knowledge is utilised in the training, upskilling and mentoring of broadcast field technicians. 	