

## Twenty-Five SINU Academic Staff Embark on Training at the University of Technology Sydney

Twenty-five academic staff from the Solomon Islands National University (SINU) departed the country on Sunday, 24 November, for a two-week training program at the University of Technology Sydney (UTS) in Australia.

According to Stanley Houma, Manager of the SINU Standards and Quality Office (SQO), the group will participate in training for the Graduate Certificate in Higher Education Teaching and Learning (GCHET&L) from 25 November to 6 December.

Mr. Houma explained that the training in Sydney constitutes the first block of a four-block program, with each block consisting of two units. He elaborated that the GCHET&L program comprises the following blocks and units:

mence immediately after the in-person training in Sydney.

Mr. Houma further stated that Block Two is scheduled to begin in February 2025 at the FAFF Conference Room, Kukum Campus, and the first cohort is expected to complete the program by July 2025.

“Under this plan, the second cohort should begin the program in June or July 2025,” he added.

SINU expresses its sincere gratitude to DFAT for funding the program. The SINU Standards and Quality Office will manage the program on behalf of the university, with support from the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Academic) and faculty deans.



1. Block one consists of Teaching for Learning and Feedback and Assignment
2. Block two consists of Advancing Academic Practice and Student Agency and Teamwork
3. Block three consists of Technology Enhanced Learning and Practicing Inclusion
4. Block four consists of Course Design and Enhancing Academic Practice

The program is delivered in a blended mode, combining face-to-face sessions and online learning. The online component will com-

The 25 staff members participating in the first cohort were nominated by their respective faculty deans and represent all five faculties of SINU. While this program currently targets higher education staff, SINU is negotiating for additional support to extend training and professional development opportunities to staff in the TVET sector

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## SINU passes research policy

The Solomon Islands National University (SINU) on 17 October 2024 passed a new research policy. Huge thanks to Dr.Hugo Bugoro, Alex Makini, Dr. Anouk Ride and associate Deans across the Faculties for their extraordinary effort in preparing and presenting the Research Policy.

In an issued statement, the SINU Vice Chancellor Professor Transform Aqorau said the policy sets a strong foundation for creating a dynamic and impactful research culture that aligns with SINU's vision of being a premiere institution in the Solomon Islands and the Pacific Region.

While he congratulated the team for the landmark achievement, Prof.Aqorau encourage the research team to actively implement and lev-

tion for research activities, emphasising inclusivity, ethical standards, and the integration of indigenous knowledge with global research practices. By working together, we can ensure that SINU becomes a leader in research excellence and innovation in the Pacific."

"Looking ahead, I am delighted to inform you that Professor Padma Lal, an Adjunct Professor in the Office of Research, will be visiting us in February."

"Professor Lal's expertise and experience will be invaluable in building our capacity to apply for competitive research projects and funding opportunities."

"I encourage you and your team to prepare to engage with her during her visit to explore strategies that will further strengthen our research



Dr.Hugo Bugoro

erage the policy in their respective faculties and departments.

"I encourage you and your team to actively implement and leverage this policy in your respective faculties and departments."

"It is a robust document that provides clear guidelines and strategic direc-



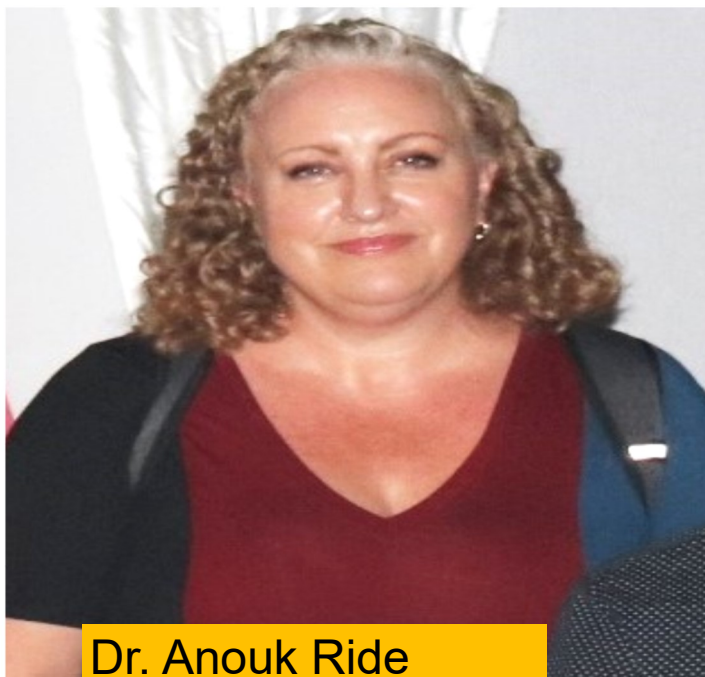
Alex Makini

output and impact."

"The future is indeed bright for SINU, and this success is a reflection of the hard work, dedication, and collaboration of our staff. Together, we are building a legacy of excellence in education, research, and community engagement."

"Let us continue to strive for greater achievements as we advance SINU's mission and contribute to the development of the Solomon Islands and beyond."

"Thank you once again for your leadership and initiative. Please convey my appreciation to everyone involved in this significant achievement."



Dr. Anouk Ride



# SINU and Ministry of Forestry discuss Poitete land

The Solomon Islands National University (SINU) interest in acquiring land at Poitete in the Western Province has reached a significant step following a successful meeting with the Ministry responsible on Tuesday 19 November this year.

SINU team led by Acting Director of Planning Cypriano Nuake met and discussed with the Ministry of Forestry led by Permanent Secretary Richard Raomae discussed SINU's interest in acquiring land at Poitete to support SINU's development aspiration.



According to Mr. Nuake the primary objectives of the land acquisition are; To advance the development of the Forestry School at Poitete, To enhance student learning opportunities, especially for forestry programs, To provide practical learning experiences close to key institutions like KFPL (Kolobangara Forestry Plantation Ltd.) and Eagon at VIRU Harbour which are critical for forestry education.

As highlighted in the discussion, SINU's position are as follows;



SINU emphasized the strategic importance of the Poitete land, highlighting its suitability for developing an ideal learning environment for students in forestry and environmental studies.

SINU expressed a strong interest in acquiring the land for educational and practical purposes, such as field research, forestry training, and student projects.

SINU has already consulted with KFPL Management, and a survey has been conducted to map the existing hectares and an additional 18 hectares of land at Poitete.

KFPL has shown support for SINU's initiative to subdivide the land for security purposes and to advance forestry education in the Solomon Islands.

KFPL has advised SINU to consult with the Ministry of Forestry regarding the forestry allocation at Poitete. Any subdivision of the land would be handled by KFPL.

Mr. Nuake highlighted during the meeting that land at Poitete is suitable for student learning and long term educational learning.

Responding to SINU, PS Raomae said currently the Ministry has no plan to develop or utilize the land at Poitete. Not only that, but the PS also expressed his personal support for the initiative and acknowledged the significance of the location for educational purposes.

The PS also indicated that his Ministry supports SINU's request to subdivide the land to accommodate the University's needs, especially with donor support on the horizon.

With that, the PS said the Ministry's technical team will need to review the proposal internally where he emphasized that, in the event of a subdivision, at least a few Ministry staff should remain on-site to provide technical support.

He also highlighted that in the proximity to KFPL and Eagon was noted as a critical factor, as it provides students with the opportunity for hands-on experience in real-world forestry settings.

With that, PS Raomae requested that the Ministry's team be included in any future SINU site visits to Poitete to ensure they are involved in the decision-making process.

Both parties expressed a strong commitment to moving forward with discussions and to finding a mutually beneficial solution for the land at Poitete. The Ministry of Forestry was supportive of SINU's objectives and agreed to engage in further dialogue to facilitate the process.



## New Zealand High Commission Hands Over Valuable Book Collection to SINU Library

New Zealand High Commissioner to the Solomon Islands His Excellency Jonathan Schwass officially handed over a collection of books from the distinguished Rhys Morgan Richards to the Solomon Islands National University (SINU) Library. This significant contribution enriches the university's resources and provides valuable insights into Pacific history and culture.

The handover ceremony took place on Thursday 5 December at the Kukum Campus Library. Rhys Morgan Richards, a former New Zealand diplomat, historian, and ethnographer, has extensively researched and written about maritime history and Pacific artifacts. His impressive private library reflects his lifelong dedication to the Pacific and its diverse communities. During the handover, High Commissioner Schwass shared Richards' sentiment about ensuring the books find a meaningful home. "Rhys, from his home near Wellington, is

motivation, Schwass added, "He wanted these books to be well-cared for, read, and appreciated, especially as they hold such significance for understanding Pacific heritage."

Pro-Vice Chancellor Corporate, Dr. William Parairato, graciously



New Zealand High Commissioner to the Solomon Islands, H.E. Jonathan Schwass, hands over the book collection to Pro-Vice Chancellor Corporate, Dr. William Parairato

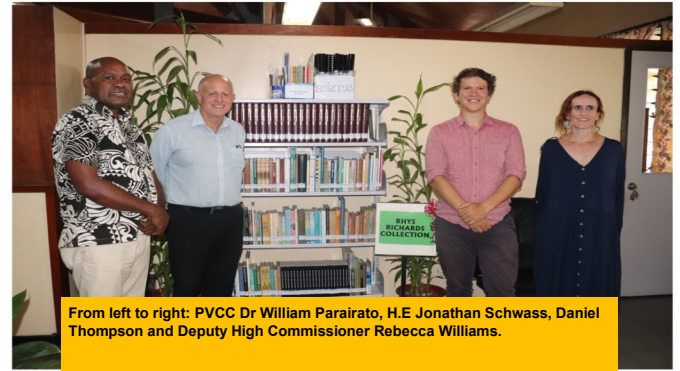
absolutely delighted that these books have found a home at SINU. He looks forward to seeing photographs and knowing that his legacy is protected," Schwass remarked.

Richards' collection includes rare and valuable books, many of which were accumulated during his time in the Solomon Islands and his frequent visits to remote areas like Tikopia. Reflecting on Richards'

accepted the collection on behalf of SINU. He expressed the university's gratitude, stating, "This great gift will continue to assist not only our students but also Solomon Islanders in learning about their culture and identity. We deeply appreciate this generous contribution."

Richards is a former New Zealand diplomat with postings in New York, Hong Kong, Manila, Geneva, Apia, and Honiara. He served as New Zealand's High Commissioner to the Solomon Islands from 1996 to 1999 and played a key role in overseeing New Zealand's aid to Melanesia.

As a historian and ethnographer, Richards has authored numerous works on maritime history and Pacific artifacts. He has also shared his expertise through New Zealand radio programs, international conferences, and seminars. Richards completed a Master of Arts degree at the University of Canterbury, with a thesis titled *An Historical Geography of Chatham Island* (1962). The Rhys Morgan Richards book collection now holds a place of pride at the SINU Library. This generous donation aligns with the university's mission to provide a platform for learning and cultural preservation.



From left to right: PVCC Dr William Parairato, H.E Jonathan Schwass, Daniel Thompson and Deputy High Commissioner Rebecca Williams.



From left to right: Manager of the SINU Library, Dr. Don Karunanayake; PVCC, Dr. William Parairato; H.E. Jonathan Schwass; SINU Library staff; Mr. Daniel Thompson; and Deputy High Commissioner Rebecca Williams stand in front of the Rhys Morgan Richards Book Collection.



# SINU-STHM Collaborates with SICCI for 8th Business Excellence Awards Night

The Solomon Islands National University (SINU) School of Tourism and Hospitality Management (STHM) played a vital role in supporting the Solomon Islands Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SICCI) during the 8th Business Excellence Awards (BEA) Night. This collaboration highlights the university's commitment to bridging theoretical learning with real-world experiences.

Under the guidance of a dedicated team leader, 34 students from various hospitality and tourism programs, supported by nine staff members, worked alongside SICCI's BEA Organizing Committee and board members. Their contributions spanned diverse roles, including:

- VIP Attendants (Food & Beverage)
- Buffet Attendants (F&B and Runners)
- Bartenders
- Parking and Valet Assistants
- Backstage and Presentation Assistants
- Registration and Ushers
- Floaters (Ushers, Runners, and Extra Hands)
- Clean-Up and Pack-Down Crews

These roles allowed students to gain hands-on experience in high-pressure, professional event settings.

The partnership originated from a networking discussion between STHM and SICCI during the Business After Five (BA5) event on October 4, 2024, at the Heritage Park Hotel. Angellina Fakaia, SICCI's Executive Officer, emphasized the chamber's commitment to creating opportunities for young talents and fostering industry connections.

A follow-up meeting on October 17 between STHM and SICCI outlined the terms of engagement, solidifying the collaboration. This initiative aligns with SICCI's mission to support future industry leaders and SINU's objective to provide practical learning experiences for its students.

To prepare for the BEA Night, students participated in two intensive mock sessions held on October 14 and 15. These sessions, facilitated by STHM staff and SICCI organizers, helped students familiarize themselves with their roles and responsibilities.

Students represented programs such as:

- Bachelor in Hospitality, Business, and Events Management
- Diploma in Hospitality Management
- Diploma in Travel & Tourism
- Diploma in Tourism Studies
- Certificate in Hospitality Studies
- Certificate in Travel & Tourism

The BEA Night provided invaluable learning experiences, including:

- Applying classroom theories to practical scenarios.
- Experiencing the fast-paced nature of event management.
- Enhancing professionalism, communication, and problem-solving skills.
- Networking with business leaders, government officials, and industry experts, including renowned decorators, caterers, and entertainers.

Students expressed their gratitude for the opportunity, describing it as a trans-

formative experience that enhanced their skills and confidence. Event attendees, SICCI staff, sponsors, and collaborators also provided positive feedback, highlighting the students' professionalism and commitment throughout the event.



SINU STHM students in action on stage during the BEA's (Photo Sourced: SICCI Media)

"This partnership exemplifies SINU-STHM's commitment to equipping students with industry-relevant skills while fostering long-term relationships with organizations like SICCI," said Peter Esibaea, the School of Tourism and Hospitality's Internship Coordinator. "For students, the engagement served as an avenue to complete internship hours required under the IWP409: Industrial Work Placement unit while gaining firsthand insights into the event industry.

SINU looks forward to more collaborations of this kind, ensuring that students graduate not only with theoretical knowledge but also with practical skills and



SINU STHM students with their internship coordinator Mr Peter Esibaea. (Photo Sourced: SICCI media)



SINU STHM student interns at the BEA's

industry connections that will empower them in their future careers," he added.

# Staff Profile

**Name:** Rita Pama Sahu

**Province:** Malaita

**Age:** 41

**Work station:** Faculty of Education and Humanities ‘

**Department:** History Department

**Job title:** Assistant Lecturer

**Qualification:** Master of Arts (Social Anthropology)

**How long have you been working here?** 10 months

**Tell us about your job:** There are only three of us in the History Department and we offer eight units for the whole year. This year, I got to teach HIS501 Introduction to History;

HIS704 Pacific Migration; HIS602 Church Histories; and HIS702 World History (co-lectured this one with Mr. Solomon Maeohu). The biggest class I have taken consisted of 62 students, and the smallest 25 students. We teach teachers, it’s really cool.

**What do you like about SINU and your job?** FEH is a place where one gets to speak into the lives of those who will be speaking into the lives of the next generation. So, getting to teach one (1) teacher, is actually getting to impact primary and secondary students out there. I love that at FEH one is always kept on one’s toes; it is a never-ending job. One is consistently thinking about how to improve one’s teaching technique, and how to better help one’s students. The best part about this job is meeting new people, learning about their lives and hopefully, making a positive impact. You give a lot of yourself in this job, but you get plenty back in return. It is very fulfilling.



## About Us:



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Solomon Islands National University (SINU) is the Prime and ONLY National University of Solomon Islands.

Founded in 2013, SINU is striving to be one of the Best Education and Research Institute in the Region.

Our VISION: “A quality National University, raising Standards of education and applied research in the Pacific Region.”

Our Mission: “Championing the pursuit of knowledge, skills, academic inquiry and applied research to transform lives through higher education and training, inclusive of diverse communities, while providing relevant solutions for the Solomon Islands.