



SUMMARY REPORT

CULTURE: Conserving it Together Conference

Suva, Fiji, 1 – 5 October 2018

The 2018 ‘*CULTURE*’ conference in Fiji brought together approximately 100 eminent local and international experts specialised in heritage conservation from 14 countries including Australia, China, Fiji, France, Japan, Mexico, Myanmar, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Taiwan, Tuvalu, United States and Vanuatu. We also had two pre-recorded electronic PowerPoint Presentations one from Canberra and the other from the Philippines which were supported with Skype connection with their authors for Q&A’s.

The Fiji conference was the first annual conference of Australia ICOMOS that was held abroad. The delegates were joined at this landmark event by several Board members of the International ICOMOS including President Toshiyuki Kono, the Secretary General Peter Phillips, and a few Presidents of the Asia-Pacific region ICOMOS National Committees.

The conference paper presentations took place over three days in Suva (3-5 October) with a special pre-conference workshop in Levuka World Heritage Port Town from 29 September to 2 October. At the workshop, Pasifika region and selected international heritage experts set the foundations of a Pasifika Charter for cultural heritage management in the Pacific region. There were also the post-conference tours to various sites in the western region of Fiji. Please visit the dedicated conference website at <https://www.aicomos.com/> for details. The overall presentation of the Pasifika Charter Workshop has been attached to the end of this summary together with the Conference Declaration.

Delegates had the opportunity to present papers on common heritage conservation issues under the main theme of *CULTURE* and four sub-themes:

1. Heritage at Risk - Climate Change and Disasters;
2. Cultural Landscape Practice and Management;
3. Diverse Communities - Intangible Heritage; and



4. Heritage as a Pillar of Sustainable Development.

As well as the two special sessions on *CultureNature Journey* and the *Underwater Cultural Heritage of the Pacific region*.

The excellence of the Keynote Speakers' addresses and their provocative introduction to the conference themes set out the stage for the delegates to further their discussions around the range of more than 43 presentations throughout the duration of the conference. The presentations clearly showed the diversity of the heritage matters that we had to challenge, discuss and continue to discuss and share in the future collaborations and gatherings.

Although the conference is now concluded, it is not the end of it as the delegates will continue to collaborate and share their expertise and knowledge with their Pasifika colleagues and relevant stakeholders to achieve the common CULTURE conference *focus in sharing knowledge, celebrating the rich culture of the Pacific and the common issues on heritage conservation across the region*.

Below are the summary notes on the discussions and outcomes of each theme:

THEME 1: HERITAGE AT RISK - CLIMATE CHANGE AND DISASTERS

Theme 1 had a total of nine paper presentations encompassing a rich variety of themes associated with *Climate change, sea-shore erosion and the disappearance of cultural sites: putting the record of archaeological remains in Islanders hands*. Explored preparedness for disasters and discussed the lessons learnt from Christchurch earthquake, translating spaces and designing for climate migrants as well as a richly documentation of the Fiji Sugar Corporation as an example of heritage at risk, and importance of documenting histories of heritage for climate change adaptation.

The keynote by Simon Molesworth titled *Integrity of Cultures at Global Risk Our Duties, Our Rights, Our Responses* outlined the following issues and outcomes:

- The pressures of climate change demand we act now to sustain the integrity of people and their cultures



- How the cultural stability of societies, globally, has always been attuned to climate and is now fundamentally jeopardised by climate change & related consequential risks.
- The need to sustain the integrity of cultural heritage is a Universal human rights concern
- That concepts of sustainability, particularly intergenerational equity and the precautionary principle, apply with equal force to cultural heritage
- That human society depends on safe, resilient and sustainable social systems – so the need to sustain cultural integrity is of fundamental importance
- With human rights and the principles of sustainability setting the context, the professional heritage practitioner and heritage organisations must acknowledge, and work within, that evolving dynamic framework
- The future is in our hands: By becoming exemplars; by advocating for responsible and necessary action in accordance with sustainability principles; ensuring that a precautionary approach is central to your advice; and ensuring that, beyond the tangible aspects of heritage, sustaining intangible cultural heritage is an ever-present consideration.

THEME 2: CULTURAL LANDSCAPE PRACTICE AND MANAGEMENT

Theme 2 had a focus to explore current issues facing cultural landscapes, seascapes and cultural routes, and to share traditional and emerging practices that contribute to their sustainable management. Total of 12 papers were presented and were especially interested in one or more of:

- the role of communities in the creation and management of landscapes and seascapes
- management approaches to the integration of cultural and natural values
- managing the intangible (associative) values of landscape
- protection and management of the land-ocean relationships and movement routes across waters and oceans



Overall outcomes and conclusions were:

- The measures or regulations aiming at limiting the negative ecological impacts of coastal / reef fishing practices, should be attentive not to challenge key pillars of the indigenous / local society and its reproduction.
- Customary and/or religious leaders would be the more appropriate mediators between scientists / experts and communities, between western ecological science and local / indigenous knowledge.
- international recognition of the unique shared cultural values of the Pacific Ocean - a pathway connecting communities; a resource for sustaining life, the use of which is subject to customary tenure, knowledge and practices; a shared spiritual, storied and ancestral space.
- There is little evidence of knowledge available. This is not a good situation not only in relation to the Marine Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction but also for the protection and transmission of this knowledge. It certainly does not need to be public but is it being protected through transmission at the community level? This is a particularly interesting in protection of shared cultural values across large areas and multiple jurisdictions. It is also interesting in relation to how and what evidence is appropriate to argue for cultural rights at this scale an in relation to international programs.
- Issues associated with contested landscapes / Cultural landscape values of Private shacks and huts within Public lands) -
 - *Shack settlements in Australia established in the middle part of the twentieth century reflected a simple weekend recreation escape for working people that is now mostly lost, along with the shacks themselves. Those that exist are on public lands and struggle for air under the pressures of 'normalisation'.*
 - *The remaining shack communities require management that respects the social heritage values held by both the directly associated communities and the public — a dynamic cultural landscape approach that, through agreement, leads to engagement, trust and ultimately a generational transfer of responsibility. This approach by public lands management agencies will see the resolution of differing quietly contested values via the common ground of landscape.*
- Strengthening cultural structures and leadership will ensure sustainability.



- Any interventions to preserve cultural heritage sites and biodiversity must be centered on people.
- Build new business models that position conservation as essential to gains in ecosystem services and economic sustainability.
- Innovation and creative thinking need to be built into heritage and biodiversity conservation efforts.
- Domestic and international partnerships are crucial.
- Build these experiences into the national development policy and framework.

THEME 3: DIVERSE COMMUNITIES - INTANGIBLE HERITAGE

Theme 3 aimed to encompass all the many ways that communities engage with and value their heritage from the past, in the present and into the future. The theme sought to connect place, people, nature and cultural practices rather than defining them as separate domains. It also asked what heritage is today and how does it connect communities across and within the diversity of the Pacific region in terms of stories, experiences, practices, needs and futures. At this Conference, intangible cultural heritage walked hand in hand with our concerns about climate change – and the impacts on the lives and cultures of the diverse communities of the Pacific and beyond. The presentations in this theme were linked by the common thread of recording and retaining cultural identity, and its particular importance to the diaspora of cultures that are, or will become, scattered as a result of technological changes of the colonial and post-colonial Pacific, or through the looming climate changes that have been a dominant concern of the conference in general. Throughout the Conference the delegates were also challenged to think about their roles as people who work with heritage – the centrality of intangible heritage and community demonstrated at this conference along with the extraordinary challenge of climate change where the very connectivity between people, place and culture is at risk.

There were three sessions within this theme – a total of 8 presentations – across many topics and countries and cultures. At this Conference, intangible cultural heritage walked hand in hand with our concerns about climate change – and the impacts on the lives and cultures of the diverse communities of the Pacific and beyond.



Intangible heritage was framed for us in several ways – the first way was through words or phrases that encompass the complex connections between people, cultural and place expressed – for example - as a **sense of place** in Simon Molesworth’s opening keynote, “**vanua**” in Fiji –people, culture (language, traditions, identity), ecosystems, the land – whenua in Aotearoa, and the Australian Indigenous concept of **Country**.

Intangible cultural heritage was also defined in terms of the UNESCO Convention on Intangible Cultural Heritage – as cultural practices, traditions, knowledge and so on. So there were at least two notions of intangible heritage active at the Conference – one that is based on the tangible / intangible duality and the other about connectivity – sense of place, vanua, whenua, Country and many other expressions.

The notion of intangible heritage interwoven rather than separated and that at this Conference was seen as being at the very heart of all heritage.

There were some wonderful presentations in the *Diverse communities – Intangible Heritage* theme that brought the diversity of communities and the importance of their heritage to the fore. Several presentations in Theme 3 shared the ways that communities were participating in documenting and transmitting their intangible heritage – we learnt how cultural mapping is now embedded in heritage programs and strategies in Taiwan as part of the fifth C, *kastom skul* in Vanuatu – one of two presentations on language – with our presenters advocating that language is more than a vehicle for intangible cultural heritage – it is an intangible cultural heritage in itself – the chair noted the phrase “language is a library of traditional knowledge” – and a key part of identity. We know that so many languages globally are at risk of becoming moribund, without enough speakers to ensure their future. The other language presentation highlighted current efforts to track down recordings and catalogue them through PARADISEC – Pacific and Regional Archive for Digital Service in Endangered Cultures.

In relation to urban settings we heard from New Zealand / Aotearoa colleagues about the TeAranga Design Principles – a cultural landscape strategy / approach to design thinking and making which incorporates a series of Maori cultural values and principles. And from our



Mexican colleagues about their research into visitors' perceptions on the urban aspect, city image and visiting heritage during festival days.

Historical research and objects formed the basis of two other presentations: one on the *1875 Chevert Expedition* demonstrated the value and interconnection and disconnections between two knowledge systems – scientific and traditional Torres Strait. The other presentation highlighted some aspects of a shared heritage between colonial Sydney and the Pacific which contributed to the development of modern society in the region.

The keynote address on Theme 3 – by Frances Koya-Vaka'uta - *Pacific Heritage for what and whom? Reflections on the relationship between custodianship and sustainability* – was a powerful call to us all to really understand how some ways of thinking continue to colonise and appropriate the cultures and expressions of others.

Our journeys in Theme 3 certainly took us far afield – to Sydney and other parts of Australia, across the Pacific, even to Mexico. The presentations in this themes were linked by the common thread of recording and retaining cultural identity, and its particular importance to the diaspora of cultures that are, or will become, scattered as a result of technological changes of the colonial and post-colonial Pacific, or through the looming climate changes that have been a dominant concern of the conference in general.

Throughout the Conference we were also challenged to think about our roles as people who work with heritage – the centrality of intangible heritage and community demonstrated at this conference along with the extraordinary challenge of climate change where the very connectivity between people, place and culture – the connectivity that makes a people the people they are – is at risk.

THEME 4: HERITAGE AS A PILLAR OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Theme 4 explored the following areas of:

- Integration of heritage conservation with sustainable development, including examples of good governance with respect to heritage.
- What Pacific cultural and natural heritage sustainability 'look like' in the future.



- Sustaining the diversity of traditional island cultures, traditional lands and ways of life - linked across oceans historically and today.
- The price of economic development, western cultural influences and climate change, to Pasifika communities, social cohesion and cultural continuity.
- Sustainability of traditional local construction and land management techniques.
- Sustainable conservation of heritage significant past European colonial settlements and the associated challenges and benefits.
- How conservation and adaptive reuse of heritage places contributes to sustainable development.
- Economic and cultural opportunities generated by heritage to sustain communities and associated risks, including the sustainability of cultural tourism.
- Addressing the implementation of the [ICOMOS Action Plan](#) for “*Cultural Heritage and Localizing the SDGs*” with a focus on [UN Target 11.4](#) “*strengthening efforts to protect and safeguard the world’s cultural and natural heritage to make our cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable*” within the framework of the ICOMOS mandate and through collaborating with strategic partners.

The presentations in the sessions:

- raised the challenges of sustainable heritage management
- described the wide variety of heritage, tangible and intangible, that needs to be addressed in this way; and
- offered some suggested approaches.
 - Conservation and resilience are inextricably connected, but sometimes they produce contradictory rather than complementary outcomes. Levuka is a good example where the conservation of buildings in a colonial port sits side by side with an indigenous culture struggling to thrive in a place beset by economic and environmental disturbance.
 - Managers view their responsibility not necessarily to preserve heritage, but to make the place a good place to live for the inhabitants.
- landscape emerges as a potential middle ground between the tensions of conservation and resilience and instead establishes an alliance between conservation and resilience. Significance is key to conservation and resilience - with



resilience the mechanism by which a core structure and function (in other words significance) is able to persist

- pointed out that it is crucial that local communities gain more insight into scientific know how regarding the recording and protection of their own heritage and become involved in the process.
- Climate change groups do carry out many workshops etc, but not much is coming back to the community from this work. The media presentation of the place is very doom and gloom - it is treated like a dying society. But with a change of government the attitude is that they are now fighting, recognising the resilience of the people to survive in these conditions.

One presentation identified some of the cultural heritage types that required attention highlighting the need to understand landscapes, both cultural and natural and noting that colonial heritage can be very difficult to maintain in this context. The presentation also flagged the damaging tendency for islands to be presented as uniform and comparable.

Another presentation considered successes and challenges that drive sustainable heritage management for government and private industry in The Rocks, Sydney that now has a strong tourism focus.

Identified successes were:

- *Applying the principles of the Australia ICOMOS Burra Charter to guide building conservation and adaptive reuse.*
- *Valuing the legacy of professional conservation practices. For example recognising the need to value high quality 1980s and 1990s restoration and that it is not sustainable to remove these previous works for new developments, even if the new developments include conservation works of their own.*
- *Using traditional building repair techniques, materials and skilled trades.*
- *Developing sustainability and conservation policies for precincts and sites in conservation management plans and technical manuals - for example regular updates of CMPs*
- *Encouraging sustainable development through adaptive reuse of heritage buildings, eg with measures such as standard policies for passive and mechanical solutions for*



managing acoustic and thermal environments.

Challenges were:

- *Project complexity, requiring early engagement and a willing client and team.*
- *Avoiding compliance issues and building damage; and*
- *Reconciling sustainable building development standards for modern and heritage buildings*

Presenter also pointed out that:

- *Existing Australian sustainability measures are not adequate for heritage buildings*
- *Standards of contemporary buildings cannot easily be applied to heritage buildings.*
- *Heritage buildings do not perform well against quantitative data.*
- *Examples are required that demonstrate how it is possible to meet Green Star requirements and their like for heritage buildings.*

Other challenges were:

- *Choosing uses to avoid changes for building code and access. For example avoiding unnecessary changes to meet BCA and access requirements*
- *Establishing standards for concept and documentation and facilitating good construction outcomes.*

The paper also noted that there was no readily available technical guidance around this.

Another presentation set out how the members of the International National Trusts Organisation (INTO) have engaged with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by the UN, and the topic of sustainable development more broadly. It also highlighted the vital role of cultural heritage in the sustainable development process noting that the National Trusts have participated actively in recent COP meetings. A recent INTO survey of its 76 member organisations, of which 11 are based in the Pacific region, has been conducted to find examples of the value of heritage conservation in contributing to many of the SDGs. Showing how heritage conservation relates to 14 of the 17 SDGs, and to a significant number of the targets for each goal.



Although not designed as part of this theme, a special presentation on a conservation management plan for the former Kinchela Boys' Home in New South Wales, Australia, was a fitting conclusion, as a reminder that ultimately we are working for the sustainability of people and communities, and of the damage that can be done to lives when people are torn from their cultural heritage and the community it supports.

“Heritage not only is a Pillar of Sustainable Development but a Necessity for Survival.”

SPECIAL SESSION 1: UNDERWATER CULTURAL HERITAGE (UCH) OF THE PACIFIC REGION

From an Underwater Cultural Heritage point of view, we looked at models for international cooperation, understanding the complexities of shipwrecks sites, the wealth and diversity of material in the Pacific and how to better assess and manage coastal underwater cultural heritage sites in the face of climate change including looking at new methods for managing loss and transformation in a productive way.

The UCH session comprised 4 presentations that touched on a range of policy, archaeological, environmental and underwater cultural heritage factors. The first presentation outlined the Australian legislative regime, regulatory practices and policy environment in Australia and some of the policy implications of the introduction of the new Underwater Cultural Heritage Act 2018. It articulated the willingness of the Australian Government to enable regional countries with shared underwater cultural heritage to join the Australian National Shipwrecks Database as their online register for their underwater cultural heritage and to develop an MoU for the purpose of underwater cultural heritage shared heritage outcomes and capacity building activities.

The second presentation demonstrated the importance of interpreting shipwrecks beyond the wrecking event itself to understand the combination of social, cultural, economic, technical and practical issues that combine to make a wrecking event possible. His case study was the 500 plus shipwreck resource in the Coral Sea.



The third talk highlighted the risk of climate change on tangible and intangible underwater cultural heritage and how her research will focus on developing a systematic decision tree to facilitate cultural heritage managers once sites are identified as threatened.

The final presentation focussed on the Fiji Museum, its organisation and management role to protect objects of archaeological and paleontological interest. This broad term extends to underwater sites. The presenter announced the support of Government for the establishment of a Maritime Archaeological Unit that will be commence in 2019. The presentation went into detail about aspects of the museum's role in community engagement, developing and maintaining an archaeological sites database, biodiversity surveys, eco-museum/tourism surveys, excavations of cultural sites and undertaking archaeological impact assessments for development applications.

SPECIAL SESSION 2: CULTURENATURE JOURNEY (CNJ)

The CultureNature Journey session attempted to challenges participants – taking our learning from our combined skills and experience and challenging us to apply this to the realities that face the region. On the face of it the culture-nature approach seems a perfect fit in terms of development of regional models but what does this mean in practice. The session was structured to include up to 3 speaker-provocateurs who had collectively set the scene and challenge the participants- participants were then took part in one of several knowledge cafes which have discussed specific questions around this topic. The Knowledge Cafes were guided by a key IUCN and ICOMOS participants

The outcomes of this session contribute to a CNJ Pasifika statement that will help characterise the direction for future CNJ work in the Pacific.

We heard briefly from 3 speakers:

- The first provided an example of how new interpretation technologies can assist in mobilising distant communities to assist in conservation effort. The Tiger Trek at Taronga Zoo provides a simulated experience complete with sensory cues of sight touch and smell but develop the visitors experience, to educate and engages them,
- The second brought the key message that culturenature/natureculture approaches are essential to address climate change issues. Not only will climate change affect or



heritage places but mobilizing the heritage sector can have a real influence on climate change at a range of scales.

- The last speaker spoke of his experience at the village level with hands on applications of natureculture approaches and the importance of observing cultural protocols in order to maximise project results but also to increase commitment and project ownership amongst local people.

A shared language for culturenature heritages

Over our yatra we are gradually building a shared language to apply in our culturenature work that capture concepts and processes. *Malama Honua, Konohiki, Virasat, Kuleana, Ways of Doing, Forms of Knowledge, Spritual and Sacred dimensions, Vivihhta and Aadar, Local empowerment, Landscapes and seascapes, Connectivity, Relational situational contexts, Sustainable development, change and resilience, Vitality.* To these we can now add: **Vanua** the Fijian concept of our connection not just to the land but to everything linked to it; being part of the land.

Questions asked at the Fiji Culture Nature Knowledge Café

- **Question 1:** Does culture nature mean the same thing to everybody? How versatile is the concept as an approach and how should it be tailored to the Pacific? While acknowledging the diversity of languages- are there words or concepts from Pasifika that help capture the interconnectedness of Culture and Natue?
- **Question 2:** How effective are current conservation mechanisms in recognizing and responding to the interconnectedness of Culture and Nature? Do we need new mechanisms and /or how do we adapt approaches and methodologies associated with existing ones to incorporate the fundamentals of the culturenature approach?
- **Question 3:** What opportunities do new digital interpretation media provide to promote understanding about Culture Nature? Are there limitations?
- **Question 4:** Creating new knowledge from old data: The pacific was subject to a range of exploration that generated some important collection throughout the 18,19th and early 20th Century how does a culturenature lens allow us to re-explore our collections to create new knowledge in the Pacific region?



- **Question 5:** Culture, nature, climate change and the Pacific: as one of the first regions on the planet to feel the physical and human dimensions of climate change how does the culture, nature framework assist in understanding or developing responses to climate change impacts?

The Knowledge Café Fiji

- Technology can be a powerful tool in interpreting heritage, in engaging the public and mobilising support and interest in heritage
- Language again emerged as an important consideration.
- Scale, landscapes and seascapes: conceptualizing our work on a landscape/seascape scale is a framework we can all operate in.
- Reverse engineering from Indigenous experience we can and should be modifying and reshaping management processes an approach both in the village project context but also in cities.
- Truth-telling in heritage, co-existing or nested heritages this is fundamental to culture, nature approaches
- Opportunities to create new knowledge from existing data on the Pacific held in Museums and collections.

Participants in the Knowledge Café at Fiji also considered the question of what we could progress in the Pacific region, especially as we move towards 2020 and the major meetings planned for IUCN and ICOMOS. They came up with a number of issues and projects:

- Cultural mapping projects
- Oral histories
- ICH practices are relevant -some are common across the Pacific. The lack of engagement with the UNESCO ICH Convention is negatively impacting the ability to mobilise in this area.
- Disaster management in the region could be improved by utilising indigenous knowledge and an understanding of culture, nature approaches.
- Developing a toolkit for the Pacific of culture, nature case studies, methodologies and initiatives (ideally on ICOMOS Pasifika website!).



As we move towards the ICOMOS triennial GA and the World Conservation Congress on 2020 we need to be thinking and planning for:

- A large Pasifika gathering
- Suggestion bringing out the PNG Children's art exhibition documenting their natural and cultural world that has recently been exhibited in Europe.
- Looking at ways to engage Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the culture/nature/ natureculture activities relating to the Pacific region including the Pasifika gathering above.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & CONCLUSION

Thank you for the opportunity to share the outcomes of the 2018 *CULTURE: Conserving it Together* Conference. I am sorry that I couldn't make it to the US/ICOMOS Symposium *Forward Together* and look forward to hearing about the outcomes of the symposium proceeding.

The above summary outcomes incorporates the summaries compiled by the Conference Content Committee Chairs for each theme of the Conference based on the summaries provided by the paper sessions chairs. I am grateful for everyone involved and contributed to the content and proceedings of the conference. I will not name those individuals but attached the conference paper sessions program for overall information in acknowledgement of their tireless and tremendous effort. I also attached the summary report for the Levuka Pasifika Charter Workshop together with the Conference Declaration for further information on the outcomes and acknowledgment of the participants' input.

All feedback received on the Conference were excellent and very positive, and as such proved to us that we had reached the goal in increasing awareness of ICOMOS and assisted in improving the activity of ICOMOS Pasifika as evidenced in its AGM at the conference as well as the positive impacts of the conference to its membership and formation of its statues after a long time of its establishment as the first transnational committee of ICOMOS. A number of participants from the pacific islands and pacific rim became new members of ICOMOS Pasifika.



Organisation of the 2018 annual national conference of Australia ICOMOS in Fiji was one of my suggestions to the Executive Committee in 2016 when I was the President of Australia ICOMOS. It derived from the recommended actions of the *Review and Facilitation Committee* of ICOMOS Advisory Committee (ADCOM) that was established in 2015 in Fukuoka, Japan to look into the issues and opportunities around the functions and compliance of the ICOMOS National Committees. The Committee, of which I am part, comprising Deirdre McDermont (Ireland), Irit Amit (Israel) and members of the ADCOM, continues its role and provides suggestions and options to the ICOMOS Board in increasing functionality and compliance of the National Committee that are not functioning well.

I will be more than happy to discuss further and provide information on the CULTURE Conference if required. Wishing you all a very enjoyable, fruitful and successful symposium of which, I believe, the outcomes will be a great benefit to the heritage conservation across the ICOMOS family and world-wide.

Kind regards,

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Attachments:

- *Pasifika Charter Workshop Report*
- *CULTURE Conference Declaration*
- *CULTURE Conference Paper Sessions Program*



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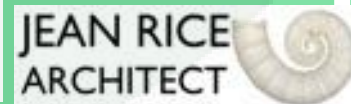
Pasifika Charter Workshop

Levuka, Fiji
29 Sept - 2 Oct 2018

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A Pasifika Charter?



What could a Charter do?

- Express regional & cultural contexts
- Build awareness & respect
- Clarity and consistency
- Guidance and advice
- Support people working in heritage
- It would be an ICOMOS Pasifika Charter

Where did the Pasifika Charter idea come from?

- Joint Australia ICOMOS & ICOMOS Pasifika Workshop in 2015
- Aimed to share expertise & knowledge on conservation processes and practices – hands-on workshop
- Introduced the Australian Burra Charter, heritage guidelines, approaches and philosophy
- Two Levuka case studies using the Burra Charter step by step process and the Levuka Conservation Code
- Recommended a Pasifika Charter

Towards a Pasifika Charter



Framing our work



- Starting a journey together
- Creating a sketch – a house of many rooms
- Pacific peoples – 1000 languages – great diversity - ocean and the land
- Importance of an inclusive process
- A big challenge creating a Charter for a region

Listening & sharing



- People are different across the Pacific so need a Charter that recognises these differences.
- Important to consider all perspectives of history culture and values for the whole Pacific.
- What is a heritage to you?
- What is a special place for you and why?
- Levuka was a key case study.

Pasifika Charter Workshop

Topics for a Pasifika Charter

- **Preamble** – to express the cultures and heritage of the Pacific
- **Terms** – specific terms – and meanings
- **Heritage** - what kinds of heritage are included: places, tangible heritage, setting, traditions, stories, knowledge etc
- **Heritage values & significance** – what words can be used to convey why heritage is important

Documenting heritage: research, field work, people work; places, traditions, stories, knowledge; protocols

Caring for heritage: conservation principles and processes that guide how we look after heritage

Making changes to heritage places: processes, decision-making,

Roles of communities, owners, stakeholders: who speaks for the heritage; roles; rights; responsibilities

Heritage - Ideas



- Diverse and complex – layered – interwoven
- Indigenous – voyaging – colonial – migrant – contemporary
- Transnational – national – local
- Tangible and intangible expressions of traditions, cultures, history, knowledge, community
- Multiplicity of place ‘types’, scales and relationships

Values & Significance



- Best expressed in each language
- Reflected through local and community values
- Not the ‘standard heritage values’ – historic, aesthetic, research (etc)
- Divergent, convergent, shared, contested – interwoven
- Relationships and connections

Principles to guide the development of the Charter

- People are different across the Pacific so need a Charter to recognise these differences
- Charter should be inclusive of all perspectives of history, culture and values for the whole Pacific
- Charter should build on existing region-wide documents, legal frameworks and programs (e.g. cultural mapping)
- Respect is fundamental – use the lingua franca of that place
- Development to be broadly consultative

Geographical/cultural scope of the Charter

- Whole of the Pacific
- Applied and used where it is seen to be useful and culturally relevant
- Links to the approaches used on Pacific rim?
- Language – translation – 1000 languages across the Pacific
- Key questions: Who is the Charter for? Who will use it and how?
Which organisation/s might use/adapt/adopt it into the future?

Principles

1 -Transmission of knowledge: protection of traditional knowledge

2 – Documenting, researching,
understanding heritage values

3 - Recognising shared/co-
existent/diverse values

4 - Traditional ownership,
governance and rights

5 - The process of heritage
conservation

6 – Sustainability

- Transmission of culture, languages and practices – traditional knowledge, cosmologies, etc in the Pacific
- Duty and a right to support the intergenerational transmission of knowledge
- Maintain the integrity of transmission of knowledge and practices and interpretation
- Sharing information & where information is stored

Principles

1 -Transmission of knowledge:
protection of traditional
knowledge

**2 – Documenting, researching,
understanding heritage values**

3 - Recognising shared/co-
existent/diverse values

4 - Customary ownership,
governance and rights

5 - The process of heritage
conservation

6 - Sustainability

- Actively understand the values and significance of heritage
- Encouraging fact finding /truth telling
- Use new methods/technology/media to engage and educate
- Understanding and recognising stories and their context
- Place – artefact – people are all connected
- Documenting heritage in culturally appropriate ways
- Significance crosses boundaries

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- Respecting and recognising diversity of identity and culture: inclusion
- Consider all perspectives history/culture/events/values
- Responsibility for guardianship rests with all those whose stories are embodied in the significance of the place
- Nested cultural identities: multiple cultural identities [may or may not be conflicted]

Principles

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2 – Documenting, researching,
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**4 - Traditional ownership,
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5 - The process of heritage
conservation

6 - Sustainability

- Rightful ownership of knowledge and stories – contemporary and traditional
- Respect, consult, support and advise customary land owners
- Respect traditional governance structures and the community's interpretation of how the management of heritage sites are defined
- Respect for community decision-making processes
- Culture evolves and lives with its people.

Principles

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2 – Documenting, researching,
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3 - Recognising shared/co-
existent/diverse values

4 - Traditional ownership,
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**5 - The process of heritage
conservation**

6 - Sustainability

- Recognition, Respect, Collaboration are guiding principles
- Resolution of differences in conservation processes must be based on mutual respect and acknowledgement
- Language and terminology
- Diversity of places – landscapes, seascapes, sacred/ceremonial places, colonial and much more

Principles

1 -Transmission of knowledge:
protection of traditional
knowledge

2 – Documenting, researching,
understanding heritage values

3 - Recognising shared/co-
existent/diverse values

4 - Traditional ownership,
governance and rights

5 - The process of heritage
conservation

6 - Sustainability

- Charter could offer an exemplary way to connect sustainability into
- Sustainability of heritage – means sustaining communities and culture as well as place – community resilience
- Is heritage sustainable after places are lost?
- Communities to be part of sustainability planning/management – they need to be front and centre.

Communities & stakeholders



- Community is central
- Communication
- Cooperation and coordination
- Commitment
- Concise and clear guidelines
- Transparency
- Prior and informed consent
- Consistency
- Co-create
- Capacity-building

Your ideas on shaping a Pasifika Charter

- Thinking about charters and similar forms of guidance, what has been the most useful in your heritage work?
- Which part of parts are most useful?
- What makes it useful? Why?

10 minutes for a conversation with your neighbours, followed by a chance to share ideas

Progressing the Pasifika Charter

Step 1: Consolidate the outcome of the Workshop & Forum

Step 2: Investigate funding to employ a consultant to:

- Develop a consultation strategy
- Compile a calendar of meetings and events at which the draft Charter can be circulated and discussed
- Establish a web page under the Culture Conference web page
- Include relevant reference documents
- Consolidate comments and feedback

Working Groups

Working group

- TOR to be established
- 4 – 6 people, majority from the Pacific, continuity of corporate knowledge)

Reference Group

Wider group of key stakeholders who are focal point for coordinating responses including:

- Representatives of the 22 PICs and territories
- Representatives of Pacific Rim countries

Reporting/launching

Progress updates:

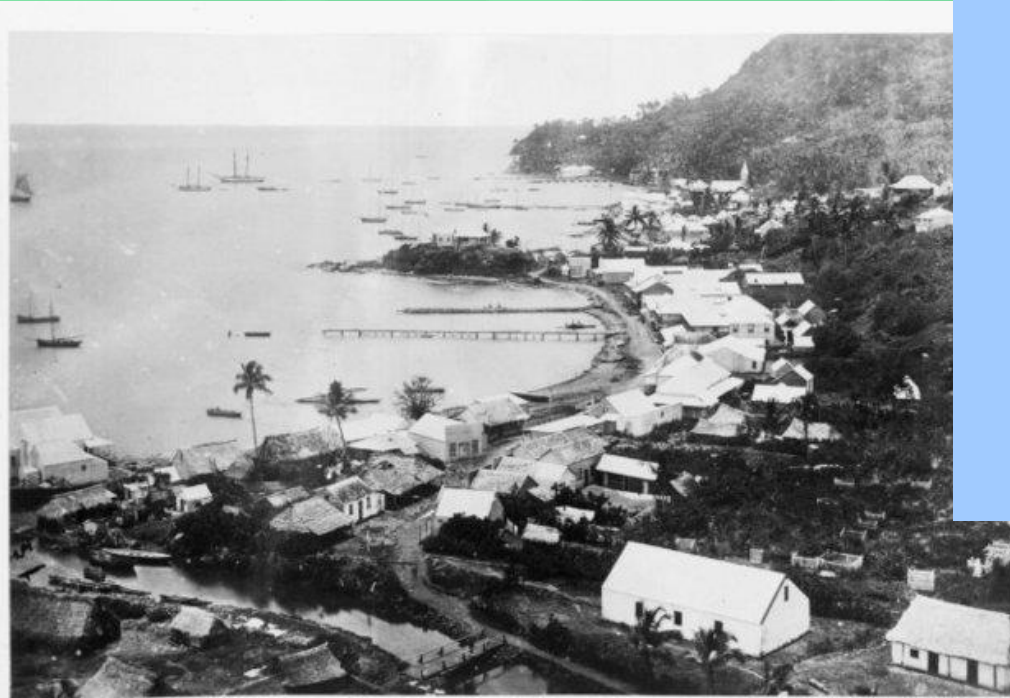
- ICOMOS AGA, Argentina, December 2018
- ICOMOS AGA, Morocco, December 2019

Launch a draft?

- Pacific Arts Festival July 2020
- ICOMOS GA, Sydney, October 2020

Adoption by ICOMOS Pasifika – date TBC

Levuka: a special place



Levuka - Fiji [91673]



WHL – Levuka Historical Port Town

- The town and its low **line of buildings** set among coconut and mango **trees along the beach front** was the **first colonial capital of Fiji**, ceded to the British in 1874. It developed from the early 19th century as a centre of commercial activity by Americans and Europeans who built **warehouses, stores, port facilities, residences, and religious, educational and social institutions** around the villages of the South Pacific island's indigenous population. It is a rare example of a **late colonial port town** that was influenced in its development by the **indigenous community** which continued to outnumber the **European settlers**.
- Thus the town, an **outstanding example of late 19th century Pacific port settlements**, reflects the integration of local building traditions by a supreme naval power, leading to the emergence of a unique landscape.

How to conserve the town?

- **Revive communication** with all the stakeholders (residents, traders etc and govt depts.) including an awareness program about the towns significance, its recording as a World Heritage Site and the obligations of all its stakeholders .
- **Prepare a strategy** for its conservation including a heritage advisory service, some form of financial assistance for owners, an interpretation program and a marketing strategy.
- **Revise the new planning scheme** for Levuka which differentiates it from other towns in Fiji. The currently approved 2016 scheme merely incorporates a larger list of buildings making no reference to the significance of the open spaces, pathways , steps, trees and gardens and other key landscape features as contributing to the significance.

Where to from here? Six key actions

- 1. Expedite appointment of a Heritage Advisor** by writing to the Director, Dept. of Heritage and Arts.
- 2. Request the Fiji Government** (Commissioner Eastern) **outline its steps to date, in the management of the Levuka World Heritage Area** following his receipt three years ago of the *Outcomes of the 2015 Levuka Workshop*. (Copy request to: Directors of NT (Fiji), Dept. of Heritage and Arts, Fiji Museum, Dept. of Town and Country Planning and the Levuka Council.)
- 3. Prepare a Map** (buildings colour coded) and a **Planning Scheme Extract** to be displayed in the Community Centre.

Where to from here? Six key actions

4. **Prepare an outline of the Permit Approval process** in a user-friendly form for owners.
5. **Prepare a user-friendly brochure** for Residents / Owners in the town, explaining the World Heritage Site, and referring them to other relevant documents.
6. **Request the World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS** to undertake an assessment of the current management, in conserving the World Heritage Site – to assist the community in progressing the conservation of this World Heritage Site.

Thank you





2018 Culture: Conserving it Together Conference Suva, Fiji. 1 – 5 October, 2018

Declaration

This joint conference of Australia ICOMOS and ICOMOS Pasifika¹ comprising more than 100 delegates from fourteen countries from across the Pacific and beyond, was held in Fiji from 29 September to 5 October 2018. We the delegates of the joint conference note:

- the outstanding diversity and richness of the region's cultural and natural heritage
- the importance of intangible cultural heritage, traditions and customs
- the role that heritage can play in building sustainable and resilient communities
- the importance of regional collaboration and resourcing for heritage conservation

and our shared concerns about climate change and the risks it poses to heritage across the region.

As part of the Conference, we met in Fiji's World Heritage site of Levuka Historic Port Town. The delegates to this Conference note with concern that:

1. the built and landscape heritage of Levuka is fragile and some elements are in poor condition
2. there is an urgent need to repair heritage buildings and infrastructure damaged by Cyclone Winston in 2016
3. there is a need for the current World Heritage management plan to be effectively implemented
4. adequate funding, technical heritage skills and other resources appear to be lacking
5. more communication and engagement with Levuka's communities is critical to implement the plan and protect Levuka's heritage.

The World Heritage values of Levuka are at risk.

The conference delegates seek an urgent commitment by all relevant government and other stakeholders to address these concerns. This will require adequate resources to strengthen community capacity to ensure the conservation of Levuka's heritage values for the sake of present and future generations.

Ian Travers, President Australia ICOMOS, 15 October 2018

Christophe Sand, President ICOMOS Pasifika, 15 October 2018

¹ ICOMOS www.icomos.org

Australia ICOMOS <https://australia.icomos.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/IcomosPacifikaFiji/>



**2018 CULTURE:
CONSERVING IT TOGETHER
CONFERENCE PAPER SESSIONS PROGRAM**



Bula Friends!

The conference is at the Novotel, Lami Bay, Suva. The sessions are spread across three rooms: the Convention Centre, Novotel House, Novotel House Terrace (Day 1) and the Entertainment Centre (Day 2). Registration and the morning sessions are generally in the Convention Centre with parallel sessions on Day 1 and Day 2. Our main activities will take place in the Conference, which is across the road from the Novotel Hotel reception. The special event venues, the Wai Maravu room and Novotel Restaurant are adjacent and are on the other side of the road within the hotel. A pedestrian crossing is located close to the Novotel main entry. Wi-fi will be available at the venues. Time has been allowed between sessions to move between rooms. A venue map is at the end of this program.

Theme 1 - *Heritage at Risk - Climate Change and Disaster* and Theme 2 - *Cultural Landscape Practice and Management* commence Day 1 and continue on Day 2. The *CultureNature Journey Knowledge Café and Forum* is on Day 1 after lunch. Theme 3 *Diverse Communities - Intangible Heritage*, commences on Day 1 after afternoon tea and continues on Day 2. Theme 4 - *Heritage as Pillar of Sustainable Development* is on Day 2 and the *Underwater Cultural Heritage* session is on Day 2 after morning tea. The program below shows details. Please be aware there may be changes in which room a session is held in, depending on demand and logistics - conference organisers will advise of any changes on the day.

DAY 1 – Wednesday, 3 October	
Convention Centre	
08:00 – 09:00	Registration
09:00 – 09:10	Welcome and Introduction – Mary Knaggs
09:10 – 09:50	Keynote Theme 1 – Heritage at Risk – Climate Change and Disasters Simon Molesworth AO QC: <i>Integrity of Cultures at Global Risk – Our Duties, Our Rights, Our Responses</i>
09:50 – 10:30	Keynote Theme 2 – Cultural Landscape Practice and Management Dr Jeffrey Noro: <i>The Kainake Project</i>
10.30 – 11:00	Morning tea
11.00 – 12:30	Theme 1 - Heritage at Risk – Climate Change and Disasters Plenary Speaker – Andrew Potts: <i>Mobilizing the Heritage Sector for Climate Action</i> Panel – Ms Frances Namoumou and Ms Siteri; <i>Climate Change and Resettlement: the Role of Culture and Heritage</i>
12.30 – 01:30	Lunch

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DAY 1 – Wednesday, 3 October			
Room	Convention Centre	Novotel House	Novotel House Terrace
	1 - Heritage at Risk – Climate Change and Disasters. Chair – Christophe Sand	2 - Cultural Landscape Practice and Management. Chair- Elise Huffer	CultureNature Journey Chair - Susan McIntyre-Tamwoy
01.30 – 02:00	1- Christophe Sand: <i>Climate change, sea-shore erosion and the disappearance of cultural sites: putting the record of archaeological remains in Islanders hands.</i>	2 - Anita Smith & Dr.Elise Huffer: <i>Recognising the Cultural Dimension of the Pacific Ocean in the UN Sustainable Development Goals and marine areas beyond national jurisdiction.</i>	<i>Knowledge Café and Forum</i> Three short 5min provocative talks from a panel: Andrew Potts (USA), Jeffrey Noro (PNG) and Beata Kade (AUS) and a Café style discussion of key questions relating to Culture Nature. Be part of the ICOMOS/IUCN CultureNature Journey.
02.00 – 02:30	1 - Catherine Forbes: <i>Are we really prepared for disaster? Responding to the lessons from Christchurch.</i>	2 - Geoff Ashley: <i>Contested Landscapes: Private Shacks — Public Lands.</i>	
02.30 – 03:00	1 - E Yarina, P Allan, M Bryant: <i>Translating spaces: Designing for Climate Migrants.</i>	2 - Chun-Hsi Wang: <i>Community and the Conservation of Cultural Landscape – A case of Longan in Taiwan</i>	
03.00 – 03:30	Afternoon tea		
03.30 – 04:00	1- Chris Richards: <i>The former Colonial Sugar Refining Company Ltd. (CSR) and the Fiji Sugar Corporation (FSC) - Vulnerable Heritage in Fiji.</i>	2 - Rouran Zhang: <i>The Meaning of Cultural Landscape in China: From the Perspective of Heritage Stakeholders.</i>	3 - Diverse Communities - Intangible Heritage Chair: Wayne Johnson 3 - Wayne Johnson: <i>Traders, Pirates and Blackbirds: Maritime connections between Colonial Sydney and the Pacific, 1788-1888.</i>
04.00 – 04:30	1- Victoria Herrmann: <i>“They Should Know to Keep Them:” The Importance of Documenting Histories of Heritage for Climate Change Adaptation in American Samoa</i>	2 - Sue Jackson-Stepowski: <i>The Shared Built Heritage of Easter Island.</i>	3 - Nick Thieberger: <i>Access to recordings in the languages of the Pacific</i>
04.30 – 05:00	1- Marco Hernández-Escampa, Daniel Barrera-Fernández: <i>Corrosion studies and archaeometallurgical heritage conservation in Pacific Ocean basins of Mexico.</i>	2 - Christina Dyson & Rachel Jackson: <i>Management of the Kingston and Arthur’s Vale Historic Area’s Cultural Landscape</i>	3 - Marilyn Truscott: <i>Mapping Intangible Heritage: Diverse Communities share their Sense of Place.</i> Electronic presentation confirmed
06.00 – 07:00	Emerging Professionals Event – Wai Maravu (adjacent Novotel Restaurant)		
07:30 – 09:30	Heritage @ Risk Café – Novotel Restaurant		

DAY 2 – Thursday, 4 October			
Convention Centre			
08:00 – 09:00	Registration		
09:00 – 09:10	Introduction – Toshiyuko Kono, President of ICOMOS		
09:10 – 09:50	Keynote Theme 3 – Diverse Communities – Intangible Heritage Dr Frances Koya-Vaka'uta		
09:50 – 10:30	Keynote Theme 4 – Heritage as a Pillar of Sustainable Development Emilie Röell: <i>Heritage Economics – A Case Study of Investing in Heritage Landscapes and Public Space in Yangon, Myanmar, and Broader Lessons</i>		
10.30 – 11:00	Morning tea		
Room	Convention Centre	Novotel House	Entertainment Centre (tbc)
	4- Heritage as a Pillar of Sustainable Development. Chair – Ian Travers	2 - Cultural Landscape Practice and Management. Chair- Kevin Jones	Underwater Cultural Heritage Chair: Andrew Viduka
11.00 – 11:30	4 - Martin Bryant, Penny Allen & E Yarina: <i>The tensions of conservation and resilience: landscape as middle ground.</i>	2 - Kevin Jones: <i>Prospects for World Heritage in the equatorial and south Pacific Islands.</i>	Andrew Viduka: <i>Australia and Pacific Island countries – the need to collaborate to protect underwater cultural heritage.</i>
11.30 – 12:00	4 - David Gole: <i>The Challenges of Sustainable Heritage Lead Development in the Yangon Downtown Conservation Area.</i>	2 - Xu Ying & Ma Zhiliang: <i>The Sustainable Planning and Management of Cultural Landscape in Nan'anzui, Wuhan.</i>	UCH - Grant Luckman: <i>Understanding the meaning of 'shipwreck': bringing cultural and environmental evidence together</i>
12.00 – 12:30	4 - Ania Kotarba: <i>Sustainable Past of maritime Kiribati?: Historical and ethnographic adaptations of Kiribati people to a changing natural environment.</i>	2 - Catherine Macarthur: <i>Using historic themes of Sydney observatory relationships with the harbour/sites around the harbour.</i>	UCH - Sarah Ward: <i>Not if, but when... managing underwater cultural heritage in the face of coastal change</i> UCH - Elia Nakoro: <i>Cultural Heritage Preservation in Fiji</i>
12.30 – 01:30	Lunch		

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DAY 2 – Thursday, 4 October			
Room	Convention Centre	Novotel House	Entertainment Centre (tbc)
	4- Heritage as a Pillar of Sustainable Development. Continued	2 - Cultural Landscape Practice and Management. Continued	3 - Diverse Communities – Intangible Heritage (Continued) Chair: Alex Yen
01.30 – 02:00	4 - Miriam Stacy: <i>Sustainable heritage management – Successes and challenges for heritage buildings and adaptive reuse in The Rocks, Sydney, Australia.</i>	2 - Ron Vave: <i>Community conservation of natural resources: The lesser known Culturally Protected Water Bodies of Fiji.</i>	3 - Alex Yen: <i>Integrative conservation under the 5Cs Strategy – Case Study of Quin-Lin</i>
02.00 – 02:30	4 - Mary Knaggs: <i>Towards a Heritage Quality Framework: Heritage Implementation & Monitoring of Cultural Heritage for Sustainable Outcomes.</i>	2- Elodie Fache & Simonne Pauwels: <i>Rethinking indigenous / local ecological knowledge combination in Fiji: On the role of social sciences in tackling overfishing.</i>	3- Mark Love, Samuel Kenneth, Gordon Edwards: <i>Vernacular language, biocultural diversity, intangible cultural heritage and social order: Case-studies of applied language maintenance and revitalization from Vanuatu</i>
02.30 – 03:00	4 - Masami Fukumoto, Tsuguto Ezura, Kiho Yaoita: <i>Research of development and characteristics on historical buildings in Levuka</i>	2 - Lorylie Crisostomo: <i>Memories and Aspirations: Key to Community Cultural Landscape Management and Conservation.</i> Electronic Presentation confirmed	Subject to discussion with authors an afternoon paper from this theme may be moved to this time.
03.00 – 03:30	Afternoon tea		
03.30 – 04:00	4 - Kiho Yaoita: <i>Sustainable Heritage and Tourism Management based on Ecomuseum Concept – A case study on Levuka, Fiji.</i>	1 - Heritage at Risk (Continued) Chair – Christophe Sand 1 - E Yarina, P Allan, M Bryant: <i>Indigenous values as a method for designing for climate change on culturally significant sites</i>	3 - Daniel Barrera-Fernández & Marco Hernández-Escampa: <i>Traditional cultural events and placemaking. Analysis of the Festival Internacional Cervantino in Guanajuato, Mexico.</i>
04.00 – 04:30	4 - Oliver Maurice (Elizabeth Erasito presenting): <i>Heritage Conservation and the Sustainable Development Goals</i>	1- Robyn Riddett: <i>Role of Indigenous Knowledge in Contemporary Risk Preparedness for Natural Disasters.</i>	3 - Jacqueline Paul, Jade Kake: <i>Integrating Kaupapa Maori and Te Aranga Design Principles.</i>
04.30 – 05:00	Special Presentation - Alan Croker: <i>Kinchela Boys Home - Healing and the Unexpected Role of a Conservation Management Plan</i>	1 - Yi-Jen Tseng: <i>Built Heritage, the Threat of Disasters, and the Challenges to Conservation - Kinmen Island as Case Study.</i>	3 - Leah Lui-Chivizhe: <i>Culture/Nature, Islander knowing and the 1875 Chevert Expedition</i>
06.00 – 10:00	Conference Dinner - Tiko's Floating Restaurant (Upper Deck) in Central Suva (Optional) (Bus from Novotel at 6pm, meet in foyer 5.45)		

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DAY 3 – Friday, 5 October		
	Convention Centre	Entertainment Centre (tbc)
08:00 – 09:00	Registration	
09:00 – 09:10	Introduction – Anita Smith	
09:10 – 09:50	Levuka workshop report – Workshop Committee: Chris Johnston, Gerald Takano & Jean Rice	
09:50 – 10:30	Pasifika Charter Forum – Chair: Adi Meretui Ratunabuabua	
10:30 – 11:00	Morning tea	
11:00 – 12:00	Pasifika Charter Forum – Continued	
12:00 – 12:30	International Emerging Professionals Working Group Report and Model for the Future: Ania Kotarba & Stacy Vallis	
12:30 – 01:30	Lunch	ICOMOS Pasifika AGM TBC
01:30 – 02:00	Summing up Theme 1 - Christophe Sand Theme 2 - Anita Smith	Workshop International Emerging Professionals Working Group
02:00 – 02:30	Summing up Theme 3 - Chris Johnston Theme 4 - Jean Rice	Ania Kotarba & Stacy Vallis
02:30 – 03:00	CultureNature Journey report - Susan McIntyre-Tamwoy Underwater Cultural Heritage report - Andrew Viduka	
03:00 – 03:30	Afternoon tea	
03:30 – 04:30	General Forum and Discussion - Conference Theme (1 to 4) Chairs and Keynote Speakers	
04:30 – 05:00	Conclusions. Thanks.	

The main venues are indicated by red stars on the venue map below.

