



Where the Bearing Witness project began ...

IMAGE: REWA, FIJI. AMI DHABUWALA/PMC

BEARING WITNESS 2018

*A climate crisis documentary/journalism
development project*

*Professor David Robie and Jim Marbrook
Pacific Media Centre/Te Ara Motuhenga
DevNet Conference, Christchurch,
5-7 December 2018*

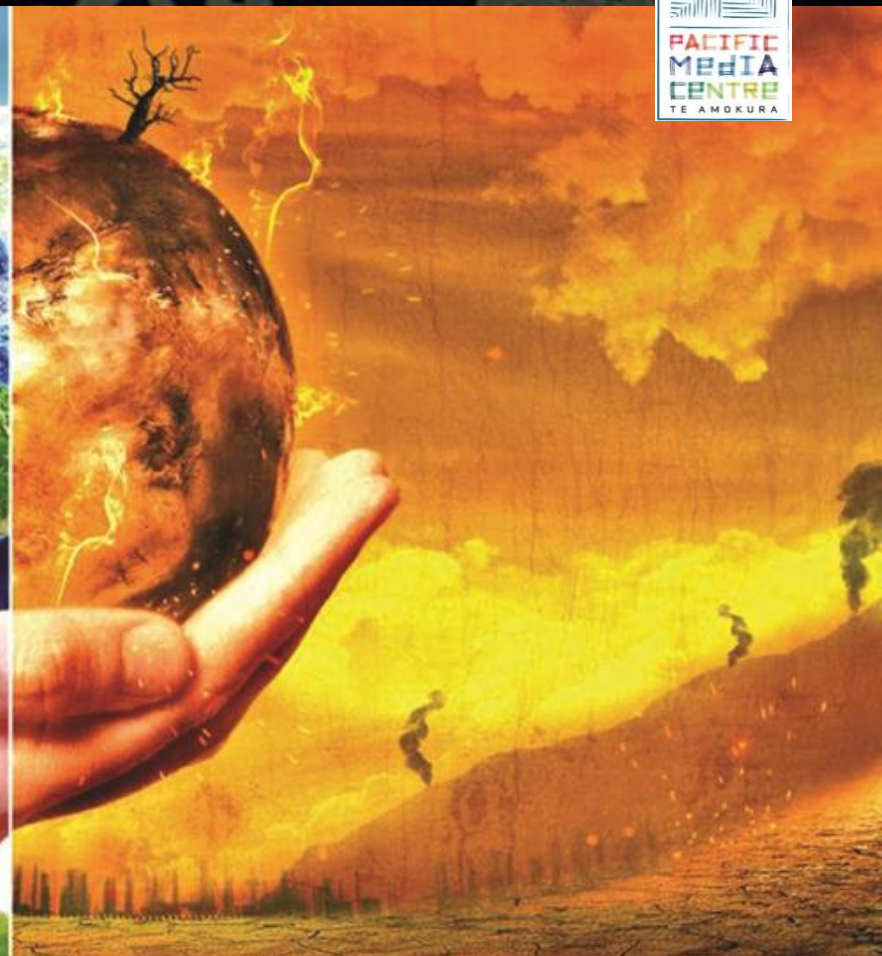
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2018 DevNet Conference
Disruption and Renewal



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BEARING WITNESS

- CLIMATE CHANGE PROJECT 2016-2018

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'Bearing Witness' - a Pacific climate change journalism research and publication initiative

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Pacific Profile: Jenny Ji... Watch later Share



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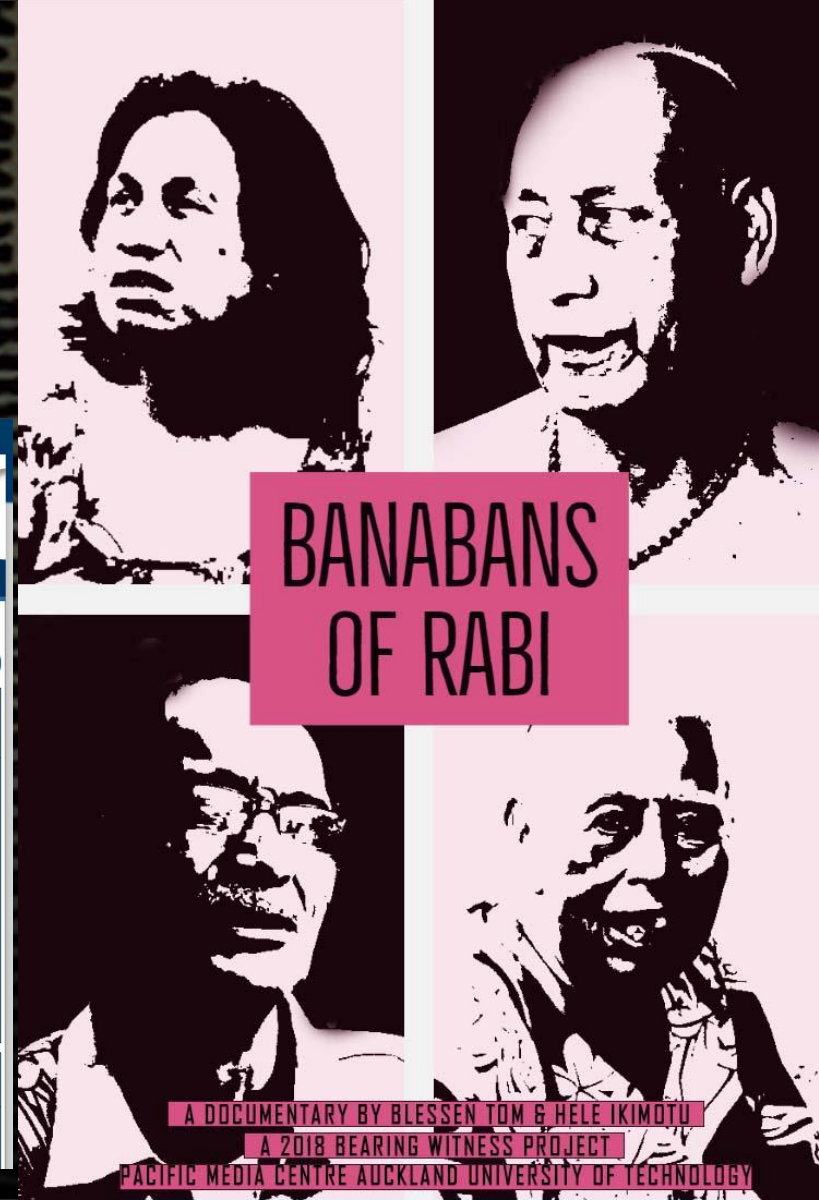
Pacific Media Centre
PMC newdesk

The Pacific Media Centre - TE AMOKURA - at AUT University has a strategic focus on Māori, Pasifika and ethnic diversity media and community development.

Asia Pacific Report
A monthly NZ's Pacific Media Centre

Stop harassing Rappler, media advocacy groups tell Duterte

Trauma research on TV



BANABANS OF RABI

A DOCUMENTARY BY BLESSEN TOM & HELE IKIMOTU
A 2018 BEARING WITNESS PROJECT
PACIFIC MEDIA CENTRE AUCKLAND UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY



2018 Fiji elections – ‘fake news’ fills media vacuum

November 24, 2018

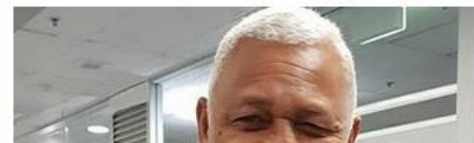
Auckland University of Technology, Sri Krishnamurthi

“Fake News” was the catch phrase of the 2018 Fiji Elections – the second democratic elections since Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama carried out Fiji’s fourth coup in 2006.

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Rounds



Pacific storytelling



‘Speaking truth to power’ and ‘actively promoting democracy through free and unfettered critique of decision-making institutions and individuals.’

- *THE JUNCTION*, DAVIES, DODD, KREEMER & VAN HEEKEREN



BREAKING NEWS Six Pacific Island nations ratify Paris Accord on climate change



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Daku has a climate message for the world: 'Tell them to believe it'

PMC Editor - April 27, 2016



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Images: Fiji's Daku village tackles the floodwaters problem



MARSHALL ISLANDS

Rick Wayman: We stand with the Marshall Islands



CLIMATE

Six Pacific Island nations ratify Paris Accord on climate change



**YEAR ONE
2016**

- DAKU VILLAGE, REWA
- TAYLOR 'TJ' AUMUA AND AMU DHABUWALA

ASIA PACIFIC REPORTS

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The "Bearing Witness" Climate Change section on Asia Pacific Report.

The Bearing Witness Project – Year one (2016)



Destruction and Construction

The Story of Tukuraki Village

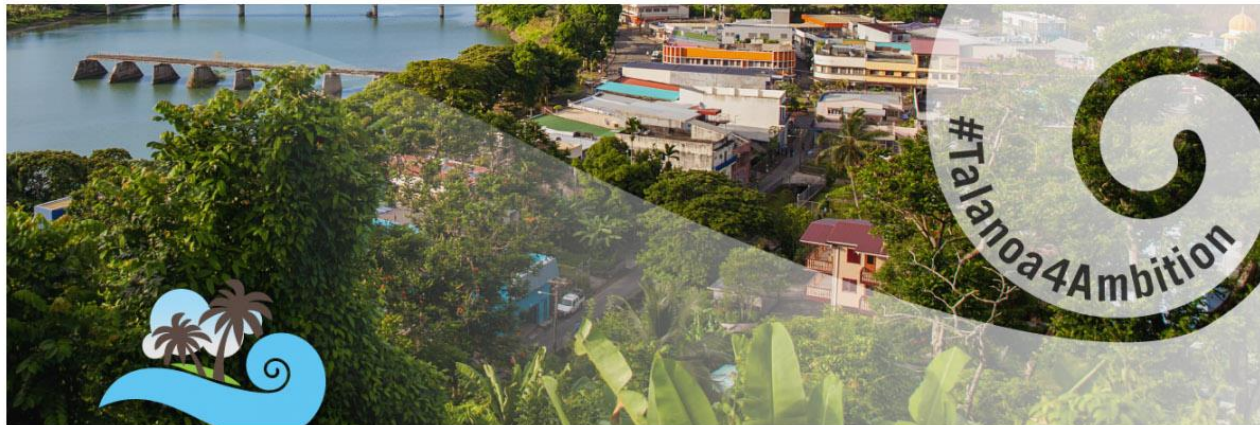
The Pacific Media Centre flew Julie Cleaver and Kendall Hutt to Fiji to bear witness to the impacts of climate change. What they discovered was disturbing and emotional.

YEAR TWO
2017

- TUKURAKI VILLAGE
- KENDALL HUTT AND JULIE CLEAVER



2018 Talanoa Dialogue Platform



'Talanoa is a traditional word used in Fiji and across the Pacific to reflect a process of inclusive, participatory and transparent dialogue. The purpose is to share stories.'

- QUOTE FROM TALANOA DIALOGUE PLATFORM, 2018

The talanoa and the tribal paradigm: Reflections on cross-cultural reporting in the Pacific

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“SIT DOWN EVERYBODY. THIS IS A TAKEOVER!”

Fiji: Countdown to a Coup



By David Robie

SAKEASI BUTADROKA fingers his trademark blood-red bow-tie and laughs. “This represents the blood of Christ that flowed from the cross on Calvary.” He says it also represents the danger facing indigenous Fijians and the sacrifices they are prepared to make.

A Methodist lay preacher and poultry farmer who exudes charm and good humour in spite of the firmness of his beliefs, “Bata” was the man responsible for the brief downfall of Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara’s Alliance Government in the first of two general elections in 1977. Unashamedly campaigning along racial lines, he also had a hand in the final ousting of Ratu Mara after 17 years in power last April; his Fijian Nationalist Party gained enough ethnic Fijian votes to help the new multi-racial Coalition Government win office.

Butadroka’s controversial political career appeared to have ended after a heavy defeat in 1982, but he did not waver in his struggle to change the Fijian Constitution and give ethnic Fijians exclusive rights to lead the country. He advocated “blowing out” the Indo-Fijian population by encourage

camping all these years?” he said before the coup. “I’ve had one objective: to get rid of the Mara Government so that Fijians would realise they are in danger. Now the fight has begun, I am happy.”

But standing outside Parliament Buildings, stunned, after the May 14 takeover, he said: “No, no ... The bastards cannot do it like this. They’ll destroy democracy forever. This is a tyranny. Blame Ratu Mara for this. Where is the Jesus?” Police hustled him away.

Butadroka, who was jailed under the Public Order Act for “incitement” in 1977, has always advocated constitutional changes through democratic means. The *Fanketi* (indigenous) Movement used to claim that Butadroka was anti-Indian while it was pre-Fijian, but the movement’s recent actions have been more extremist than Butadroka’s nationalism ever were.

More than a racial struggle, the *Fanketi* attempts at destabilising the Coalition Government and then the coup were part of a three-stage strategy for the Alliance Party to seize back power at all costs. The speed with which the coup came after the protests had high stakes. Butadroka

About the author



David Robie

MAINSTREAM JOURNALISM Western	TALANOA JOURNALISM Pacific
Élite-source oriented	Grassroots source oriented
Hard news, description	Hard news with context, cultural interpretations
Objective, detached, uninvolved stance	Reflexive stance
Solutions not an issue	Possible solutions for identified problems
Top-down mainstream vertical public opinion	Grassroots, citizen public opinion, horizontal views
Emphasises individualist achievement	Emphasises community achievement
Unfettered free media focused on conflict	Free media, but balanced with social responsibility
Consumer, business orientation	Public interest, civil society, community empowerment focus
Entertainment or sensational angles	Focus on positive outcomes for wider community
Focus on crime, disaster and deviant behaviour	Focus on socio-economic development, community needs, wellbeing and progress
Normative mainstream ethical codes	Community ethics with recognition of Indigenous, diversity, cultural values







Vunidogoloa village on Vanua Levu Island ... the newly rebuilt village 2 km from where the people used to live.

- IKIMOTU AND TOM, 2018



The abandoned Vunidogoloa village on
Vanua Levu Island ... eroded and
invaded by the encroaching ocean.
- IKIMOTU AND TOM, 2018



**Asia Pacific Report**

Edited by AUT's Pacific Media Centre

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BEARING WITNESS

Life on Fiji's Rabi Island – simple, peaceful and full of smiles

Hele Ikimotu - April 25, 2018



BEARING WITNESS

Gallery: Bearing Witness journeys north to Fiji's idyllic Rabi Island



AUSTRALIA

Ben Bohane: China? No, let's face the elephant in the Pacific room



MEDIA

Public broadcasting and an advocate's 'disaster readiness' revival mission











‘We aren’t the cause of the problem and we are the most affected of the climate change...only when you come in and tell us and report what we’ve gone through that they know the effect of climate change. ‘

- TOM CORRIE, BANABAN ELDER



KIA ORA RAWA

Thank you for
listening

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