

Asia-Pacific media graduate placement opportunities for AUT students 2006/7

Asia options:

AUT graduate programme for Asia placements in cooperation with the Asia NZ Foundation (a new scheme – application forms will be available soon for October).

Info contact: School of Communication Studies Diversity and Publications
Coordinator **Dr David Robie** david.robie@aut.ac.nz

Destinations:



China Daily.com (Beijing)

Air fares plus living allowance

(Two AUT graduates have already been there – Felicity Brown and Emma Moore)

www.chinadaily.com.cn

The Jakarta Post.com

Jakarta Post (Jakarta):

Air fares plus living allowance

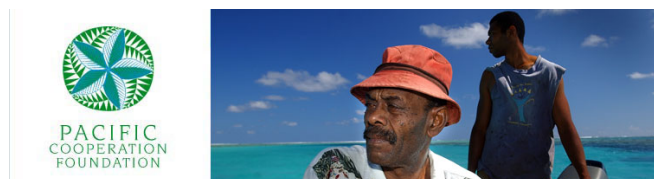
www.thejakartapost.com/headlines.asp

Asia NZ Foundation media background:

www.asianz.org.nz

Info contact: Media adviser **Charles Mabbett** cmabbett@asianz.org.nz

Pacific options:



Example: AUT graduate Jon Dow spent six weeks with the Fiji Times after completing the graduate diploma course at the end of 2004. Destinations vary each year.

Media graduate (print) placement programme:

http://www.pcf.org.nz/extras/pdf/media_graduate_placement_programme.pdf

Media graduate (print) application form:

http://www.pcf.org.nz/extras/pdf/media_graduate_placement_print_application.pdf

Info contact: Programme manager **David Vaeafe** david@pcf.org.nz

Traditions rule for 100 nights ceremony

At the end of his third week in Fiji, Jonathan Dow attended the One Hundred Nights ceremony, held in honour of the late Ro Lady Lala Mara. This is his account of what turned out to be a highlight of his placement.

Most New Zealanders know Lady Mara as the wife of the Late Sir Ratu Kamisese Mara, who led Fiji to independence. However, as the paramount chief of the Burebasaga confederacy stretching from the east to west coasts of Vauva Lave, Lady Mara actually outranked her husband.

The ceremony was held at Lady Mara's chiefly village of Lomanikoro in Rewa, and marked the end of one hundred nights since her burial. It is an occasion to remember the deceased and thank those who attended the funeral.

The people from around Rewa took on ceremonial roles traditionally assigned to their village. I spoke to fishermen who were gathering *dalo*, a theology student butchering pigs and a youth worker who, because he was a member of Lady

Mara's chiefly family, was dressed in black and supervising operations.

I was at Rewa with *Fiji Times* reporter Solomon Blumoni, who pointed out Lady Mara's youngest son, Ratu Tavita Ululakaba, sitting alone and waiting for the final preparations to be completed. It is customary to initially approach the chief's messenger to explain what you would like to speak to the chief about. As a foreigner I nervously approached Ratu Tavita directly and asked if I could talk to him. He accepted on one condition: "No politics".

All of the protocols and customs were hard to follow at first but after an explanation things seemed to make more sense and I could see why the Fijians were so comfortable with their assigned roles. People kindly allowed me some latitude regarding the traditions and were more than happy to explain the correct procedures and the reasons behind them.

For me, being at Rewa with local journalists from *The Fiji Times* made a huge difference. Reporter Solomon Blumoni had reported on Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara's funeral at Labasa and Adi Lady Lala's funeral at Rewa earlier in the year. Solo and his colleague Eliko Ravula could explain to me how customs at the ceremony related to events at Lady Mara's funeral, her role as the paramount chief of Burebasaga and her ancestry.

Most of the Fiji I reported on was a mix of traditional and modern. At Rewa though, for the One Hundred Nights ceremony, tradition ruled and modern practices took a back seat. 🌐

*This page:
Jonathan Dow
with staff of the
Fiji Times.
Photo: courtesy
Fiji Times.*

*Opposite page:
Duncan Wilson
with Islands
Business Editor
Lalau Toga.
Photo: courtesy
Duncan Wilson.*



Full articles (Pacific Connections):

www.pcf.org.nz/extras/pdf/pacific_connection/issue3_2005sum_page8_9.pdf