## Welcome

Dear AIB Oceania Members,

Welcome to the Summer Edition of the AIB Oceania Newsletter. As the year draws to a close, we reflect on a year of continued scholarly engagement, regional collaboration, and community building across the AIB Oceania Chapter. Throughout 2025, the chapter has led and supported events that have brought IB scholars together, connecting their research, teaching, and practice across diverse regional and global contexts.

A key moment in the chapter's calendar was the ANZIBA–AIB Oceania Collaborative Event held in Fiji in November 2025. Hosted across Fiji National University (Nadi) and the University of the South Pacific (Suva), the event brought together scholars, educators, AIB Fellows, and doctoral students from across Oceania and beyond. We thank Fiji National University and the University of the South Pacific for hosting us and for their generous support for the event. This edition shares selected highlights from the Fiji collaborative event, capturing scholarly, pedagogical, and community-building conversations that emerged.

Earlier in the year, AIB Oceania co-hosted a webinar with the AIB Teaching and Education Shared Interest Group titled "AI and the Future of Inclusive Teaching: Opportunities and Challenges for Higher Education." Led by the AIB Oceania chapter secretary, Dr Swati Nagar, University of Sydney, and scholars from Finland, Singapore, and the United States, the webinar was attended by more than 90 academics worldwide. The session served as a platform for a thoughtful discussion on the opportunities and challenges AI presents for inclusive teaching and learning.

Alongside these activities, supporting scholars across the region, particularly those based in the Pacific, remains a key priority for the chapter. In this context, AIB Oceania is launching a membership initiative that offers fully sponsored AIB memberships to PhD students and academics based in Oceania (excluding Australia and New Zealand). This initiative aims to strengthen research capacity and support professional development across the region.

This commitment to the region is also reflected in the focus of this edition. We share insights from Professor Ella Henry, Dr Maulupeivao Betty Ofe-Grant, Sione Taufa, and Dr Swati Nagar on Indigenous perspectives and decolonising approaches to international business education, and their relevance in Pacific contexts. The newsletter concludes with reflections from Zijong Kong and Runshuang Tang, doctoral students at the University of Technology Sydney, who share their experiences from Fiji and the value of regional and international scholarly engagement.

We also extend our sincere thanks to Maureen Benson-Rea (University of Auckland), who is entering retirement. Her services to the AIB Oceania Chapter as President and Past President have made a lasting contribution to our regional scholarly community.

Looking ahead, we see 2026 as an opportunity to continue creating spaces for research, learning, and education conversations through a range of chapter events. We thank you for your continued support and contributions and wish you all the best of the seasons greetings and a very happy new year.

**Warm regards**
**Prof. Hussain Rammal**
**President (Chair) - AIB Oceania Chapter**
**University of Adelaide**

## Highlights from the AIB Oceania & ANZIBA 2025 Collaborative Event

During November, AIB Oceania and ANZIBA co-hosted a collaborative event in Fiji, held across two institutions–Fiji National University (Nadi) and the University of the South Pacific (Suva). The event brought together over 110 academics, AIB Fellows, and doctoral students from Australia, the Pacific Islands, New Zealand, and around the world. Featuring five paper tracks, five research methods workshops, panel sessions, and a Paper Development Workshop, the event provided a rich platform for scholarly exchange and engagement with pressing and emerging issues in international business research and education.

Below are some highlights from the AIB Oceania–ANZIBA collaborative event in Fiji.

**Warm regards**
**The Editor**
**Dr Swati Nagar (USYD)**

## Indigenous Communities & AI

We had the pleasure of meeting with **Prof.Ella Henry (AUT), Dr Maulupeivao Betty Ofe-Grant (AUT), and Sione Taufa (University of Auckland)** to share their reflections on the Indigenous panel, chaired by Dr Swati Nagar (USYD) and the event hosted in Fiji.

We were invited to share our reflections on the Indigenous panel Decolonising Pedagogy in the Age of AI: Reimagining International Business Education in Oceania, held in Fiji. The panel brought together Indigenous scholars from across Oceania to reflect on Indigenous knowledge systems, business education, and the growing influence of artificial intelligence.

We also reflected on the significance of hosting this event in Fiji for the first time. Holding the panel in the Pacific, on Indigenous land, created a different kind of learning space–one grounded in place, relationality, and community. For us, Fiji was not just a location but an active contributor to the conversations, shaping how knowledge was shared, received, and valued.

A key reflection we shared was that Indigenous peoples have developed sophisticated systems of knowledge, governance, and enterprise over thousands of years. These systems have long been marginalised through colonisation and the dominance of Western business paradigms. We emphasised that meaningful decolonisation in business education requires more than the inclusion of Indigenous content; it requires pedagogical sovereignty, where Indigenous peoples have authority over how knowledge is framed, taught, and valued.

Artificial intelligence featured prominently in our reflections as both an opportunity and a risk. We noted that AI is not neutral and can reproduce extractive and colonial logics if Indigenous governance and consent are absent. At the same time, building Indigenous AI literacy and agency was seen as essential to ensuring that emerging technologies support cultural integrity, community priorities, and intergenerational responsibility.

Together, we reflected on the vital leadership that Indigenous perspectives from Oceania offer for rethinking international business education in the age of AI. These perspectives are central, not peripheral, to shaping more ethical and relational approaches to teaching and learning.

Editor: *Thank you, Professor Ella Henry (AUT), Dr Maulupeivao Betty Ofe-Grant (AUT), and Sione Taufa (University of Auckland) for generously sharing your reflections on the panel and the Fiji event.*

## Your views – Conference Reflection Corner: Zijong Kong & Runshuang Tang – University of Technology, Sydney

**Reflection on the Event**

For both of us, attending the inaugural AIB Oceania and ANZIBA collaborative event in Fiji came at an important moment in our PhD journeys. The event offered us space to step back from the intensity of day-to-day research and reflect on what it means to do rigorous, meaningful scholarship. We found the event especially welcoming, and the collegial atmosphere encouraged open engagement, while conversations grounded in Pacific contexts reinforced the importance of research that is ethically aware, contextually sensitive, and practically relevant.

**Reflection on the Workshops**

The Research Methods Workshops were especially valuable for us. As early-stage doctoral researchers, we gained much-needed clarity around research design, academic writing, and publication strategy, including a clearer sense of what to prioritise and what to avoid at different stages of the research process. Each research methods session strengthened our understanding of how to position a study, articulate its contribution, and navigate research design. We also developed a deeper appreciation of case study and qualitative methods, particularly how qualitative insights can complement and strengthen quantitative work. Guidance on leveraging local data and collaborating with scholars beyond the region helped us see clearer and more confident pathways to publication.

**Reflection on Networking**

Conversations with fellow PhD students and senior scholars reminded us that uncertainty is a shared part of doctoral research. These exchanges fostered reassurance, confidence, and a sense of scholarly community that extends beyond the conference itself.

Vinaka vakalevu to the organisers and hosts for creating such a welcoming and intellectually stimulating environment. This was exactly the experience we needed at this stage of our PhD journeys, and we look forward to attending again in Melbourne next year.

Editor: *Thank you, Zijong Kong & Runshuang Tang, for sharing your insights.*

## Upcoming Events

**The 2026 ANZIBA and AIB-Oceania Collaborative Event will be co-hosted by The University of Melbourne and RMIT University, Melbourne - 24 Nov - 27 Nov**

**Location: The University of Melbourne - Prof Tine Koehler and Assoc Prof André Sammartino**

- ***24 November: Doctoral Colloquium, Early Career Scholars Day, and Mid-Career Scholars Day***
- ***25 November: Research Methods Workshops***

***Location: RMIT University - Prof Fuming Jiang and Assoc Prof Deepak Sardana***

- ***26 November: Keynote, Paper Presentations, AGMs, and Dinner***
- ***27 November: Paper Presentations and Paper Development Workshop***

We hope you enjoy this summer edition of the AIB Oceania newsletter. Visit our website - https://oceania.aib.world
Contributions are welcome. Please contact - swati.nagar@sydney.edu.au