

Jonathan Ritchie and Musawe Sinebare interview with Ipul Powaseu, 4 September 2014
MBA, Communication Management, QU, 1990 cohort



<p>[00:00:03]</p>	<p>Scholarship, 1992-1994, working at National Coffee Research Institute. Role was translating scientific language into farming language. Was looking for course that could assist with this. Chose UQ. Course was a new one within the School of Business. 5 international students and others from media background. Only 2 from agricultural background. MA coursework with minor thesis</p>	<p>Introduction; Scholarship experience</p>
<p>[00:03:07]</p>	<p>First degree in physical science so first few months challenging, new field. Good support from fellow students and staff. Other international students with English and a second language also sought support from her with editing etc. But did not mix so much with the Australian students. International students formed their own group; Burma, Japan, HK, Pakistan.</p>	<p>Studying in Australia; challenges</p>
<p>[00:05:31]</p>	<p>First experience of different culture. AusAid international students supported each other. They were very quiet in classes until after a while they realised that this system required students to speak up, unlike in their own cultures. 'When in Rome, do like the Romans'.</p>	<p>Australian culture; challenges</p>

	Reciprocal respectability and gaining confidence.	
[00:08:07]	Today encourages students now to be brave. Culture shock. Speaks at international conferences because of the lessons learnt and confidence gained there. Australian friends encouraging in the first year.	Studying and living in Australia; Australian culture; Friendships
[00:09:30]	In the second year things were better, less difficult. Disability accessible environment and services through the scholarships office. Family outings with other international students.	Studying and living in Australia
[00:10:32]	Made head of Department. Was only female scientist at the time at Coffee Institute. Broader understanding of the field. Comment on the more vigorous testing processes now. In her application so long as place at university secured, then scholarship provided. Today the opposite is the case. No IELTS testing was required in the 1990s.	Returning to PNG.
[00:13:37]	Moved to role at the Secretariat of the Pacific Community. Worked in Fiji under an EU project for 12 months. Returned to PNG and worked at NARI in Communications and later to NRI. Mentoring of students going for overseas study. Currently working at PAU. Advises students that no matter how strong they are academically, they will face other challenges.	Post-scholarship experience; leadership; international mobility
[00:16:18]	Application for PhD scholarship currently underway. Alumni network.	Future plans; connections with Australia; networks

	<p>QUT alumni. Worked with AVI project on disability and visited Australia in 2010. Linked up with staff member from QUT and has common research interests still.</p>	
[00:17:56]	<p>Tries to continue contact with international students from her course. Burmese supporter of Aung San Suu Kyi was in hiding for many years. But has mostly lost contact.</p>	Alumni network
[00:20:13]	<p>Support from scholarships office; social gatherings. International student services assisted with English and IT services. many PNG students at QUT. Education students. Still keeps in touch with many of them. Active PNG QUT Alumni Chapter.</p>	Studying in Australia
[00:21:37]	<p>No great challenges because a colleague had gone ahead of her and so she stayed with them initially. PNG Wantok Association in Brisbane provided support to find accommodation and lived in areas close by. Single mother but left her daughter (4 years) came in the second year and attended school. Support of other PNG women for babysitting etc.</p>	Arrival; PNG community in Qld
[00:23:45]	<p>Mixing with Australian students. Took subject in cross-cultural understanding. Learnt from each other.</p>	Living in Australia; Australian culture
[00:24:57]	<p>Hopes to return to Australia for further study. Looked first to QUT but it is not as strong on Policy, which is what she is trying to pursue. Deakin University or ANU are now</p>	Future plans; ongoing connections with Australia

	options. Looking to her existing connections to determine where she might study.	
[00:26:21]	AVI. Attached to them for 6 months to work on a project on disability. Was in Australia for 6 weeks, in Melbourne. Travelled as a representative on committees on disability. Looking to these networks also for advice on her future study plans.	Connections with Australia; networks
[00:27:37]	A shift in her area of research and advocacy after her post-grad study. Is now integrating human rights and development with disability issue. Joined disability movement in 2006 and became more vocal in 2009. Her work in agriculture led to an increased awareness of the plight of disabled women especially, in rural areas. Started to match the two together. In 2009 Dame Carol Kidul, then Minister for Community Devpt, asked her to take a leadership role. Required her to leave her position at NRI. President of PNG Assembly of Disabled Persons.	Post-scholarship experience
[00:32:10]	Leading the organisation now makes good use of all her training. Postgrad training has broadened her knowledge and experience.	Leadership; Post-scholarship experience
[00:33:44]	Hopes to make contact with former supervisors and others to seek collaborative support for her work in the disability movement. Connections through the church in Brisbane. PNG friends in Brisbane. Attendance to UN conference.	Ongoing connections; networks

	<p>Passing information from one student to the next about accommodation and so on. Pacific Islands fellow students from Brisbane.</p>	
[00:37:55]	<p>Seventh Day Adventist community in Brisbane. Before leaving PNG asked advice from chaplains and pastors about who to meet and which church to attend. Knew the President of the Southern Qld conference and met up with him in Brisbane.</p>	<p>Living in Australia; community groups</p>
[00:39:13]	<p>Alumni chapters within each country are a good forum to continue the network. We have a chance to look back together and see how far we have come. Proud of each other and follow each other's progress. Strong affiliation with university.</p>	<p>Networks</p>
[00:42:21]	<p>END</p>	