

Interview by Jonathan Ritchie with James Kaiulo, Port Moresby, 12 February 2015

**PhD, Biological Sciences, Macquarie University, 1985-1990**

[00:00:49]	Dr Kaiulo did a PhD in Biological Sciences in Australia from 1985 to 1990 on an AIDAB scholarship. Professor Edward 'Snow' Barlow was his supervisor.	Scholarship experience
[00:03:17]	Originally applied to University of Sydney, on a Fulbright scholarship, University of Queensland and Macquarie University. In 1978, Dr Kaiulo had been to Sydney on a Rotary travelling scholarship and met Professor Barlow. Dr Kaiulo did a Bachelor of Agricultural Science at University of Papua New Guinea (UPNG), from 1974 to 1977, graduated in 1978. His lecturer there, Dr Stevenson, inspired him to become an academic. He's originally from the south east part of the Central Province.	Application process; Existing connection with Australia; Motive to study overseas; Undergraduate education
[00:06:16]	Enrolled for a master's at UPNG and started studying tuberisation in wind bean ( <i>Tetragona logos</i> ) but it didn't go well so he applied for a scholarship and did a Master's of Agronomy at the University of Hawaii (UH), again studying wind bean. At that time he was employed, on a teaching fellow scheme, at UPNG. The university encouraged him to do a master's and also a PhD, after he had worked for two or three years.	Postgraduate education; Studying overseas; Career
[00:09:13]	When he came back from Hawaii in 1983 he got an AIDAB scholarship. The application process depended on having an offer from an Australian university, which he had so it was quite easy. The Rotary travelling scholarship had been organised by Dr Stevenson. He went to Macquarie with a Fijian colleague, AIDAB met them and arranged somewhere for them to stay and their meeting with university staff. The AIDAB officer also showed them how to use public transport. He stayed in Dunmore College, his family were to join him later.	Application process; Arriving in Australia; Scholarship experience
[00:12:38]	Thinks he was the first Papua New Guinean at Macquarie. There were some others from the Pacific – Fiji, Tonga. Became friends with Snow Barlow's other postgraduate students but didn't really mix with other students. There was a student from PNG at Sydney University and they did things together. He didn't go to church, spent most of his time on his studies because his research required a rigorous schedule of caring	Leadership; Living in Australia; Socialising in Australia; Friendships; Studying in Australia

	for the plants.	
[00:17:04]	He became close to Snow Barlow, Jane Conroy and Tony Hay and others who were doing similar research. His wife and three children joined him, his two daughters were in early primary and the youngest child was still a baby. The children enjoyed themselves but it was a bit boring for his wife. She did some night classes in typing. They adjusted OK but it would have helped if there had been an organisation to support his wife.	Student-supervisor relationship; Family in Australia; Living in Australia; Challenges
[00:21:12]	The family went back to PNG three months before Dr Kaiulo and he stayed to finish the writing, he had to type it himself. [Comments about the primitive lab equipment available in those days.]	Family; Returning to PNG
[00:24:04]	Submitted his thesis, went home and started teaching at the Faculty of Agriculture of UPNG, which had been relocated to Lae in 1986. Was probably the second Papua New Guinean with a PhD in his field. In 1991 he was asked to be pro vice-chancellor. [Comments about academic promotion and lack of new research opportunities in developing countries.]	Returning to PNG; Post-scholarship career; Leadership
[00:29:43]	[Comments about biological research compared to agricultural research.] Sydney and Queensland universities had accepted him to do a Master of Philosophy but Macquarie accepted him to do his doctorate so he went there. He was still teaching and supervising while he was pro vice-chancellor. National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI) started in 1996. Before that, research was done by the Department of Agriculture and Livestock (DAL). [Comments about misunderstandings about NARI and DAL's roles.]	Scholarship experience; Post-scholarship career; Professional network
[00:34:40]	Doing his PhD helped him develop creativity and innovation in his thinking. [Story about his careers counselor telling him he'd never make it through university and how that motivated him to go to university and succeed.]	Studying in Australia; Independent research
[00:40:39]	There was student unrest and violence when he became pro vice-chancellor and he felt shattered so resigned and went back to academia. Then he was offered the position of pro vice-chancellor of planning at Unitech (Papua New Guinea University of Technology), developing the curriculum, and he enjoyed that. Then he was recommended to become Deputy Secretary of the Office of Higher Education, in Port	Career; Leadership; Professional network

	Moresby, and did that from '96 to '97.	
[00:44:22]	Early in 1997 UPNG asked him to go back to Lae as vice-chancellor, he and his family were not keen but he found it hard to refuse. In 2000 he became the director of the Cocoa and Coconut Research Institute.	Leadership; Career
[00:47:42]	[Discussion about Ken McKinnon and higher education in PNG and lack of progress in capacity building.]	
[00:50:46]	[Discussion about trainee teachers having Year 10 education and being taught only enough to be able to teach subjects at Grade 6 level, and teaching being a low status profession.]	
[00:55:27]	[Discussion about the Scholarships and Connections Research Project and how important the early years of education are.]	
[00:58:08]	Dr Kaiulo hasn't really kept in touch with colleagues from Macquarie. He also doesn't feel connected to alumni groups, very few Papua New Guineans have been to Macquarie University and email hadn't really started when he finished there.	Alumni network
[01:01:04]	END	