



STAR 2018

The Pacific Islands Science, Technology and Resources Network Conference

SECOND CIRCULAR and CALL FOR PAPERS

STAR 2018 is now confirmed for 10-13 July 2018. The conference will be held at the Holiday Inn, Victoria Parade, Suva.

The conference will be co-sponsored by the Government of Fiji, the Geoscience, Energy and Maritime (GEM) Division of the Pacific Community (SPC) and Australian Volcanological Investigations (AVI). The conference is also supported by the Pacific GIS and Remote Sensing Council and the Circum-Pacific Council.

STAR 2018 will be dedicated to the memory of Peter Rodda.

“Vale Peter Rodda”

Peter’s work formed the basis of what is now known about the geological development of Fiji. His pioneering work in Fiji is recognized throughout the wider international geological community.

Several days short of his final trip to Australia so he could be close to his only living siblings, his

sister and brother, sadly he passed away on October 12th, 2017 at the age of 81.

A special session will be convened to showcase Peter’s geological work and the work that he inspired in Fiji.





Conference Theme

The overall theme of **STAR 2018** will be:

“Geoscience Development in the Pacific Islands – Planning for 2030”

Although the conference theme is broad, sessions will focus on the following four areas of prime importance to the Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS):

Resources for Pacific Communities: Will draw together topical resource issues relating to geological resources (minerals, metals, aggregates, construction minerals, oil, gas, novel hydrocarbons), geothermal, water, solar and biological resources.

Ocean Geoscience: Will investigate the resource potential, environmental and social monitoring and management issues that relate to the EEZs, including ocean thermal energy conversion (OTEC), marine spatial planning, maritime boundaries, wave and tidal energy, Law of the Sea, ocean policy, ocean-atmospheric interactions, tsunami generation and propagation, ocean tectonics, oceanic surveys, the environment of the ocean floor and maritime transport.

Science of Natural Hazards and Risks to Pacific Communities: This theme will investigate the underlying science and technological aspects that provide the basis for the reduction of risk from natural hazards, including earthquakes and tsunamis, volcanoes, tropical cyclones and adaptation to climate change.

Land Use, Energy and Infrastructure Development on Pacific Islands: This theme will concentrate on the terrestrial, coastal, and nearshore areas and is expected to include examples of on-shore resources, soils, agriculture and the application of GIS and Remote Sensing to the on-shore, coastal, nearshore environment and the development of renewable energy sources.

However, papers on **any** topic related to the overall conference theme or the Pacific region in general will also be welcome and will be included in the **STAR 2018** Programme where possible.

Special Session

“The Life and Times of Peter Rodda – His Contributions to the Geology of Fiji”

Peter Rodda arrived in Fiji from Australia on 14 January 1961 and stayed. His name is now synonymous with the geological history of Fiji with his prolific field mapping career beginning from the second week after his arrival to until his retirement and beyond; and the publication of several volumes of the Bibliography of Fiji Geology, a series he found great joy in researching and collating in his quest to capture everything written about the Geology of Fiji. From his first field trip a couple of weeks after he arrived, up in the Colo-i-Suva area examining an old gold prospect, through his first major geological mapping project, which was to map the Vaileka area next to the Rakiraki area for the Ministry of Lands and mineral resources, geological map series; other major geological mapping projects were to follow, so that at the end of it all Peter Rodda's record for the mapping of the islands of the Fiji group will remain unmatched to this day. One of his remaining unpublished works on the geology of Yasawa/Mamanuca groups would perplex him until his death. This session will showcase Peter's work over years he spent in Fiji.

STAR Web Site

The **STAR** web site has been developed and includes all information including circulars, conference programs. Important updates will also be provided on a regular basis. It also includes details from previous sessions. The web site can be accessed via the following link:



STAR 2018 Timetable

A detailed conference program will be available on registration, however, a tentative outline of planned events is provided below for your information:

Friday	27 April	Early-bird registrations and abstract submissions close
Monday	09 July	Afternoon Registrations
Tuesday	10 July	Morning Registrations, Official Opening and STAR Sessions Afternoon STAR Sessions Evening Welcome Reception at the Albert Park Pavilion (hosted by the Government of Fiji)
Wednesday	11 July	Morning STAR Sessions Afternoon STAR Sessions Evening Working Group Meetings
Thursday	12 July	Morning STAR Sessions Afternoon STAR Sessions conclude, STAR Business Meeting and Closing Session Evening Conference Reception (hosted by Geoscience, Energy and Maritime Division of SPC)
Friday	13 July	STAR Field Trip

Abstract Submission

Delegates intending to participate in **STAR 2018** are hereby invited to submit abstracts and an indication of whether it will be an oral presentation or a poster. Full details should be provided on the attached registration form.

Abstracts should be limited to 300 words and provided in MS-Word format. A graphic file (jpg format) may be included in the abstract, but it must be less than 1 Mb.

Submit abstracts via email to:

starconference2018@gmail.com

Early submission is strongly encouraged with a deadline of 27 April 2018.

Conference Format

Oral and Poster presentation sessions will be available during **STAR 2018**. However, there will be limited opportunities for oral presentations; therefore more than one poster per participant will be permitted.

Projection facilities will be available for presentations. It is planned that daily sessions will be held during the hours 09:00 – 12:30 and 14:00 – 17:00; over three days of the four-day event. Depending on the number of papers submitted, multiple sessions may be conducted.

Display boards will be available for presentation of posters. Posters may be displayed for the entire conference period.

Conference Publications

A **STAR 2018** Abstracts Volume will be provided to all delegates as part of the registration pack.

Registration

Early-bird registration for **STAR 2018** is strongly encouraged with the deadline being 27 April 2017.

Registration fees for **STAR 2018** will be as follows:

- Delegate registrations received on/before 27 April 2018 FJD200.00
- Delegate registrations received after 27 April 2018 FJD250.00
- Pacific Island National Registrations FJD100.00
- Student Registrations (currently enrolled in a tertiary Institution) FJD50.00

Registration fees will include morning and afternoon teas as well as the Conference Receptions.

Registration fees must be paid in advance and must be deposited into the bank account for **STAR 2018** and a copy of the bank transfer included with your registration details. Please ensure that you **include reference to your name** when making the transfer and provide a copy of the confirmation of transfer with your registration. Bank account details are provided below:

Account Name: Science Technology and Resources (STAR)
 Account Number: 65113 s40
 Bank: HFC Bank
 Bank Address: 371 Victoria Parade, Suva Fiji
 BSB: 129-010
 SWIFT Number: HFCLFJFJ (for use by overseas delegates)

A **STAR 2018** Registration Form is attached to this circular, please complete and return as soon as possible.

Side Events

STAR Working Groups

Working Groups under the four focal areas (or others depending on interest) will be convened during **STAR 2018** to facilitate discussion on specialist topics and issues important to the region. Working Group details will be provided in registration packs on arrival. Currently, it is planned that the following working groups will be convened:

Education;



Geothermal Resources; and
Seabed Minerals.

Participants wishing to recommend the conduct of a Working Group should indicate this on the registration form.

Conference Field Trip

A one-day intra-conference field trip will be offered. The field trip will focus on the tertiary sedimentary deposits that constitute Suva Peninsula. Here many great road cuts and quarry excavations have exposed bedding contacts and structure that reveal detail essential for consideration of geohazards to Suva's infrastructure development. The field trip will provide access of new outcrops to collect samples in order to study aspects of climate change in the recent geological past to add to the work done in the past that was led by Peter Rodda.

Further details including cost will be made available in due course and via the STAR web site.

Immigration Requirements

As Fiji is a popular holiday destination entry is quite relaxed. Visitors from most countries are issued with a tourist visa on arrival. However, it is also advisable to check with your travel agent to confirm visa requirements before you depart.

Visitors will need a passport with at least 6 months validity and a valid return ticket.

Accommodation

Accommodation bookings for your stay in Suva will be an individual responsibility and you will need to confirm bookings with the individual hotel of your choice using their process. Several accommodation options at or near the conference venue include:

The **Holiday Inn - Suva**, Victoria Parade, Suva. As the venue for the conference the Holiday Inn provides options which can include Ocean view rooms, the SPC rate for the conference will be FJD379 per night which includes breakfast and unlimited WiFi. Details of the Holiday Inn can be found on their website through the following link:

[Holiday Inn Suva](#)

Grand Pacific Hotel: Victoria Parade, Suva. A short walk (next door) to the conference venue offers colonial splendour and views of the Suva waterfront. Room rates will be FJD402 per night (Park view Room); FJD442 (Superior Room) and FJD475 (Premium Room). All include breakfast, WiFi and access to the fitness Centre. Details can be found on their website on the following link:

[Grand Pacific Hotel](#)

The Suva Motor Inn: Gorrie Street, Suva. A short walk to the conference venue. Offers comfortable rooms that range in price from FJD160 to FJD200 per night (SPC corporate rates). Full details can be found on their website through the following link:

[The Suva Motor Inn](#)

The Tanoa Plaza: Cnr Gordon and Malcolm St, Suva. A short walk to the conference venue. Offers comfortable Superior class rooms at FJD245 per night, room only (FJD270 per night with WiFi and full buffet breakfast). Full details can be found on their website through the following link:

[Tanoa Plaza Suva](#)



There are also several other hotels close to the conference venue:

The Elixir Hotel and Serviced Apartments: Cnr Gordon and Malcolm St, Suva. A short walk to the conference venue. Offers comfortable studio apartment at FJD151 per night, room only (FJD183 per night for a 2-bedroom family apartment). Full details can be found on their website through the following link:

Email: elixrsuva@connect.com.fj

The Southern Cross Hotel: Gordon St, Suva. Offers Standard rooms (without balcony) at FJD180 and Deluxe rooms (with balcony) at FJD223. All include a buffet breakfast and WiFi (Note WiFi is only available in the lobby area).

Email: reservations@southerncross.com.fj

Note that some hotels provide a free shuttle service to and from the airport but it is a good idea to check when making the booking.

Related Conference

Delegates of **STAR2018** may also be interested in the following conference:

The Australian Maritime Science Association (AMSA) will host a conference in Adelaide 1-5 July 2018.

The National Seabed Mapping Coordination Group will host a session during AMSA: **Session 3 SEAFLOOR MAPPING IN AUSTRALIA – PROGRESS, DISCOVERIES, APPLICATIONS** - *Australia's seabed is largely unexplored, with less than 30% of the entire seafloor mapped at high resolution. The need for improved mapping coverage of the seafloor to deliver integrated products that describe bathymetry, geology and habitat, is essential to identify marine resources, assess geologic hazards, characterise biodiverse and vulnerable environments, create baselines for monitoring change, and generate knowledge to inform policy. Recent seafloor mapping progress has been achieved through new initiatives for collaboration and co-ordination, and the development of standards for acquisition. This session invites contributions on all aspects of seabed mapping that report on (i) recent co-ordination and collaboration initiatives, (ii) recent mapping efforts to support marine science, (iii) new insights into seabed habitat types and distributions, and (iv) new knowledge on seabed processes and geohazards.*

Dr Gary Greene will be a keynote speaker during the session.

Those **STAR 2018** delegates who may wish to attend should contact Dr Kim Picard, Geoscience Australia for further details:

Email: Kim.Picard@ga.gov.au

Other Activities

There are many activities that can be enjoyed in the Suva area or on the Coral Coast, a short distance from Suva. For details please consult the numerous available travel web sites and the hotel tour desks will be able to provide information should you require it.

If you plan to be a little more adventurous during your stay in Fiji it may be worth checking the Fiji Tourism web site at the following:

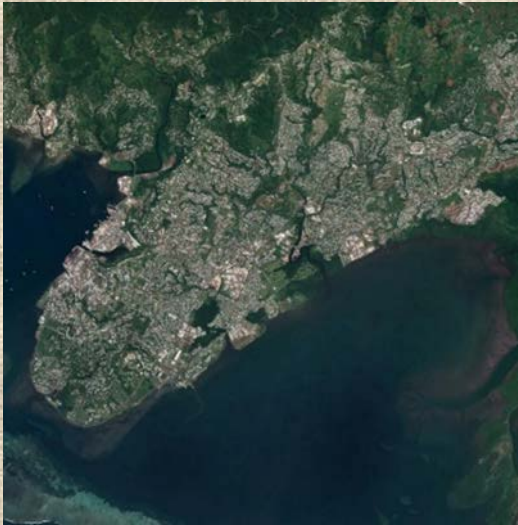
[Tourism in Fiji](#)



The **STAR** Steering Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your interest in **STAR 2018** and we hope that you enjoy the conference and the delights that Fiji has to offer while you are here.

Vinaka

Malakai Finau
 Permanent Secretary, Lands and Minerals
 Chair, STAR Steering Committee



Suva Peninsula Today.



Suva Peninsula 1943 (US Army).



Road cut through the Veisari sandstone.

[The island motifs used here is a collage of island designs that are representative of the Pacific Region. Individual motifs are based on various popular island designs. Images have been downloaded from the "Tapa Cloths from the Pacific and Artwork" website: www.tapapacifica.com, accessed 10 November 2016. The use of the images are gratefully acknowledged.]



STAR 2018

REGISTRATION FORM

A. Registration Details

Name:	
Mailing Address:	
Telephone:	
Email:	
Fax:	
Organisation:	

I will be attending:	
	STAR 2018 Conference (10 - 12 July)
	Conference Field Trip (13 July)(payment to be provided at conference)
	Conference Registration and payment details attached

Contributions

Title of Paper(s):	
Author(s):	
Institutional Affiliation(s):	
Presentation Mode (Oral or Poster):	
Presenter(s):	
I am interested in participating in	Working Group(s)
I would be interested in assisting to establish a Working Group on the following topic:	

Please email completed registration forms to:

STAR 2018 Steering Committee

Email: starconference2018@gmail.com

STAR Website: <http://star.gsd.spc.int>