

# The Pacific in focus

*In July this year four visitors from Fiji, the Solomons and Papua New Guinea will participate in consultations addressing "The Pacific at the Crossroads". The consultations will be in Brisbane on Tuesday 6 July, Canberra on Wednesday 7 July, Melbourne on Thursday 8 July and Adelaide on Friday 9 July.*

*CWS hopes these consultations will enable all people with an interest in the Pacific to share their experiences and concerns, to reflect on our shared future, and to offer positive opportunities to plan and work together in partnership for the people of the Pacific.*

Our visitors will be:

## Tom Anayabere



Tom Anayabere was born into a missionary family in 1965 and educated in mission schools. In 1986 he graduated with a bachelors' degree in

Electrical and Communications Engineering at the PNG University of Technology. He was awarded a Masters Degree in Electrical Engineering from the Victorian University of Technology in 1994.

Tom worked with the Post and Telecommunication Corporation in Port Moresby since 1987, most recently as the Executive Manager of products.

Convicted by God, and after 17 years of working in industry, Tom took up the position of General Secretary of the PNG Council of Churches at the beginning of this year.

## Koila Costello-Olsson

Koila Costello-Olsson is married with two children and is a citizen of Fiji. She has a Bachelor of Social Work from the University of Queensland, and post-graduate Awards in Social



Administration and Social Policy and in Conflict Transformation.

Koila works with the Ecumenical Centre for Research Education and Advocacy (ECREA) in Suva as the Gender and Peace Programme Coordinator.

Koila is truly one of the driving forces and stateswomen for peace and trauma work in Fiji.

## Fe'iloakitau Kaho



Fe'iloakitau Kaho, or Fei as he is known is of Fiji/Tongan descent, and speaks English, French, German, Italian, Spanish, Fijian and Tongan. He has studied in the US and

France obtaining a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and French, and post-graduate qualifications in International Relations, International Economics, Development Cooperation, Diplomacy, and the Administration of International Organisations.

From 1997 to 2000 he worked with the Pacific Concerns Resource Centre as the Assistant Director for Sustainable Human Development.

Fei is the Executive Secretary of the Pacific region for the World Council of Churches, formerly based in Geneva and now in Fiji.

He is admired for his unquenchable energy in leading and encouraging the ecumenical and regional work of the churches in the Pacific.

## Adrian Smith



Archbishop Adrian Smith is a highly respected and loved statesman of the Solomons who has shared in the leadership of the country during a

period of upheaval and trauma.

He arrived in the Solomon Islands from Ireland as a Catholic priest and from 1966 until 1983 he served in various parishes of Guadalcanal and Malaita provinces.

In 1985 he was installed as Archbishop of Honiara. During the early days of ethnic tension in 1999 the Archbishop was a member of the Government Peace Process Committee and the Chair of the Government's Missing Persons Committee. He continues to serve the church and community as Chair of the Solomon Islands Christian Association.

## At the Crossroads...

As Christians, we celebrate the positive contribution Australia has made. We are also faced with the moral and theological questions raised by issues such as asylum seekers, dwindling foreign aid and development, appropriate terms of trade, and conflict interventions.

CWS, through the Christmas Bowl, has been working for many years with partners in the Pacific, striving to address the complex issues of HIV/AIDS, global warming, trade, security and economic globalisation and their effects.

Matthew Wale from the Solomon Islands Christian Association, was a Christmas Bowl visitor in 2002. He said to people during his visit, "Pacific societies are coming to terms with what it means to be nations living with a diversity of cultures and beliefs in the modern age. Beneath the Pacific smile lie issues of land and identity that are undercurrents to social tensions. The churches find themselves facing challenges they were not necessarily prepared for and need the partnership of churches in Australia".

**For information or to book a place please email [christianworldservice@ncca.org.au](mailto:christianworldservice@ncca.org.au), telephone 02 9299 2215 or 1800 025 101.**