

**RfP Asia Associate Secretary General (Oceania)**  
**Report for Singapore Executive Meeting May 2025**

By Dr Sue Ennis

Links with NZ and the Pacific continue with the understanding that slower considered and unhurried links hopefully produce strong long-term links for RfP Asia

**Coming events:**

**1. Visit to Fiji to connect Fiji to ACRP**

The ACRP Moderator, Associate Secretary General Oceania etc. have a firmer plan to visit Fiji to meet with Multifaith groups and faith representatives, tentatively planned for August 2025.

Throughout 2024-25, RfP Australia has had several sub-committee meetings to develop plans and gather information.

We thank Kanti Jinna, Dean Sahu Khan from Canberra Interfaith Forum and our Chair Philippa Rowland for linking with the Fiji High Commissioner (this took several attempts and meetings) to discuss RfP Asia's wish to link with Multifaith people in Fiji. The Fijian High Commissioner was supportive and gave us phone numbers of Multifaith people to contact in Fiji.

Dr Sarah Haggard and I had a Zoom meeting with Dr Thomas White (referred to us through Prof Paul Morris), an academic from The University of Otago who specialises in religion in Fiji. Dr White provided us with some great background to the status of religion, culture, and politics in Fiji, and he also gave us some insights into interfaith relations and organisations in Fiji. He suggested we reach out to Interfaith Search and continue trying to reach out to the Pacific Council of Churches.

Following the conversation with Dr White, and with the insight and phone numbers provided by the Fijian High Commissioner, a call was made to Jyoti Tappoo (Hindu) who is involved with Interfaith Search. This group has representatives from many faiths on it and meets on the second Wednesday evening of the month in Suva. Jyoti has reached out to the chair Mr Zoran Ali (Muslim) and asked him to contact us to discuss a suitable time for us to visit.

When we go, we may also meet with other faith communities i.e. Methodist and Pacific Council of Churches, although they may also be represented at the Interfaith Search meeting.

What was interesting is that Jyoti had attended the Parliament of World Religions 2008 in Melbourne, so she knew of RfP International's work and was interested that our Moderator Des Cahill was one of the pivotal people who organised that meeting.

## **2. The ACRP 2025 commemoration of the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the dropping of the Atomic Bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki –**

**Sessions 1/2 Day 1 Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> August, 7 pm (NZ time) *The Victims of Nuclear Weapons and Testing.***

**Session 1/2 Day 2 Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> August, 7 pm (NZ time) *Religions responding to escalating threats of nuclear war.***

See Prof Paul Morris NZ Report for more information. The secretary has organized about 4-5 meetings to plan this event, a number have been with the Tokyo Secretariate

### **Possible 2025 links with NZ and Pacific**

- **Link with RfP NZ climate people for women's climate event-** Secretary to ask them to the APWoFN climate event Philippa Rowland and others is arranging.
- **Prayers for COP 2026 –** Secretary to ask NZ to be involved more fully in 2025 and possibly with a logo -currently waiting for direction from COP IF group.
- **Invite RfP NZ to RfP Australia's Zoom AGM Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> June** to hear an expert on Human Trafficking in Australia

### **2024 events NZ Gatherings that RfP Australia linked together for**

#### **a. Trans-Tasman Interfaith Gathering for Week for World Prayers for Peace**

**Marking 50 years** was held on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> of October 8 PM 2024 Wellington/6 PM Sydney. This event was initiated by *Dr. Pushpa Wood RfP NZ, Paddy Payne & Lachlan Mackay* URI <https://weekofprayerforworldpeace.co.uk/>.

<https://religionsforpeaceaustralia.org.au/?p=19568#more-19568>

. Bishop Philip Huggins and Philippa Rowland and others from RfP Australia presented or attended. Also, other NZ and Australian faith leaders were involved.

**Action: Work with NZ on this event and publicise more in 2026- put in RfP Australia's Action Plan**

## **b. URI, RfP NZ & Australia event**

**End the Silence: Interfaith Prayers for Violence Prevention within the home and the community** - Lachlan MacKay a younger member initiated this event which was held on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2024 @ 7pm AEST.

The evening featured prayers and reflections from Baha'i, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim, and Sikh faith leaders from New Zealand and Australia, inspiring talks on community action to protect and uplift, and open dialogue for ideas and shared commitments to safety. See video of the event at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6hjhZ91eh2o>

## **On hold**

**Link with NZ RfP on Terrorism Conference- Academics experts** Greg Barton and Paul Morris are interested in these areas. Deferred due to Gaza-Israel sensitivities.

## **Finances:**

RfP Australia has still not spent any of the 4K sent by ACRP Tokyo Secretariate for work in Oceania. We may spend some this year on going to Fiji.