

Kalino Lātū

Editor, journalist, educator, translator and musician.



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<http://www.akoola.org.nz>

Personal Statement

I am an editor, journalist, educator, translator and musician. The combination of my multifaceted career paths has created a professional background that is exceptionally broad in its knowledge of Tongan politics, culture, education and entertainment, both in the kingdom and within the Tongan community in New Zealand. All of my work is aimed at informing and educating people. Journalists, educators, and cultural performers share the fundamental responsibility for providing their audiences with the information they need to make the best possible decisions about their lives, communities, and governments.

Education

- Master of Communication (Journalism). Auckland University of Technology, 2024.
Thesis: *Tongan songs, imagery application and the roles of journalistic censorship*
Post Graduate Diploma in Communication (Journalism). Auckland University of Technology, 2022
- Certificate of Media and Communication Studies. Unitec 2014
- Diploma in Education. Tonga Teachers' Training College (now Tonga Institutes of Higher Education) 1992.

Residency status:

I am a New Zealand Permanent Resident and Tongan citizen.

Memberships:

Pacific Islands News Association (PINA)

Current Occupation

Kaniva Tonga News

I am currently editor of *Kaniva Tonga News*, the only Tongan-English news service in New Zealand. Our service is read by Tongans from Sydney to Salt Lake City and our stories have been carried by local, regional and international bodies, including the BBC. Our service can be found here: <http://www.kanivatonga.co.nz> Kaniva Tonga News shares its content with TVNZ/One News and has sharing arrangements with Radio New Zealand, Asia Pacific Report and the Pacific Islands News Association.

My work with *Kaniva Tonga News* includes creating the organisation's policies, economic and media strategies and making managerial and operational decisions. I review, edit, re-write, and lay out all stories on our website. I write stories or editorials that offer opinions on issues. Working on assignments and investigating news leads, I collect, verify and analyse newsworthy information so that we publish news stories with the reader's perspective in mind. I translate English stories into Tongan before publishing and sharing them to social media.

Ta'angafonua Charitable Trust

I founded the Ta'angafonua Charitable Trust, which provides cultural services to the Tongan community through preserving our musical traditions and creating new music. We also offer educational services, including teaching Tongan through our online service at <http://www.akoola.org.nz>

As a member of the Trust, I write original Tongan and English songs for our band to perform and record. I arrange existing English music to produce new Tongan compositions and translate English songs into Tongan.

Employment history and other activities

Internship training at Pacific Media Network / Radio 531 PI, 2022

I undertook work experience which involved training with an emphasis on writing for the publication and its broadcasting platform.

Founder, administrator and tutor at Akoola Online Educational Services 2021

I was responsible for the educational services' operations and its commitment to the success of all online participants especially the young Tongan diaspora. I monitored and oversaw feedback on the Akoola website and its social media account's comment sections. I created course content and sought funding.

Kaniva Tonga Weekly Radio Programme at Planet FM 104.6, Auckland, NZ, 2015 - 2019

I presented live and pre-recorded programmes on air for the Tongan community in New Zealand and hosted talkback shows. I presented a round-up *Kaniva Tonga* daily stories on www.kanivatonga.co.nz during the week.

Tongan Interpreter for New Zealand Translation Centre, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Courts and other government agencies 2016 - 2022

I interpreted and translated oral and written English hearings and verdicts into Tongan. I also translated English scripts and documents into Tongan and peer-reviewed English documents that had been translated into Tongan.

Communist Party of China Media Forum, 2016

I attended a 10-day forum for Pacific Island journalists in the Chinese provinces of Hunan, Beijing, and Guangdong.

Founder and secretary of Ta‘angafonua Charitable Trust, 2011 - 2022

I created the organisation’s policies and economic, educational, bilingual, and media strategies. I made managerial and operational decisions, managing the trust and controlling its assets. I kept and maintained the trust’s resources and ensured the trust deed was upheld, ensuring that all trustees fulfilled their duties in good faith. I also recorded and kept minutes.

Managing Director, Senior Reporter of Kele‘a Tonga Newspaper, New Zealand, 2010

I provided the overall direction and management of the company in New Zealand. I led the development of the organisation's values and objectives and implemented business strategies, plans and policies to achieve goals. I specialised in Tongan politics and diasporic affairs and translated English news into Tongan for publication. I collected, verified and analysed newsworthy information, writing and delivering news stories with the reader's perspective in mind.

Chief Reporter Tonga Independent Newspaper, 2006

I regularly reported news of the Tongan domestic and diasporic communities, took photographs and translated English news into Tongan for publications.

Teacher in Tongan Government Primary Schools, 1993 – 2004

Clerk in Tonga Department of Inland Revenue, 1988 – 89

Other achievements and participations

- Best Student in Tongan Language course, University of Auckland, 2010
- Beginner's Guide to Website Development workshop, Onehunga High School, 2007
- Catholic Church Choir Master, 2005
- Studying piano at ‘Atenisi University’s AFPA
- Studying IELTS or English language Test System, ‘Atenisi University, Tonga, 2004
- Studying Tongan Literature and Songs with Professor Futa Helu, ‘Atenisi University, Tonga, 2004
- Best song and music composer, Tonga National Music Commission, 2003
- Founder, Leader of Kaniva Tonga Electric Band, 2000
- Founder and leader of Fotuelongo acoustic group band, Tofoa, Tonga, 1993
- Lead guitar and singer of Catholic Youth Lātaki and YCS acoustic group band 1986 - 1992

Referees

Dr Rosser Johnston, Head of Communication of Department, Auckland University of Technologies, email: rosser.johnson@aut.ac.nz

Dr Philip Cass, Editorial adviser & journalist for Kaniva Tonga, academic and educational consultant, email: cass.philip@gmail.com; mobile phone: 027 379 9033

Dr Siaoosi ‘Ilaiū, Social Anthropologist, Massey University, email: siaosi4217@gmail.com