**COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH PROJECT: University of Newcastle & the University of the South Pacific**

Dr. Twyford works as the Project Officer - Engaged Learning Office for the Advancement of Engaged Learning External Relations at the University of Newcastle (Australia). Her role includes promoting integrated learning/engaged learning within and outside the University and also establishing the Office for the Advancement of Engaged Learning within the University. Dr Twyford works directly with and is supervised by Professor Stephen Crump whose role has expanded from Pro Vice-Chancellor and Director of the Central Coast Campuses to include PVC of External Relations.

Professor Crump and Dr. Twyford visited USP in May 2011 to explore opportunities not only to assist with the development of training for REACT, but to extend their research on IDeL (Interactive Distance eLearning) with USP. Professor Crump also met Professor Kelly (DVCLT&SS, USP) in May 2011 and explained how the pilot project on the use of IDel by the USP would be conducted. A major component of the fieldwork would involve trips to two regional campuses: Emalus and Alafua (please see Appendix 1 for travel dates).

## Interactive Distance eLearning for Pacific Island Nations: Disrupting pedagogy and seamless technology.

This project will investigate people's use, and experience, of a satellite-based communications system being newly deployed for Pacific Island nations by the University of the South Pacific (USP). The system - referred to as Interactive Distance eLearning (IDL) - supports distance and flexible learning in twelve countries, using two-way video communications and interactive computer technologies. The Remote Education and Conferencing Tool (REACT) is the enabling software utilised at USP.

This project will work at three levels: (1) gathering evidence about the experiences and new working practices of students, teachers and others using IDL, (2) seeing how different ways of capturing and sharing these practices and experience support the spread of ideas across the system, (3) understanding the dynamics of implementation and take-up of complex, highly distributed systems of this kind in the Pacific Nations.

This pilot project builds on a successful University of Newcastle led Australian Research Council (ARC) Linkage project on IDL in primary schools and in vocational education and training (VET) in

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New South Wales and the Northern Territory. Fresh insights into the use of IDL in higher education, especially in small island nation contexts, will be gained through this research, which will be influential throughout the partner organisations and in the deployment and use of IDL in similar contexts.

# APPENDIX 1

Twyford & Koroivulaono September 2011

# ITINERARY

**TRIP TO EMALUS**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| SUVA-NADI: | 19<sup>TH</sup> SEPT 2011 | FJ0018 | 1800 |

SUVA-NADI:      19TH SEPT 2011      FJ0018      1800

Arrival in Nadi                                                1830

**NADI-VILA:**      **20TH SEPT 2011**      **FJ0261**      **830**

**Arrival in Vila:**                                       **910**

VILA-NADI:      **24TH SEPT 2011**      **FJ0260**      **1050**

Arrival in Nadi:                                       1350


**TRIP TO ALAFUA**

SUVA-NADI:      27TH SEPT 2011      FJ18      1800

Arrival in Nadi:                                       1830

**NADI-APIA:**      **27TH SEPT 2011**      **FJ253**      **2050**

**Arrival in Apia:**                                     **2340**

APIA-NADI:      **1ST OCT 2011**      **FJ252**      **535**

Arrival in Nadi:                                       635