

# 50 Issues of Pacific Geographies

## Recollections from former managing editors

### 1992-1993: Günter Eisebith, founding editor

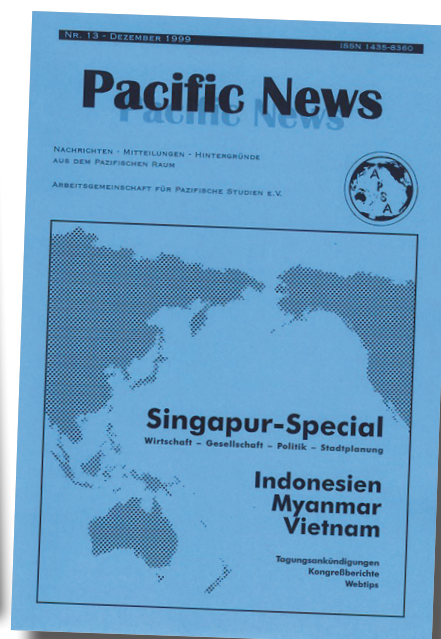
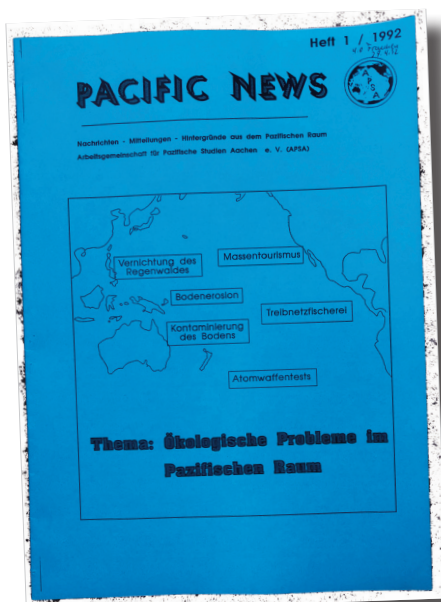
Back in 1992, when we launched the first issues of our publication, the content was very much informed. The "Pacific Age" was increasingly being talked about since the late 1980s. Prof. Dr. Werner Kreisel was designated Pacific researcher and affiliated to the Department of Geography of the RWTH Aachen. Together with other enthusiasts, the Working Group for Pacific Studies Aachen e.V., (APSA) was founded with the aim of making the Pacific region more widely known to the public, but also to inspire research about these parts of the world. Further activities, promoting the interest in the Pacific region, such as the internationally oriented APSA conferences and the resulting proceeding volumes, were published by means of the APSA's own publication series titled Pazifik Forum. Jobs were also created at the Department of

Geography for the start-up phase of high-impact Pacific research activities.

At the time, the APSA initially lacked a publication medium that made substantial contributions from a technical point of view, but explicitly made references to current developments and news. This was the gap the Pacific News attempted to close. Initially it was more of a short newsletter than an academic journal. True to the title motto "News - Notes - Background Information", each issue included an editorial on a topic for the discussion of current press releases, newsflashes, publication hints and travel tips. I was given a free hand in designing and designing the editions. As far as relevant support is concerned, Bernhard Küpper, who then conducted research on the Solomon Islands, helped to develop the logo and to design the specific title

page, each depending on the subject of the editorial. Of course, our approach to graphics, layout and production from today's perspective was extremely amateurish. It was done with the most modest means and was pre- e-mail and Internet. Everything had to be done by hand, including the copying and distribution of the printed copies. The prevalence of 'Pacific News' was rather small, essentially comprising only all APSA members.

The development of the publication medium from then until today is indeed considerable and I am very pleased about this. The current focus is more set on scientific contributions than on current news. This certainly corresponds to the greatly changed conditions and requirements. If you need travel tips or media reports about the Pacific region today, you will easily find them online.



### Other former managing editors:

Dr. Christel Fensterseifer (1995-1996), Helmut Westphal (1995-1996), Jürgen Jaeger (1995-1996), Heinz-Olaf Franken (1998-1999), Despina Raccota (1998-1999), Rolf Jordan (2000-2007)

## 1998-2000: Paul Blazek



The celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> issue of the Pacific Geographies fills me with joy – and pride. I remember when 20 years ago the then named „Pacific News“ publication was in a bit of a crisis - the energy of the driving team of the initial issues was absorbed by

academic challenges - and suddenly Michael Waibel and I asked ourselves how the Pacific News should continue to be filled with inspiring articles. The members of the Association for Pacific Studies (APSA) and Prof. Werner Kreisel showed us that the story needed to continue - and we collected content, played with visual elements, tried new formal elements and managed to revitalize this periodical.

It was my privilege to be an active part of this story for two years from 1998 to 2000 - for the issues number 10 till 15. And seeing now that this endeavour led to an established publication that managed not only to grow and get mature and develop into 50 issues but to fill each with interesting impulses for the ones that love Southeast Asia and the Pacific region makes me very happy.

I found a lot of inspiration in these past issues - and some of the articles opened my curiosity so much that they even influenced me to physically discover the mentioned regions and places.

The „Pacific Geographies“ are alive - and I hope that many more issues will follow in the years to come.

Right now, writing these sentences I am lying in a hammock on a sandy beach in Palau - it's close to midnight and countless stars are dotted about me in the clear night sky. These stars remind me of all the uncharted places that are looking to be discovered - while the sound of the continuous waves next to me sing a song of persistence. I wish the Pacific Geographies team the steady power to discover and share new interesting knowledge for us interested readers; to be persistent and to stay curious.

**Dr Paul Blazek [p.blazek@cyledge.com] is a passionate entrepreneur that is driven by the curiosity to research and understand how user needs change the way products and services are developed and sold online. He is founder and CEO of cyLEDGE Media, Europe's leading customization experience agency. In co-founding and scaling-up seven startups Paul learned many lessons on success and failure drivers and built up a strong network in the entrepreneurial scene. Among others, Paul is mentor of AustrianStartups, teaches at the Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts, is affiliated researcher at the RWTH Aachen University and a research fellow of the Peter Pribilla Foundation. Paul studied at the RWTH Aachen University and the University of Vienna and achieved his Ph.D. at the University of Göttingen.**

## 2008-2016: Julia N. Albrecht



Dear readers – it gives me great pleasure to see Pacific Geographies publishing issue #50. When I came on board as a co-editor in 2008, the (back then) Pacific News was still very

much based on both contributions and readership from members of the Association for Pacific Studies, and relatively little known. How things have changed! With initially mostly Germany-based authors, the transition to publishing in English language with issue 33 in 2010 has not been without its challenges, and many hours have been spent on editing and fine-tuning papers.

As the quality of the contributions increased we felt that the name Pacific News had outlived its suitability, and the current name of Pacific Geographies was adopted with issue 39 in 2013. The coinciding introduction and establishment of a peer-review process has set Pacific Geographies on a path which will hopefully lead to further international visibility and

acknowledgement of the journal. Equally noteworthy, of course, are the strengths that have carried Pacific Geographies since its early days. I specifically refer to the use of high quality colour photography as well as the potential to cover current issues and events, a positive effect of an often relatively short period between article submission and publication.

Congratulations on this momentous occasion to the current team of editors, especially to Michael Waibel without whose enthusiasm and dedication Pacific Geographies would not be what it is today. I am delighted and grateful to have been co-editor at a time when so many significant changes have occurred that have put the Pacific Geographies on a promising path for the future!

**Dr Julia N. Albrecht [julia.albrecht@otago.ac.nz] is a Senior Lecturer and the PhD Director in the Department of Tourism, University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand. Julia's work is published in leading journals such as the Journal of Sustainable Tourism, the International Journal of Tourism Research, and Annals of Tourism Research, among others. Since ending her term as a co-editor of Pacific Geographies in 2016 she has joined the Journal of Outdoor Recreation and Tourism as a co-editor, and she continues to sit on the editorial boards of Pacific Geographies and the Journal of Hospitality and Tourism Research.**