

PACIFIC WOMEN IN TECH II 2020

BROUGHT TO YOU BY



FAILOA FAMILY

PROVIDING 'HOPE' & 'MOTIVATION'

PROGRAMME

THURSDAY 26TH NOVEMBER 2020
WOODSIDE , MANUKAU

MC – Sara-Jane Elika

Moderator – Shalleen Hern

6pm	Registration Welcome & Housekeeping Opening Prayer and Bless the Food Supper and Networking
6.15pm	Keynote Speaker – Vanessa Sorenson
7pm	Special Item – Benjamin Fifita Makisi
7.20pm	Keynote Speaker – Julia Arnott-Neenee
7.25pm	Talanoa Panel featuring:
7.45pm	Julia Arnott-Neenee Pauline Thompson Stewart Williams Tautiaga Tiatia
8.35pm	Q & A
8.45pm	Mission Ready HQ
8.50pm	Wrap Up & Thank You
8.55pm	Special Item – Benjamin Fifita Makisi
9pm	Closing Prayer

Be inspired. Be the change. Consider a career in tech. For a better future!

Thank you to our keynote speakers, panelists and volunteers! Thank you for coming and supporting our Pacific youth and communities! Thank you to our funding partners and the following organisations for their support:-

- ACE Aotearoa
- COGS
- Lottery Grants Board
- Puataunono Come Home Safely
- Iknowit

Contact:- Mobile 021-881-170 or Email info@failoafamili.com

- We want more Pacific young people to consider a career in technology
- We want to kick down the barriers, either real or in people's minds that make them think they can't have a career in tech
- This event is about showcasing Pacific people who are doing well in the industry so that others can see pathways and opportunities for themselves
- The industry is huge and the opportunities are too – from non-technical roles to programming & web development, Data analysis, Gaming to managing teams and projects
- Pacific leaders in IT will share their stories of how they got into the industry. The skills and attitude needed to succeed
- The industry isn't as hard to access as many believe – there are good entry level courses and training pathways that lead to real work
- There will also be an opportunity for those attending to ask their own questions of the panelists
- It's about Pacific people sharing and learning their success stories so that our people know what's possible

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

VANESSA SORENSON



Vanessa is the Managing Director of Microsoft New Zealand. With more than 20 years' experience in the IT industry, she is a key driver of change and digital transformation.

Having joined Microsoft 3 years ago Vanessa leading the large Enterprise sales team and closely works with NZ businesses. Prior to Microsoft, she was at telco provider, Spark, for 14 years where she held a variety of sales roles including General Manager of the Digital Enterprise team. Vanessa has been on an extraordinary career journey, one filled with many lessons including Diversity, wins/losses and ultimately learning what drives her and she actively mentors other business women to become the best they can be. She holds a mini MBA at Auckland University which was a non-accredited 6-week course; came out with an overall understanding of business from a CFO, CMO, CIO and CEO point of view.

Outside of work, Vanessa is passionate about education, children's access to technology and encouraging girls to embrace STEAM and has championed the Maori and Pacifica Pilar for the past 3 years at Microsoft. She is married to Chris of 25 years and they have two children, Grace and Jack.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
& PANELIST:

JULIA ARNOTT-NEENEE



Julia is an international strategist and insights specialist, passionate about technology, systems change and social impact.

She serves her Pacific community, and people across Aotearoa. Julia intertwines professional expertise, networks & collaboration, with community leadership to create positive change. Julia is focussed on bridging the Digital Divide, achieving Digital Equity and increasing representation of Māori & Pacific in the Technology Industry.

She has worked in New Zealand, Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States. Most recently she held the position of Global Social Strategy Lead at HP.

She has recently co-founded PeopleForPeople a youth-led Pacific Social Enterprise with the mission to strengthen Digital Empowerment in Aotearoa.



IMPACT TO DATE

LEADERSHIP

2020 BusinessDesk – Championing Māori & Pacific in Tech, NZ
2020 The SpinOff – Brain Gain, Kiwis Returning Home, NZ
2020 TV3 The Project – Brain Gain, Kiwis Returning Home, NZ
2020 KEA – Kiwis Coming Home Campaign, NZ
2020 21C Skills Lab, Podcast Host – Changemaker Chats, NZ
2020 Pacific Media Network, Interviewee – Stories of Inspiring Samoans, NZ
2020 Navigators of Success, Digital Panel Host – Connecting in Crisis, NZ
2020 TupuToa Leadership Whanoa, panelist, NZ
2020 University of Canterbury, Inspiring Young Alumni, speaker/recipient, NZ
2020 SWITCH podcast – Pacific Women in Tech, guest, NZ
2019 Samoan Scientist Podcast – Pacific Women in STEM, guest, NZ
2019 Moana Research NZ - Pacific Women in Tech, speaker (online), USA
2016 Talanoa – Inspiring Pacific Women, featured article, NZ

COMMUNITY

2020 PeopleForPeople (Social Enterprise) Co-Founder | Director, NZ (current)
2020 World Economic Forum – Global Shaper, NZ (current)
2020 Navigators of Success (Social Enterprise), Director, NZ (current)
2020 MEST Africa School for Entrepreneurs, Mentor, Ghana
2019 Pasifika in IT, Mentor, NZ
2019 University of Canterbury –Entrepreneurs Programme, Mentor, NZ
2019 Y-Tech, Advisor, NZ (current)

AWARDS

2020 NEXT Foundation Fellowship, NZ
2014 Prime Ministers Scholarship, NZ
2014 Entre \$80K Entrepreneur Competition award recipient, NZ

EMPLOYMENT

Oct 2020 The SpinOff, Strategist, NZ (current)
Sept 2020 WPPAUNZ, Cultural Advisor, NZ (current)
Sept 2020 Digital Transformation Service Startup, NZ (current)
Sept 2020 Hi-Tech Foundation, Foundation Coordinator, NZ (current)
Jun 2020 21C Skills Lab, Strategic Consultant, NZ (current)
Jun 2020 FUSE (OMD), Social Strategist, NZ (August)
Jun 2020 Middlemore Foundation, Strategic Consultant, NZ (Jun)
Apr 2020 Pacific Business Trust, Insights Specialist, NZ (Jun)
Apr 2020 SouthSeas Healthcare Trust, Marketing & Communications Lead NZ (May)
Aug 2019 HP Global Social Strategy Lead, USA (Jan 2020)
Oct 2018 HP Worldwide Product Insights Lead, USA (Aug, 2019)
Aug 2017 HP Country Insights Lead, UK & Ireland, (Oct, 2018)
Dec 2015 GALKAL Qualitative Researcher, AUS, (Mar 2017)
Feb 2015 Colenso BBDO, Strategic Planning, NZ (Dec 2015)

PANEL MODERATOR:

SHALLEEN HERN



Shalleen Hern is a Samoan from Lower Hutt, Wellington - Married with two sons. She has a degree in Psychology and Linguistics and a Post Graduate Diploma in Journalism.

Her first full-time job was in community work - supporting, advocating, negotiating the government system for Pacific and Refugee mothers. Most of them were single mums, with little or no family support.

She changed careers and went into Journalism. She was a 1 News reporter and Producer for Close Up and Seven Sharp and went on to become the first Pacific Island Bureau Chief for 1 News at TVNZ. She was Press Secretary for the Honourable Jenny Salesa and the Honourable Carmel Sepuloni.

She's now the Manager for Corporate Communications at the Ministry of Social Development. In her current role, Shalleen advocates for government data and information to be made available and accessible to all New Zealanders.

Shalleen says, "Transparent and accessible data helps everyone. It helps our leaders, including our Pacific leaders to make good policy decisions so that Pacific people can thrive in Aotearoa."

"The tech space is huge, and I believe one of the biggest opportunity areas for jobs is in data analysis. The most powerful companies in the world are analysing your data. They're analysing your Insta, Uber data- tracking where you go, what you look at and what you "like". It controls what you see on social media, who is selling to you on FB, it can even be used to influence your political vote."

"I would like to see more Pacific people and women working in technology including in data analysis for government and for corporates so that we have control of our futures and so that technology doesn't control us," Shalleen says.



PANELIST:

PAULINE THOMPSON



Making a career out of being nosey and wanting to know it all!

Currently an IT Project Manager experience in various roles in IT, she has learnt that if you don't know ask! ... And keep asking until you understand the answer you are given.

Working for companies large and small she participated in a wide range of Projects from new software, building new systems, re-designing Applications and processes, through to launching new Personal Finance products into Australia and NZ markets.

**“What have I learnt?
That Attitude is everything!
Treat people with respect.
Everyone has value.”**

No matter how good you are (or think you are) you cannot do everything. “I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.” Maya Angelou



PANELIST:

STEWART WILLIAMS



Leading digital transformation with a career spanning marketing, product development, sales and general management.

Stewart Williams has been involved with the IT industry for over 25 years, successfully consolidating old industry verticals, leading digital transformation with a career spanning marketing, product development, sales and general management. Having worked for market leaders, such as Cisco, IBM, Lenovo and NetApp, he has been instrumental in driving significant growth for the technology companies across Oceania.

Stewart has held numerous leadership roles as NZ Channel Manager and Country Manager for Distribution Central Limited before acquisition in 2016 by Arrow Pty. He directed corporate strategy to build the business to over \$22 million in revenue in just 3 years.

In his current role, Stewart is the Fujitsu Brand Lead Technical Business Development Manager and is responsible for all commercial aspects of the business including sales management, marketing, strategic business development, corporate governance and brand development in New Zealand.



Stewart has seven kids - five boys with the two youngest, his favourite "daddy's girls". He enjoys socialising with family and friends. And has a keen interest in music and a love for information – technology, education, tradition, spiritual, eschatology, hermeneutics and more.

Stewart actively supports Life Wellness and Mentorship. He has volunteered over 15yrs, in youth programs & camps as mentor, councillor and fundraiser to non-profit organisations that aim to prevent youth suicide and mental health & wellbeing

PANELIST:

TAUTIAGA TIATIA



I am NZ Born Samoan, born in Middlemore and raised in the Capital of Auckland, Otago.

I did all my schooling in Otago with my scholastic journey ending in 1998 at Tangaroa College. Tangaroa College was lucky enough to partner with the Global IT Vendor, Cisco and offer IT certifications to its students, I was able to attain a CCNA certification while at school, a certification that would require 2-3years tertiary education to get.

Although I had been accepted into Medical School, becoming certified enabled me to come out of school and right into the IT Industry, so that I could help my family. From leaving school, I have been able to build a career with 20+ years' experience in many corporations such as Microsoft, Sovereign, AIA, Pacific Retail Group, General Electric, NZ Post Group, Fletcher Challenge, Sky TV and many others

I have worked my way from very technical hands-on engineering roles through to where I currently am in the IT/Technical/Project Management

Outside of work, I do many things to help maintain the stress levels whether it is spending time with my wife and 4 kids, spending time in Word and Prayer, doing some CrossFit or spending time helping other people with their entrepreneurial ventures, whether it's getting feature film's to Market or launching a Tech Company.



HOW THE SALUNI FAMILY USED TECH IN THEIR CAREER JOURNEY

Tongan / Samoan Siblings - Esther, Naomi, Isileli, Fifita, Sione and Ruta know how technology can transform lives, open doors, improve work life balance and help families and communities to thrive. They work in tech and use it to improve their businesses and their family lives and they want other Pacific people to know about the opportunities in the tech world.



Ruta Langi

The youngest of the siblings Ruta Langi has been in the Travel Industry for over 25 years running her travel consultancy for the past 16 years. Business was doing well until COVID-19 hit and the borders closed. When one door closes, another one opens. Ruta seized the opportunity and retrained for a career in IT. In a short time she became a certified Agile Business Analyst. Ruta says, "I wasn't afraid to retrain for a career in tech. My husband and brothers have been in IT for decades and they've had successful careers. If they can do it, I can do it. It's much easier to get into, than you think, and it's exciting to be part of a cutting-edge industry."

Isileli and Fifita Saluni

Older brothers Isileli and Fifita are in IT Management roles in New Zealand and Australia with global Vendor management across Asia and Europe, delivering major IT projects across industries ie city Water networks, Banking, Energy, Health, Telecommunications, Postal service and Gaming.

They have inspired other family members to enter the tech world. Between them, they have over forty years of experience in the tech industry and are leaders in their field. They both believe the customer's needs are the most important part of their work. "We're here to serve the customer and we need to put them at the heart of everything we do. Do that, and you will do well in this industry"

Although both brothers studied at university in their chosen fields, it was through their social and family networks that they landed jobs in the IT industry.

Naomi Saluni Tavau

Naomi is Co-Founder/Executive Director for Failoa Famili. Her career spans 30+ years working in community, central government and the private sector. She started as a Marketing Database Analyst at ANZ followed by Y2K project as a Business Analyst. Naomi wants more Pacific children to be involved in STEAM – STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) with the Arts added in. She says “Our people are so creative and there are many opportunities in IT but we need to give our kids the different pathways to these careers. That’s why Failoa Famili Trust is bringing successful Pacific tech people together – so they can share their stories and the secrets of their success.”

Naomi’s husband Tuifa’asisina Tusa is founder of Tavau Fofu Ltd and uses FB and social media as an influencer to promote health and well-being, offering online consultations for Pasifika clients in New Zealand and overseas.

John Saluni

John Saluni has been a chartered accountant for over 20 years and worked in the banking and corporate sectors before starting his own accounting business. Keen to get some work life balance and some adventure, John and wife Michelle and their two children packed up and moved their business to Samoa for a year in 2015. John was able to work remotely from home in Samoa, successfully servicing hundreds of New Zealand based clients while giving his family the experience of a lifetime.

Esther McIntyre

Oldest sister Esther and husband Owen are teachers based in Indonesia and long before COVID-19 hit, both embraced technology and online learning. Esther started her career in the education sector as a Tutorial Assistant at The Open Polytechnic of New Zealand, the largest distance learning provider in NZ. Technology was used in the distance learning mode together with face to face workshops. Her career progressed into Marketing where she spent the next few years in different Marketing roles, from publications, PR, including setting up a Marketing Division for a group of 5 companies. She worked at WebENZ as their Internet Business Strategist before moving overseas 19 years ago. She has continued to dabble with technology with the most recent as the MYP Associate Coordinator for an International School, using the rigorous IB curriculum. Online platforms are being used to deliver education.

MISSION READY SCHOLARSHIPS FOR 2021



Failoa Famili is working in partnership with Mission Ready HQ. We encourage Pasifika to take up scholarships offering a fast track opportunity into the IT industry.

- Courses are from 3-6 months with online learning and practical training to up-skill in real workplaces with real clients and projects.
- Over 80% of graduates secure contracts with the average salary starting from \$50k.
- Consider a career in technology post Covid-19.

For more information please go to <https://www.missionreadyhq.com/>
Contact Failoa Famili www.failoafamili.com if you are interested in applying and we will be more than happy to assist with the application process.

The next intake starts on the 9th of February 2021



Trustees: (L-R)

Molly Auva'a- O'Brien, Sara Jane Elika, Ruta Langi, Miriama Figota, Naomi Saluni Tavau

Our Vision

Thriving, resilient and sustainable Pasifika people, families and communities

Our Mission

Providing 'hope' and 'motivation' to be better self-sufficient people, have better families and become better communities by delivering quality training, advice and information

Our Values

Are encapsulated in the Samoan proverb "O le ala i le pule o le tautua" – the path to leadership is through service

THANK YOU

to our Keynote Speaker & Panelist Julia Arnott-Neenee, Keynote Speaker Vanessa Sorenson, Panelists Pauline Thompson, Stewart Williams and Tautiagi Tiatia, Moderator Shalleen Hern as well as our "Polynesian Pavarotti" Benjamin Makisi for the entertainment

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS



PUATAUNOHO
COME HOME SAFELY



Lottery Grants Board
Te Puna Tahua
LOTTO FUNDS FOR YOUR COMMUNITY





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Contact Us

Website www.failoafamili.com

Email info@failoafamili.com

Phone +64 21 881 170



@failoafamilicharitabletrust



@failoafamili