



ASSOCIATION OF
**PRACTICAL
THEOLOGY**
IN OCEANIA

Dear APTO members,

Sincere greetings! I trust this message finds you well.

The APTO executive are delighted to announce further details about our 2025 Symposium:

2025 Association of Practical Theology in Oceania Symposium
Thursday, 4 December 2025 (10am start) – Friday, 5 December 2025
(2pm finish)
The Terrace Hotel, Adelaide, South Australia, Australia

Waves of Hope: Storied Theology

The focus of the 2025 APTO Symposium will provide an opportunity to look at the intersection between culture and practical theology.

How do we open our practice of practical theology respective of our engagement with culture with the overriding notion of being carriers of stories of hope? How do we open ourselves to dialogue in a respectful and open-minded, open-hearted and open-spirited manner?

This 2025 Symposium explores the range of theological, cultural, ethical, historical and spiritual issues associated with engaging with hope through a storied theology in the region of Oceania. All the disciplines of practical theology will be brought to bear on both an analysis of the issues, and pointing the way to effective reflections on the practice of storytelling - emulating, celebrating and sharing hope.

This symposium is a precursor to our 2026 Conference planned for the Pacific Islands next year, of the same theme though with a more nuanced agenda around experience, narrative, and storytelling across Oceania: **Waves of Hope: Storytelling from Oceania.**

Symposium fees and registration link

Full conference registration (in-person), including morning teas, lunches, and afternoon teas	AU\$250.00 per person
Single day conference registration (in-person) Thursday 4 th December – including morning tea and lunch	AU\$125
Single day conference registration (in-person) Friday 5 th December – including morning tea and lunch	AU\$125
Full conference registration (online via Zoom)	AU\$120.00 per person
Single day conference registration (online via Zoom) Thursday 4 th December	AU\$60
Single day conference registration (online via Zoom) Friday 5 th December	AU\$60
Formal conference dinner	Paid by participant (approx. \$50 per person)
Accommodation	Paid by participant (15% discount on Accommodation at the Conference Venue via this link)

A limited number of research student, unwaged, and those experiencing hardship conference scholarships are available. Please contact the APTO secretary, Mr Julian Kluge via email (secretary@apto.asn.au), for more information.

Register now via: <https://www.trybooking.com/DEOCM>



2025 Symposium Program:

Thursday, 4th December 2025

10:00am	Morning Tea
10:30	Welcome and prayerful moment - Jill
10:45	Indigenous Welcome and the Power of Storytelling (John Lochowiak)
11:00	Keynote One: Community Stories – perspectives from a Fijian/Aboriginal Woman (Ema Bovoro)
11:40	Dialogue and Reflection
12:00	Keynote Two: Cultural Stories (Maina Talia)

12:40	Dialogue and Reflection
1:00	Lunch
2:00	Pacific Cultures and Indigenous Exhibition (Museum of SA)
3:30	Sharing Research and Practice (3 x 40 minutes all online)
5:30	Break
5:45	AGM
6:30 for 7:00	Dinner

Friday, 5th December 2025

9:00	Cultural Stories of the Adelaide Plains – An Aboriginal Perspective and Cultural Visit
11:00	Keynote Three: Hope and Storytelling (Prof Mohammad Abdulla)
11:40	Dialogue and Reflection
12:00	Spirituality and Cultural Awareness – (Jack Buckskin)
1:00pm	Lunch and Finish

Keynote Speakers:

Ema Bovoro



Ema is an experienced Youth & Children's worker and Administrative Assistant with a demonstrated history of working in Non-for-profit Organisations, SA Linguistics Departments and the hospitality industry. Skilled in translation, transcribing, program coordination, case work and mentoring. Strong administrative professional with a Bachelor of International Studies with Bachelor of Arts focused in Political Science and Government from the University of Adelaide.

Dr Maina Tahlia



Dr. Maina Talia is a Tuvaluan politician and is known for his work as a climate activist.

Maina trained in theology and was employed by the Ekalesia Kelisiano Tuvalu (EKT) as a climate change officer from 2011 until June 2017. He coordinated the preparation of the EKT statement "Dancing with God in the rainbow" that discusses social issues experienced by Tuvaluans. In 2022, he undertook Doctoral Studies at the Charles Sturt University in Sydney, Australia. His doctoral thesis was titled "(tu)akoi (neighbour) and climate change from three trajectories, indigenous wisdom, biblical and geopolitics

Professor Mohammad Abdulla



Professor Mohamad Abdalla, an Australian of Indigenous Palestinian heritage whose family hails from the occupied Palestinian town of Tammun near Nablus and the depopulated village of Zarnuqa, has drawn deeply from his heritage to shape a scholarly career grounded in justice, dialogue, and community understanding.

With over 30 years of distinguished service in the field of Islamic Studies, Professor Abdalla has played a pioneering role in shaping the discipline within Australian academia. In 2020, he was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (AM).

Jack Buckskin



Jack Kanya Kudnuita Buckskin is a proud Kurna and Narungga man who has dedicated his life to learning and passing on his knowledge and language of the Adelaide Plains to future generations of Kurna people. Jack currently works with Tauondi Aboriginal College in Port Adelaide as an Aboriginal Cultural Service Mentor, and has been a strong icon in the revitalisation process of Kurna language through managing and performing song and dance with Kuma Kaaru Cultural Services and through teaching Kurna language.

We are excited about this program and look forward to welcoming you to Adelaide in December. If you are in a position to assist us with our planning, or have any ideas, we'd love to hear from you! Please contact Mr Julian Kluge, APTO's secretary via email: secretary@apto.asn.au. And please feel free to contact me on 0439483338.

All the best,

Dr Jill Gowdie

President | Association of Practical Theology in Oceania



W: www.apto.asn.au