**USP Pacific TAFE student features prominently in international Magazine**

Emmie Suzie St John – Rauto, an alumni of the University of the South Pacific (USP), Pacific Technical and Further Education (Pacific TAFE) was delighted after her article featured prominently in the *INCITE* magazine.

INCITE is the magazine of the Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA). It is the premier magazine for the library and information sector in Australia and is distributed to all ALIA members and to subscribers around the world. It presents perspectives on issues relating to library and information science.

The feature article was possible after Emmie received the 2020 **Australian Library and Information Association awards.**

An elated Emmie said she was blessed and grateful for being chosen as the recipient for the 2020 ALIA Awards.

“As a graduate and para-professional in the Library profession, I learnt that we should not limit ourselves to resources within the four walls of the library, but to collaborate with library professionals and associations to explore the information landscapes and trends,” she said. “Also, information and skills sharing is important for Library Information Services’ (LIS) students in developing countries because, together as a team, we will serve our library users better and remain viable in the Information Industry. Hence, it is important that we use our positive personality to influence others – we are the image of the library.”

She highlighted that the COVID – 19 pandemic had an impact on her education, however self-determination and motivation assisted her in persevering and completing her education. Her educational journey and perseverance was very applicable to the *INCITE* Jul/Aug 2021 Vol. 42 Issue 4 magazine themed ***“I believe”*** which highlights the importance of how Librarians assist individuals with reading and research that shape their interest and belief. As highlighted in the INCITE magazine by the ALIA president, Vicki Edmunds, “Librarians support users to select through multiple information sources, to find what they require. Libraries are both physical places of intellectual work and highly symbolic places that can form part of an individual’s belief system.”

Emmie said, “after completing my Certificate in Library Information Studies, I developed an interest in reading to children in the village I live in. The positive feedback received from the village members encouraged me to enroll into the Diploma in Library Information Services programme, of which I was fortunate to begin my career in the library profession as a school librarian. This was short lived due to COVID-19. Despite the circumstances, I persevered to pay my fees and complete my studies,” Emmie said.

Emmie is employed as a Document Controller at the Snowy Mountain Engineering Company (SMEC), an International Australian Engineering Company based in Fiji.

“I am grateful to USP Pacific TAFE for offering Library courses. As a former teacher librarian, I noted that students need to learn Information Literacy (IL) skills and this profession is the best fit for the job. I am also able to apply the skills that I have gained from the course in my current position at SMEC.”

She encourages other individuals to enrol in the library programmes to develop lifelong learning and share the experiences with other citizens.

“The course facilitators have done a fantastic job in upskilling the students during weekly tutorials and organising Talanoa sessions with library professionals. Often, the library profession is not recognized amongst other careers in the Information Industry. During the current COVID-19 stay-home situation for our school students, I am able to apply the knowledge and skills gained from the library studies programme to organize reading sessions and activities for students in the primary and intermediate levels in my community,” Emmie said.

“One of the LIS learning outcomes is to develop young lifelong readers. Putting this into practice has enabled me to share my knowledge and skills with the citizens of our beloved country and more importantly, to showcase what I have achieved as a student of the USP Pacific TAFE”.

**ENDS…**