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Paul Geraghty earned his PhD from the University of Hawai'i with a dissertation on the history of the Fijian languages. He was Director of the Institute of Fijian Language and Culture in Suva from 1986 to 2001 and is currently Adjunct Associate Professor in Linguistics at the University of the South Pacific. He is author and editor of several books, including *The History of the Fijian Languages* (University of Hawaii Press, 1983), the *Lonely Planet Fijian Phrasebook* (Lonely Planet, 1994), *Borrowing: A Pacific Perspective* (Australian National University Press, 2004) and *The Macquarie Dictionary of English for the Fiji Islands* (Macquarie Library, 2006), and articles on Pacific languages, culture and history.

Adriana Hiariej's research interests since 2012 have included studying local germplasm biodiversity, including the Tongka Langit banana (*Musa troglodytarum* L.) from the Maluku Islands, Indonesia. This includes exploration, morphological and genetic characterisation at the DNA level and product development. Since 2018 she has been a member of the Wallacea Expedition Biogeography and Biodiversity of Banana team in the Maluku islands, a collaboration between the Bandung Institute of Technology and Pattimura University Ambon.

Valérie Kagy has expertise in the study of traditional crops and particularly Pacific bananas and their role in socio-cultural life in Melanesian communities. She led a study on the genetic diversity of these bananas and has been involved in a variety

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Jean Kennedy is an anthropology graduate of the University of Otago (MA Hons) and the University of Hawai'i (PhD). She specialised in Pacific and Southeast Asian archaeology before joining ANU and being drawn into New Guinea research. Her fieldwork there centred on Manus Province. She taught history and philosophy of science as well as archaeology at the University of Papua New Guinea. Since retiring to Canberra, she has returned to longstanding interests in biogeography, botany and Pacific tree crops as well as prehistory and has maintained a fondness for talking with students.

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Alan King-Hunt (Ngāti Hauā, Ngāti Te Oro) is a researcher at Te Kawa a Māui School of Māori Studies at Te Herenga Waka Victoria University of Wellington. Alan has co-authored four journal publications and is completing his master's in Māori Studies exploring Māori perspectives on biotechnological controls for introduced social wasps. Additional research projects have focused on the performance of local councils in meeting their statutory obligations to Māori, the potential of augmented reality programs as a mode for representing Māori narratives, and examining historical oral and written accounts for evidence of customary pest-control methods. Alan has a Bachelor of Arts with Honours in Māori Studies.

David J. Mabberley is a British-born Australian botanist, educator and author. He was consecutively Director of the University of Washington Botanic Gardens (Seattle, USA), Keeper of the Herbarium, Library, Art and Archives at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (United Kingdom) and Executive Director of the Royal Botanic Garden, Sydney (Australia). He is now an Emeritus Fellow, Wadham College, University of Oxford (United Kingdom); Emeritus Professor, Leiden University

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Gabriel Sachter-Smith is a banana farmer and researcher based in Hawai'i, USA. From the age of 13, he has been studying all aspects of bananas, and in particular diversity and breeding. He attended the University of Hawai'i where he received BS and MS degrees in agricultural production as well as plant breeding and genetics, with particular focus on how banana bunchy top virus (BBTV) affects various genotypes of banana. He runs a commercial organic banana farm on 'Oahu where he maintains over 150 varieties, as well as conducting breeding work to create new types of bananas for a variety of uses. When he is not farming, Gabe is known as a banana diversity expert of international recognition specialising in identification and taxonomy and has contributed to a number of banana-collecting and -documenting expeditions in Asia and the Pacific, including the documentation and taxonomy of wild species.

Julie Sardos is a French-born crop genetic resources scientist and plant geneticist working for the Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT. Starting with a PhD on root and tuber crops of Vanuatu, she has spent 15 years working on Pacific Islands food crops, in the past ten years focusing on banana (*Musa* spp.) genetic resources, diversity and evolution. Since 2016 and within the framework of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, she has organised and implemented collecting missions to assess and safeguard the endangered diversity of traditional banana cultivars and wild relatives. She has authored or co-authored more than 25 research papers published in peer-reviewed journals as well as a number of book chapters. Since 2017 she has been co-chair of the Diversity Thematic Group of MusaNet, the global network for *Musa*-related research.

Lex Thomson is a forest scientist and Associate Adjunct Professor in agroforestry and Pacific Islands agribusiness at the University of the Sunshine Coast. He has worked extensively on forestry, agroforestry and agricultural production systems in 40 tropical developing countries, including assessing the impacts of climate change on Pacific Islands forests. He has led Bioversity International's global forest biodiversity research programme, CSIRO's South Pacific Regional Initiative on Forest Genetic Resources, SPC-EU's Facilitating Agricultural Commodity Trade project and the Pacific Agribusiness Research for Development Initiative. He is an authority on Australian and Pacific Islands tree species and has published on *Acacia*, *Casuarina*, *Eucalyptus*, *Hibiscus*, *Santalum*, *Sesbania* and other plant genera and species.

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William H. Wilson is a Professor of linguistics, language revitalisation and Hawaiian at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo's Hawaiian language college, Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani. His PhD is from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and focused on Polynesian historical linguistics. His early work on Polynesian possessives suggested that East Polynesia was settled from the Northern Outliers, a relationship that he has since documented with extensive data. He is best known in Hawai'i and the United States for his work in Hawaiian language revitalisation and outreach support for Native American languages.

Maurice Wong is an agronomist with expertise in agricultural research on the conservation and genetic diversity of staple food crops, roots and tubers, bananas and fehi. A member of the PAPGREN (Pacific Agricultural Plant Genetic Resources Network) in the Pacific, he is the curator of the ex-situ Pacific banana collection, hosted by Tahiti. As the Director of AGROPOL, he leads several teams working on food technology and processing, focusing on coconut, breadfruit and banana; pesticide use and a survey on residues on fruits and vegetables; rearing of insects for biological control of fruit flies, aphids and coconut pests; plant pathology, mainly banana bunchy top virus; and experiments for new vegetable varieties more resilient to pests and diseases.