

CRAWFORD SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND GOVERNMENT

Fiji's future?

Panel:

Jon Fraenkel, Jone Baledrokadroka,
Satish Chand, and Stewart Firth

Tuesday 28 April 2009

12.30am - 1.30pm

Seminar Rm 4, 1st Floor, Crawford Building

Light lunch will be provided

Inquiries contact Ben Grono 6125 0178. ben.grono@anu.edu.au

For nearly 40 years the people of Fiji have struggled to create a strong economy and a democratic society from the explosive ethnic legacy left behind by Britain in 1970. The effort to establish a political system that is accepted as legitimate by both Fijians and outsiders has resulted in increasing division and a series of coups and counter coups. The most recent, last Easter, left Fiji under military rule, without a constitution, its court system purged, almost total media censorship and its economy in steep decline. In the next Crawford seminar four panelists from across the ANU will discuss Fiji's prospects:

- Why has it not been possible to build on the optimism of independence?
- What are the aims of the coup leaders and can they succeed?
- What sort of civil-military partnership is Bainimarama attempting to create?
- How is the economic dimension of the crisis influencing the political process and the prospects for democracy?
- What should be done by supporters of democracy outside of Fiji?

Jon Fraenkel: Senior Research Fellow, State, Society and Governance in Melanesia Project RSPAS, ANU. (Co-editor with Stewart Firth and Brij Lal of *The 2006 Military Takeover in Fiji: a Coup to end all Coups?* ANU E Press 2009)

Jone Baledrokadroka: former Land Force Commander Fiji Military, now visiting fellow State, Society and Governance in Melanesia Project, RSPAS, ANU.

Satish Chand: Professor of Finance, School of Business, UNSW and adjunct Professor Crawford School ANU.

Stewart Firth: Professor of Politics, University of the South Pacific, Suva, 1998 – 2004 now Visiting Fellow State, Society and Governance in Melanesia Project RSPAS, ANU.

CRAWFORD SEMINAR