

ABSTRACT: *Networks, Collaboration, Relationships*

Title: *Turning the tide*

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The pacific region is going through rapid change in social, ecological, economic and technological contexts with the impacts on local and regional ecosystems ranging from positive to devastating. Recognising the prevailing conditions of change, the opportunities offered by the both traditional and emergent technologies of sail and the sea as the unifying entity between the disparate communities the '*Turning the tide*' project proposes a journey of discovery with a crew who bring expertise from a range of disciplines.

'*Turning the tide*' acknowledges that understanding the complex challenges from a local context is crucial to developing effective solutions. They therefore seek to attend the Talanoa as an opportunity to gather potential partnerships in a consortium approach to engaging communities in imagining mechanisms that can be locally and regionally beneficial. An initial pilot expedition will leverage the sustainable sailing partnerships and vessel to cast the first net and weave the connections for establishing the network that will support the project.

'*Turning the tide*' envisages voyaging between the campuses of the University of the South Pacific as nodes or connections in a network from which to consider the complexities of relationships between resource and the residents of the region. The crews will analytically address the social and environmental issues and work to construct or support interdisciplinary frameworks for future regional to local level development in the area.

The Australian Network for Art and Technology (ANAT) and Aotearoa Digital Arts network (ADA) are both agencies that, in their respective countries, work in an interdisciplinary manner with distributed networks. This paper backgrounds the work the authors have been involved in at the intersections of art, science, research and technology. It will draw on the opportunity of the Talanoa to construct a journey of exploration to gather material for the developing narrative of positive processes for the future pacific region.

Keywords: Distributed Networks, Art Science collaboration, Voyaging, Creative exploration, Interdisciplinary weaving.