

# RO&Ming with Lil Episode 30

## Social navigation in the Pacific islands – Ben



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# Introduction to Episode 30

- Welcome to Ben Clare!

Works 2 jobs

- Medical foundation
  - selection and training for scholarship recipients (Pacific applicants)
- Maven – disability awareness training to become disability ready
  - legally compliant, aware, equipped, accessible
  - <https://www.facebook.com/MavenWeKnow/>

# Volunteer jobs

- SPEVI – South Pacific Educators in Vision Impairment
  - Online conference convener: January 18-19, 2021
  - Edits Facebook page
  - ICEVI rep
- ICEVI – International Council for Educators of people with Visual Impairment
  - Pacific Regional President
  - Both improving access to education for people with vision impairment

# Improving access to the written word

- Curriculum in Australia is usually inaccessible – very visual
- Need descriptions for photos – Alt text
- Captioning for video
- Audio description

# What is needed in the Pacific?

- Affordable long canes
- O&M qualifications
- Scholarships - Australia Award Scholarship Program
- Get qualifications in Australia or New Zealand and return to train the trainer

# O&M in the islands

- Independent, living at home
- Sometimes not appropriate to travel independently in community
- Social navigation with poor spatial awareness works well
- People are friendly and helpful
- Community engagement – people look out for you

# Working in the Pacific

- Pacific Disability Forum: Draws together people from Pacific island nations for a biennial meeting
- Island time: lives are complex – people will turn up when they can
- Transport costs: can stretch the budget
- Food: better understanding and decisions happen at a mealtimes
- Welcome rituals are delightful
- Cultural awareness: If in doubt, ask!

# Conferences earning COMS points

- SPEVI Conference – Celebrating Change!
  - 18-19 January 2021
  - <https://www.speviconference.org.au/>



- International O&M Online Symposium
  - 4-6 February 2021
  - <https://orientationandmobilitysymposium.com/>





# Contact & Credits

- To offer feedback, suggest a topic, or record an episode together:  
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- Links and PowerPoint slides for *RO&Ming with Lil*  
[www.lildeverell.net/resources/roaming-with-lil/](http://www.lildeverell.net/resources/roaming-with-lil/)
- Music: *Happy Stroll*, a royalty-free download from Purple Planet Music
- Graphics by Lil Deverell, with technotherapy from Erin Deverell

