

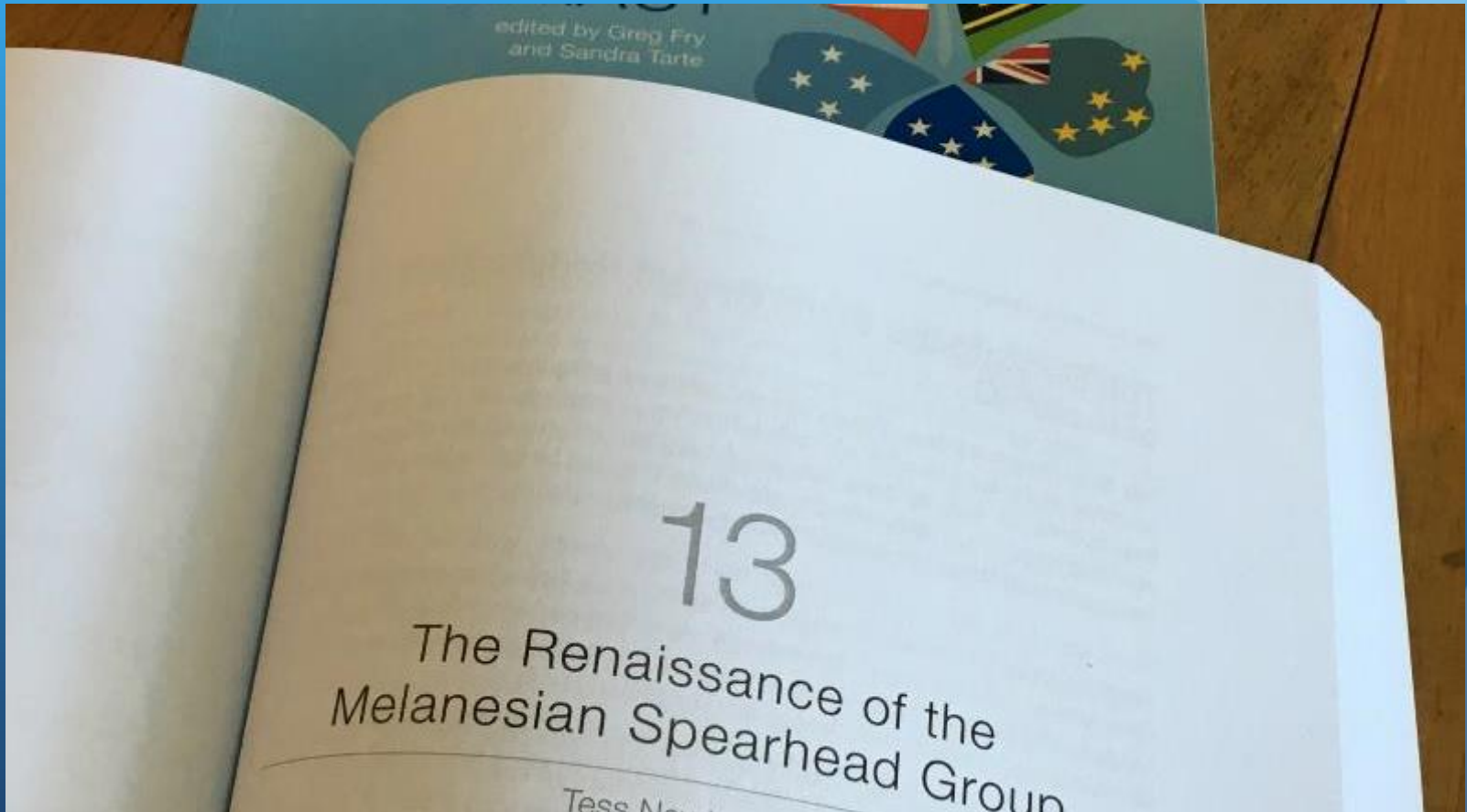
MSG - where did our renaissance go?

Pacific Update 2016

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Did I speak too soon?



The evidence for...

- Longevity (celebrated silver jubilee in 2013)
- High-level political engagement - *Prosperity for All 2038*
- Successfully negotiated a sub-regional trade agreement
- Introduced the skilled movement scheme
- Diplomatic innovation - West Papua/Indonesia in the same forum

Challenges 1: trade troubles



Challenges 2: Membership

- 2011 - Indonesia granted observer status
- 2013 - West Papua National Council for Liberation (WPNCL) lodged a formal application to join the MSG
- 2014 - MSG foreign ministers travelled to Jakarta & Jayapura (boycotted by Vanuatu)
- 2014 - decision re WPNCL deferred and invitation to form a more inclusive group issued

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- 2014 - United Liberation Movement for West Papua formed
- 2015 - ULMWP submitted a formal application to join MSG
- 2015 - ULMWP granted observer status & Indonesia made an associate member
- 2016 - Vanuatu moves to grant ULMWP full membership & have Indonesia removed
- Last week...

Challenges 3: Funding

- Costs of maintaining the secretariat building in Port Vila (construction financed by PRC)
- Staffing costs
- Costs of meetings
- Difficulties in getting member countries to pay agreed share
- Minimal project funding
- Melanesian Solutions...

Last week in Honiara...

- Was the appointment of the new DG confirmed?
- Was the MSGTA3 signed?
- Was ULMWP made a full member of the MSG?
- Was Indonesia asked to leave the MSG?
- What else happened?
- **WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE FUTURE?**