



# PARBICA panorama ISSUE 2008/ 2

From TheEditor's desk

## On Being An Archivist

Today, archivists seem to be challenged by a host of problems, increasing quantities of records accessions, records in changing formats, decreasing funds for storage space and conservation, shrinking funds for staffing, increasing demands by researchers for access, changing rules for use of original material. By themselves, none of these problems are new, although we tend to think that they suddenly have gathered together to form a formidable collective provocation.

The care and custody of historical materials has a traditional common thread among librarians, curators, and archivists, all generally well educated and trained and experienced. Among them, librarians are by far the most numerous and diverse. Wright's Rule is that there are 1,000 librarians for every archivist. The Society of American Archivists has recently celebrated that its membership, for the first time, is just over 5,000. The American Library Association has a membership in excess of 65,000. A quick look at Australia does not show membership numbers for, say, ASA. But just start adding up the members of ALIA and IFLANET...I think it would be difficult to make a complete list of the libraries of the world by type, location, and size. In general, such a list could be made for archives. So what, you ask? Do we differ just by the numbers or in other ways?

It may be my own prejudice, but I happen to think we really do differ by function. And one of the most important is that our relationships with the public are more personal, require more time and understanding of the goals and needs of researchers, and in the best cases, how easily and fully we can serve these needs, or, as often happens, realize the limitations and problems involved. In which case, it becomes a learning experience for us, as archivists, as individuals working as professionals. It is a dynamic of constant challenge and continuing enrichment.

For those fortunate to attend the ICA 16th Congress in Kuala Lumpur, you will be meeting and working with archivists from many nations and many agencies.

Chat with them about this personal aspect of being an archivist. And let me know your thoughts and reactions.

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## **President's Message**

We are in exciting times. The success of the Recordkeeping Toolkit workshop that was held in Brisbane Australia between 02 – 03 July, and the news of the approval of our grant application to the New Zealand Government for the continuation of the Recordkeeping for Good Governance Toolkit Project is a welcome development. Of course we will continue to be indebted to the Australian Government for its continued support of the project over the years.

Planning is well underway for the next workshop which should dovetail the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> phases of the project.

In the meantime the next “Big Thing” coming up is the ICA Congress that will be held in Kuala Lumpur from 21 – 27 July. This is history in the making for PARBICA members as it will be the first time that so many archivists from the Island States will participate, thanks to the efforts of your Bureau Members, in particular, the Secretariat and Treasury who have worked hard to secure funding for our participation.

The ICA Congress is a wonderful opportunity to learn from the experiences of others, gain new ideas, make new friends and identify partners we can work with for our development.

I would encourage us to be prepared and use the occasion to participate and contribute. Let us make the most of this opportunity.

Vinaka vakalevu.

Setareki Tale

**President**

## **Toolkit Phase II Gets Moving in Brisbane**

On 2 and 3 July a group of PARBICA members gathered in Brisbane to begin work on Phase II of the Recordkeeping for Good Governance Toolkit.

The major component of Phase Two of the Toolkit will be a Record Plan or file classification scheme that will provide a file titling system for administrative records in each of our countries. File titling systems were one of the key products that participants in Phase One of the Toolkit wanted PARBICA to begin work on. Record Plans can also form the basis of records retention and disposal schedules, and the work done in Phase Two of the Toolkit will contribute to the work that comes in Phase Three to develop an administrative records disposal schedule for the Pacific.

The participants in the Phase Two workshop were:

- Opeti Alefaio, Fiji
- Jacob Hevelawa, Papua New Guinea
- Tukul Kaiku, Papua New Guinea
- Naomi Ngirakamerang, Palau
- Bela Norman, Vanuatu
- Vaveao Tevaga, Samoa
- Mere Veitayaki, Fiji

Unfortunately, it was not possible for Charmaine Scotty from Nauru to join the workshop in Brisbane, but she will be part of the working group when it meets again in October.

In Brisbane the group looked at the functions of information management and resources management. We were helped to understand the background to these two common functions by two subject experts who came to share their experience with us. They were Jackie Bettington, Vice President of the Australian Society of Archivists, and Ami Sudjiman, Director of Facilities at the National Archives of Australia. We are very grateful to both of them for giving us some of their valuable time and knowledge.

The group then spent time discussing how these functions are managed in each of our countries and identifying the activities that are carried out in the administration of the functions. As a result of these discussions Mark Semmler (National Archives of Australia and PARBICA Assistant Treasurer) and I will be drafting a file classification scheme for the two functions.

The working group, joined we hope by Charmaine Scotty, will meet again in October. At that workshop we will review the work we have done so far and begin examining two more common government functions – financial management and personnel and establishments.

As for Phase I of the Toolkit, AusAID has provided the funding for our meeting in Brisbane, and for the other workshops that will come later in Phase II. AusAID's continued interest in PARBICA's work is a strong indication of how important recordkeeping is for good governance, and we hope that the Toolkit will continue to help PARBICA members to implement good recordkeeping throughout the Pacific.

Danielle Wickman  
National Archives of Australia



*Phase II workshop participants from L to R:  
Jacob Hevelawa (PNG), Opeta Alefaio (Fiji), Naomi Ngirakamerang (Palau), Vaveao Tevaga (Samoa),  
Mere Veitayaki (Fiji), Tukul Kaiku (PNG), Mark Semmler (Australia), Bela Norman (Vanuatu), Danielle  
Wickman (Australia).*

## **Recordkeeping for Good Governance Toolkit: Funding Approval for Phase 3: A Model Disposal Schedule and Appraisal Tools**

As part of the continued development of the Recordkeeping for Good Governance toolkit, Archives New Zealand put forth a funding application to NZAID to develop phase three of the toolkit. We are delighted to report that this application has been approved!

Phase three continues to build on the recordkeeping fundamentals of phase one (understanding requirements and capacity) and phase two (developing a policy and file plan), by addressing the appraisal and disposal requirements of an efficient records management programme. That is, the tools required to determine the value of an organisation's records so that they can either be sent to the Archives, or destroyed when they are no longer required for business or legal reasons. Therefore, phase three will consist of:

1. a model disposal schedule for common records of Pacific Island government agencies
2. guidelines and templates on how to appraise records that fall outside of this schedule, for the purposes of determining legislative and business requirements as well as their archival value
3. participation in one or two implementation and training workshops in selected Pacific countries.

In many respects appraisal and disposal are the recordkeeping activities that provide the visible bridge between recordkeeping and archives. That is, they analyse what government creates and why, in order to determine the value of those records. Therefore, the purpose of focusing on appraisal and disposal is because they:

- enable the identification of significant records for long term retention and so contribute to the varied community memories of the Pacific
- enable the timely and efficient destruction of records of short term value
- assist with public sector accountability, by providing tools for governments to identify and meet their legal obligations for retention of records.

This project will be led by Mark Crookston of Archives New Zealand, will commence in September 2008 and is due for completion by April 2009 – all going well! We will be looking for participants for a reference group which will meet a few times during the development of the toolkit, so please look out for any calls of expressions of interest. We will also be working closely with Dani Wickman and Mark Semmler of National Archives of Australia, who are currently in the process of developing phase two of the toolkit.

### **News Snippet**

#### **Victoria University Announces New Lecturer in Archives and Records Management**

The School of Information Management at the Victoria University of Wellington recently announced that they have filled the position for a Lecturer/ Senior Lecturer in Archives and Records Management. Dr Gillian Oliver will be taking up the position on 1 September. Gillian comes to VUW with a PhD in information management from Monash University. She is currently working at Archives NZ as part of the Digital Sustainability team, responsible for developing digital archiving capability. She has previously led the Information and Library Studies programme at the Open Polytechnic, and worked in medical librarianship in Europe. Her research interests focus on information culture and digital preservation issues.



## **Pacific Regional Branch of the International Council on Archives (PARBICA)**

### **Work Plan 2008-2010**

#### **Professional Development and Education**

- Maximise participation at ICA 2008 Congress
- Organise PARBICA conference in 2009 (joint with ASA and ARANZ)
- Explore avenues for education for Pacific archivists and recordkeepers

#### **Co-operation**

- Strengthen relations with other Pacific heritage organisations
- Work with other Pacific heritage organisations on shared issues
- Support the Memory of the World programme in the Pacific
- Build stronger links with Pacific research collections
- Maintain relationship with funding agency partners

#### **Communication and Publication**

- Develop and operate a listserv for PARBICA members
- Continue delivery of information through Panorama and the PARBICA website
- Research and publish a Pacific Archives Reader

#### **Recordkeeping for Good Governance**

- Continue to strengthen ties with Pacific public sector leaders
- Develop, publish and undertake training on phases two and three of the recordkeeping for Good Governance Toolkit
- Develop a framework and background paper on recordkeeping for good governance

#### **Governance and Membership**

- Continued liaison with International Council on Archives
- Urge International Council on Archives to recognise the category A status of the French Pacific Territories
- Manage an up-to-date membership database and directory
- Review PARBICA Constitution for consistency with the wishes of its membership

## **NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES IN FIJI**

### **“Deed of Cession” Copy of Historic Document Rediscovered**

On October 10<sup>th</sup> 1874, after a much negotiation the leading chiefs of Fiji signed a Deed of Cession placing them and their people under the care and direction of Queen Victoria and the United Kingdom. This was a seminal moment in Fiji’s history, marking the beginning of Colony and the eventual emergence of Fiji as a sovereign state and viable international partner.

Just recently a copy of the Fijian Interpretation of the Deed of Cession was found in Fiji’s old capital, Levuka town. The document has since been retrieved and is now in custody of the National Archives of Fiji where it is undergoing tests.

The document was discovered quite by chance when, at a meeting on the establishment of the Fiji (UNESCO) Memory of the World Committee, the Government Archivist heard of the presence of a so called “Fijian Deed of Cession” and immediately made inquiries.

Once it was confirmed that there was a indeed an old document on the wall of the Provincial Administrator in Levuka the Government Archivist visited Levuka and confirmed that it did appear to be a copy of the Fijian Interpretation of the Deed of Cession.

It may be said that the Fijian Interpretation is more important than the actual Deed of Cession. While the Deed, also known as the Instrument of Independence officially put Fiji into the care of Queen Victoria, the process was enabled by the Fijian Interpretation which was first read to the chiefs, before they signed the Deed.

### **Fiji (UNESCO) Memory of the World Committee Established**

The Fiji Memory of the World Committee (FMOWC) was established at its inaugural meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> June, 2008.

The Committee, made up of representatives of cultural and educational institutions, also approved its Constitutions and elected office holders.

The objectives of the Committee are aligned to the goals of the UNESCO Memory of the World Programme and the Memory of the World Committee for Asia and the Pacific. The committee is targeting the establishment of a Fiji National Memory of the World Register to list Fijis’ most important documentary heritage. This is aimed at promotion awareness of these national heirlooms and facilitates their accessibility.

In the same vein, the committee looks to support the nomination of worthy documents to the Regional, and International Memory of the World Registers.

The FMOWC is grateful to the Communication & Information and Culture Sectors of the UNESCO Pacific Office, Samoa and the Fiji Ministry of Education for their support.

## **The Niue Archives Project**

*by Trish McCormack*

If you trawl the internet for information on Niue you will find it has become synonymous with Cyclone Heta, which devastated the island in 2004. Hidden among the plethora of words on the disaster, you will find an occasional reference to the fate of the archives, but you have to search hard for this kind of information. One field report on Niue's cyclone recovery makes brief mention of the loss of land title and health records, but there is little further mention of records and archives in the catalogue of loss estimated at a total value of NZ\$5 million.

In fact the Niue National Archives is one of the survival stories of the cyclone that bore down on Alofi on 5 January 2004. Winds of 296 kilometres an hour tore in from the sea, and waves washed away whole buildings situated 25 metres above sea level. Coral was stripped from the surrounding reefs, and two people were killed. Miraculously almost all of the archives survived the storm – although some of them were damaged when they were used as makeshift blankets by people huddling in the shed they were housed in, waiting out the fury of the cyclone.

Niue's archival collection, dating back to c1900, was appraised in 1974 by the National Archives of New Zealand (now Archives New Zealand). Archivist Owen Davie spent a fortnight in Alofi appraising the records, which he considered valuable for the way in which they documented the relationship between the people and the governance on the island, a collection where individual records of birth and education were to be found among broader files on the administration of the island as a whole.

Since then New Zealand had done no further work with the Niue archives. However Niue itself recognised the importance of the collection and appointed Joan Tahafa as the Niue National Archivist, a position she has held for some years now.

A significant milestone for the Niue Archives came with the establishment of Taoga Niue in 2003, an integrated policy strategy "to develop, sustain and enhance

the sovereign and ethnic identity of the people of Niue through their own distinct language, customs and traditions, arts and crafts, and history". Taoga Niue was dedicated and fully commissioned as a government entity on the 29 October 2004 by New Zealand Prime Minister the Rt Hon. Helen Clark, and the Niue National Archives was placed under its jurisdiction.

The year before, as a result of an initiative from Sandra Lee-Vercoe, then Niue High Commissioner, Archives New Zealand was approached to see if it would be able to help do some arrangement and description work on the archives of Niue. Joan Tahafa, remembers the day that Ms Lee-Vercoe visited the archives, looked on their frail and disordered state and cried, recognising their value, and realising they might not survive if urgent work was not done on them. Archives New Zealand was preparing to respond to this call for assistance when Cyclone Heta struck. Instead of archivists, it was conservators who were required to go to the disaster area and repair the archives that had been soaked in sea water and otherwise damaged.

One of the conservators, Tharron Bloomfield, of the National Preservation Office in Wellington, recalls vividly the war-zone like country he and fellow conservator Jocelyn Cuming found themselves in. He recalls the humour and good will of the Niuean people who rallied to help save the archives despite the extreme stress they were under following the many losses the cyclone had wrought. One of these was Joan Tahafa, whose nightclub was one of the many buildings flattened by the cyclone.

Rigging up makeshift trestle tables, and using coconuts as weights, the team spread out the archives to dry in the sun. They then stacked the archives in boxes and put them in a storeroom in the Niue Community Affairs building in Alofi. The archives were safe, but they were still inaccessible as there were no lists or finding aids.

In 2005, Archives New Zealand Chief Archivist and Chief Executive, Dianne Macaskill, asked Ewan Maidment of the

Pacific Manuscripts Bureau, to report on the state of the Niue Archives. Maidment was visiting Niue to complete a microfilming project. In November 2005 he reported that a backlog of some 3500 files was in need of indexing and boxing, while staff were in need of training in archives processing. In a later discussion with Tharron Bloomfield, Maidment estimated that the project would take two archivists about a month to complete.

Archives New Zealand subsequently approached New Zealand Aid put together a request for funding for this project. A joint funding arrangement was drawn up between the two agencies, and on 18 May 2007 a team of three archivists – Trish McCormack, Adrienne O'Mara and Aaron Braden set off for Niue. The fourth member of the team was conservator, Tharron Bloomfield, returning to Niue for the first time since the disaster recovery work he had done after Cyclone Heta.

The trip proved an epic one. After flying for hours by night, the flight crew had been told to sit down for landing and we were all peering out into the darkness for the first lights of Niue to appear when suddenly the plane made a sharp upwards turn and we were told we couldn't land because the

landing lights on the airstrip were out – and that the fire truck was being sent out to try and fix the problem... It couldn't (no surprise) so an electrician was got out of bed but he couldn't fix it either. Meanwhile we were circling round and round overhead. Then we were told we were off to Tonga, where we landed for an hour during which time we weren't allowed off the plane and just about died of the heat. Then it was back to Auckland where we had started out from 10 hours earlier... we were shattered.

On Monday night we set out again and got there safely. We were welcomed to Niue by the Niue High Commission. Taoga Niue Manager Moira Enetama had arranged for all her staff to be available for the project, and the whole team made us welcome. Joan Tahafa, Margaret Vakaafi, Norma Palana, Amanda Heke, Robin Hekau, Lavea Puheke and Fa'apoi Akesi joined our team and did everything from making up archives boxes to compiling electronic lists and repairing files that were falling apart. It was a convivial atmosphere and the building was soon ringing to the sound of Lavea's laughter. The team of Niueans and New Zealanders repaired and listed 245 archives boxes full of files.



*Lavea Puheke, Margaret Vakaafi and Norma Palana sorting files*

We were armed with the comprehensive lists compiled by Owen Davie back in 1974, but it quickly became obvious that we were going to have to start again from scratch. The files had become very mixed up, which was hardly surprising given the 33 year gap between visits - not to

mention Cyclone Heta. They were also in different locations – the majority were in the storeroom at the Niue Community Affairs building, while others were housed in shipping containers outside the office of Taoga Niue



*The Community Affairs archives room as we found it, 22 May 2007*



*Archives Assistant Margaret Vakaafi opening one of the containers near the Taoga Niue office*

The files themselves fully confirmed Davie's view that they were a significant and valuable record of Niue. Much of the significance was at a governance level – for instance, the “A” closed sequence files on the Resident Commissioners from 1901-66 a fascinating record of the way in which the administration of the island was organised on a day to day basis. However there is much individual history in the records as well. The student files (c1980-85) are a rich mine of information on many levels. On the one hand the whole collection gives a picture of the impact of schooling for Niuean children in New

Zealand – the way in which they were placed all over the country, and how this was organised. Then there are the more personal accounts as found in the letters of individual children to their education organisers. Some of the stories are moving as the children describe homesickness for Niue, the adjustment to a much colder climate and all the other changes they were experiencing. There was one letter from a boy excited about having his first poem accepted for publication, who wrote of his ambition to do more writing.



*Joan Tahafa and Trish McCormack listing files*

We also listed Niue Government registered files from 1902-96, Hurricane Housing Records and Agreements 1959-70, Justice Department files 1900-95 and Staff Files 1904-96.

The latter were mainly personal files for expatriates employed by government departments in Niue. One was for Hector Larsen, the Resident Commissioner who was murdered in Niue in 1953 [Archives Reference E 88 1953-54, Box 118, Niue National Archives]. As well as recording his administrative career in Niue, this file charts the events surrounding Larsen's murder. By coincidence, two of Larsen's

children, Bill Larsen and Alison Sandbom, were in Niue while we were there, together with Bill's wife Rosalind. They became the first researchers to benefit from the newly listed filing system we had created, and spent a day with us at the archives looking at the file. It contained information they had never seen before. It was the first time they had visited Niue since their father's death. Bill Larsen, recalls vividly the night he ran for assistance after his father had been murdered. He was a young child at the time. Three Niueans were charged with Hector Larsen's murder and sentenced to death, though the sentence was not carried out.



*From left, Bill and Rosalind Larsen and Alison Sandbom with Hector Larsen's personnel file*

Once the listing was finished and the files were placed in new archives boxes, we were able to rearrange the storeroom in a way in which would enable researchers and Taoga Niue staff the easiest possible

access to the files. The three women who were key to the project, Moira Enetama, Joan Tahafa and Margaret Vakaafi were on hand to advise and the storeroom quickly filled up again with archives.



*Joan Tahafa, Moira Enetama and Margaret Vakaafi in the archives room before the boxes were moved back in*



*Robin Hekau and Aaron Braden with newly boxed archives on the last day, 1 June 2007*

The project is moving into its next stage right now, with the Archives New Zealand team returning to Niue in early June to continue the work begun last year.

## **Pacific Heritage Network** **Report to the PARBICA Bureau**

*by Mark Crookston, June 2008*

### **1. Purpose (why I went)**

PARBICA was invited to Port Vila, Vanuatu by representatives of the Pacific Islands Museums Association (PIMA). The purpose of the invitation was to see if PARBICA would be interested in being included under an umbrella Pacific Heritage Network, which had recently been established by PIMA in conjunction with the International Council on Monuments and Sites, Pacific Region (ICOMOS Pasifika). PIMA was running an Oceanic Arts Symposium from May 6-8, and having their governance meetings along with ICOMOS Pasifika on May 9 and 10.

I travelled to Port Vila from May 7-11 for the purpose of;

- attending these meetings
- gathering information on PIMA, ICOMOS Pasifika

- finding out more about the Pacific Heritage Network
- informing others working with heritage in the Pacific about PARBICA and its activities.

### **2. Pacific Heritage Network (What it is)**

#### **2.1. Background**

The Pacific Heritage Network derives from a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) agreed between PIMA and ICOMOS Pasifika in July 2007. The MOU outlines the shared purposes of the two organisations, but was primarily instigated from common difficulties with unlocking resources for the secretarial support required to administer and run volunteer, non government organisations. Therefore, the MOU between PIMA and ICOMOS included an agreement to combine resources on a shared secretariat. The

name Pacific Heritage Network resulted from the desire to provide this secretariat with a name.

It is worth emphasising that Pacific Heritage Network is not an organisation with governance or membership structure, a constitution, or any ongoing funding. It is only (at this stage), a name given to two organisations working together, which have a website (see below).

## **2.2. Structure and Funding**

The recently appointed General Secretary of the Pacific Heritage Network is Dr Kim Selling, who is based in the Cultural Centre in Vanuatu. Kim's salary is currently being funded by the Australian Volunteer Programme. The funding is for 18 months, although she is intending to use that money to stay in the position for two years.

Kim is intending to appoint an administrative assistant to help her with various lower level secretariat tasks (website, mailouts, minutes etc). They have previously had someone in that position, although he failed to turn up after two weeks of work.

Aside from the Australian Volunteer Programme funding mentioned above, PIMA also has some project money from the Canadian government to spend on the construction and development of their website.

## **2.3. Website**

The website is the only visible tool at the disposal of the Pacific Heritage Network ([www.culturepacific.org](http://www.culturepacific.org)). This website outlines the shared objectives of PIMA and ICOMOS Pasifika and provides links to each organisations individual website.

## **2.4. PIMA**

The current Executive Board of PIMA are:  
Chairman: Ms Faustina Rehuher (Director, Belau National Museum, Palau)  
Deputy Chairman: Simon Poraituk (A/Director, National Museum and Art Gallery, Papua New Guinea)  
Treasurer: Emmanuel Kasarherou (Director, Tjibaou Cultural Centre, New Caledonia)  
Board Member: Ralph Regenvanu (Director, Vanuatu Culture Council)  
Board Member: Sina Ah Poe (Principle Museums and Archives Office, Samoa)

Board Member: Meretui Ratunabuabua (Principle Cultural Development Officer, Department of Culture and Heritage, Fiji)  
Board Member: Hon. Albert Vaea (Secretary, Tonga Traditions Committee)

PIMA has several Trustees as part of their Board

## **2.5. ICOMOS Pasifika**

Formed in February 2007 in Turangi, New Zealand, ICOMOS Pasifika is the Pacific regional body of the International Council on Monuments and Sites, which is the advisory body to the UNESCO World Heritage Committee.

The current executive Board of ICOMOS Pasifika are:

President: Rufino Mauricio (F.S.M)  
Vice-President: Christophe Sand (Anthropologist, New Caledonia)  
Secretary: Mr Richard Ariihau Tuheiava (Chairman "Na-Papa-e-Va'u" Raiatea, Tahiti)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: Faustina Rehuher (Palau)  
Treasurer: Meretui Ratunabuabua (Fiji)

## **3. Activities (what I did)**

### **3.1. Symposium**

I attended the final day of the Oceanic Arts Symposium. Of note to PARBICA were several discussions on the tension between the documentation and facilitation roles of the museum. That is, whether to focus resources collecting the products of cultural practice or whether to promote and provide the opportunity to communities to continue to practice their culture. I found this interesting in light of PARBICA's recent discussions (at Noumea for instance) around the role of documentary archives in oral cultures.

### **3.2. Annual General Meetings**

I attended the annual general meetings of both PIMA and ICOMOS Pasifika. At the PIMA AGM, I presented an overview of what PARBICA, outlined what we've done recently and what we plan to do in the immediate future. I provided copies of our brochure, the Recordkeeping for Good Governance Toolkit, and our draft Workplan.

### **3.3. Pacific Heritage Network Meeting**

The Pacific Heritage Network meeting was the important component of the trip, which

occurred on the final afternoon (May 10). During the previous few days, there was much talk of PIMA, PARBICA and ICOMOS Pasifika working together under this umbrella name of Pacific Heritage Network. My position in relation to this was:

- PARBICA is open to working relationships with other Pacific Heritage organisations
- PARBICA currently has a secretariat that is supported in kind by NAA and Archives NZ. This currently works well.
- Following our meetings, I will report back to the PARBICA Bureau and make recommendations on the Pacific Heritage Network, which will be reported back to PIMA and ICOMOS Pasifika

Present at these discussions were:

PIMA representatives: Faustina Rehuher, Ralph Regenvanu, Kim Selling, Sina Ah Poe,

ICOMOS representatives: Christophe Sand, Meretui Ratanabuabua

PARBICA representative: Mark Crookston

Others:

- Derek Cleland (Heritage Officer, Department of Culture and Heritage, Fiji)
- Kirk Huffman (Honorary Curator and Researcher, Vanuatu Cultural Centre)
- Elise Huffer (Secretariat of the Pacific Community)
- Lawrence Foana'ota (Director, Solomon Islands National Museum)

The discussion was initially framed to focus on how PARBICA, PIMA and ICOMOS Pasifika could work together under the umbrella of the Pacific Heritage Network, with an emphasis on what the website would look like, as there were immediate funds to spend on this. The initial plan was that PIMA, ICOMOS Pasifika and PARBICA establish closer relations, that the 3 organisations take centre stage on the front page of the website, with links to their individual web pages. Other points to note:

- There is no plan to use PARBICA resources on a shared secretariat (as our seems to be working well)

- The website could be used as a first point of contact for Pacific Heritage news and information
- A website events calendar, where participants could upload their event would enable information sharing
- A link to other organisations who work with Pacific Heritage embedded somewhere in the website

In an attempt to brainstorm additional organisations that would be interested in becoming part of a Pacific Heritage Network, the discussion disintegrated into which organisation would have prominence on the front page of the website, and which would be buried within it. For example, the representative from SPC thought that their organisation should have prominence as a leader in the Network, and others thought that the Arts Alliance, the Asia Pacific Observatory and ICUN Pacific Office should also have prominence.

This resulted in a conclusion, resulting I think from many exhausted minds, that at this stage, the Pacific Heritage Network would be "loose alliance" of organisations working with culture or heritage in the region.

#### **4. Recommendations (what I think should happen next)**

Below are presented 3 options for PARBICA to discuss and respond to the Pacific Heritage Network.

##### **Option 1**

Do nothing. This would perhaps lead to PARBICA's name not being included on any Network activities

##### **Option 2**

Work with the Pacific Heritage Network to have a prominent place in the "loose alliance". This would involve some initial work with Kim Selling to ensure that a fair and accurate representation of PARBICA on the website. This would also potentially involve some informal closer activities (information sharing, use of shared networks etc) or some more formal ties through an MOU outlining a commitment from both parties to work collaboratively on shared objectives.

### Option 3 (Recommended)

Encourage the formal establishment of a Pacific Heritage Network that only included Pacific wide non-government networks only. This would involve PARBICA establishing some MOU with PIMA and ICOMOS Pasifika, but would not result (at this stage) in resources being funnelled to a shared secretariat.

It is recommendation that PARBICA should work toward recommendation 3 presented above. This would initially involve a letter of commitment being sent to Kim Selling (as Secretary-General for both PIMA and ICOMOS Pasifika) outlining our commitment to this and encouraging more discussion about logistics. The involvement in such a network would be beneficial for PARBICA in as much as:

- new, shared networks would help raise our profile and disseminate more widely the work we are undertaking in the region
- structures and commitments would be in place for possible shared workshops (eg, conservation) or conferences in the future
- PARBICA would be more aware of the activities of the museum sector in the Pacific. This to a certain degree does reflect some reality of Pacific archiving in that there are

several instances where archives are attached to the museum (e.g. Vanuatu, Samoa)

- participation in the network could enable the 3 organisations to provide a united front on heritage issues in the region, especially when elevating a specific concern to a government, the public service commissioners, or even the Pacific Forum
- it would position PARBICA strongly in the event that a Pacific Heritage Network became a visible heritage voice in the region
- it would easily facilitate Blue Shield type operations in the pacific region.

In the event of some uncertainty or trepidation from PARBICA around the value of putting energy into such a network at this early stage of its conception, then I believe we should choose option 2 above, with an eye to working toward option 3.

#### Note:

PIMA and ICOMOS Pasifika representatives will be in Suva, Fiji for the Pacific History conference in December, where there will be the opportunity for Seta (attending for PARBICA) to meet and discuss matters further.

**Addendum:** Following a meeting of the PARBICA Bureau on June 20 2008, it was decided to proceed with option 2 recommended in section 3 above. It was noted that given the early stages of the Pacific Heritage Network, it would be best to work informally with them at this stage, as this would still enable PARBICA to benefit in the ways outlined in option 3.

### **Archives New Zealand News Snippet**

Archives New Zealand announced the release of the Create and Maintain Recordkeeping Standard and the Electronic Recordkeeping Metadata Standard. They have a commitment to making any mandatory standard that will form the basis of the audit of public offices in 2010, available for at least two years before the commencement of the recordkeeping audit process. The final standards can be accessed on the Continuum website.

*Create and Maintain Standard:* <http://continuum.archives.govt.nz/create-and-maintain-standard.html>

*Electronic Recordkeeping Metadata Standard:*  
<http://continuum.archives.govt.nz/electronic-recordkeeping-metadata-standard.html>

Please note that these standards are the final drafts, but still have to go through the final proof-reading and publication process. Archives New Zealand apologises in advance if any typographical or formatting errors have slipped through. However, the content and requirements are final and will not change. The publications will be officially launched in August/September when hard copies will be distributed to Chief Executives of local authorities and public offices.

## **40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE PACIFIC MANUSCRIPTS BUREAU**

*By Ewan Maidment, PMB Executive Officer*

The Pacific Manuscripts Bureau (PAMBU) held a celebration of its 40th anniversary in Canberra on 17 June 2008. Speeches were given by Hon. Duncan Kerr MP, the Australian Parliamentary Secretary for Pacific Islands Affairs, Professor Ian Chubb, the ANU Vice-Chancellor, and Mr Paul Brunton who represented the Mitchell Library at the State Library of NSW.

Mr Kerr said, "Since its establishment in 1968, the Pacific Manuscripts Bureau has delivered on the vision of its founders – that is, to increase and enrich knowledge of the Pacific islands region."

"Since its beginnings, PAMBU has produced nearly 3,800 rolls of microfilm material relating to the Pacific. This means essential historical and cultural records have been preserved for the benefit of future generations of Pacific Islanders. In addition, PAMBU's work has protected and enriched the resources available to scholars both in the region and throughout the world."

Professor Chubb said, "We at the Australian National University are deservedly proud of the role we have played in the advancement of Pacific scholarship. It is units like the Pacific Manuscripts Bureau that have put us at the forefront of international learning in the field of Pacific studies."

"The University's contribution to the running of the multi-library consortium has been strong and outstanding, and it will continue."

Paul Brunton also confirmed the on-going support of the Mitchell Library for PAMBU and praised its archives preservation projects in the Pacific Islands.

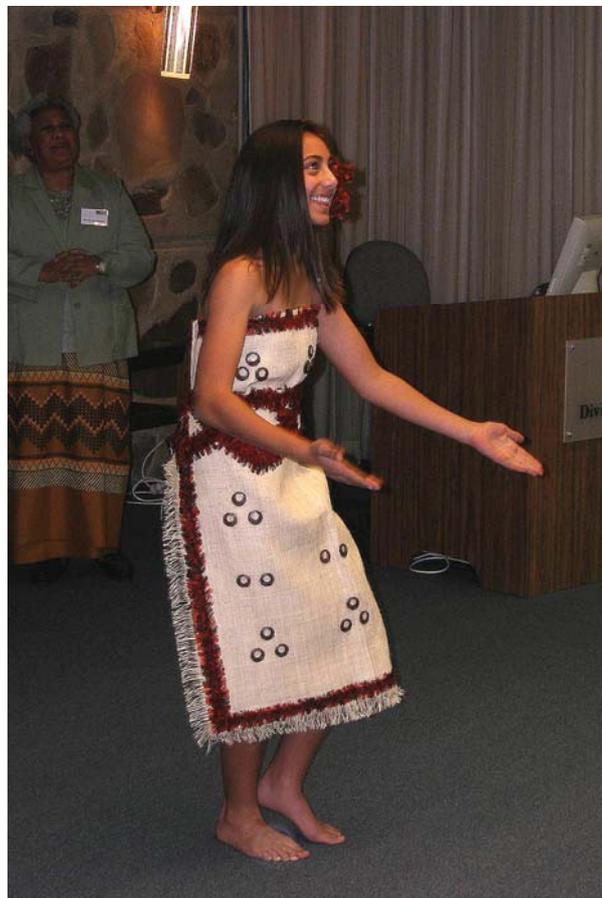


*Ms Anna Pafitis, Hon. Duncan Kerr MP, Professor Ian Chubb and Professor Brij Lal at the PAMBU 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary.*

Kefilina Faupula, grand-daughter of Mrs Sioana Faupula who works part-time at the PAMBU office, danced a mesmeric solo women's Tongan dance. There was also a men's Tongan dance by Taani Taungakava and Kauni Puivai, plenty of food, drinks, laughter and talk.

PAMBU has relied on a remarkably high level of international cooperation between Islanders, Island institutions, the PAMBU member libraries and Pacific scholars worldwide. PAMBU is an international joint copying project, funded and directed collaboratively by major Pacific research libraries and Pacific studies scholars at the Australian National University.

Canterbury University Library, Christchurch, NZ, has just joined the PAMBU consortium. The other PAMBU member libraries are: the Mitchell Library in Sydney, the National Library of Australia, the Australian National University Library, the Alexander Turnbull Library in Wellington, the University of Auckland Library, the University of Hawaii Library, the Library of the University of California San Diego, Yale University Library, and the University of Michigan Library.



*Kefilina Faupula dancing at the PAMBU celebration*

## **NEWS – UPDATES – EVENTS**

### **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation: Access to Learning Award (ATLA) 2009**

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is inviting applications from libraries and organisations with a mandate to provide public access to information to apply for the Access to Learning Award (ATLA) 2009.

The award recognizes excellence and innovation in public libraries and similar institutions in providing access to information through the use of computers and the Internet, at no cost to the user. The recipient will receive a prize of US\$1 million.

The 2009 brochures (in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish), application form and further information are now available from [www.gatesfoundation.org/GlobalDevelopment/GlobalLibraries/AccessLearningAward/](http://www.gatesfoundation.org/GlobalDevelopment/GlobalLibraries/AccessLearningAward/) If you have any questions please contact ATLA at [atla@gatesfoundation.org](mailto:atla@gatesfoundation.org)  
ATLA Administrator: email: [atla@gatesfoundation.org](mailto:atla@gatesfoundation.org)

***Please note: the closing date for the 2008 award is 31 October 2008.***

### **From the UNESCO Office in Apia**

The Communication & Information (CI) Sector of the UNESCO Office for the Pacific States would like to invite you to subscribe to their e-newsletter service. The e-newsletters contain briefs on the CI Sector's activities and events. Subscribers can choose to receive daily or weekly updates from all/any of the Sector's areas:

- Information society
- Freedom of expression, democracy and peace
- Communication development

Please take the time to review the latest e-newsletter and subscribe at:

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r  
For more information, please don't hesitate to visit and bookmark the Sector's website at:

[www.unesco.org/webworld](http://www.unesco.org/webworld)

### **[Ica-I] Modules, ICA's Principales and Functional Requirements for Records in Electronic Office Environments.**

In 2005 the International Council on Archives (ICA) agreed to sponsor a project under its Electronic Records and Automation Priority Area to produce globally harmonised principles, functional requirements and generic guidelines for software which is used to create and manage electronic records in office environments.

This project, which was led by the National Archives of Australia and which featured participation from twelve other archival institutions from around the world, has realised its aim with the publication of three separate but inter-related modules:

- Overview and Statement of Principles (available at <http://www.ica.org/en/node/38972>)
- Guidelines and Functional Requirements for Electronic Records Management Systems (available at <http://www.ica.org/en/node/38970>)
- Guidelines and Functional Requirements for Records in Business Systems. (available at <http://www.ica.org/fr/node/38968>)

The ICA agreed to sponsor this project in recognition of the fact that, while many individual jurisdictions have developed statements of requirements for electronic records management software (ERMS) products, it is important for the international archives and records community to agree on a single generic set of requirements to foster cross-jurisdictional harmonization and to help ensure that we communicate consistent messages to the global software market. In addition to harmonising existing requirements for ERMS software, this project has also taken the important step of developing guidelines and requirements for managing records in business systems. This recognises that for reasons of business efficiency many important records are only ever managed in line of business systems, rather than in dedicated ERMS systems. Increasingly, the developers and vendors of such business systems are recognising the importance of

incorporating records functionality into their software applications.

The three key audiences for these modules are:

- Software developers and vendors
- Jurisdictional standards setters
- Organisations wishing to build or buy software products that will be used to capture and manage records in office environments.

### **New Board Appointed For the Australian National Film And Sound Archive**

In June the Australian Arts Minister Peter Garrett announced the appointments of Professor Chris Puplick AM (Chair), Dr Deb Verhoeven (Deputy Chair), Professor Jill Matthews, Ms Grace Koch, Ms Catherine Robinson, Mr Andrew Pike OAM and Mr Philip Mortlock as members of the new Board of the National Film and Sound Archive (NFSA), all until 30 June 2011.

Legislation establishing the National Film and Sound Archive received Royal Assent on

20 March 2008 and the Archive will commence operations as a separate statutory authority on 1 July 2008.

Mr Garrett said "For the first time, the NFSA will have independent statutory status in the same way as the other national collecting institutions, with its own governing Board and management. It will have ownership of the national collection of audiovisual and related material, and full responsibility for selection, acquisition, preservation and disposal of items in the collections."

### **University of the South Pacific, IPS Publications**

IPS Publications has announced that the seventh edition of Ron Crocombe's *The South Pacific* is now available. Revised and updated, *The South Pacific* is an encyclopaedic study of the 28 island nations that make up Polynesia, Melanesia and Micronesia.

### **Pacific Magazine**

Pacific Magazine has been contacting subscribers to inform them that the magazine will cease publication in paper form and will be online only. For more information check their website at <http://www.pacificmagazine.net/>

*Reminder to mark your calendars!*

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## **PARBICA 13 2009 CONFERENCE Brisbane, Australia, 11 - 17 October 2009**

The next PARBICA conference is scheduled to be held in Brisbane in conjunction with the ASA & ARANZ conferences which are scheduled to run from Thursday 15 to Saturday 17 October. The conference venue will be the Hotel Sofitel.



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*"It is impossible to live without failing at something, unless you live so cautiously that you might as well not have lived at all -- in which case, you fail by default."*

J.K. Rowling, in her address at the 357th Commencement  
at Harvard University, June, 2008

## PARBICA website – [www.parbica.org](http://www.parbica.org)

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