



PARBICA panorama

2011/3

PARBICA: 30 YEARS OF ARCHIVAL TRAINING AND COOPERATION IN THE PACIFIC REGION

SUVA 1981 — SAMOA 2011



INAUGURAL CONFERENCE, SUVA — 1981

Front row: RN Adov, Subramani Pillay, George Paniani, John C Wright, Peter Orlovich, Ian Maclean. Centre Row: Faustina Rehuher, Tuilokamana Tuita, Kataloto Lopati, Tamar Jordan, Bruce Burne, Judith Hornabrook, Magdalena Taitano, Margaret Patel, Florence Griffin. Back Row: William Ganivatu, Rudolf Siemsen, Richard Dandi, Willie Toa, Frank Evans, Setareki Tuinaceva, Kunei Etekiera, Richard Overy, Lindsay Cleland, Agnes Conrad. Photographer: Caines Jannif Ltd, Suva

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PARBICA 14 -Thirty Years of Archival Development in Oceania

When the Pacific Regional Branch of the International Council on Archives was inaugurated in Suva, Fiji Islands, in 1981, a number of important initiatives had already been taken within the region for the adoption of measures designed to make better provision for securing the permanent preservation, accommodation, management and accessibility of the archives of the various nations, states and territories of Oceania. As early as 1934, at the instance of George Kingsley Roth, author of *The Fijian Way of Life* (New York, Oxford University Press, 1954), serious consideration was being given by the government of the Crown Colony of Fiji to the necessity of taking steps to protect the archives of the Colony which had been accumulating since the inauguration of Colonial administration following the signing of the Deed of Cession in 1874. The creation of the Central Archives of Fiji and the Western Pacific High Commission in 1954 brought to fruition the earlier initiatives of Roth, and, under the dedicated guidance of a succession of able archivists, historians and other custodians during the intervening years, provided for the establishment of a solid foundation for the growth of the National Archives of Fiji following independence in 1971.

An important stimulus to regional cooperation between the custodians of archives within the Oceanic region was provided in 1966-1967 by Henry Evans Maude, Professorial Fellow in Pacific History at the Australian National University Research School of Pacific Studies, in his publication entitled *The Documentary Basis for Pacific Studies. A Report of Progress and Desiderata*, a landmark document culminating in the establishment of the Pacific Manuscripts Bureau which continues to make a significant contribution to the cause of archival preservation and accessibility in the Pacific Islands.

A good deal of archival development occurred within the Pacific Islands prior to the establishment of PARBICA in 1981. National, state and territorial archives had been established in numerous islands, including Hawaii, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, New Caledonia, Solomon Islands, Kiribati and Tuvalu, amongst several others. A few countries had enacted archival legislation, and archivists had been appointed with responsibility for the custody of the archives of their respective governments. The inauguration of PARBICA, as the principal regional non-government organisation concerned with the preservation of the archival heritage of the Pacific, provided an opportunity for the custodians of archives and manuscripts throughout the region to come together for the first time for the purpose of exchanging views and experiences on the problems confronting them in the care, control, custody and management of their archives, and the provision of some limited training opportunities. Following its establishment in 1981, PARBICA became responsible for publishing and circulating the only journal or newsletter dedicated to disseminating information about archives in the Pacific Islands. While some limited opportunities for archival training of personnel were available prior to the existence of PARBICA – mainly in Australia and New Zealand – the biennial conferences of PARBICA from 1981 for the first time provided an opportunity for specialised training sessions to be incorporated as a regular component in the conference programmes, thus enabling participants to acquire a knowledge of universally accepted archival principles and techniques, and to share this knowledge with each other and with their colleagues at home.

The inauguration of the Graduate Diploma in Archives Administration within the School of Librarianship (later the School of Information, Library and Archive Studies) at the University of New South Wales in 1973, at least until its demise in 2000, provided opportunities for several personnel from archival institutions in Oceania to undertake professional training, including from New Zealand, Fiji and Papua New Guinea.

Peter Orlovich
5th August, 2011.

DIGITAL ARCHIVES AT STATE RECORDS NSW

By Cassie Findlay

This article is based on a presentation given by Cassie Findlay at the Australian Society of Archivists NSW Branch meeting in Sydney on 25 May 2011.

Digital records keep government business going. The emails, databases, websites and other forms of digital information made, kept and received by government organisations not only support and enable business operation, but form an important part of government's collective memory.

But digital records are vulnerable. To be relied upon for business, legal and other purposes digital records need to be meaningful and trustworthy. They must be fixed, inviolate representations of business activity, preserved in context and protected from loss or alteration.

State Records NSW's 'Future Proof' strategy, established in 2007, is all about ensuring that digital records are meaningful and trustworthy – so that they can support and enable government business and also record our rights, entitlements and history.

The strategy consists of two main strands:

1. improving digital recordkeeping across government, and
2. making it possible for State Records to preserve and make available digital records of the NSW government as part of the State's archives.

To help public offices to implement better systems for keeping digital records, State Records has developed and issued standards that establish clear minimum requirements for recordkeeping system functionality and metadata, and more detailed specifications to help build or upgrade systems. We also offer practical advice on records migration and update our suite of guidelines and training to better reflect the challenges of digital recordkeeping.

However without a facility to accept and preserve digital records as State archives, State Records is only able to partially perform its statutory role. That is why, in 2007, we developed and released a policy statement on the preservation of digital records.

1. Digital State records should be migrated forward as technologies change.

Our preferred approach to digital preservation is the migration of long term value and archival records into a limited number of open formats that are easier to manage and able to be read and understood without reliance on expensive software licences. Examples of open formats that are suitable for long term preservation are Open Document Format (ODF), PDF (A), TIFF (for images) or FLAC (for audio).

2. The content and essential characteristics of digital State records must remain unchanged through preservation processes

When you are using a migration strategy for digital preservation, some change in the look and feel of a digital record after it has been changed into a different file format is to be expected. However, care must be taken to ensure that changes do not compromise the meaning and evidential qualities of the record. For example, converting a letter to a format where the colour in the letterhead changes to black and white would be, in most cases, tolerable. However converting a digital map with a loss of colours which indicate different areas in the map would not be acceptable. The colours would in this case be regarded as essential characteristics.

3. Digital State records must be preserved in context

Information needed to understand and use digital records – metadata - should be linked to or otherwise associated with them throughout preservation processes, and the digital records preservation process itself must be recorded.

4. Digital State records must be secure and tracked throughout the preservation process

Security measures should be adopted to ensure that the records being preserved are not compromised or lost during the preservation process or once they are in the repository.

5. Digital records preservation programs should be flexible

Digital State archives will be maintained by State Records in their original formats and in basic 'bitstream' (ones and zeros), in addition to any other formats that they are migrated to, in order to make sure we are in a position to take advantage of future developments in digital records preservation. We will also be endeavouring to use as many non-proprietary technologies as possible to avoid problems like increasing costs or loss of control over Government owned information that can occur as a result of vendor 'lock in'.

Based around the principles in this policy, we prepared a plan to design and build NSW's first digital preservation and access facility for State archives and a business case seeking the necessary resources.

Our business case contained a detailed options analysis of four options for digital archiving in NSW, based on examination of our requirements and of other archives' strategies, here and overseas, as well as a cost / benefit analysis and explanation of the many intangible benefits to the State flowing from the establishment of the digital archives facility.

Over several years we submitted many proposals formally to government as well as pursuing a number of 'informal' strategies to make our case for the additional funding. These included:

- researching and talking about specific digital archives at risk that we were aware of
- agency testimonials
- linking our proposal to the open government / Gov 2.0 movement
- taking advantage of the political popularity of 'shared services' initiatives
- letter writing by supporters such as the History Council or the Royal Australian Historical Society to our Minister, and
- State Records staff writing articles and giving presentations and making connections with the right people

Finally, in early 2011 we were successful in securing the funding needed to establish a six person team for a three year project. The project formally commenced on July 1 2011, and is a three year project with full operation of the digital archive from year four. There is a six member team, consisting of a project manager, two archivists, two programmers and a systems administrator (one programmer is still to be recruited at the time of writing). The physical set up for the digital archives is being built at State Records' Western Sydney Records Centre. Our intention is to adopt a 'modular' approach to the digital archives technology, adopting the best and most appropriate tools from Australia and internationally. We will be carrying out limited pilot transfers working with a range of record formats and agencies over the three years of the project.

This project will not be without its challenges...

- Archival description: our current implementation of the series system is not a comfortable fit with many forms of digital recordkeeping
- Access: for staff / agencies / the public - while still maintaining high security standards
- Changing paper mindsets

- Encouraging transfer
- Recurrent government funding from year 4

Opportunities

- ADRI, next generation digital archives
- New developments in digital archives preservation internationally:
 - New tools, techniques
 - For preservation processes
 - For preservation planning
 - For making archival information more appropriate, useable and powerful in an online environment
 - What not to do
 - ..see ERA
- *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009*
- Partnerships; e.g. with SLNSW
- Open data movement – State Records’ Open Data Project <http://data.records.nsw.gov.au> – exciting opportunities for discovering and repurposing contextual information, disposal and access rules and delivering digital archives

Future Proof blog: <http://futureproof.records.nsw.gov.au/>

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/FutureProofNSW>



*State Records NSW's Digital Archives team
(L-R): Paul Elliott, Damien Juhasz, Cassie Findlay, Richard Lehane, Wisanu Promthong.*

4th International Conference of the UNESCO Memory of the World Programme

By Dianne Macaskill

Setareki Tale and Dianne Macaskill attended the 4th International Conference of the UNESCO Memory of the World Programme held in Warsaw from 18 – 21 May 2011. The theme of the conference was Culture-Memories-Identities. The first Memory of the World Conference was also held in Poland in 1993. There were 71 countries represented at the conference and 279 attendees. The government of Poland was a very strong supporter of the conference.

Australia, New Zealand and Fiji have Memory of the World Programmes. However, there is a lot of interest across the Pacific in the Programme so attending the conference was a good opportunity to learn from others knowing that the experience could be shared with PARBICA members when we meet in Apia in August.

Dianne says that “Attendance at the conference gave me a better understanding of the Memory of the World Programme. I was also able to learn from and share experiences with other participants who have set up national Memory of the World Programmes. For example, some countries have a two year cycle. In the first year the focus is on the national register and in the second year the focus is on the international register.”

Some of the discussion centred on how the Programme could be made more representative of countries and cultures. For example, 97 of the 193 inscriptions on the register were from European countries. (Figure prior to May 2011 inscriptions). There was also a lot of discussion about how documentary heritage held in museums could become better known.

The Memory of the World Programme continues to grow with inscription on a register being an independent view that the documentary heritage is significant. Dispersed collections are now being registered e.g. Records of the Indian Indentured Labourers which include records from Fiji, Guyana, Suriname and Trinidad. This inscription project was lead by Seta. The number of international inscriptions is growing and there are now 60 national committees and about 2000 people involved worldwide.

David Leitch, the Secretary-General of the International Council of Archives (ICA), attended the conference and was a speaker. He pointed out that the ICA and the Memory of the World Programme had many similar objectives. For example, both were concerned with preservation and access. He offered the use of the well established ICA regional networks for joint promotion of the Programme. PARBICA is well placed to promote the benefits of the Memory of the World Programme across the Pacific.

John Van Oudenaren from the World Digital Library (WDL) at the Library of Congress was one of the speakers and he explained how the WDL and the Memory of the World Programme worked together. The mission of the WDL is to make primary source materials freely available over the internet. The WDL has 126 partners from 68 countries. The WDL would like to have digital copies of all documentary heritage on the Memory of the World international register accessible through its website. The WDL was launched in April 2009 and since its launch has had 15 million visitors who have viewed 100 million pages.

A series of recommendations known as the Warsaw Declaration were developed at the conference. A link to the declaration can be found at http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/CI/CI/pdf/mow/mow_warsaw_declaration_en.pdf.

Seta and Dianne both attended the conference with the support of UNESCO.



Dianne and Seta in front of the Chopin Museum, Warsaw,

FIJIAN RECORDS INSCRIBED IN THE MEMORY OF THE WORLD REGISTER IN 2011

In 2010 the governments of Fiji, Guyana, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago made a joint submission to UNESCO to have the *Records of Indian Indentured Labourers* inscribed in the International Register of Memory of the World Program.

The Indian Indentured immigration was first accounted for in the 1830s and over a period of roughly 100 years 1,194,957 Indians were relocated to 19 colonies. These records are the only documents for ancestral and lineage research for the numerous descendants of those Indian Labourers.

<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/communication-and-information/flagship-project-activities/memory-of-the-world/register/full-list-of-registered-heritage/registered-heritage-page-7/records-of-the-indian-indentured-labourers/#c200608>

Héritage documentaire d'ouvriers indiens sous contrat

Patrimoine documentaire soumis par Fiji, Guyana, Suriname, Trinité-et-Tobago et recommandé à l'inscription au Registre Mémoire du monde en 2011.

L'immigration d'ouvriers indiens sous contrat a débuté dans les années 1830 et, durant près d'un siècle, 1.194.957 Indiens ont été transférés vers 19 colonies. Ces archives sont les seuls documents dont disposent les nombreux descendants de ces travailleurs indiens pour mener des recherches sur leurs ancêtres et leurs lignées. L'arrivée massive de ces ouvriers indiens a eu d'immenses répercussions, dont les effets se font encore sentir aujourd'hui. La Diaspora indienne a eu une influence majeure sur l'économie locale, la politique et la structure socioculturelle des colonies.

PARBICA RECORDKEEPING TOOLKIT CAPTURES AN INTERNATIONAL AUDIENCE

By Mark Crookston

In June this year PARBICA Secretary-General Mark Crookston presented on the *Recordkeeping for Good Governance Toolkit* at two sessions at the Eastern and Southern African Branch of the International Council on Archives (ESARBICA) Conference on June 6-10 in Maputo Mozambique.

ESARBICA is one of 13 branches of the International Council on Archives (ICA) and a sister branch to PARBICA. Mark was invited by the ESARBICA Executive and ICA Secretariat to give the workshops at the conference. ICA covered all costs for the trip.



Mark Crookston and Dr Joel Tembe, Director of the National Archives of Mozambique

PARBICA Secretary-General Mark Crookston (Senior Advisor, Digital Continuity, Archives New Zealand) said, "other branches of the ICA have been paying close attention to the work of PARBICA and see it as a strategic solution to common recordkeeping challenges around the world. The practical guidance we've developed is starting to make a real difference in the Pacific so others want to learn all about it."

The first presentation was to the ESARBICA executive. Mark explained the toolkit and discussed a range of approaches for adapting the toolkit to eastern and southern African circumstances.

Mark then delivered a two-hour presentation and workshop to approximately 200 participants showing how one aspect of the toolkit can work to assess recordkeeping capacity within their respective organisations.

At the end of the conference, the members of ESARBICA resolved to "use the PARBICA toolkit to develop recordkeeping guidance which is relevant to the circumstances of each member country".

"It was a very successful trip despite taking 22 hours of travel to get there from New Zealand," Mark said. "It was pretty exciting to be in Maputo. I was very busy but managed to get a day at the end to have a look around, explore the city. I was also very well hosted by the Director of the National Archives of Mozambique, Dr Joel Tembe."

PARBICA TOOLKIT TRAINING HELD IN TONGA IN MAY 2011

By Helen Walker and Emma Buckley, NAA

Between 24 and 27 May, PARBICA Treasurer Helen Walker, Emma Buckley (Assistant to the PARBICA Treasurer) from the National Archives of Australia and Anna Gulbransen (Assistant to the PARBICA Secretary-General) from Archives New Zealand met with representatives of the Government of Tonga to deliver messages on the benefits of good recordkeeping. As part of their mission they conducted a 2 ½ day training workshop based on guidelines from PARBICA's Recordkeeping for Good Governance Toolkit. This included both existing guidelines, and new guidelines developed for the most recent phase of the Toolkit, which focuses on managing digital records.

The workshop sessions, which looked at key elements of creating and managing records, included:

- Introduction to recordkeeping
- Recordkeeping capacity
- Writing a recordkeeping policy
- Managing email
- Undertaking digitization projects
- Digital readiness
- Choosing the best strategy

This was the first time PARBICA delivered recordkeeping training in Tonga, and we were overwhelmed by the level of interest. Almost 120 participants registered for the workshop and attendance for each day was very high. The sessions on managing email and undertaking digitisation projects were particularly well-received, with a number of ministries already investigating the possibility of digitisation for storage and disaster recovery purposes.

At the end of the workshop, Helen gave a presentation to CEOs of Government Ministries. The fourth day was spent visiting Ministries and providing comment on existing records management arrangements and practices.

Highlights of the visit included dinner with Lord Vaea, Minister for Agriculture, Food, Forestry and Fisheries and long-time supporter of PARBICA; a visit to the Palace Archives and quick peek into a wing of the Palace; as well as a meeting with Mishka Tu'ifua, Chairperson of the Tonga Public Service Commission. Mrs Tu'ifua was very supportive of the recommendations made by PARBICA on recordkeeping, the establishment of a national archive and the enactment of legislation to support good recordkeeping and has agreed to present a submission to Parliament recommending the establishment of a national archive for Tonga, supported by legislation. We were also fortunate to have a wonderful host in Salote Vuki of the Tonga Public Service Commission, who escorted us to a night of traditional Tongan food and music on our last evening.

The new Toolkit products will be launched at PARBICA 14 in Samoa in August.



Emma Buckley with Tongan gents

FRANK HURLEY: JOURNEYS INTO PAPUA

*The Australian Museum's touring exhibition at the National Archives of Australia, Canberra
(18 March to 29 May 2011) by Lorien Milligan, National Archives of Australia*



A singing contest at Inauaia village, Mekeo area, Central Province, PNG. August 1921. Courtesy of Australian Museum Archives, AMS320 Frank Hurley Photographs, V4384

Frank Hurley, photographer, film maker and adventurer, undertook expeditions into territories unknown between 1921 and 1923 to record first contact with peoples of the former Territory of Papua and New Guinea. Or so he would have the world believe when he toured the images and poetically titled film 'Pearls and Savages' that resulted.

'My primary purpose is to take cinematographic films and plates for a travelogue entertainment.'
(Frank Hurley, Diary A, 2 December 1920, Australian Museum)

Better known for earlier photographs that recorded Douglas Mawson and Ernest Shackleton's Antarctic expeditions and images of the First World War, Hurley turned his lens towards the romantic subject of the untamed tropical paradise, as it was imagined in the early twentieth century.

The technically brilliant photographs that travelled from the Australian Museum, Sydney are 80 images printed from a collection of over 1,000 glass plate negatives and lantern slides taken by Hurley, sold to the Museum with a selection of objects and diaries at the close of his Pacific career in 1927.

Although Hurley staged the people he met (with occasional references to a single person photographed more than once in a day in various outfits) both their images and their landscapes give us a view into a culture that has been altered by European administration in intervening years.

In support of the exhibition the National Archives of Australia hosted Dr Jim Specht of the Australian Museum as part of its regular Speakers Corner series. Dr Specht was involved in curating the exhibition and admitted that he has had a long love/hate relationship with Hurley given his knowledge of the 1920s expeditions.

The exhibition and lecture also referred to Allan McCulloch, a biologist from the Australian Museum assigned to accompany Hurley, who assisted in the collection of artefacts and specimens for export to his employer. The zeal and attitude to collecting displayed by both Hurley and McCulloch was questionable on occasion, with McCulloch's own notes referring to theft in addition to trade. It also became apparent that collecting was undertaken without an export license, which was procured at the

close of the expedition. Some objects were in fact returned to their owners by the Australian administration prior to shipping to Sydney.

Excerpts from Hurley's films were screened as part of the exhibition and featured scenes that were intended to bring sensational drama to European and American audiences of the 1920s – for example Hurley and his party pursued in a barrage of spears. The choreographed scenes and edited footage gave a context to the action quite separate from reality, as highlighted by one of the film's alternative release titles being 'Headhunters of Unknown Papua'.



Two men at Inauaia village, Mekeo area, Central Province, PNG. August 1921. Courtesy of Australian Museum Archives, AMS320 Frank Hurley Photographs, V4376

Although the exhibition gave cause for thought in terms of how these photographs and attendant museum collections were made and why, there can be no doubt that the images that exist are compelling and worth seeing. What is most striking is how powerful a clear and direct image of a face can be, regardless of culture, origin or time.

Publications relating to Hurley and his Pacific work include:

Frank Hurley in Papua: photographs of the 1920-1923 expeditions by Jim Specht and John Fields, R. Brown and Associates in association with the Australian Museum Trust, 1984

Pearls and Savages: Adventures in the Air, on Land and Sea in New Guinea by Frank Hurley, G.P. Putnam's sons, New York, 1924.

To see images of the exhibition and some of the photographs themselves, follow the flickr link:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/national-archives-of-australia/sets/72157626213047658/>

VALE BRUCE BURNE (1926-2011)



*Bruce Burne visiting the Pacific Manuscripts Bureau,
Canberra, June 2008*

Bruce T. Burne, a pioneering archivist in the Pacific Islands, Africa and Australia, died on 19 May 2011.

Bruce was brought up in Kew, Melbourne, the second son Sir Lewis Charles Burne and Florence Mary Stafford. He was educated in Catholic schools and took an early interest in literature and history, helping out during vacations at the Central Catholic Library in Collins Street under its scholarly custodian Fr W.P. Hackett SJ. There he engaged in discussions with the Library's patrons, including the prolific commentator and historian Denys Jackson, which encouraged Bruce's historical and political curiosity.

After matriculating from Xavier College at the end of 1943, Bruce attended the University of Melbourne where he graduated BA (Hons.) in History and Political Science in 1949. At University Bruce was involved in the Newman Society, the History Club, the Drama Club and, later, the Democratic Labor Party Society. During his history studies under Manning Clark archives were spoken of with some awe. It was known that archival material existed in the basements of government departments and State libraries and there was a feeling that something should be done to preserve primary sources, but Australia had no great scholarly tradition in this field. Bruce knew some of the people working in the basement of the State Library of Victoria, such as Rosemary McGowan and Pat Ingham. Use of the term 'archivist' was not generally recognised in the late 1940s and 1950s.

In 1949 Bruce began employment collating data and statistics of employment in the Department of Labour and National Service. After about six months he left the job to study for a Diploma of Education and, subsequently, for the Church.

After he ceased training for the Church, Bruce undertook the Library course in the Commonwealth National Library in Parliament House in Canberra. He joined the Archives Division of the National Library, took further training in the Romney huts, attended the Schellenberg seminars, and in 1954 seized an the opportunity to return to Melbourne to work in the new quarters of the Archives Division of the National Library in Middle Brighton. At the time the Archives repository at Middle Brighton was in a former dry cleaning factory. Working and storage conditions were very poor. In the early days there were difficulties with lack of sustained experience and there was no climate of comprehension of the nature and needs of archives. Reflecting on that period, Bruce wrote that, "Aspiring to best practice within the realities of Australian situations meant much learning on the job and feeling one's way."

In 1961-1962 Bruce toured Europe visiting archives ranging from the Vatican Archives to a new repository inside a mountain in Stockholm, Sweden.

In 1965 Bruce was appointed Director of the National Archives of Zambia. Formerly Northern Rhodesia, Zambia was then an independent nation, newly formed following the dissolution of the

Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland in 1963. Bruce commented that the National Archives of Rhodesia, which had been established in 1935, was one of the most progressive in the Commonwealth. At the time it was far superior in terms of buildings, procedures and conservation to any archival establishment in Australia. It made precise arrangements for apportioning and transfer of colonial archives to the successor states, Zimbabwe, Zambia and Malawi, including microfilming of record series of common value to all the successor states. The National Archives of Zambia was housed in a building custom built as the Lusaka depot of the National Archives of the Federation of Rhodesia.

When Bruce returned to Canberra in 1970, Australian Archives was still housed in Romney huts from which the National Library had reluctantly departed. It was a brief sojourn. In 1971 Bruce took the position of Director of the Western Pacific Archives in Suva. The Central Archives of Fiji and the Western Pacific High Commission was, as Ian Diamond, the Archivist, wrote, "something of a prodigy". Set up in 1954, "not primarily for its practical value as an aid to administration", but because of a recognition on the part of both Fijian and Western Pacific administrations "of an obligation to conserve their early records". [A.I. Diamond, "The establishment of the Central Archives of Fiji and the Western Pacific High Commission", *Archives and Manuscripts*, 2: 8, May 1965; p.10] When Fiji became independent in 1970 the Fijian records were transferred to the new government of Fiji and the Central Archives was disbanded. The remaining records then formed the newly established Western Pacific Archives (WPA) which served the Western Pacific High Commission (based in Honiara since 1952).

At this time the Western Pacific Archives comprised the files of the High Commission Secretariat, together with records of the New Hebrides British Service (NHBS), the British Solomon Islands Protectorate (BSIP) and the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony (GEIC). Records of the South Pacific Office were also transferred into the WPA, in particular records of the British Consul, Tonga, and Pitcairn. [Bruce T. Burne, "A guide to lists of records held in the Western Pacific Archives in Suva in 1974", *Pacific Archives Journal*, No.3, 1987; pp.43-58] The records were housed in the former quarters of the South Pacific Office in the grounds of Government House in Suva. It was a modest timber building, difficult to insulate and grossly over crowded.

Bruce's major project at the WPA was identifying and boxing records held in bundles and listing all the records. As the colonies under WPHC administration moved towards independence it was essential to exercise control over WPA holdings as a matter of urgency. The Western Pacific High Commissioner's main correspondence series was microfilmed, from inception in 1875 through to 1927, in order to provide copies to the successor nations. Bruce initiated the construction of a substantial purpose-built archives repository in Honiara to hold the WPHC Secretariat and BSIP archives. Arrangements were made for the establishment of archives repositories in Kiribati, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. Kunei Etekeira, Tarawa Nataua, Willie Toa, Joseph Wale and other Pacific archivists received training in Suva and overseas.



Bruce Burne during his last assignment, a survey of government archives in Vanuatu with Dr Peter Orlovich in 2000 [photograph: Bruce's photo collection]

On achievement of independence, in accordance with established international procedures, the WPA sent the records of the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony to Tarawa and Funafuti. Records of the British Solomon Islands Protectorate which survived World War II were sent to Honiara.

However, while Bruce was on leave in 1978, his arrangements for the proper disposition of the remainder of the WPA holdings were pre-empted. Officers of the British Colonial Service dispatched the archives of the WPHC Secretariat to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London, together with records of the New Hebrides British Service and records relating to Pitcairn, Tonga and Samoa. The transfer deeply affected Bruce who observed that it was "little short of a tragedy", and angered others.

Jim Boutillier, wrote in the *Pacific Islands Monthly*, "I can well remember standing in the hall way of the WPA in August, 1978, watching in a state of growing dismay while the files of the Western Pacific High Commission (WPHC), relating primarily to the Solomons, Kiribati, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Tonga and the Samoas – for the period 1874-1941 – were packed into crates destined for England." [Jim Boutillier, "Little short of a tragedy...", *Pacific Islands Monthly*, Jan 1984, pp.43-44]

Furthermore, as Dr Boutillier pointed out in his *PIM* article, the WPA microfilms of the WPHC correspondence files to 1927 were not duplicated, and therefore not distributed to the successor Island government archives. It put the WPHC Secretariat, NHBS and Tonga and Pitcairn Consular archives out of reach of researchers in the region until 2003 when the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office eventually donated the archives to the University of Auckland Library.

Following the closure of the Western Pacific Archives in 1978, Bruce returned to Melbourne to become Deputy Keeper of Public Records. The Public Records Office Victoria was then housed partly in a former drugs warehouse in bleak suburban Laverton, for records storage and some reference, and partly in Treasury Gate, Little Collins Street. The administration later moved to Nauru House.

Bruce retired from the PRO for health reasons in 1981, but it was far from the end of his archival interests. He had always been a joiner. In Fiji, Bruce was an active member of the Fiji Library Association and the Fiji Society. Bruce was a member of the Archives Section of the Australian Library Association and a founding member of the Australian Society of Archivists. He was a member of the Society of American Archivists for many years and remained a member of the (UK) Society of Archivists. Bruce attended various conferences of the International Council on Archives and was involved in the setting up of an ICA branch for East and Central Africa in 1969 (ESARBICA). Writing to Charles Kecskemeti, Executive Secretary of the ICA in January 1978, Bruce took the first steps to establish the Pacific Regional Branch of the International Council on Archives (PARBICA). [Burne to Kecskemeti, 4 Jan 1978, and Kecskemeti to Burne, 12 Jan 1978, WPA file 1064, Tuvalu – International Council on Archives, Tuvalu National Library and Archives.]

Bruce was a member of the PARBICA Bureau until 1986. He participated in conferences on Pacific Islands' archives and history, through to the Tongan History Association conference in Canberra in 1996, the Pacific History Association conference in Honiara in 1998, and the PARBICA conference held in Suva in 1999. He was a keen supporter of the work of the Pacific Manuscripts Bureau and attended its 40th anniversary celebration in Canberra in 2008. Bruce carried out a fact finding survey of Pacific archives for PARBICA in 1984 and a survey of government archives administration in Vanuatu with Peter Orlovich in 2000.

In 1987 Bruce was elected an Honorary Member of the Australian Society of Archivists and of PARBICA.

Bruce Burne's career as a dedicated professional archivist tracks the development of archives administration in Australia, Africa and the Pacific Islands. His practice and advocacy upheld the rights of independent nations to the records of their colonial administrations. His legacy is marked by: his contribution to early efforts to preserve Australian official records; the establishment of government archives in Zambia, the Solomon Islands, Kiribati, Tuvalu and Vanuatu; the arrangement, description and partial microfilming of the archives of the Western Pacific High Commission; and by the thriving operations of the Pacific Regional Branch of the International Council on Archives.

Ewan Maidment
PMB Executive Officer
24 July 2011

VALE JUDITH HORNABROOK

26 October 1928 – 3 July 2011

By Evelyn Wareham

Tena koutou katoa, greetings to all in the Pacific

Judith Hornabrook's career always impressed me as full of remarkable achievements and adventures, particularly for a woman of the twentieth century. She started her working life shortly after World War Two in the New Zealand government branch that documented the history of the war. She then joined the then National Archives of New Zealand as a reference archivist, one year after the passage of the Archives Act 1957. She was part of the small staff that established the National Archives and its approaches and programmes.

Judith was appointed Chief Archivist of New Zealand in 1973 and continued this role until 1982. She then embarked on a new adventure as Chief Archivist of Papua New Guinea. Judith told me that when she left New Zealand for Papua New Guinea, both countries' national archives were of similar size with less than 20 staff and both were effectively in a development phase.

She published many articles on New Zealand's archives and war history in *Archivaria*, *Archives and Manuscripts* and other journals. In Port Moresby, she wrote *A basic archives handbook for the Pacific region* in the 1980s, as well as an instructional handbook for the National Archives and Public Records Service of PNG.

The archival associations of the region were founded during Judith's working life. She chaired the establishment committee that formed the Archives and Records Association of New Zealand in the mid 1970s. She was an active participant in 1981 in Fiji when PARBICA was formed. Judith served as a member of the ICA Executive Board and of the PARBICA Bureau. She was an honorary member of PARBICA.

Judith maintained her interest in Archives New Zealand and in PARBICA into her later life. After I became Secretary General of PARBICA in 1999, I often spent time with her hearing her experiences and sharing information on current developments in the Pacific. I have fond memories of her stories of connecting with archival colleagues from Africa at the ICA Executive meeting in Zimbabwe and of her time in PNG.

She was a regular presence at Archives New Zealand events, and took particularly great pleasure in reconnecting with Jacob Hevelawa and others from Papua New Guinea when New Zealand hosted the PARBICA conference in 2003. She had warm memories of her time in Port Moresby and of the quality of the people who she worked with there. She was a strong supporter of PARBICA and of archival development across the Pacific.

Judith passed away peacefully in Wellington aged 83 years.



NEWS / UPDATES

From the ICA and RIMPA mailing lists:

DANISH NATIONAL ARCHIVES EVALUATES MIGRATION PROJECT

The Danish National Archives has evaluated a big migration project and published the results in a report. The report can be downloaded in English here:

[http://www.sa.dk/media\(3649,1030\)/Final_report%2C_Evaluation_of_the_Format_and_Structure_Conversion_Project.doc](http://www.sa.dk/media(3649,1030)/Final_report%2C_Evaluation_of_the_Format_and_Structure_Conversion_Project.doc)

The Danish National Archives is very interested in knowing if any other preservation institutions have accomplished or plan to accomplish similar projects.

Please find the abstract of the evaluation report below.

The Danish National Archives has ingested public digital records since 1973.

These archival holdings were migrated into a preservation standard created in 2004. The main objectives of this operation were to save data from technological obsolescence and to reduce the cost of access and future migrations by enabling automatic processing of the data.

The migration project cost approximately 30 FTEs, and the total sum of purchasing software, hardware and external services amounted to around 135.000 Euros.

The project migrated data from relational and hierarchical databases, electronic records management systems (ERMS) and included the digitisation of audio and video as well as paper documentation. The databases comprised for example the first Civil Registration System from 1968 and the State Tax Administration's final equation from 1970.

Data and documentation made up a total of about 1.7 TB, consisted of 11,187 files in almost 200 different structures, and constituted more than 2,000 information packages.

The preservation standard defined the overall technical objectives of the migration which were:

- Common format for data files

- Common structure of documentation, metadata and documents

• Common format for documents (TIFF)
It was possible to migrate 100% of the more recent records (post 1998) and 87% of the older records in an automated fashion. The remaining 167 information packages had to be pre-processed before they could be migrated automatically. 175 small programs were developed for this pre-processing.

The project achieved its main objectives, since all records were migrated, except for the film collection.

Access and future migrations of the records have also become easier. However, a fully automatic processing of the collection is not yet entirely possible.

The overall conclusion is that the migration project, which is the first of its kind, was of very high quality, both in terms of planning, execution and product.

A few main conclusions are:

- Standardisation of data is a prerequisite for an economically sound digital preservation: It took about 70 times longer to migrate an older, non-standardised information package, than a newer, standardised one.
- Inadequate feasibility studies remind us that the timing in digital preservation saves money: The condition of the magnetic tapes was examined through spot checking 10 years prior to the migration project and found satisfactory, which turned out to be an erroneous, expensive conclusion.
- The technical infrastructure suffered from a number of shortcomings and late decisions, resulting in precious loss of time.

Kind regards,
Alex Thirifays
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CALL FOR ABSTRACTS: ICA CONGRESS BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA 2012 A CLIMATE of CHANGE - Les TEMPS CHANGENT

Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, 20-25 August 2012

Deadline for submissions: **4 November 2011**

Archivists meet to discuss a climate of change in which we face the worldwide challenges that the flood of contemporary information and increased demands for access to it have brought.

Technological developments have an impact on the organisation and operation of our governments and societies. In this process, the archival institutions have an important responsibility as the custodians of effectively organised and accessible information.

The call for abstracts is now open. Abstracts may only be submitted online. For further information on abstract submission guidelines, selection criteria, and all other requirements, please visit the abstract submission page on the ICA 2012 website

<http://www.ica2012.com/>

Abstracts should be framed within the themes as defined below.

SUSTAINABILITY

Preserving records for the long-term benefit of future generations is the core business of archives. Can we be confident about our ability and capacity to fulfil this mission, to sustain our archives, in the digital age?

Sustainability also is about preserving traditional records in archival custody and records in active use by records creators so that they last long enough to meet the needs for which they were created. In a world of climate change, and human made catastrophes, the preservation challenge only grows larger.

Finally, sustainability relates to the sustainability and relevance of the archival profession itself as one technological wave after another, washes across the information world. Archivists must demonstrate that they

are essential in this rapidly changing information world."

TRUST

Archives support good governance and accountability by offering reliance on and confidence in the authenticity, worth and reliability of the information in its charge.

Those responsible for the custody and care of such information demonstrate their commitment to archival science by advocating ethical and professional processes, developing standards and gaining international acceptance of the methods and practices.

What can archives do to ensure that trust? What are the expectations and are they or can they be held to a higher standard? What is the effect on governance and accountability if archives fail in their mission?

IDENTITY

Archives provide evidence of identity not just in the most obvious way through identity documentation but also through collections of archives which provide the memory or story of complex groups and individual identities both at one moment in time, and through time. They help the community to connect with their heritage and protect their rights.

Archivists themselves have an identity, shaped by the individual archivist's background as well as society's perceptions of archivists.

This identity, both inner and outer, is changing in the 21st century as the nature of archives changes and as society itself changes with traditional divisions changing and disappearing. We need to strengthen the value, impact and influence of archivists and information managers

Call for Contributions: Future Perfect Conference 2012: Digital Preservation by Design
Museum of New Zealand, Te Papa Tongarewa, Wellington, NZ
26 – 27 March 2012

The *Digital Preservation by Design* theme of Future Perfect 2012 seeks to stimulate discussion about how, when and why influencing the design of systems can ensure that today's information is available tomorrow.

The call for contributions is now open and we welcome proposals for original presentations and demonstrations on the following topics:

- Where do we start with digital preservation – create a custom-made system or buy off the peg?
- Who should do digital preservation? Where does preservation fit in the wider organisational context?
- Case studies of working across disciplines, organisations and the lifecycle of information to ensure that information is successfully preserved (e.g. creating preservation ready objects, including preservation requirements in business systems, taking a cooperative approach to preservation)
- How do you identify your digital content – using preservation formats and format libraries
- What are we preserving and how? Are we preserving appearance, structure, behaviour or content?
- Repository examples, requirements and examples of innovation

- Challenges of preserving data and databases
- What tools are in use and what skills are essential?
- Opening up data and information through standards

We want to hear about innovations, success stories, war stories and challenges. Your submission can be in the form of a presentation or demonstration. If you would like to discuss your idea before submitting your proposal, please contact us. More information can be found on our conference website www.futureperfect.org.nz

Submissions

Please submit the following information: **Name, Title, Organisation, Email, Title of session, Session type (presentation, panel, demonstration, etc)**

Abstract (100-300 words), Personal Profile (100-200 words)

The deadline for submission of abstract and accompanying documentation is August 31st 2011.

Send details to:

Mick Crouch, Conference Convener

Email: mick.crouch@dia.govt.nz

Phone: +64 4 496 1389

ICA OPENS ITS ANNUAL CONFERENCES!

Earlier this year the Secretariat completed a thorough review of the CITRA at the request of the Executive Board. The recommendation to replace the CITRA with an Annual Conference, which will be open to all members of ICA, has been unanimously accepted by the EB. It will be submitted for the formal approval of the AGM in Toledo on 28 October 2011. This will be an important step in increasing the opportunities for our members to participate in our organization.

L'ICA OUVRE SES CONFÉRENCES ANNUELLES !

Au début de l'année, le secrétariat a achevé un examen approfondi de la CITRA, à la demande du comité exécutif. La recommandation visant à remplacer la CITRA par une conférence annuelle ouverte à tous les membres de l'ICA a été acceptée à l'unanimité par le comité. Cette recommandation sera soumise à l'approbation formelle de l'assemblée générale annuelle à Tolède le 28 Octobre 2011. Ce sera une étape importante permettant d'offrir à nos membres plus d'opportunités de participation à notre organisation.

INVITATION TO ATTEND CITRA IN TOLEDO 2011

We are pleased to invite you to participate in the International Conference of the Round Table on Archives (CITRA), which will take place in Toledo (Spain), to be held on Wednesday, 26 and Thursday, 27 October 2011, organized by the International Council on Archives and the Subdirección General de los Archivos Estatales of the Ministry of Culture of Spain, under the title: "Keeping Archives Alive in a Digital World: Archival Preservation in the 21st Century."

<http://en.citratoledo2011.mcu.es>

Nous sommes heureux de vous inviter à participer à la Conférence Internationale de la Table Ronde des Archives (CITRA), qui se tiendra à Tolède (Espagne) entre le 26 et 27 Octobre 2011, organisé par le Conseil International des Archives et la Subdirección General de los Archivos Estatales du Ministère de la Culture de l'Espagne sous le titre "Keeping Archives Alive in a Digital World: Archival Preservation in the 21st Century".

<http://fr.citratoledo2011.mcu.es>

Call for Papers: Archival Science - Genre in Theory, Practice and Research

Genre can be defined as a pattern of communication that conforms to community norms. Genres are not fixed, but are constantly evolving and emerging. Examples of familiar genres range from speech utterances to publications, from text messages to databases, from blogs to formal reports. Genre studies is a multi-disciplinary area, which has the potential to yield much of relevance to the archival community.

Accordingly, a special issue of Archival Science will be devoted to the theme of "Genre in Theory, Practice and Research", guest edited by Wendy Duff, Faculty of Information, University of Toronto wendy.duff@utoronto.ca and Gillian Oliver, School of Information Management, Victoria University of Wellington

Gillian.oliver@vuw.ac.nz .

Suggested topics for papers may include:

- The role of genre in digital curation activities
- The implicit and explicit meanings conveyed by genre
- Use of genre in information retrieval
- Genre as a tool in archival appraisal
- Contribution of genre to arrangement and description
- Finding aids from a genre perspective

- Relationship of the concept of genre system to recordkeeping
- Theorizing genre types and genre systems

Key Dates

Proposals for papers (500-1000 words) should be sent to the Guest Editors not later than 1 September 2011. Authors will be notified by 30 September as to the status of their proposal.

Submission Deadline for completed papers: December 1 2011

Review Decisions will be made by: March 1 2012

Final Versions Due: May 1 2012

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

Submissions should be made online via the Editorial Manager

<http://www.editorialmanager.com/arcs/>

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Annual subscriptions to the newsletter for those not members of PARBICA are \$US15, to be sent to the Treasurer. For further information about membership contact the Secretary General.