



# CONTENTS IN THIS ISSUE

## EDITORIAL

1

## REGIONAL CONNECTIONS

2

- » USP Solomon Islands - "Shaping Pacific Futures"

## DEVELOPMENTS & FEATURES

3

- » USP Library Staff Strategic Planning Workshop

## PEOPLE

4

- » Appointments...  
Mr Opeta Alefaio  
Ms Kalesita Low
- » Departures...  
Ms Elisabeth Leekley  
Dr Reysa Alenzuela

## CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

4

## PUBLICATIONS @USP BOOK CENTRE

5



# EDITORIAL

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## REFLECTIONS



2019 is coming to a close and it is an appropriate time to reflect on another year of service to our people.

Regardless of the type of library we work in, we ultimately aim to make a difference in people's lives through the information and services we provide

using our professional skills and knowledge in an ever-changing environment.

In our reflection of 2019 we might ask the following questions:

- Did we achieve the targets/action plans that we set at the beginning of the Year?
- What were the challenges we faced and how did we manage them?
- What one or two things might we do

differently in the coming year based on what we learned in 2019?

The reflective questions become the building blocks for 2020 as we strive to make a difference in our Pacific communities.

I take this opportunity to thank all who have contributed to the 2019 issues of PacFika and to the co-editors for their efforts in keeping the world informed of library developments in the Pacific.

From the editorial team, I wish all our readers peace and joy of the Christmas season and may 2020 be one of many library successes!

*Elizabeth C Reade Fong*

# REGIONAL CONNECTIONS

## USP SOLOMON ISLANDS - "SHAPING PACIFIC FUTURES"



The Open Day is an important event each year in USP's calendar and this was held on 26th July 2019 with the theme: "USP – Shaping Pacific Futures".

Like the other sections of the USP

Solomon Islands Campus, the Campus Library showcased its resources and services to the visiting students and public.

Secondary school students, comprising mainly 6th formers from some 15 secondary schools in and around Honiara toured the library. This was viewed as an excellent opportunity for students to learn about the library's support services for University learning as many of them would come to USP to further their

education.

Among the visitors at the event was the Pro-Vice Chancellor of the Solomon Islands Campus and Head of School of Public Health, Professor Prem Misir (pictured above in red shirt) who also took time to visit the library and see the displays. Professor Prem was pleased to see books on public health being displayed. The public health programme will be introduced in the Solomon Islands Campus in the first semester of 2020.



# DEVELOPMENTS AND FEATURES

## USP LIBRARY STAFF STRATEGIC PLANNING WORKSHOP



USP library staff had a one and half days Strategic Planning (SP) Workshop on Thursday and Friday 28-29 November, 2019 at the Learning Commons lab spaces on level A of the library.

The purposes of the workshop were to:

- (i) identify regional and international

library development issues relevant to the USP Library Network for student success;

(ii) reflect on the Library's performance against the Library SP 2013-2018; and

(iii) contribute to the Library's development plan for the period 2019-

2021-2023.

It was envisaged that at the end of the workshop, library staff would:

- (a) be aware of the trends and issues affecting library development;
- (b) have a clear understanding of their role(s) in the 2019-2021- 2023 period of Library network development;
- (c) take ownership of the Library's SP 2019-2021-2023.

The intended outputs included:

- the Library's Strategic Plan 2019-2021-2023; and
- information for the development of Annual Plans.

# DEVELOPMENTS AND FEATURES



Prior to the workshop, Professor Pal Ahluwalia, Vice-Chancellor and President met with the library staff on Tuesday 26 November and presented the revised USP Strategic Plan 2019-2021. This was approved by the USP Council on 7 November 2019. This presentation set the framework and direction for drafting The Library's Strategic Plan 2019-2021-2023.

The workshop started with a brainstorming session based on staff reflections on the issues pertaining to library development based on professional knowledge and readings. The University Librarian, Elizabeth Fong then discussed the top trends and issues in academic libraries.

Academic staff and School of Education lecturer, Dr Ledua Waqailiti of the Faculty of Arts, Law and Education (FALE) shared her views on the standard and quality of library resources, services and staff in support of learning, teaching and research. She acknowledged the remarkable learning support role provided by the current FALE liaison librarian, Ela Qica. She also suggested having more liaison librarians assigned to FALE considering the extensive scope of teaching and research disciplines in the Faculty, and for more Information Research Skills (IRS) sessions to be given to teaching staff.

This was followed up with an overview of achievements and challenges of the 2013-2018 Action Plans in Customer and Technical Services presented by the two Senior Librarians: Ela Qica (CS); Judith Titoko (TS).

Ela Qica discussed the achievements and challenges in Customer Services related priority areas in the libraries network in the region: 1) customer and information services; 2) ICT and equitable access; 3) physical and work environment; 4) partnership; and 5) quality assurance. From 2013-2018, CS division made remarkable achievements with a total of 30 projects achieved in the five priority areas mentioned. A total of 14 challenges were also identified during the same strategic plan period. Some common challenges included: low internet connectivity and bandwidth speed in the region, funding and lack of trained staff.

Judith Titoko provided a snapshot of the Technical Services achievements at USP library Laucala. A summary of the statistical data reveals the outstanding achievement targets reached in collection and resources development over the period 2013-2018 and the current strategic period 2019-2021. This was accompanied by photos of library staff - library attendants and work camp students engaged in the major project of clearing and relocating the serials collection and Oceania Sports Information Centre office from level A, for the construction of the

new Learning Commons.

On the second day of the workshop, staff were divided into six groups. The groups identified and discussed the strategic goals, objectives, initiatives and key performance indicators for the six key priority areas of the new Library SP. Findings were presented by each group. All staff collectively reviewed and formulated the vision, mission and values of USP Library network as aligned to the vision, mission and values of the University.

Five key priority areas (PA) were developed as follow:

- Customer and Information Services
- Information Resources: Collection Development
- ICT and Equitable Access
- Physical and Work Environment
- Partnerships

Library staff were regrouped and assigned one key priority area from above. Each group was asked to draft its own PA goals, objectives, initiatives and key performance indicators. The group work was carried out a week later following the workshop.

The library staff concluded the workshop with an end of the year dinner at New Peking Restaurant, Suva, on Friday 29 November.

## PEOPLE

APPOINTMENTS...



**MR OPETA ALEFAIO** joined USP as Manager Records Management in October after serving as Director, National Archives of Fiji for seven years six months since May 2012. Mr Alefaio served as President of the Pacific Regional Branch of the International Council on Archives (PARBICA) for over four years; and executive board member of International Council on Archives (ICA) from 2015 to 2019. Opeta was first recruited as Information Officer with Fiji's Ministry of Information over a year before he became Archivist at the National Archives of Fiji from 2004 to 2012.

Mr Alefaio graduated with a Master of Business Information Systems, Corporate Information and Knowledge Management from Monash University, Australia in 2011. He also holds a USP Bachelor of Arts degree majoring in Journalism and History & Politics. He attended secondary school at International Secondary School, Suva, Fiji.

# PEOPLE

## APPOINTMENTS...



**MS KALESITA LOW** joined USP library Laucala campus as Supervisor of Cleaners on Monday 21st October. Prior to her joining USP, Ms Low managed privately owned family catering businesses. She worked as customer services officer at the Contact Centre, Electricity Fiji Limited (EFL) for a year from 2016 to 2017. Ms Low served for three years from 2010 to 2013 as Accommodation Supervisor/Trainer in the group of Hilton Hotel properties in Darwin, NT, Australia. Kalesita is bringing to USP a wealth of experience in housekeeping and accommodation management and customer relations.

## DEPARTURES...

**MS ELISABETH LEEKLEY** returned to her home country Canada on 21st June after serving as Campus Librarian, USP Emalus for two years. Elisabeth was holding the fort for several months until Dr Reysa Alenzeula took up the appointment as senior law librarian and head of Emalus campus library. USP acknowledges Elisabeth for her contribution to the ongoing development of Emalus Campus and the Santo, Tanna and

Malampa centres; and for her efforts in addressing the staffing issues and needs of students.

**DR REYSA ALENZUELA**, departed from USP Emalus Campus Library on 21st October after serving a stint nineteen months as Senior Law Librarian. USP acknowledges her contribution to library developments at Emalus and especially her concern for the Centre libraries of Vanuatu.

# CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS



Carlos Lopez (Masters student in Library and Information Studies from Charles Sturt University, Australia) was guest speaker at the FLA Host Evening on Thursday 26 September 2019. This was held at the Lecture Theatre, Nursing Campus Tamavua.

Carlos presented on Libraries and Archives in Sydney and the National Library of Australia's digital heritage platform namely Trove which brings together freely available content from libraries, museums and archives, supporting online discovery of the country's documentary heritage.

Carlos was hosted on an unpaid attachment with the Pacific Collection, USP Library for three weeks during which he visited The National Archives of Fiji in Suva.

## LIANZA: "OUR FAMILIES, OUR COMMUNITIES, OUR LIBRARIES"



*L-R: Ms Allison Dobbie, former President LIANZA, Mr William Macnaught, National Librarian of New Zealand and Ms Mere Vada, USP library.*

**MERE VADA**, library assistant at USP library represented Fiji Library Association to the LIANZA 2019 Conference. Mere funded her trip and she thanked the University for granting her leave to attend the conference.

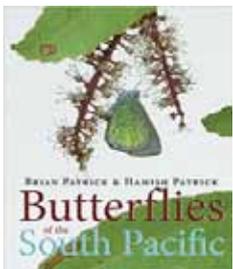
Mere mentioned: "It was worth taking the trip for my personal and professional growth." The outcomes were immeasurable considering the knowledge and skills shared and gained from participants. The presentations were lively, engaging and covered real life experiences. The breakout sessions were informative and interactive and attendees built what we hope will be lasting networking and friendship with library and information personnel from other countries. An opportunity to attend LIANZA was worth taking. It was an inspiring space for sharing and learning from one another. It was a forum where we as library and information para professionals and professionals engaged, connected and built our different networks."

# CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

**LIANZA CONFERENCE 2019** was held at the Vodafone Events Centre in Manukau, Auckland from October 21-23. The conference was a unique experience, convened by the Pasifika Information Management Network and held for the first time in South Auckland. The 2019 conference theme was 'Our families, our communities, our libraries' represented in our logo by the rope bindings to represent the physical, cultural and spiritual elements that bind us together in Aotearoa New Zealand and the Pacific; the land, the water, air and our cultural values, languages, knowledge, relationships, communities and families which not only connect, but also sustain us. The waka with a Polynesian sail, symbolises the shared journeys and histories of our peoples Māori and Pacific, but also the transportation of knowledge to the future, thus emphasising sustainability and continuity. The combination of both concepts reinforces the theme statement of the importance and value of enduring partnerships between our libraries, our communities and our families in this crucial work for the well-being of all future generations.

Source: <https://lianza.org.nz/events/lianza-conference/>

## PUBLICATIONS @USP BOOK CENTRE



**BUTTERFLIES OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC** / Brian Patrick & Hamish Patrick. Otago, NZ : University Press, 2012.

ISBN-13: 978-1877578045 240 p. Hardcover USD39.95

“The South Pacific is a vast expanse of ocean—over 50 million km<sup>2</sup>—with tiny scattered islands and island groups. From Kiribati, Tuvalu, and Fiji in the west, to the far-flung Marquesas and Austral Islands in French Polynesia in the east, this book surveys and discovers the butterfly inhabitants of these tropical islands. For completeness, Hawai'i to the north—where there are many fewer islands in an otherwise empty ocean—is included. To the south and with a much larger land area, lies temperate New Zealand, with a further string of islands reaching into sub Antarctic waters.”



**LET THE CONCH SPEAK** / Nikhat Shameem. [Suva, Fiji] : Star Printery, 2019 ISBN: 9789821010450 79 p. Paperback FJD35.00

“In her first collection of poetry, Nikhat Shameem writes of the costs and benefits of her long journeys and travels, some through the force of circumstances, others through choice. Her journey through poetry is interwoven with other stories, those of her father's and her son's as they impacted on her life. The poems

span her life from Fiji, Aotearoa, England, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Sudan and back to Fiji. Her narratives are interwoven with feelings and experiences, love and loss, happiness and pain, fear and hope, sunshine and rain. They tell her story.”



**SKETCHES OF FIJI** / Andrew Drysdale

[New South Wales, Aust] : Mentor Aviation Services, 2019. ISBN: 9780646800264

379 p. Paperback FJD33.50

“The book tells of the author's life as a 'local European' growing up in a depressed suburb of Fiji's capital, Suva during the dying days of the Colonial era, attending local schools and living a free and open life. The author experienced at first hand the dichotomy of being a 'local European' in a British Colonial society ruled by expatriates. The book looks at Independence through those eyes, speaks of the political adolescence post-independence, of the 1987 military coups, of the National rebuilding thereafter, and of the central role the author played in that rebuilding as the Chief Executive of the National airline. The book tells of things accomplished in difficult political times, the complexity of Fiji's society, of the things that shaped Fiji's history in the final half of the last Century, and of the central role the author played as the country rebuilt itself after the coups.”

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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