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RECORDS MANAGEMENT

Good governance requires the high quality records management. Decision making that is appropriate and transparent is dependant upon access to relevant information.

The Colonial government era was known for its immaculate record keeping as are many of the religious organizations in the Pacific. Catholic and Protestant archival collections have provided a history of the islands that might never have been known without these records.

Sadly, following independence the same cannot really be said for many of our government and non-government and private organizations of Pacific nations though some have tried and been reasonably successful.

PARBICA, the Pacific Regional Branch of the International Council of Archives is attributed with playing an important role in the establishment and ongoing development of archives in the Pacific. Their meetings, training opportunities and in particular TOOL KIT are valuable opportunities and resources that should be consulted and used to strengthen records management.

Discussions, dating back to 2002 had been held with the University of the South Pacific Library and PARBICA on the establishment of a certificate or diploma in records management but the financial costs were inhibiting. Never-

theless it might be a good time to resurrect the discussion.

It is pleasing to note that regional governments and organizations are becoming more aware of the relationship between records management and effective decision making and more attention is being paid to the issue and the topic being actioned at executive levels.

Library personnel are charged with organizing library collections and do this quite effectively. The question here is, are the records of the organization in which the Library operates as well managed? Food for thought.

The University of the South Pacific is engaged in a project to ensure that all print and electronic records of the University are being managed appropriately with policies put in place and records management software systems investigated.

I take this opportunity to congratulate PIALA and The National Archives and Records Administration, Pacific Region that is offering two records management training courses in Hagatna, Guam in January 2010 with a focus on records management and disaster management of records. More information on this can be found in this issue of PacFika.

Elizabeth C. Reade Fong



REGIONAL CONNECTION

RECORDS MANAGEMENT TRAINING IN GUAM 2010

The National Archives and Records Administration, Pacific Region, will be presenting two records management training courses in Hagatna, Guam, in January 2010.

Basic Records Operations will be held on January 26. This workshop covers the fundamentals and how-tos of getting the records in your office under control.

At the end of the course, participants will be able to define Federal records and distinguish them from non-record materials and personal papers; reduce unnecessary filing; inventory records; apply records disposition schedules; and transfer non-current records to records centers.

The target audience is all who maintain records as part of their jobs and need task-oriented records management training. The cost for this course is \$150 per person.

Emergency Planning and Response for Vital and Essential Information will be held on January 27-28, 2010.

This course provides knowledge and skills required to identify, protect, and make readily available agency vital records in the event of a disaster, including information and hands-on practice in recovering records damaged in an emergency situation.

At the end of this practical-skills course, participants will be able to plan an emergency response program for records.

This training targets Federal employees and/or contractors with records responsibilities, COOP managers, line managers and staff, information technology personnel, and employees of state and local government involved with vital records programs or emergency planning.

The cost for this course is US\$300 per person.

The trainer is Debi Wayne, is a long-time NARA senior analyst and trainer with over 35 years of experience with Federal records. She has worked with such Federal agencies as Navy, Forest Service, US Geological Survey, US Army Corps of Engineers, the US Courts, and many others to assess and improve their records management programs and practices. She has trained thousands of Federal employees in the NARA Pacific Region over many years and is a member of the NARA National Records Management Program faculty.

To register on-line, go to <http://nara.learn.com/recordsmanagement-training>. Questions about registration or other inquiries, e-mail laguna.workshops@nara.gov or contact Audrey Shapin, Training Registrar, at (949) 448-4922.

BUK BILONG PIKININI FIGHTS PNG ILLITERACY

An estimated two-thirds of Papua New Guinea's six million people cannot read or write - but the "Buk Bilong Pikinini" movement hopes to make a positive difference.

In pidgin, it means children's book, and Governor-General Sir Paulias Matane opened a new library in the scheme this week, while calling for parents to do more to help their children read. Some branches of Papua New Guinea's public library system do not even have books. Many education institutions and schools have no libraries, and children find it hard to learn to read and write.

Sir Paulias, launching a new "Buk Bilong Pikinini" library in the capital, Port Moresby, says PNG is fighting a battle against high illiteracy and libraries could help reduce that.

"The best thing to do is to learn to read and write when we are very young," he told

Radio Australia's Pacific Beat.

Parents should encourage their children to go to libraries and read books at an early age, he says. After all, notes Sir Paulias, children are the leaders of tomorrow. Buk Bilong Pikinini was started by Anne-Sophie Hermann, wife of Australia's high commissioner, Chris Moraitis. Four libraries have been set up with the help of PNG businesses.

The project plans to set up two more children's libraries in the Eastern Highlands and Morobe provinces later in the year.

It aims to teach children about the culture of book borrowing and encourage parents to spend more time reading with their sons and daughters. Individual Australians and publishers donate the children's books.

Ms Hermann says the lack of libraries in PNG motivated her. "I believe books are a world in themselves," she told the program. "If you want to have an interesting life, read books."

"When I came to Papua New Guinea, I discovered there were no public libraries. I just thought that cannot be right, what about all the children here? I can go on Amazon and buy books, but what about the kids in Papua New Guinea?" she said.

"I just thought, we've got to do something about this."

She says many children in PNG still have no access to libraries and books, and the Buk Bilong Pikinini project is to help them read and write. The Australian High Commission says the charity accepts donations to help pay for new books and shipping costs. It also welcomes donations of "pre-loved, gently used children's books for small children".

To view this story on the ABC website, visit: <http://www.radioaustralianews.net.au/stories/200911/2741731.htm?desktop>

Listen to/read the Pacific Beat interview at: <http://www.abc.net.au/ra/programguide/stories/200911/s2741676.htm>



Explore, Read & Invest at USP BOOK CENTRE.

LIBRARY DROUGHT ENDS

Deprived of good library books in past years, students of Wairiki primary school yesterday had a group of tourists end the drought of an empty library. Tourists on board the Tui Tai dropped cartons of books for students on the Garden Island of Taveuni.

Handed over by former Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka and Tui Tai Cruise owner Tyge Young, the tourists were told of how the aid could nurture and shape a future political leader through knowledge from books. School Headteacher Ponipate Rabaraba said the school was in desperate need of library books.

“We have had one tourist group come in to donate books and this is the second. We are so blessed. Parents and the school can’t afford good library books so we are indeed blessed to have good books that will increase the knowledge of our children,” Mr Rabaraba said.

Mr Rabaraba said that such library books would strengthen the reading abilities of the students, who speak mainly Fijian language.

“Our students mostly speak their dialect at home and as friends while in school, while teachers have continued to speak to them in English. So with them taking these books home, they can read and it will help them improve their reading,” Mr Rabaraba said.

Addressing the parents, Mr Rabuka encouraged them to allow their children to read a lot of books at home.

He told the parents the donated library books would help increase their children’s knowledge and English speaking abilities. The tourists have been donating books to various schools on Taveuni and will today donate more to students of Togo Village in Qamea.

Source Fiji Times: Wednesday, October 07, 2009 <http://www.fjitimes.com/story.aspx?id=130996>

RAYAWA TACKLES THE IMPOSSIBLE – LIBRARIAN AND REGISTRAR AT THE FIJI MUSEUM

Struck by spinal polio in 1958, Ratu Sela Rayawa knows that nothing is impossible if the heart is willing to do things through God’s blessing.

Now at 56, the wheelchair-bound man from Nabudrau, Noco in Rewa is in charge of a significant part of our history at the Fiji Museum where he is Librarian and Registrar. He is responsible for the collection of books on history, anthropology, archaeology and primitive arts as well as keeping records of all the artefacts exhibited in the museum. Ratu Sela said the impact of the disease was huge and in his mind the possibility of success was a dream, especially with a paralysed leg. However, he said that everything proceeded quite normally at the Crippled Children’s School where he was the first head boy and the first school graduate to obtain employment.

“Deep within me, I knew that nothing was really impossible. And that is what continues to push me through,” he said.

Ratu Sela has represented Fiji three times in swimming. The occasions were the Paralympics in 1976 in Toronto, the Far East Pacific International at Parramatta in 1977 as well as at the 1982 competition in Hong Kong.

“It was really an eye-opener to compete at that level with a paralysed leg and to see people from throughout the world with similar physical challenges. By then I knew that nothing was impossible if the heart was willing,” he said.

Ratu Sela, who is married with five children, said that most physically challenged men found it difficult to ask women out for a date, or to get married.

“This is a common mental handicap because most of them have been defeated from the start and have never tried to approach women. I have learnt that nothing in this world is impossible if you

are willing to do it with God’s blessings,” he said.

Ratu Sela has visited Australia, New Zealand, New Caledonia, the United States and Canada and has been working all his life since he left school in the 1970s. The big heroes in his life are Bruce Palmer and Fergus Clunie for they are the people who taught him the basics of working in a museum.

“Apart from a number of overseas attachments, most of the things I learnt were from what I saw here,” he said. Ratu Sela said in order to live life to the fullest one must know his or her priorities and how to manage their time well.

Source: <http://www.fjitimes.com/story.aspx?id=124627>

PIMRIS NEWSLETTER ONLY ONLINE FROM 2010

The last print issue of the PIMRIS (Pacific Island Marine Resources Information System) Newsletter was recently published (Vol. 21, no 3-4) for the period July-December 2009. Starting from 2010 the newsletter will be published online only at www.usp.ac.fj/pimris.

The newsletter plays a vital role in communication to and from those individuals working in the areas of marine and aquatic sciences and regional and international organizations which form the many partnerships that support information sharing in this area. The July-December issue contains a range of articles on the Samoan Tsunami, the 14th PIMRIS Steering Committee meeting, a report by Pacific participant Eddie Marahare to the IODE Training Course on Digital Asset Management and other news from the region.

The PIMRIS website <http://www.usp.ac.fj/pimris> is an important source of information for all with an interest in marine and aquatic science and all Pacific Islanders who live surrounded by sea!



CONFERENCES, TRAININGS & WORKSHOPS

WORLD LIBRARY AND INFORMATION CONGRESS: 76TH IFLA GENERAL CONFERENCE AND ASSEMBLY

10-15 August 2010, Gothenburg, Sweden

CALL FOR PAPERS: ASIA AND OCEANIA SECTION

Theme: Social networking in libraries and other information organizations in Asia Oceania. Pacific Island professionals are encouraged to participate. For details: <http://www.ifla.org/en/calls-for-papers/1855>

All expenses, including registration for the

conference, travel, accommodation etc., are the responsibility of the authors/presenters. No financial support can be provided by IFLA, but a special invitation can be issued to authors/presenters if that is required.

DE GRUYTER PUBLISHER ANNOUNCES GRANT FUND FOR WLIC 2010

De Gruyter Publisher acknowledges the Swedish library association and the librarians from Goteborg in their support of next year's World Library and Information Congress WLIC 2010. De Gruyter Publisher will establish a grant fund to support young professionals from the Pacific region, to enable them to have

the same chance to go to Goteborg for the IFLA Congress as they would have had in Brisbane.

Sven Fund, executive of de Gruyter, Berlin, said: "In times of economic uncertainty for IFLA and its members de Gruyter wants to support the attendance to WLIC 2010 for those who were affected by the change of venue that the IFLA Governing Board had to decide." The President of IFLA, Claudia Lux, said: "IFLA is very grateful for this exceptional sign of support from our publishing partner, de Gruyter."

Pacific library personnel should keep a look out for this on the IFLA website. <http://www.ifla.org/en/news/de-gruyter-publisher-announces-grant-fund-for-wlic-2010>.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS



BUTTERFLIES OF THE FIJI ISLANDS with photography by Hugh Robinson / Sunil R. Prasad & Hilda Waqa-Sakiti. Fiji : The University of the South Pacific, 2007. ISBN: 9789822080070 \$15.95

"This is a guide book is the first butterfly book from Fiji and it describes the 47 species recorded from the Fiji Islands. Basic morphological descriptions are presented with local distribution maps and worldwide distributions."



BEYOND THE BREAKWATER - The Journal of Dr. Michael John Kidd / Michael John Kidd. New Zealand: Ohlah Publishing, 2007 ISBN :9780473120856 \$33.00

Dr. Michael John Kidd, admitted as a lawyer, '79, Auckland NZ, involved in human rights law: NZ, Australia & Fiji. Concern for injustice, the under privileged & imprisoned forms the basis for his work-in-life. We are challenged to "melt the ice in our hearts" as mankind faces possible extinction. Covering James K Baxter, Bert Potter, George Speight, Ahmed Zaoui, Osho an recent NZ politics. Introduction by Stephen Chan, Professor International Relations London University: "...a wise little work, oh grasshopper."



PACIFIC INDIGENOUS DIALOGUE: ON FAITH, PEACE, RECONCILIATION & GOOD GOVERNANCE / Tui Atua Tupua Tamasese [et. al...]. Samoa : [USP], 2007. ISBN:

9789820108196 \$25.00



MEETING HOUSE IN THE PACIFIC; THE STORY OF SPC 1947-2007 / SPC South Pacific : SPC, 2007 ISBN: 9820002210 \$65.00

"This book is about the fine and enlightening history of the Secretariat of the South Pacific Community and its 60 years of service to the region. The launch of this special book is taking place in Samoa on the occasion of the 60th Anniversary Conference of the Pacific Community. In the six decades since it was founded in 1947, SPC has grown into a thriving organisation committed to promoting and enhancing the social and economic development and well-being of Pacific Island peoples. And from the beginning, Samoa has been intimately associated with SPC's history."



RULE OF LAW, LEGITIMATE GOVERNANCE & DEVELOPMENT IN THE PACIFIC / Lutisone Salevao. Canberra, ACT : ANU Press & Asia Pacific Press, 2007. ISBN: 9780731537211 \$30.00

"The notion that the rule of law embodies or guarantees all the essential requirements for a perfectly just society is extravagant and naive. Nonetheless, the rule of law remains an essential human virtue whose usefulness the world has yet to outgrow. Using the rule of law as a mobilising theme, this book recasts Western theories of law,

good governance and development in a Pacific perspective."



1987: FIJI TWENTY YEARS ON / Brij V Lal, Ganesh Chand, Vijay Naidu (eds) Fiji : Fiji Institute of Applied Studies, 2008 ISBN: 9789823010342 \$16.50

"This handbook, Reflecting on Social Justice: A Process for Change, is written to accompany the ECREA report Social Justice in Fiji: Christian Perspectives which was carried out in Fiji in 2006. It is offered to the Christian churches as a resource to promote dialogue and commitment to social justice in parishes and churches. According to ECREA's report, a large number of people believe the churches are not responding to issues of social justice in a consistent and effective manner. Even with charitable works, people feel some churches use them for proselytizing purposes. Many feel alienated and or frustrated by their churches' lack of presence and visibility. Some have changed religion on account of never having received a visit from their minister, pastor or priest. Others, while expressing strong allegiance to their own churches, find fault with them because of their lack engagement with 'structural' issues such as land, poverty and racial discrimination. Some even believe churches have become irrelevant to peoples' lives while others feel burdened by them."

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LIBRARIES PA-CFIKA REPLACES CENTRE LIBRARIES UPDATE AND PIC NEWS. A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER PRODUCED BY REGIONAL LIBRARIES AND PACIFIC COLLECTION, USP LIBRARY

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MANAGING EDITOR: ELIZABETH READE FONG, DUL CUSTOMER SERVICES TELEPHONE (679) 323 2363 EMAIL fong_e@usp.ac.fj
ASSISTANT MANAGING EDITOR/ WRITER: VILIMAINA VAKACIWA LIBRARIAN, REGIONAL LIBRARIES TELEPHONE (679) 323 2234 EMAIL vakaciwa_v@usp.ac.fj
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS: VILIMAINA VAKACIWA, TONY DADALO LIBRARIAN PACIFIC COLLECTION TELEPHONE (679) 323 2285 EMAIL dadalo_t@usp.ac.fj
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