

PacFika

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COMMUNITY LIBRARIES

What impact are we librarians making on our communities? In this issue of Libraries PacFika we have an excellent example of the initiative of a committed individual in a local Fijian community who collaborated with a librarian at the USP, the Fiji Library Services arm of the Fiji Government, Ministry of Information and with the support of the village and its headman formed the Molituva Community Library.

In a discussion with Liviana Tabalala who is the librarian involved in the project, we envisaged that this is an approach that the Provincial Councils in Fiji could take up for the benefit of their communities. It does not need to start off in a big way but what is needed most is the commitment of one or two individuals who passionately believe that libraries can make a difference to their community as did Ms Ulamila Mucunabitu.

The idea has worked well in Asia and there is no reason for it not to work here. In Singapore a community library space is part of the building plans and families who live in the apartment blocks have access to a library from 3-9pm each evening and where at least one parent is encouraged to come with their child a few evenings a week or in the weekend.

The collections are made up of reference and reading materials for children and adults.

To build collections is not such a hard task either. We have island communities all over the world and if they were called upon to contribute to library collections I am sure they would respond willingly. This is where those with library qualifications can help by advising on the kinds of books/reading/viewing materials needed so that collections contain appropriate materials. Library associations play a role here and together with the use of email communication and social networking sites the word of book donations will spread across the oceans by island communities in need. Those travelling home for family occasions and holidays may bring a carton of library materials as part of their luggage!

We who work in libraries have a responsibility to lead by example following which our communities and the Government will surely come to the table.

Food for thought!

Elizabeth C Reade Fong



REGIONAL CONNECTIONS

MOLITUVA COMMUNITY LIBRARY, FIJI

Kuku Village in the Province of Tailevu is the proud owners of Molituva Community Library. Ms. Liviana Tabalala, Librarian in the Training Section of the USP Library said after reading the Molituva Community Library report that “Big things start from small initiatives”, which is the initiative of Ms. Ulamila Marama Mucunabitu who is a mature Bridging Foundation student with the University of the South Pacific. Her small project to start a Library began in 2010 at the Public Rental Board hall in Charles Street, Toorak in Suva with books that were donated through Australian Aid and Fiji Library Services.

The success of this led her to establish the Molituva Community Library from where she hails and was prompted by the need for children to travel from the village to Nausori town in search of information for their projects required by the school curriculum. Her initiative resulted in a retired head-teacher from the village donating a house for the library and its collection until a library building is in place.

A survey was initially conducted to see if the villagers were ready for a library and the positive response was blessed by the village headman. Ms. Liviana Tabalala provided advice on the establishment of a library and information on the vocational certificate and diploma library training programmes offered by the University by USP. Library Services of Fiji brought books and shelving and explained how to organize and shelve the collection. The patrons to the library are enthusiastic children, youths, and the community itself eager to explore this new chapter in their village.

The official opening of the library was attended by representatives from the Ministry of Information, Library Services of Fiji, Tailevu Provincial Office, Education Department, Community Police and parents and children from nearby villages as well. According to the Fiji Sun reporter Maikeli Seru, the Permanent Secretary for the Information Ministry, Ms Smith-Johns said that “the opening of a new library marks a new beginning in any community and creates a meeting point for all communities, bringing all citizens together,” (Fiji Sun, Oct 23, p.14 2012). The day was spent admiring the new collection and taking part in various competitions followed by an awards night whereby certificates were presented to the participants.

Ms. Ulamila Marama Mucunabitu though scoops the top award for taking up this project by putting action into words. Her enthusiasm has inspired the women of Molituva who have taken upon themselves to build a library which has been approved by the Ministry of Women and Poverty. A committee has also been formed so that on-going programs for the children and fundraising can be done to enhance the initial set-up. Education is now the top priority for the villagers and reading the gateway to success.

Summary by Davina Chand from the Report on the Molituva Community Library by Ms. Mucunabitu.

THE USP LIBRARY COLLECTION, COOK ISLANDS

by Jean Mason

The Cook Islands USP library collection is in the unique position of being located in amongst a public library and museum collection at the Cook Islands Library & Museum Society building at Avarua, the capital of Rarotonga. The main advantage of this, of course, is not only does a student get to research topics specific to the course he or she is undertaking at USP, but he or she has the opportunity, if so desired, to view Cook Islands material culture housed in the museum under the same roof.

While the Society’s book collection is enhanced by the USP’s collection of academic works in support of the USP curriculum, the Society’s art and history collection enables students to get an all round education.



Built in 1963, the building is nestled in quiet parklands in an historic part of Avarua, sometimes referred to as the “creative hub” of Rarotonga.

Nearby are located all of the outer islands hostels which house the outer islands cultural performing troupes that come to Rarotonga every July & August for the Constitution Celebrations, a two week long festival.

Next to the USP Centre (which is across the road from the Library & Museum Society/USP Library) is Avarua School, the first school established in the Cook Islands and adjacent to the Avarua School is the Takamoia Theological College, a missionary college established in 1839 by the Rev John Williams of the London Missionary Society.

On the opposite side of the USP Centre is the famous Avarua CICC church and its cemetery filled with the illustrious founders to the modern Cook Islands namely Albert Royle Henry, the first PM and the not so illustrious, but who contributed in their own fashion such as Charles Wells Banks, the American embezzler who made the Cook Islands his home in the late 1800s.

The USP & Society collection is overseen by Jean Mason and Sally Voss both of whom have been involved in the Cook Islands & Library & Museum Society for over 20 years.

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FINISHING TOUCHES TO EMALUS CAMPUS LIBRARY EXTENSION by Julie Reynolds, Law Librarian, USP

A much-needed extension to the Emalus campus library is on the verge of completion. Construction work was postponed for the duration of the Semester I exam period but the final work should be finished over the winter break. The new construction, which began almost a year ago, was funded by the Chinese government.

Once completed, the extension will provide additional seating and study areas for Emalus campus students. Overcrowding in the library has been a problem for some time, and any relief is very welcome.

Pictures of the furnished space will be provided in the next issue of PacFika.

LABASA CAMPUS LIBRARY by Mukesh Chand, Library Assistant

The library based at USP Labasa campus currently occupies an area of 119 square meters which caters for 35 readers in a given time as well as houses approximately 4500 volumes. These volumes consists of prescribed texts, general collection, reference materials, supplementary readings, serials and audios as well as the pacific collection that includes valuable collections of materials from the Pacific Islands.

This year, the orientation was held on first week of the semester and the library staff was involved in the information literacy programme conducted during orientation. This included workshop on referencing skills especially on how to cite information properly, spreading awareness of the university's plagiarism policy as well as how to use the OPAC system and Athena to find books in the library. Students were also trained to use internet search engines such as Google, Bing and Yahoo. They were also encouraged to use the Library Database system to find relevant journal articles from the list of databases on the USP library webpage. These sessions were conducted through library tours that the students had signed in for during the orientation week.

This year has been a year of growth and progress for Labasa Campus since the student numbers has increased by 148% from the 2012 figure. This increase in student numbers has also had tremendous implications for the library because the library is a common place that students can utilize to do their assignment, research, study as well as use their laptops while waiting for their classes. This increase is due to vigorous marketing by Labasa Campus Director Dr. Samuela Bogitini and the team. In future perhaps, more space needs to be allocated for the library so as to effectively cater for the growing number of students.

USP SOLOMON ISLANDS LIBRARY RENOVATION

The Solomon Islands Campus Library was renovated with an extension to the original building completed in September 2012 with USP CAPEX funding. The extension accommodates a new books glass display cabinet, the serials collection and newspaper reading area. 12 study tables have been added which provides additional seating for 48 library users. The after-hours book return is located close to the library's main entrance.



Renovated entrance



Study tables in the new extension

Summary by Sese Cokomata, Library Assistant USPL from the Report by Tony Dadalo, Librarian, Solomon Islands.

A NEW LIBRARY FOR THE PEOPLE OF BOUGAINVILLE

Summarized from the report on Pacific Beat of the ABC on 27 June 2013

Papua New Guinea's island of Bougainville has a new library in Arawa the outcome of a collaborative project between the New Zealand based, Bougainville Library Trust, the Bougainville Heritage Foundation and the New Zealand based organization, Volunteer Service Abroad.

REGIONAL CONNECTIONS

The Library which is also a place of storytelling, performance and craft was the brainchild of New Zealand author Lloyd Jones who was behind its beginnings and who is also Chair of the Bougainville Library Trust.

Lloyd Jones' 2006 book Mr Pip is the story of a young schoolgirl who discovers the wonders of literature, during the civil war of Bougainville and it is hoped that now perhaps Bougainville may have its own Mr Pip.

It was reported that 'Money raised from sales of the book, and donations from the Bougainville Library Trust, helped to fund the library and supply its books.'

Lloyd Jones who attended the opening of the Bougainville Library said that it was 'a colourful occasion of speeches interspersed with cultural performances' and that 'the best moment was an unrehearsed moment when I invited everybody, the crowd, I invited them inside the library and they didn't need to be invited twice. There was just this torrent of people that kept up passing through the doors and as they passed the threshold there were these woops and shrieks of joy.

But that moment didn't arrive easily and as Lloyd explained there were some particular challenges around land. 'It's complicated, the whole land title thing in Bougainville generally, but in particular in Arawa which is really a mining town so you've got that layer of occupation over old ownership. So trying to find the site was very difficult. But once we got that that was a big tick in the box and then we approached an architect that would create a building that combined western building values with local building values.'

Also Acknowledged was the architect and New Zealanders and Australians who had donated to this project, the Hodder Trust in the UK, the Booker Foundation, with special mention of the New Zealand based Volunteers Service Abroad that had been sending volunteers to Bougainville since the end of the conflict.

For a full account of the story behind the library in Arawa go to <http://www.radioaustralia.net.au/pacific/radio/program/pacific-beat/a-new-library-for-the-people-of-bougainville/1152806>

THE USP LIBRARY LAUCALA AND OHS

Library traffic at Laucala on a daily basis during semester is around 5,000 thus the need for the library to be in strict compliance with the Fiji Health and Safety Act (1997).

The Library OHS Committee which was re-established in June 2012 after an official process of internal voting has 9 committee members made up of librarians, library assistants, library

attendants and permanent hourly paid staff (cleaners) for a three year period.

Library OHS representatives together with staff from other USP sections have attended training on occupational health and safety awareness, fire warden and first aid by the University with the understanding that they would share this with all the library staff who work normal day and evening and weekend shifts that operate on reduced staffing numbers.

As part of the University's programme of a Health awareness week in May this year where staff member's blood pressure, weight and sugar levels were tested at no cost to the individual and it is encouraging to note that some staff have joined the gym exercises or taking walks around the campus during their lunch hour.

The registration of OHS concerns by staff is encouraged via email to the designated representatives and through investigation and dialogue issues are dealt with. Those grievances which require intervention by the Properties and Facilities Department that is responsible for the overall coordination of OHS matters are logged into an online Job Request Form that enables a section to track the status of a request allowing for greater efficiency.

Quarterly meetings provide the committee members a good opportunity to seek technical and logistical guidance and advice from the USP OHS Coordinator Dr. Roman Chute.

Some of the OHS issues include the provision of safety boots for Library Attendants from 2013; grievances in the library being dealt with more efficiently; establishment of primary/secondary zones for Emergency Assembly Area for the Library in case of emergencies; participation in the USP Tsunami Drill; reflector vest/hats provided by Properties and Facilities Department to Fire Wardens for easy identification during an emergency.

Awareness activities include the posting of OHS policies on all three levels of the library for the public; orientation on OHS matters has been provided to all staff at the beginning of the semester; OHS Alerts service via email to keep staff informed of OHS matters.

The Library Committee has taken on the many challenges to see that everyone is provided with a safe environment to study and work. More awareness in future will be created for the library patrons on OHS procedures, and Emergency Evacuation routes. The aim is to ensure compliance with the law.

PEOPLE



JUDITH TITOKO & ELA QICA

Judith Titoko and Ela Qica, serving librarians at the USP were appointed to two newly created senior librarian positions. Judith has worked with the Library at Laucala since 1978 and has worked in both technical and customer services sections of the Library for over thirty years and also spent three years as Senior Librarian at the Alafua Campus. Ela first joined the Library in 1990, working with Campus Libraries and cataloguing. She left in 2000 to work with the UN in Geneva as Associate Librarian and returned to Fiji in 2007 to take up the post of Digitization Librarian; since mid-2010 she has also been responsible for Library Systems.

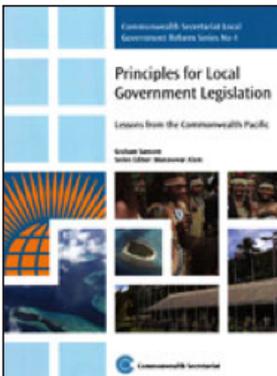


VASITI CHAMBERS

Vasiti Chambers recently joined USP Library on 13 May as Librarian and is working as a cataloguer with the technical services team. Vasiti hold the DLIS and a BA from the University of the South Pacific and a Masters of Information Studies from University of Canberra. She began her career with the Fiji School of Medicine Library, now College of Medicine Nursing and Health Sciences (CMNHS) of the Fiji National University as a library assistant and progressed to the position of Deputy Librarian in 2008. She has worked in reader services, training, development and delivery of Information Literacy (IL), Evidence Based Medicine (EBM) and research support for the College.

Vasiti said 'I started of my career at the bottom of the ladder and have worked my way up. I studied and worked at the same time and though challenging was worth it. I enjoyed my time at the FNU College and the move to the USP Library has provided me with an opportunity to explore areas beyond medical librarianship.'

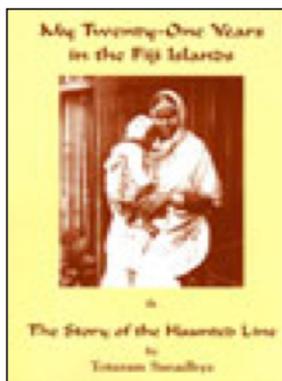
RECENT PUBLICATIONS



PRINCIPLES FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION: LESSONS FROM THE COMMONWEALTH PACIFIC / GRAHAN SANSOM. London, Commonwealth Secretariat, 2013. ISBN: 9781849290890 85p. USD38.00

“Across the Pacific local councils take a variety of different forms, ranging from traditional village structures to fully-fledged municipalities. Whatever form local government takes, an appropriate legislative and regulatory framework is essential to ensure that councils can effectively address the needs of their communities. This study is designed to help Pacific island countries review and strengthen their existing frameworks. It begins by examining legislation and systems across a range of countries and institutional settings, identifying examples of best practice and areas for improvement. It then presents case studies of three very different legislative frameworks: Fiji, Solomon Islands and Samoa. In the conclusion, the findings are consolidated into ten key principles for effective legislation: fit for purpose; democracy and representation; local empowerment; probity; oversight and support; capacity and sustainability; efficiency, effectiveness and equity; community engagement; inter-government co-operation; clarity and consistency. This is an authoritative piece of research that will be extremely valuable to local government practitioners in the Pacific and beyond.”

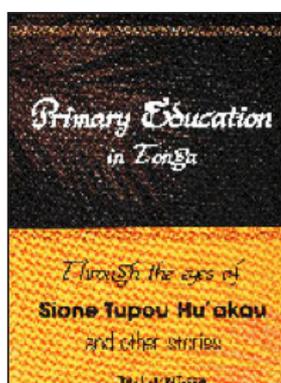
RECENT PUBLICATIONS



MY TWENTY-ONE YEARS IN THE FIJI ISLANDS ; AND, THE STORY OF THE HAUNTED LINE / TOTARAM SANADHYA. Suva, Fiji , Fiji Museum, 1991. ISBN: 9789822080032 220p. USD15.00

“My Twenty-One Years in the Fiji Islands provides a vivid account of the lives of Indians, indentured and free, in early Fiji: the coolie ships, the coolie lines, the struggles with the overseers and law courts, the towns, the bazaars, and Indian religious rituals and festivals. An appendix to the book provides further information about people, places and events described. Also included is Totaram Sanadhya’s The Story of the Haunted Line, a moving story of a man saved from fear and despair by Hindu devotion and the friendship of indigenous Fijians. This book is a window into early Fiji as seen by the immigrants from

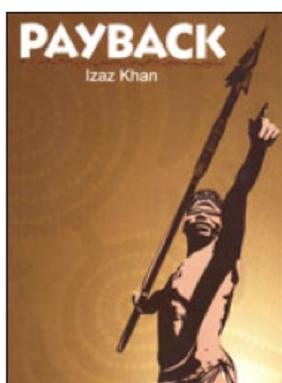
India. It should be interest to anyone who seeks to understand Fiji’s history.”



PRIMARY EDUCATION IN TONGA 1923-1976: THROUGH THE EYES OF SIONE TUPOU HU'AKAU AND OTHER STORIES / FINAU HU'AKAU TUQOTA. Suva, Fiji, Native Academy Publishers, 2012. ISBN: 9789829147011 118p. USD15.00

“Primary education in Tonga” opens a small window of opportunity to peek into the 1930s Educational system and practices in Tonga, through the eyes of an educational pioneer of immense experience in both formal and informal education. Sione Hu’akau’s testimonies and stories are priceless resource materials, for researchers and educators of today. Traditional education and practices thrived in various primary school locations and village settings of the 1930s in different islands groups of Tonga. It is also observed

with interest the variations in school activities and curriculum contents taught in schools, based on religious or government systems and or its geographical proximity to Nukualofa. Besides education, the traditional method of Atu fishing is also highlighted, the unique traditional fishing equipment used and finally, the traditional method of sharing the catch. The story on the longevity of the people of Mo’unga’one island in Tonga based on unique diet and lifestyle, will never cease to amaze any reader.”



PAYBACK / IZAZ KHAN. Lautoka [Fiji], Vicas Press, 2011. ISBN: 9789829082077 279p. USD20.00

“In the 1970’s the chasm between the white Australians and Aborigines was as deep and wide as ever before. But there were those who had bridged the gap, and in some instances exceeded the norm of the white society. One such person was Cory Calbert who was part Aboriginal. Cory is a wealthy and successful lawyer in Sydney. But he has not forgotten or forsaken his Aboriginal past and connections. He enjoys the subtleties prevailing in both cultures. But can Cory negotiate between the two worlds when it comes to the core of values making each world? This novel, set in 1976, capture the dual character of Cory

Calbert. He has not shaken off the rules and rites of his Aboriginal heritage, but is nevertheless affronted by some of its more gruesome and arbitrary practices. One such practice is that of “payback.”

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LIBRARIES PA-C-FIKA REPLACES CENTRE LIBRARIES UPDATE AND PIC NEWS.

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