



# a c f i k a

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### IFLA 2010 MOVED TO THE PACIFIC'S DISADVANTAGE

IFLA 2010 in Brisbane was the subject of my editorial of the December 2008 issue of PacFika in which I encouraged and urged those working in Pacific libraries to begin registering their interests in attending and participating in IFLA 2010, the last of which was held in this part of the world some 22 years previously.

Sadly this was not to be and it has raised discussions about not only IFLA's governing procedures but what appears to be lip-service to its support of libraries and personnel in developing countries. That IFLA did not consider Malaysia in the move from Brisbane confirmed the view that the North has a stronghold over IFLA. The IFLA Governing Board has made its views known on the reasons for the shift to Norway but these remain unconvincing.

Libraries in the Pacific have benefitted from IFLA assistance and that of the ALP (Action for the Development of Libraries programme), PAC (Preservation and Conservation) and UAP (Universal Availability of Publications) and acknowledge this assistance. However, for Pacific people it made it all the more important and valuable for IFLA to be able to hear first hand from its peoples, what the Pacific has been doing in these areas, their challenges and their achievements. For by holding IFLA in Brisbane would have been

the one opportunity to have the biggest number of Pacific Islanders present and as active participants. A presence of over 30 library personnel would have been easily achievable. 30 persons going back to 22 Pacific islands enthused by what they had heard at IFLA would have made that much of a difference. Sadly, an opportunity lost for IFLA and in particular the Pacific islands.

On the Australian front, if what we heard on the 'coconut wireless' is correct that funds were an issue, my question to an Australian colleague was whether the Australian Government had been made aware of ALIA's plight and if it had been approached to assist. We are all aware of the Australian Government's overwhelming response to hosting World Youth day in Sydney in 2008 with over 400,000 participants and their interests in hosting the 2018 or 2022 World Cup Soccer making IFLA 2010, with 5,000 participants a drop in the ocean, even in these economically challenged times.

I look forward to news from IFLA and ALIA that an IFLA World and General Conference will take place where Pacific islands library personnel will be able to attend in the largest numbers ever possible. We live in hope!

Elizabeth C. Reade Fong



## THE PNG INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL RESEARCH LIBRARY

### MICHAEL ALPERS LIBRARY

From its early beginnings in 1970 after the Institute moved from Madang to Goroka to occupy the few remaining buildings of the old hospital, a small library was set up for books and journals with a table and space for reading and writing.

It then moved into a properly designed library in 1981 when the Institute relocated again. Under the Directorship of Dr John Reeder and the assistance of Deb Chapman the AUSAid incentive fund was secured using a development initiative plan of Dr Michael Alpers.

In 2004, the PNG Institute of Medical Research's new Michael Alpers library was inaugurated together with the Adolf Saweri Lecture Theatre with other refurbishments at the Institute.

The library collection is extensive in its scope covering not only subject areas of the research carried out at the Institute but also supporting subject areas such as: religion, history, anthropology, philology etc.

Records for all library holdings in their various formats are accessible through the Library's integrated system, Liberty). The collection comprises over 5000 monographs, 247 serial titles in print of which, 36 titles are current library subscriptions with 21 of these titles available online.

The collection holds approximately 2200 publications authored by PNGIMR staff over the years, approximately 200 records containing selected archival material and over 100 videos and



maps. An equally important part of the collection is reprints accumulated over the years.

### ARCHIVE

The first significant effort to formally establish an administrative unit to manage the archives of the Institute began in October 2003 as part of the Capacity Strengthening Project, funded by AusAID.

The archival collection reflects the research that has been carried out by or in collaboration with the staff of the Institute in the field of malaria, enteric diseases, pneumonia, kuru, sexual health, women's health, filaraisis, and nutrition.

Apart from research-related records the PNGIMR Archive also has in its custody minutes of meetings of the Institute Council and of the Medical Research Advisory Committee (MRAC).

The MRAC was established in 1962 to guide and co-ordinate research activities in the territory. Its term of reference was to assess the ethical and scientific value of research proposals.

Other archives include correspondence, health patrol reports, field notes, manuscripts, conference papers. Some of the archives pre-date the Institute.

These were brought to the Institute by members of staff or Council who had arrived in the territory prior to the establishment of the Institute.

The records have been entered into Heritage Document Management System (HDMS), a software donated to us by Gavan McCathy, from the Australian Science and Technology Heritage Centre at the University of Melbourne.

### COMMUNICATIONS

The communications unit is a vital part of the institute that is responsible for the promotion and dissemination of information to all stakeholders including staff, government and industrial bodies, the general community, community organizations, and international funding and research bodies.

It also provides internal support to staff in providing technical advice and training on the use of different forms of multimedia presentations.

The unit has two professionally qualified staff namely, Llaini Manau and Douglas Diave who are responsible for the all publications and media releases of the institute.

These tasks include, assembling and production of PNGIMR Annual Report,

# REGIONAL CONNECTION

quarterly IMR Newsletters, maintenance and development of PNGIMR website, production of Institute documentaries and films and writing and dissemination of PNGIMR news.

## WEAVING KNOWLEDGE - LIBRARY WEEK CELEBRATED AFTER 21 YEARS!

From the 6th – 10th July 2009 the Library Association of Samoa held Library Week on the island of Upolu. The last time Library Week was held in Samoa was 1988 making it 21 years since the importance of libraries and reading was promoted.

The newly re-established Library Association Committee felt it important to get out there into the Samoan community and remind everyone about how important libraries are to knowledge building and a better society and future. They also wanted to promote the fun of reading for children and adults of all ages.

Many events were planned for Library Week which opened with a parade through the centre of Apia town to the Nelson Memorial Public Library.

The parade was accompanied by the Samoa Police band and the US Navy band, which happened to be in Apia at

the time.

It was with surprise and delight the committee welcomed hundreds of school children, parents, teachers and members of the public who came to join in the march. The children also dressed up in their favourite book character costumes for the competition being run.

At the conclusion of the parade, which gained a lot of interest throughout town, the US Navy entertained the children outside by reading stories while formalities took place inside the library.

The Deputy Prime Minister the Honorable Misa Telefoni offered an inspiring key note speech and donated books from his personal collection to the Nelson Memorial Public Library.

Library Week was then officially opened by the Patron of the Library Association Her Highness Afioga Filifilia Tamasese.

Throughout the week movie nights were held in the USP Alafua Campus and NUS Iot libraries and there were storytelling and reading sessions in the NMPL library in English and Samoan.

A short story and poetry writing competition was also run for adults and children with prizes being awarded to adults at a Literary High Tea held at Plantation House.

Winning entries were judged by Her Highness Afioga Filifilia Tamasese the Patron of the Library Association of Samoa and published in the Samoa Observer with winners receiving monetary prizes, library week t-shirts, Samoan bracelets and books.

Library Week will also be held at the end of August/early September on the Big Island of Savaii so that the important message of literacy and reading can reach all people in Samoa.

These events were made possible with sponsorship from UNESCO Apia office and by the kind donation of books by The Honorable Misa Telefoni, the US Navy, Samoa Stationery and Books, the New Zealand High Commission and Community and Continuing Education at USP.

The Library Association of Samoa is currently developing a web site which will be available at [www.las.org.ws](http://www.las.org.ws) so watch this space.

The LAS can also be contacted at [info@las.org.ws](mailto:info@las.org.ws) or [libraryassociationofsamoa@gmail.com](mailto:libraryassociationofsamoa@gmail.com).

Angela Jowitt  
Senior Librarian – USP Alafua Campus  
and LAS Secretary



## FLA HOSTS AN EVENING OF TALKS ABOUT INFORMATION LITERACY

Information literacy is now viewed as a core activity of library professionals and paraprofessionals and experience in the area appears in advertisements as criteria for appointment and assessment.

The acquisition of information literacy skills is a transformational process aimed at developing lifelong learners where individuals become more informed citizens and contributing members of their communities thus there are personal, social and resulting global purposes to information literacy.

Seeing the importance of an information literate society comprised of learned citizens comfortably utilizing the latest technological gadgets in their everyday life, the Fiji Library Association organized a host evening on Wednesday 19th August at the USP Library Conference Room.

The audience was honored with the presence of the Association's Patron, Sir Moti Tikaram, a well-known and now retired judge and ombudsman.

Presenters included three staff members of the University of the South Pacific (USP) Library and one from the Fiji Institute of Technology (FIT) Library.

Thirty attendees from school, special, public and academic libraries were treated to an insightful two hours of presentations. Pamela Bidwell, a library and information studies lecturer and the Coordinator of the vocational basic library skills certificate and diploma programs at USP, spoke on the impact of libraries and how they make a positive

difference in both primary and early secondary schools.

Sharmila Pillay, Pacific Collection Librarian, presented a history of the USP Library's information literacy program sharing information and statistical data about the program's components from when it was introduced in 2002 and how it has evolved to date.

Also making a presentation was John Dyer, a part-time student pursuing a Diploma in Library Studies while also working full-time who spoke about the theme from a student's point-of-view.

With first-hand experience in the difficulties that students face when trying to find relevant information for the successful completion of assignments and study purposes, he spoke of how he too helps and encourages students.

The evening concluded with a presentation by Sonny Vikash Chandra of the FIT Library.

## ROTUMA ON-LINE

One of the fastest-growing uses of the Internet is social networking and for Rotumans from all over the Pacific and around the globe, getting in touch with their families and friends and getting the latest news and views is possible with a few clicks of the mouse.

The launch of the Rotuma On-Line web-site has made this possible because it is intended to give them a place where they can share news and communicate with one another.

A news page and a bulletin board have been created for these purposes. Moreover, it provides information about Rotuman society and culture to



*Professor Howard making his presentation and wife Dr Jan looking on*

those who wish to learn more about the island and its people.

Recently, the USP Library hosted a presentation by Professor Alan Howard, a graduate of Stanford University and his wife Dr Jan Rensel both of whom have done extensive research on Rotumans in Rotuma and in Fiji as well as those living in other parts of the world.

Professor Howard is Professor Emeritus of Anthropology at the University of Hawaii and Jan Rensel is managing editor at the University of Hawaii's Center for Pacific Islands Studies. They recently wrote and published a book titled *Island Legacy: a History of the Rotuman People*.

## NEW LIBRARY BOOKS HELP NAKASI 6TH FORMER

*(Source: Vodafone Fiji Limited website, July 2009)*

When Nakasi High School 6th former and Head Girl, Renuka Devi Narayan was chosen to represent the school at the recent World Water Day Oratory Contest, she turned to her school library for research material which helped her win 3rd Prize.

The school, long known to

take in children who have difficulty in finding a school in the Suva-Nausori corridor, has changed dramatically under the leadership of Principle Mr. Jaswant Singh and the current school management.

The changes included \$7000 worth of new books for the library from the Vodafone ATH Fiji Foundation which were received by Nakasi High in time for Renuka to prepare her presentation.

"The books came just in time; I did all my research in our library using the new books and had help from my teachers and Head Boy, Ronald Sharma," Renuka said.

Ms. Lavenia McGoon, the teacher in charge of the library at Nakasi High described some of the changes the new books have brought to the school community.

"I open the library at 7.30 and it's usually full from then till closing time at 4.30. The students are really enjoying the new books and take every opportunity to be here. Even the teachers are using the Library for research for their classes."

"Before we had a library room, we had library cupboards that our parents and the school raised funds to purchase and kind donors helped to fill.

But many of the books we had were very old and out of date. When JICA built our new wing we moved the science lab there and converted the old lab into a library. The shelves were nearly empty and it was impossible for our students to do any useful research here," she said.

"Now, the whole school body can't get enough of the books," she added.

The school had applied for funding from the Vodafone ATH Fiji Foundation in late 2008 and the books range from Nancy Drew and Hardy Boys adventure books for juniors to John Grisham thrillers for the seniors, as well as reference books.

Mr. Jaswant Singh said that a few years ago Nakasi High School was so under-resourced that their teachers would be embarrassed to tell others where they were teaching.

"We're so grateful for the kind hearts that have given so generously to our school and especially to the Vodafone ATH Fiji Foundation for coming to our aid and giving our children something that they really needed," Mr. Singh said at the presentation ceremony held at the school on Monday (20th April).

"For many of our parents, and indeed Fiji parents in general, buying text books is difficult enough without having to worry about books for entertainment and so students grow not knowing how much pleasure can be derived from reading. This affects their ability to learn and think laterally and consequently their intellect. This is a wonderful day for Nakasi High School," he added.



## USP LIBRARY HOSTS ANNUAL AUTHORS' TEA

Every August, the USP Library at Laucala Campus hosts an afternoon tea to showcase the publications of staff since the August 2008 tea, students and anyone affiliated with USP, and to welcome new USP staff to the Library. It was also an opportunity for new staff to be informed about the research and authorship taking place at USP as research and publishing are crucial components of the work of any university, and USP is no exception. 181 publications from 70 authors were displayed.

The Chief Guest for the event was Mr. Iosefa Maiava of Samoa, the Head of UNESCAP Pacific Operations Centre in Suva. Prior to joining UNESCAP, he was the Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Nauru, and also served as Deputy Secretary-General of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat from 1999 to 2007. Mr. Maiava is a graduate of the USP.

He opened his speech by citing the ethical vision from the Acceptance Speech by H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon on his appointment as the 8th Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Mr. Maiava said that Mr. Ban Ki-moon's vision "focuses on an ethical problem – the fact that our world and our development processes are not

whole, or even, or inclusive... (and) that ethical development is one that serves the needs of those that need us". As he was speaking to authors and writers, he emphasized that "ethical writing" serves the same purpose.

He then elaborated on ethical issues that affect our daily lives, and the ethical nature of our visions and development aspirations. He said that the main development challenges of the Pacific region, be they poverty or climate change, are all ethical issues.

The core issue is that of poor ethical standards and values which has had an enormous cost to society - the cost of corruption, fraud and misappropriation in the Pacific runs into hundreds of millions. He also referred to the potential "market for more spiritual analyses of our development concerns" and emphasized the importance of "ethical actions".

He mentioned that the UN has set up an Ethics Office and conducts ethics training for its entire staff, and suggested that ethics courses should be introduced and made prerequisites for all programs at USP. To quote: "We all need to be trained in ethics. The more responsible the position we're in, the greater the need".

Mr. Maiava concluded by saying "USP is in a powerful position to strengthen the ethical standards and the integrity of our region, its people and institutions... It should be a measure of how important and ethical you are that you should actually start taking these things on board"

## BRITISH DONATE BOOKS

7/27/2009

Lami Fijian Primary School received quality second-hand library books from the British High Commission on Friday. In donating the books, British High Commissioner Mac Mc Lachlan said that developing children's reading habits from an early age is the most important aid to future learning. He said he was pleased to offer some help for the students.

School teacher Donato Labalaba said the school was grateful for the donation and it would help a lot in the new programme called "Reading Recovery" aimed at students with reading difficulties.

The school was established in 1957 and currently has a total of 504 students with classes ranging from one to eight. [http://www.fijisun.com.fj/main\\_page/view.asp?id=23767](http://www.fijisun.com.fj/main_page/view.asp?id=23767)



Mr. Maiava addressing the gathering

# CONFERENCES, TRAININGS & WORKSHOPS

## PIALA CONFERENCE, 16-21 NOVEMBER 2010

The Pacific Islands Association of Libraries, Archives, and Museums (PIALA) 2009 and its cohost the Libraries, Archives, and Museums of Pohnpei (LAMP) Association and the PIALA Board invites interested persons to the 19th Annual PIALA Conference to be held in the State of Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia November 16-21, 2009.

The theme for the PIALA 2009 is "Pacific Visions: Finding, Selecting and Using Resources for your Libraries, Archives, and Museums."

Whilst conference submissions for the workshops and exhibit proposals closed on July 31, 2009 registrations remain open. Interested persons are invited to visit PIALA's website at <http://piala.org.googlepages.com/pohnpei2009> to register for the conference.

The PIALA Annual conference is one of the largest conferences and source of professional developments opportunities for librarians, Archivists, curators and the community in the Western Pacific.

PIALA is a regional association established in 1991 for the purposes to foster awareness and encourage cooperation and resources sharing among the libraries, archives, museums, and related institutions of the Pacific Island, to promote knowledge of the functions, resources, services, and needs of regional collections, to develop and promote programs for the extension and improvement of library, archival, museum, and related services in the region, to provide a forum for discussing issues of interest to libraries, archives, museums and related institutions, and to provide a vehicle for the exchange of ideas and information to librarians, archivists, museum curators and related personnel.

For more information, please contact PIALA at [piala.org@gmail.com](mailto:piala.org@gmail.com)

Atarino H. Helieisar  
PIALA President

## RESEARCH FINDINGS ABOUT FREEDOM OF ACCESS TO INFORMATION IN FIJI MAKES IT TO AN AUDIENCE IN JAPAN

Gwen Mar, a Librarian with the Reader Services section of the University of the South Pacific's Main Library, attended the Asia-Pacific Conference on Library & Information Education and Practice (A-LIEP) 2009 from 5-10 March at the University of Tsukuba, Japan.

Whilst still very cool compared to the warmer tropical weather of Suva as spring was just approaching, the 182 participants were warmly welcomed to Tsukuba, a city located in the Ibaraki Prefecture and approximately sixty kilometers east of Narita Airport, Tokyo's international airport.

The greater majority of the participants came from Asia – Singapore, Vietnam, India, Hong Kong, Sri Lanka and Malaysia including three participants from Oceania.

A representative each from Curtin University of Technology in Australia and New Zealand's Victoria University of Wellington joined Gwen in bringing current issues relevant to the library and information profession to the attention of the conference attendees.

The conference theme International Collaboration in Library and Information Education, Research and Practices among Asia and Pacific Nations.

Gwen's presentation entitled Freedom of Access to Information – Thoughts, Actions and Culture of Library Staff in Fiji was a reflection of her thesis undertaken in 2005 in partial fulfillment of her Master of Library and Information Studies qualification from Victoria University of Wellington which was jointly funded by the University of the South Pacific and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

There were three parallel tracks - education, practice and research – for the duration of the conference and her paper was presented in Track B – Practice.

With time for discussions, questions and answers, the presentation generated interest amongst the audience and numerous questions arose on the research methodology and findings.

Whilst Fiji is approximately nine hours by plane from Japan, the majority of Japanese people that Gwen met during the conference as well as in the public associated Fiji with lovely beaches, warm sunshine and friendly people which no doubt stems from marketing campaigns of Fiji's tourism industry.



*Gwen under cascades of plum blossoms at the Imperial Palace gardens*

# CONFERENCES, TRAININGS & WORKSHOPS

## ODIN-PIMRIS PROJECT

E-repository Training Workshop  
USP, Suva, Fiji, 17-21 August 2009

The E-repository Training Workshop was organized by PIMRIS Coordination Unit for fisheries librarians and information officers from the five countries involved in the ODIN-PIMRIS pilot project, focused on establishing Pacific Islands Marine Portal, creating capacity at national level to use and contribute to the portal <http://www.pimrisportal.org>, as well as promoting the portal as a valuable information source for managers and decision makers.

The aim was to train them in the development and maintenance of national digital collections using Greenstone open source software and contributing to the PIMRIS Regional repository and the Pacific Islands Marine Portal. Scanning, OCRing and metadata were components of the training.

Workshop trainees were: Tapeka Daniela, (Ministry of Marine Resources, Cook Islands), Shalendra Singh (Department of Fisheries, Fiji), Mwaba Raurenti (Fisheries Department, Kiribati), Aifiti Viane (Fisheries Division, Samoa), and Ataban Kapule (Ministry of Fisheries, Solomon Islands).

Trainers at the Workshop included Ela Qica (Librarian) and Vikash Gounder (Analyst Programmer) of the USP Systems and Digitization sections respectively and Maria Kalenchits (Librarian / PIMRIS Coordinator). Peter Murgatroyd (PEIN Coordinator, SPREP), Eleanor Kleiber (Librarian, SPC) and Jainul Ali (Library Assistant, PIMRIS CU) provided assistance

to trainees during practical sessions. Judith Titoko (Head of Serials Section, USPL) and Lusi Ravuvu (Head of Cataloguing Section, USPL) attended the training as observers who will be involved in the project activities related to in-country expert visits later in the year.

## PROQUEST PROMOTION AT USP LIBRARY

An awareness session on how to make maximize use of ProQuest electronic resources was held at USP Library, Suva, Fiji on Friday 28th of August 2009 was conducted by Mr. John Hall, ProQuest's Area Sales Manager for NZ & the South Pacific. The presentation was attended by USP Librarians and representatives of the Library Advisory Committee.

The presentation focussed on resources in the following areas with emphasis on the key content of dissertations, non-periodical content, peer reviewed literature and more:

- Arts & Humanities
- News Resources & Historical Newspapers
- General Reference (cover PQ Central)
- Commerce (to include Business, Finance)
- Natural Science (to include Health Science) & Technology

An outcome of John's presentation, is a two month's free access trial to ProQuest Central to 3rd November 2009.

Mr. Hall also visited the University of Fiji at Lautoka, Fiji School of Medicine and other institutions.



*Mr. Hall (middle in black) making his presentation.*

## SPREP ONLINE RESOURCES

Mr. Peter Murgatroyd, Information Resource Centre Manager at the Pacific Regional Environmental Programme (SPREP) which is based in Apia, Samoa took time following the conclusion of the ODIN-PIMRIS Workshop to make a presentation to the USP Library staff on 26th August 2009 on the various online environment resources that he has created as part of the PEIN project. He made particular reference to the Virtual Environment Libraries for each of the PICTS that will be of considerable use to a wide range of students.



*Mr. Murgatroyd making his presentation*



*Participants at the workshop.*

## RON CROCOMBE, 8TH OCTOBER 1929 – 18TH JUNE 2009

Colleagues and the University Community were saddened to learn of the death on 18th June 2009 of Emeritus Professor of Pacific Studies, The University of the South Pacific, Ron Crocombe.

Professor Crocombe joined the University of the South Pacific as its founding Professor of Pacific Studies in 1969, a key position that was intended to define and guide teaching and research in sociology, anthropology, history, land tenure and reform, local government, politics, and regionalism at the University of the Pacific, and what an amazing job he did.

It is fair to say that R.G. Crocombe remains the leading academic of our region and whose publication list runs to 30 pages.

He was a prolific writer. A search of the USP Library catalogue shows 158 items made up of journal articles, books, chapters and commentaries in regional newspapers to name some of the sources of his works.

He often teamed up with his wife of 50 years, Marjorie Tua'inekore Crocombe in the writing of papers. Ron encouraged those he taught and worked with to put their thoughts into writing and many responded positively.

Ron Crocombe is a Pacific legend and was so even before his death on 18 June 2009. His commentary on issues Pacific were forthright and from his heart. Whilst many agreed with Ron's views there were many who did not and this led to lively, academic debate that was healthy for all.

He was the author of more than 20 books, beginning with the influential *Land Tenure in the Pacific Islands* (Oxford University Press, 1963) and culminating in the 644-page *Asia in the Pacific Islands: Replacing the West* (USP, 2007).

His encyclopaedic book *The South Pacific* went into its 7th Edition in 2008.

In the section on regionalism he wrote:

More than some regions of the world (e.g. Latin America), each Island nation differs from others in language, culture, and feelings of identity.

Despite more language fragmentation than anywhere else on earth, when people want to cooperate in negotiations with non-indigenous partners, their 'Pacificness' is emphasized and has some reality.

Likewise with the culture areas, which are distinguished by broad ethnic and geographical criteria. (p. 558)

Oceania regionalism became pronounced from 1972 with the formation of the South Pacific Forum (since 2000 named the Pacific Islands Forum) which deals with political and economic issues.

Harmony has often been achieved by avoiding contentious issues within countries (the things that matter) while criticizing similar issues in countries that are not members. From time to time Australia and New Zealand will take a stance in the Forum which is contrary to the others, usually on issues of industry or ethnicity, and there will be talk of doing without them. (p. 560)

Ron will also be remembered, particularly during his time at the helm of USP's Institute of Pacific Studies, as an energetic facilitator of the publication of research by Pacific Island peoples.

Around 1700 such people had their work published by IPS when Ron was there. He also mentored many Pacific islanders many of whom are now prominent leaders in various circles in governments and regional organizations.

'I was a student of Ron's in the 1970s. I have yet to meet an academic who made class attendance such a joy. The depth and width of his knowledge of Pacific cultures and issues is unmatched.

So often I would get so absorbed in his lecture that I would end up with my writing pad blank. Such was his ability to convey the content of his lecture that was

no need for notes! He is one of the few lecturers I have seen walk into the lecture room and ask students what the topic was in the course outline for that day.

Without any notes, he would then proceed to lecture on the topic comparing and contrasting the issue across countries in Polynesia, Micronesia and Melanesia. He had the incredible ability to see the big picture and the impact of this on the smaller PICs. Such was the knowledge of the man.

Ron Crocombe and Pacific studies are synonymous. The clarity with which Ron was able to articulate and share his views on matters of Pacific importance made him an icon.

For those of us fortunate to have been his student and friend we have been truly blessed. For those who did not, his legacy of writings remain.' (Editor)

Ron, will be remembered with enormous respect by all those with whom he worked and those he taught.

[Sources: USP Vice-Chancellor, Tribute to Ron; A Tribute to Ron in FLA E-Newsletter by the Editor]

## NEW STAFF



Nellie Hazame joined USP Library in May as a Librarian in the Cataloguing department. Nellie comes from Papua New Guinea. Nellie holds a Masters in Information Management & Systems (MIMS), professional library qualifications which she obtained in 2006.

Nellie has a BA in Social Work (UPNG) and a Diploma in Library Science (UPNG/PNGIPA). Prior to joining USP she had worked for 23 years at the PNG University of Technology Library as a paraprofessional and then as a Senior Librarian (2006-2009) leading the Collection Development Section.

She says that she chose to come and work at USP Library in Fiji in order to gain international exposure and experience,

and says that so far she is enjoying the challenges of cataloguing and also enjoys Suva.



Shirley Devi, the USP Library's Graduate Trainee 2006-2008, joined the Library in a professional position on 1 June 2009 as a Librarian in the Reader Services section. Shirley obtained a Masters in Library and Information Science (MLIS) programme from the Victoria University of Wellington, NZ.

In her research project, she conducted a content analysis of 47 Australasian university library websites to determine the extent to which Australasian university libraries utilized the principles of service marketing to market liaison/subject librarians and their services to academic staff and students on their library websites.

She said: "The Library Graduate Trainee training programme provided me with knowledge, skills and experience needed to pursue formal qualification in library studies". She added that that the MLIS was an intensive, yet an enjoyable programme and she's looking forward to her graduation later this year.

Shirley was a school teacher prior to joining USP Library in 2006 as a Graduate Trainee and holds a BA GCED



Sharmila Pillay rejoined USP Library in May and is now Librarian, Pacific Collection.

Sharmila is no stranger to USP Library where she had had a short stint as a paraprofessional before leaving to pursue professional studies in Australia following which she returned to Fiji and joined the Library in 2006 having completed a BA in Librarianship & Corporate Information Management from Curtin University in Perth, Australia.

At the end of 2006 she resigned to join her husband in Australia who was pursuing studies. From January 2007 to January 2008 Sharmila worked as a librarian at

Shafton College in Brisbane, Australia. After returning to Fiji in late-2008, she joined the Fiji Institute of Technology Library as Deputy Institute Librarian and then resigned to join USP Library in May 2009.



Varanise Tokalautawa joined the USP Library in July this year as a Part-time Junior Library Assistant at the Main Issue Desk.

She is currently enrolled in the vocational USP Certificate in Basic Skills in Library & Information Studies course.

Prior to joining USP Library she enjoyed a six month attachment with the International Secondary School library from January to June 2009.



Vikash Gounder joined the USP Library in April this year as the Library's Analyst Programmer. Vikash is no stranger to USP.

He had worked for the USP IT Services from June 2003 to June 2008 before migrating to the USA where he worked as Programmer at RaboBank, California.

He returned to Fiji and joined the Library in April 2009.



Kartik Deo joined USP Library in July this year as IT Technician. Prior to joining the USP Library, Kartik had worked as Systems Administrator for Courts Fiji Ltd.

He says that his new job is a challenging one and as part of the Library Systems Team, he is looking forward to providing better IT support for the Library as he gains more knowledge and experience in the academic environment of the USP.

## DEPARTURES



After three years as the Library's Systems Manager, Chris Hammond-Thrasher was farewelled by his workmates with a morning tea in early June.

On the eve of his return to Canada, Chris had this to say, "I would like to bid a fond farewell to all of the students, academics, and library staff that I have had the pleasure to work with over the past three years.

My time at the USP has been immensely rewarding in a way that I have never experienced in a Canadian workplace.

At the end of every day as I walked to my home on Mariko Street, I felt like I had contributed to enriching the lives – even if only in a very small way – of the people of the twelve USP countries.

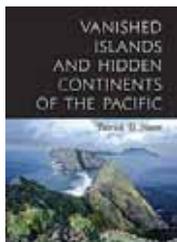
Whether through supporting the education of young people, supporting the research of the region's leading minds, or contributing to the ICT community in the region, I always felt like I had made a positive difference.

I will return to Canada enriched by this experience and seek out opportunities to contribute to the community around me in my daily work. And I will never forget my time in Fiji. Vinaka Vakalevu".

Ane Teilauea a Cataloguing librarian of USP Library leaves after serving 11 years. Ane started at the USP Library in 1998. During her years of service at the USP Library she had also spent time in Reader Services, Serials and Regional Libraries sections. She returns to Tuvalu.



# RECENT PUBLICATIONS



## AMERICANS PRAISE PROFESSOR NUNN'S BOOK

(Source: Fiji Sun 11/8/09)

A University of the South Pacific, Professor of Geography has received recognition in the American Library Association for an outstanding publication. At the 2009 annual conference of the American Library Association in Chicago (USA) held last month, a book written by Patrick Nunn was named one of the Best of the Best from the University Presses. The book in question is his 2009 book from the University of Hawai'i Press entitled Vanished Islands and Hidden Continents of the Pacific which was launched in Fiji by USP Vice-Chancellor, Professor Rajesh Chandra, in December, last year.

Professor Nunn has taught geography at USP for 24 years and is USP Pro Vice-Chancellor. "Islands - sometimes even whole continents - are reputed to have disappeared in many parts of the world. Yet there is little information about this subject in its largest ocean - the Pacific," a USP statement said.

"Over the years, geologists have amassed information that points to the undeniable fact of islands having disappeared - vanished beneath the waves - in the Pacific, a phenomenon that oral traditions among many groups of Pacific Island people also highlight. There are even a few instances where fragments of continents in the Pacific have disappeared - becoming hidden from view rather than being submerged," the statement added. The statement also highlighted the in-depth view Prof Nunn presented in his book on the disappearing islands of the Pacific.

"In this scientifically-rigorous yet readily comprehensible account of the fascinating subject of vanished islands and hidden continents in the Pacific, the author ranges far and wide, from explanations of the region's ancient history through the meanings of Pacific Island myths," the USP statement said.

"Using both original and up-to-date information, the author shows that there is real value in trying to marry the details of myths with the geological understanding of land movements in the Pacific, not least because of the hazard implications of island disappearance, whole or partial." The American Library Association rated Prof Nunn's book as outstanding, defined as "having exceptional editorial content and subject matter". The book is on sale from the USP Bookstore and other outlets as well as from [www.uhpress.hawaii.edu](http://www.uhpress.hawaii.edu)



## HOUSE-GIRLS REMEMBER DOMESTIC WORKERS IN VANUATU

- By Margaret Rodman, Daniela Kraemer, Lissant Bolton, and Jean Taiseisei. Hawaii : University of Hawaii Press, 2007.

ISBN: 9780824830120 \$85.00

"Giving voice to the women who worked as maids-known as "house-girls" in the Pacific islands of Vanuatu-is the goal of this innovative work. It is a unique collaborative project with contributions from twenty-one indigenous and four expatriate women. The book is contextualized within literature on domestic workers and current anthropological theory, but the focus is on the words of the indigenous women themselves. The stories the women tell resonate with the experiences of domestic workers around the world; their histories contribute to theorizing intimacy and traveling culture; and their struggles with adverse working conditions help find solutions, which are outlined at the end of the book."

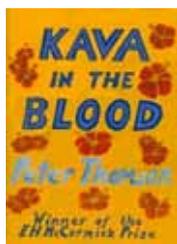


## LEGENDS, TRADITIONS & TALES OF NAURU

- Timothy Detudamo. Nauru : Institute of Pacific Studies, 2008

ISBN: 9789820203945 \$15.00

In a fast globalizing world, group histories, traditions and memories, especially of smaller countries, are at risk of being lost. In 1938, Head Chief Timothy Detudamo had the foresight to transcribe and then translate, a series of lectures relating to the legends, customs and tales of Nauru, delivered by what he termed native teachers. Seventy years later, in line with its aim of ensuring that the historic and contemporary voice of the Pacific is heard on the world stage, IPS Publications is pleased to make them more widely available in this, Legends, Traditions and Tales of Nauru. This is the fourth book in a series funded by the Government of Nauru. Earlier titles were: Nauru 100 years Ago: Fishing: Games & Sport; Nauru 100 years Ago: Pandanus.



## KAVA IN THE BLOOD

- Peter Thomas, [NZ.]: Booksurge Publishing, 2008

ISBN: 9781419695766 \$35.00

"The literary device of juxtaposing the story of the Fiji coup against autobiographical reminiscences of a Fiji background works very well. This is an excellent story, beautifully written and skilfully mixing the personal with the political .. The EH McCormick Award for the Best First Book of Non Fiction, sponsored by the New Zealand Society of Authors (PEN Inc) and Creative New Zealand, goes to Kava in the Blood by Peter Thomson." - Judges Report, Montana New Zealand Book Awards, 2000. Entwined through the author's reportage of the 1987 coups is an evocative picture of life in the islands. Thus, Kava in the Blood is also an

intriguing story of hurricanes, haunted houses and copious kava consumption, set within the dramatic landscapes and vibrant cultures of the Fiji Islands."

## MARINE LIFE OF FIJI AND TONGA : A VIDEO IDENTIFICATION GUIDE. (DVD)

- Josh Jensen & Liz Harlin Qld, Aust., : Undersea Production, 2007 ISBN: 2770000020343 \$34.00

"This "V.I.D." Guide (Video ID) covers the incredible marine biodiversity of this fantastic corner of the South Pacific. Beautifully filmed and visually engaging, Marine Life of Fiji & Tonga contains pretty much every species you are likely to see, catch or hear about when getting wet in this part of the world. Three years and more than 3000 dives in the making, this is both an essential tool and exotic entertainment. Disc One:- FISH including sharks, lionfish, gobies, angelfish, ghost pipefish, rays, eels, butterflyfish, dragonets, seahorses, barracudas, parrotfish... Disc Two: EVERYTHING ELSE including whales, nudibranchs, corals, octopus, crustaceans, sponges, jellyfish, sea stars, sea snakes, cuttlefish... •77 intuitive and easy-to-navigate DVD chapters •3.5 hours of gorgeous underwater footage •1739 video clips, with 1272 different species, including over 800 species of fish! •common names and scientific names •juveniles, males, females — plus endemic species and local colour variations •video allows you to study behaviour: how species swim, feed, court, fight, clean, hunt."



**TUIMACILAI** - Dr Deryck Scarr. Fiji; Aust., : Fijians Trust Fund, Crawford House Publishing, 2009.

"Tuimacilai: A Life of Ratu Sir Kamisesa Mara was four years in the making. It is the first major biography

of Fiji's late president and prime minister, who was the dominant political figure in the period leading to Independence and in the first decades of nationhood. It was said of Ratu Sir Kamisesa that he bestrode Fiji's political stage like a colossus. To some his height and quick temper meant he was "the towering inferno"; others gave him god-like status. His achievements were numerous. But most of all he was known for his advocacy of multi-racial co-operation, through a philosophy of dialogue and consensus he called the Pacific Way."

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