

PACIFIC MANUSCRIPTS BUREAU

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Trip Report

PMB Fieldwork in Samoa, 21 March – 4 April 2012



Library staff at the National University of Samoa, Apia, Samoa.

Summary

The main purpose of this trip was to:

- Copy student theses at Piula Theological College;
- Copy *The Samoan Times* (1984-1993) at the National University of Samoa; and
- Visit Malua Theological College, accompanied by Rev. Latu Latai (ANU PhD candidate), who introduced me to the Principal, Rev. Dr. Afereti Uili at Malua Theological College.

Piula Theological College

Thu 22 – Mon 26 Mar

I arrived in Samoa at 6am on the morning of Thursday 22nd March after a 5.5hr flight from Sydney. It had been a long day in the office followed by a flight from Canberra to Sydney and then on to Apia. Samoa is now on the same side of the dateline as Australia, however they are three hours ahead, so the 6am arrival felt like 3am! I was kindly met at the airport by Rev. Iosefa Lefaoseu (Librarian at Piula Theological College), his wife Taofa Lefaoseu, and a student from Piula Theological college who drove me back to Piula Theological College in the school bus, about a 1hr drive from the airport.

Rev. Iosefa arranged for me to stay at Le Uaina resort, directly next door to Piula Theological College. I set up my equipment and proceeded to list and microfilm the Bachelor of Divinity theses.

Piula Theological College offers a four year course leading to a Diploma in Theological Studies with the possibility of further study to complete a Bachelor of Theology (additional two year programme) or Bachelor of Divinity (additional three year programme) degree. The Bachelor of Divinity degree was introduced at Piula Theological College in 2000. Students are encouraged to appreciate and write about Samoan culture and values in relation to Methodist Theology and faith. The theses are designed as independent research work where students show their originality, creativity and contribution to theological learning.



The chapel at Piula Theological College

The training at Piula prepares men for Ministry in the Samoa Methodist Church. In addition to academic life, students participate in worship, prayers, singing and sport. The extensive grounds and properties of Piula Theological College are kept in beautiful condition by the students. Some of the students are married and their wives and children live with them at Piula Theological College. Many of the wives undertake courses to prepare them for the role they will play as minister's wives.

I worked in the Library at Piula Theological College which was well equipped and clean. I copied a total of 53 theses creating 6 reels of microfilm (PMB 1385). Some of the theses copied included:

- FA'ALAFI, B. Leauga. *A Theology of the Concept Talia (Acceptance): With Special Reference to the Samoan Methodist Church.* 2006 (73pp.)
- NUUALALO, Isaako. *Tapena Faafafine Toaga (Prepare as a Diligent Woman):A Contextual Christology of Ministry in the Samoan Context.* 2008. (53pp.)
- TAUTIAGA, Iafeta Setefano. *A Theological significance of the Tatau (Tattoo) in the Samoan Context.* 2004 (81pp.)
- TUIVANU, Tamatasi. *The Atofevailiai and the Problem of Youth Suicide: with reference to the Youth of the Methodist Church in Samoa.* 2002 (75pp.)
- URIMA, Lone. *The Deception of Homosexuality in Samoa.* 2004 (67pp.)
- TOLEAFOA, Moloka, *Nurturing, conserving and sustaining: implications of mangrove ecosystems and God's creative process for Church mission.* 2009 (62pp.)
- SAVAIINAEA, Liua. *The Issue of Child Development: with reference to Children of the Methodist Church in Samoa.* 2002 (64pp.)
- FUAIVAA, Mosese Mailo. *Jesus' Attitude towards Women in the Gospel according to John (2:1-11; 20:11-18).* 2001. (58pp.)

The theses were typed and bound, and were relatively easy to copy. When I arrived in Samoa, the light meter that I had brought with me did not work and the back-up was not reliable, so much of the

time I adjusted the lights according to feel. I have since found out that the microfilms I exposed on this trip are all fine! Rev. Iosefa asked me to supply Piula Theological College with a digital copy of PMB 1385 rather than microfilm..

I attended church and was treated to morning teas, which included large spreads of rice and stew, meat pies, home made cakes, custard tarts, scones, juice, tea and coffee. I was certainly never hungry!

The weather was dull and overcast for the few days I worked at Piula. Torrential tropical rain fell most days accompanied by gusty winds from the north. Thankfully I worked inside the Library which was clean and dry. I had expected to stay at Piula for about one week, but because the microfilming was relatively straightforward I completed the copying by Monday lunchtime (within 2 days) and returned to Apia to set up for the National University of Samoa copying work.

Malua Theological College visit

On Tuesday 27th March I caught a taxi (It was another grey and rainy day!) to visit the Principal and librarians at Malua Theological College. The Principal, Rev. Dr. Afereti Uili met me in the library along with Rev. Apinevu Fasavalu (the Librarian), Rev. Benny and two female library assistants (wearing beautiful blue matching puletasi uniforms). The Library at Malua Theological College library is well equipped and spread over two floors. The ground floor includes a special Pacific history collection (mainly monographs), staff workspace, student study areas, reference material and some journals. The second floor of the library includes monographs, student study area and a separate computer lab with about twelve computers.



A ride in a taxi on another rainy day in Samoa!



The computer lab and downstairs area of the Malua Theological College library.

Similar to Piula Theological College, Malua Theological College is a training centre for ministers of the Samoan Congregational Christian Church. Malua Theological College offer a Bachelor of Divinity and a Bachelor of Theology which both take 4 years to complete. I explained to the Principal and Librarian the work of the PMB and they have invited the Bureau to return in 2013 to undertake a copying project. They have a collection of around 60 student theses (both Bachelor of Divinity and Bachelor of Theology) that they would like copied. They have asked to receive digital copies of the PMB title once they have been copied. I explained how to access the PMB catalogue as they are interested in accessing other PMB titles (in digital format) that may be useful for their students' research.



Malua Theological College student theses (2nd row).

Rev. Apinevu has begun distance library studies through USP Fiji. He has strong skills in IT and is keen to learn more about how to operate and strengthen the Malua library. The current library system is on DB Text works and is need of upgrading. The South Pacific Association of Theological Schools has recently established a new position of "Library consultant"

in 2012. Lynn Prior is the library consultant for SPATS and was due to visit Malua on Thursday 29 March. I encouraged Rev. Apinevu to ask Lynn Prior about automated library systems that other Theological colleges are using (possibly freeware systems) and to ask her about other opportunities for mentoring or networking with other Pacific Theological College librarians. I said that I would introduce him to the Samoan Library Association and encouraged him to join PIALA (the Pacific Islands Association of Librarians).

The Rev. Dr. Afereti Uili encouraged me to visit the General Secretary (Rev. Dr. Iutisone Salevao) of the Malua Church Headquarters in town. He said that they have very early copies of *O le Sulu* (the LMS journal) from 1880s onwards (although incomplete) that would be worth copying. Rev. Latu Latai (a current PhD candidate at the ANU) has also encouraged me to copy these journals. The NLA has a strong collection of them that would be a good place to start.



Sharing lunch with the library assistants at Malua Theological College library.

I gave the library assistants and Rev. Apinevu a copy of the listings of student theses copied at Piula Theological College. The library staff at Malua are willing to create a similar listing prior to the Bureau's visit in 2013. I promised to keep in touch and arrange a convenient time for them in 2013 in which to return to Malua Theological College and copy their student theses. I would like to thank the wives of students at Malua Theological College who prepared a lovely lunch for me to share with Rev. Apinevu and the two library assistants.

National University Samoa

On Wednesday 28 March I visited the Library at the National University Samoa (NUS) to copy *The Samoan Times*. I was warmly welcomed to the NUS library by Avalogo Togi Tunupopo, the Head Librarian, and the NUS library staff.

The library staff had kindly cleared two desks for me to work and I proceeded to set up the microfilm camera. Earlier issues of *The Samoan Times* have previously been microfilmed by the University of Hawai'i (1964-1983), so I focussed on copying 1984-1993 (PMB Doc 534). Some of the issues were tightly bound in large albums which made microfilming difficult as the gutter was very tight.



The microfilm camera set up for copying large bound volumes of *The Samoan Times* in the NUS Library workspace.

The NUS Library was missing the bound volumes for 1985 and 1986 but was able to borrow these issues from the Nelson Memorial Public Library in Apia so that I could copy them. In three days I microfilmed 7 reels (1984-Sep 1993). Unfortunately I ran out of microfilm on the last day, only microfilming up to Sep 1993. I will return at a future date to complete the microfilming to copy Oct-Dec 1993.

I was kindly given permission to copy *The Samoan Times* by Associate Professor (Dr) Unasa Felise Va'a. Dr Unasa was a former editor of *The Samoan Times*. I was also fortunate to attend a lecture by Dr. Unasa titled "O le amio Faatamali'i – Elements of Samoan Chiefly Behaviour" as part of the NUS Centre for Samoan Studies Seminar Series.



Associate Professor (Dr) Unasa Felise Va'a former editor of *The Samoan Times*, Kylie Moloney and Avologo Togi Tunupopo, Head Librarian, at the NUS library.

Dr. Unasa later wrote a short article about the PMB working at NUS library on the NUS web site, see: http://www.nus.edu.ws/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=444:anu-pacific-manuscripts-bureau-ceo-visits-national-university-of-samoa&catid=48:news&Itemid=113

As I had exposed all of the microfilm I took with me to Samoa, I returned to Australia earlier than expected, on Monday 2 April.

Future PMB work in Samoa and Australia

- 1) Complete copying *The Samoan Times* at the National University of Samoa.
- 2) Copy student theses at Malua Theological College.
- 3) Investigate the possibility of copying *O le Sulu* held at the National Library of Australia, see: <http://trove.nla.gov.au/work/8863509?q=O+le+Sulu+Samoa&c=article>

Thank you

I would like to thank the following people for their support and assistance during my stay.

- Rev. Iosefa Lefaoseu (Librarian), Mrs. Taofa Lefaoseu and Rev. Dr Eteuati Tuioti, (Principal) at Piula Theological College for allowing me to copy the student theses and for their hospitality.
- The Principal, Rev. Dr. Afereti Uili, Rev. Apinevu Fasavalu (the Librarian), Rev. Benny and the two female library assistants at Malua Theological College for welcoming me to the College and showing me the student theses and library.
- Avologo Togi Tunupopo, Head Librarian, and the library staff, Associate Professor (Dr) Unasa Felise Va'a former editor of *The Samoan Times*, at the National University of Samoa.
- Rev. Latu Latai for introducing me and the Pacific Manuscripts Bureau to Rev. Dr. Afereti Uili.



Purchasing material from the wide range of Pacific Island prints at Frankie's supermarket, Samoa.

Kylie Moloney
PMB Executive Officer
16 April 2012