Greetings from the Pambu office in Canberra!

2018 has been a busy and exciting year for Pambu as we’ve celebrated our 50th anniversary this year. We’ve marked this major milestone with displays in two member libraries, conference papers and a celebration at the Australian National University. We welcomed a new member, the University of Papua New Guinea (UPNG), early in 2018. We were delighted to invite UPNG Librarian, Leah Kalamoroh, to speak at our 50th anniversary celebration and to formally sign the member agreement as part of the event. Papua New Guinea is the most represented country in the Pambu archive, and UPNG students now have access to all our digital collections.

Fieldwork has been limited this year, due in large part to three broken bones in my foot that took several months to heal. I used this as an opportunity to work with some private collections here in Australia. In July I returned to Suva to finish copying student theses at the Pacific Theological College. These collections have been released this year as PMB MS 1427 Bachelor of Divinity and Master of Theology theses. On this trip I also visited the University of the South Pacific to deliver an interactive workshop for staff and students in searching the Pambu catalogue. The workshop went really well and I hope to run similar workshops at ANU and UPNG in Semester One, 2019.

This year we also released the remainder of Presbyterian New Hebrides mission slides and photographs that were digitised by Kylie Moloney and Eve Haddow at the Presbyterian Archives Research Centre, Knox College in Dunedin back in 2016. There are 20 collections from Knox, with a total of 2,337 photos of the Presbyterian New Hebrides mission from the 1860s through to the 1970s. This year we have also released a private collection of 443 photographs taken by (top) W.C. and Doris Groves
Women dancers,
Manu Manu
PAPUA NEW GUINEA
TRANSPARENCIES, MAINLY 1950s. PMB PHOTO 26_075
Frank and Rita Paton, who served as Presbyterian missionaries in the New Hebrides from 1931-1933. We’ve also released the diaries of Reverend Conrad Stallan, who served with the Presbyterian mission in South West Bay from 1940-1946. We hope to have further collections relating to the Presbyterian mission to the New Hebrides ready for release in 2019. Some other highlights released this year include a large collection of PNG Department of Agriculture and Livestock reports and a collection of photographs from the 1966 election campaign in Fiji. See the back page of this newsletter for the full list of 2018 releases.

Pambu joined Facebook this year! We will continue to release trip reports, newsletters and conference papers on our website but I encourage readers who use the social media platform to follow us to keep up with Pambu events as they happen. Thank you to those who have followed the page already and shared our activities via your networks.

As the year draws to a close I’d like to thank Pambu’s casual staff: Sioana Faupula, Bruma Rios Mendoza, Eve Haddow and Myjolynne (Mymy) Kim. I’m sad to say that Mymy will be finishing up with Pambu at the end of this year as she returns home to Chuuk to finalise her PhD thesis. I thank Mymy for her two years of excellent service to Pambu. I will miss her friendship, insights and wisdom, but I wish her every happiness as she returns home, and every success in what I’m sure will be a bright future.

Thank you to our members, friends and supporters for another great year. Best wishes to you all for a safe and happy holiday period.

KARI JAMES
EXECUTIVE OFFICER, PACIFIC MANUSCRIPTS BUREAU

Celebrating 50 years of the Pacific Manuscripts Bureau

Pambu’s 50th anniversary was celebrated with an evening event at the Australian National University (ANU) on the 8th of August. Students and volunteers decorated the ground floor of the Sir Roland Wilson Building with flowers, banners and tapa cloth. Pambu staff members Myjolynne Kim and Eve Haddow presented leis to speakers and dignitaries, including Princess Angelika Latufuipeka Tuku’aho of Tonga, as they arrived. As guests took their seats a group of ANU Pasifika students performed dances from all regions in the Pacific, with a slideshow of photos of Pambu’s history as a backdrop.

Professor Michael Wesley, Dean of College of Asia and the Pacific, opened formalities, highlighting the important role Pambu plays at ANU and in the broader Pacific research community. Professor Wesley was followed at the lectern by former Executive Officers Ewan Maidment and Kylie Moloney. Ewan spoke on the origins of the Bureau and paid tribute to those key to its inception, including Harry Maude, Gordon Richardson, Ralph Shaw, Floyd Cammack and first Executive Officer Robert Langdon. Ewan also paid tribute to the individuals who assisted Pambu up to and during his tenure.

Kylie honoured Ewan for his 17 years of dedicated service to Pambu, noting his meticulous and prolific output to member libraries. She also reflected on some key
achievements of her own tenure, of which she rightly feels proud. She highlighted the transition from microfilm to digital, which has enabled Pambu to reduced membership fees for libraries in independent Pacific Island nations, resulting in unprecedented access to Pambu collections for researchers in the Pacific. Before leaving Pambu, Kylie was working towards University of Papua New Guinea becoming Pambu members, which came to fruition early in 2018. As a highlight of our 50th anniversary celebrations, UPNG librarian Leah Kalamoroh joined us to formally sign the membership agreement with CAP Dean Prof Michael Wesley. Leah also spoke to guests about the UPNG Library – its services, its people and its challenges. Leah’s speech was introduced by Margy Burn, who recently stepped down from her long involvement with Pambu as a representative of two founding members, the Mitchell Library then the National Library of Australia. We thank Margy for her many years of dedicated service.

The final speech was by Executive Officer Kari James on current digitisation projects and outlined a future vision, including increasing Pacific voices in the collection, expanding membership in the Pacific and growing Pambu’s networks through social media. Before guests moved to the foyer for celebratory drinks and canapés, formalities were drawn to a close with the singing of grace in Tongan language by long term Pambu staff member Mrs Sioana Faupula, with members of Canberra’s Pasifika community standing to join her in song. It was a joyful night, with old connections revisited and new connections forged.

Pambu wishes to thank College of Asia and the Pacific, School of Culture, History and Language and the Pacific Institute for their support of the event. A huge and heartfelt thank you to our dancers, speakers and to those who assisted with the event’s organisation, particularly Associate Professor Paul D’Arcy, Dr Vicki Luker, Jan Gammage, Kathryn Skorkiewicz, George Carter, Myjolynne Kim and Eve Haddow. Thank you to the many individuals and organisations who have enabled Pambu to continue its work for half a century, with particular thanks to the member libraries, their representatives who serve on the Management Committee and the Pacific communities who work alongside us.
Exhibiting 50 years of Pambu and its member libraries

This year also marks a special anniversary for some of the Pambu member libraries. Both the University of the South Pacific (USP), and the Pacific collection library at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa (UHM) were also established in 1968. To acknowledge these shared 50th celebrations, we developed a small travelling exhibition. This was an opportunity to tell the history of Pambu, to highlight our shared history with these two member libraries, and to promote Pambu resources to students and staff at university campuses across the Pacific.

The exhibition was initially displayed at the UHM Pacific Library in Honolulu, Hawai‘i, in April, coinciding with the ‘Ke Au Hou – Generations of Pacific Librarianship’ conference. In May, the display travelled to the USP Laucala campus library, Fiji. The material was also featured at the USP Laucala campus open day in July, as part of a showcase by the History department.

UHM was one of the Pacific Manuscripts Bureau’s founding member libraries, and USP joined in 2015. 1968 was also significant for the National Library of Australia, another of our founding members, as it was the year that their current building opened.

EVE HADDOW
ARCHIVE ASSISTANT

‘Ke Au Hou—Generations of Pacific Librarianship’ conference, Honolulu

In early May, I attended the ‘Ke Au Hou’ conference organised by the University of Hawai‘i Mānoa Library. 2018 marks 50 years since the establishment of UHM Library’s Pacific Collection, and the conference was planned as a celebration of librarianship across the Pacific. Speakers from across the Pacific reflected on past work, and looked towards future developments for Pacific libraries. It was pertinent that Pambu should be represented as we also celebrate our 50th anniversary this year. I presented a paper titled ‘Big Shoes to Fill: 50 Years of the Pacific Manuscripts Bureau’, within the ‘Honouring our past’ panel. This was the first panel of the conference following an inspiring opening keynote given by Sharon Dell of the Hocken Library, University of Otago. I presented a brief history of the Bureau, before reflecting on some...
of the current challenges to our organisation and our future directions. At Pambu, we feel that reflecting on previous lessons learned, exploring our organisational archives, and drawing on the expertise of previous Executive Officer’s, can help to navigate some of the contemporary challenges we face. The paper was well received and followed by a lively panel discussion.

The conference was an excellent opportunity to share the Pacific Manuscripts Bureau’s work with people working in libraries across the Pacific. Several Pambu member libraries were represented, including a paper by Leah Kalamorah from University of Papua New Guinea. There was a cheer from the crowd and smiles all round when Leah announced the news that UPNG had just become a Pambu member library! The conference highlighted just how much exciting and valuable work is ongoing in libraries across the Pacific, but many of us face similar challenges, including limited access to training, limited funding. There is also the challenge for some of running a library service in an island context with dispersed community users. There were discussions around the appropriate approach to digitisation and improving collections access, and how to approach access to material that might relate to restricted Indigenous knowledge. Over the course of the conference, a consensus emerged that as a collective of people working across Pacific libraries and related organisations, we should strive to work together. It was suggested that this is embodied in particular Hawaiian cultural principles in which you give what you can - however big or small.

EVE HADDOW
ARCHIVE ASSISTANT

University of the South Pacific 50th Anniversary—Library Focus Week

University of the South Pacific (USP) also celebrated its 50th anniversary this year and for a week in May the celebrations focused on the library. There were numerous displays in the library, including one depicting the growth of USP campuses across the region and a video about USP from 20 years ago was played. The video cassette had been placed in a time capsule during the ceremony for the opening of the AUSPAC lecture theatre in 1998. The capsule was dug up as part of the anniversary celebrations, though sadly many of the documents in the capsule had suffered water damage. Library Focus Week ended with a gala dinner to reunite former and current USP Library staff. The library also hosted a quiz night in September with all proceeds going towards the Fiji Library Association. Congratulations to USP on achieving this great milestone.

(above right)
Time capsule buried in 1998 on display.
PHOTO COURTESY OF GWEN ROUNDS

(right)
Display depicting USP expansion
PHOTO COURTESY OF GWEN ROUNDS
**USP workshop**

During a trip to Suva in July I facilitated an interactive workshop for staff and students at USP Laucala campus on searching the Pambu catalogue. We had a great turn out for the workshop, with the computer lab full of students, academics and staff from USP Library and USP Records Management. We looked at the context of how Pambu operates, what types of collections we hold and how to access the digital collections via the Pambu catalogue. Workshop participants engaged in a range of exercises with the aim of understanding catalogue structure, collection metadata and interpreting search results. Participants used basic and advanced searching techniques to locate materials in the Pambu catalogue. Many participants stayed well beyond the lab booking and everyone seemed engaged by the exercises. It was particularly encouraging and rewarding to see people searching the collection for materials related to their own research interests. I hope to facilitate similar workshops for staff and students at the Australian National University and the University of Papua New Guinea in 2019.

**Pacific inscriptions on the UNESCO Memory of the World Asia-Pacific Register**

The UNESCO Memory of the World Committee for Asia and the Pacific (MOWCAP) Regional Register recognises documentary heritage considered to have regional significance. Every two years MOWCAP announces new inscriptions to the register. Of the ten new inscriptions approved by the MOWCAP General Meeting in 2018, two new inscriptions were from the Pacific region – Tuvalu and Solomon Islands.

From Tuvalu National Library and Archives, *Agreements with Native Governments, 1893-1916* has been inscribed. These records show the agreements made between the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific with the Chief and Councillors of all the Ellice Islands. These records were digitised by the Pacific Manuscripts Bureau in 2010 as part of the British Library Endangered Archives Programme.

From National Archives of Solomon Islands, the World War II records contained in the British Solomon Islands Protectorate (BSIP) collection have been inscribed. These administrative records were created during World War II and its aftermath. They have great significance to Solomon Islands but also to Japan and those countries who fought with the Allies.

Congratulations to Tuvalu for establishing the Tuvalu National Memory of the World Committee this year, and best wishes to Solomon Islands as they begin work on starting their own National Committee. Congratulations to Noa Petueli Tapumanaia, Margaret Inifiiri and the teams at Tuvalu National Library and Archives and National Archives of Solomon Islands for these great achievements.

**South Pacific Bulletin digitised**

The University of Hawaii’s Pacific Collection has worked in collaboration with the Pacific Community Library (formerly the South Pacific Commission or SPC) to digitise the South Pacific Bulletin and its French-language counterpart, Bulletin du Pacifique Sud. The South Pacific Bulletin/Bulletin du Pacifique Sud was published quarterly by SPC from 1951 through to 1981, providing an excellent window into Oceania in the post-World War II period.

The digital publications are accessible via UHM’s eVols portal and full text searching is available across the entire collection. Thank you to Eleanor Kleiber from UHM Pacific Collections and Stéphanie Watt from SPC Library for enabling this project to happen.

The South Pacific Bulletin can be found here: https://evols.library.hawaii.edu/handle/10524/58330

The Bulletin du Pacifique Sud is here: https://evols.library.hawaii.edu/handle/10524/58330
Solomon Islanders in World War II: An indigenous perspective

In April, Anna Annie Kwai’s book, ‘Solomon Islanders in World War II: An indigenous perspective’ was launched at the Australian National University. Based on Kwai’s Masters research, the book describes the activities of Solomon Islanders in World War II and reflects on the war’s legacy on the country to this day. Kwai challenges the explanation that support for the Allies was simply about loyalty, offering alternative explanations such as a culture of obligation to authority and curiosity about the scale of modern warfare. Increased wages and fear of penalties, including corporal punishment, also motivated support for the Allies. She also illustrates the great risk many islanders took in defence of their shores.

In reflecting on the legacies of World War II, she characterises the wartime interactions between islanders and US Marines as a more equal relationship than the British colonial ‘master-boy’ relationship. This relationship with the Marines gave islanders more confidence to challenge the colonial power dynamic in the post-war period. Kwai also argues that some roots of the ethnic tensions of 1998-2002 can be traced to wartime social changes, such as land sales to Malaitans who went to Guadalcanal to assist with the war effort and the post-war concentration of commerce built on wartime infrastructure around Honiara.

Kwai draws these two conflicts together in her discussion of the Pride of Our Nation Monument that was erected in central Honiara in 2011 on the initiative of the Solomon Scouts and Coastwatchers Trust. The monument is a life-size depiction of a European-looking coastwatcher and three Solomon Islander scouts on duty in World War II. Kwai argues that this monument can revive the legacy of the scouts, which has been overshadowed by celebration of coastwatchers and slipped into the “forgotten national past” (p.95). She also argues the monument can serve as a unifying image of islanders working together; an image needed after a period of recent internal conflict. Kwai’s involvement with the Trust, and her offering of an indigenous perspective in this book, makes her an important voice in ensuring the contribution of Solomon Islanders to World War II is not forgotten.

Archival images are used beautifully throughout the book, with most coming from the United States National Archives and the United States Marine Corps. Kwai also cites the diary of Methodist missionary Sister Merle Farland, who remained in the western Solomons during the war. Sister Farland’s diary can be found on microfilm in PMB member libraries, ID PMB MS 1106. ‘Solomon Islanders in World War II: An indigenous perspective’ is available at the ANU Press website.


(above) Anna Annie Kwai at the launch of her book
University of the South Pacific and Australian National University Collaboration on Digitisation of Maps

Since December 2016 the CartoGIS Services unit at the Australian National University (ANU) and University of the South Pacific (USP) have worked together to preserve the map holdings of the USP Library’s Pacific collection. To date over 260 hard copy maps have been transported to ANU for digitisation and returned to the USP Library along with the high resolution digitised files.

This highly successful collaboration assists in the preservation, archival and increased accessibility of USP Library’s Pacific Collection of maps for researchers and students. Where appropriate the digital images are available on the ANU Library’s Open Research website for free download (https://openresearch-repository.anu.edu.au/handle/1885/107367).

The digitised maps have covered the Pacific from French Polynesia to Micronesia and included linguistic, topographic, historic, tourist, navigation and cadastral maps.

This partnership has relied on the hard work of USP librarian Gwen Rounds and ANU’s Jenny Sheehan, and crucial in facilitating the smooth movement of maps is USP researcher Dr Nic Halter. The generosity of many travelling researchers, happy to carry tubes of maps, has made this project possible.

CartoGIS Services is hoping to extend this collaborative project to other Pacific Nation institutions who may interested in preserving and digitising their maps and making them accessible online. CartoGIS Services can be contacted at cap.cartogis@anu.edu.au.

Cambridge Conferences

This year the Pacific History Association (PHA) conference was held in London and Cambridge, between 3-5 December. The conference opened with a viewing of the Oceania exhibition at the Royal Academy of Arts, followed by a plenary session in the grand Benjamin West lecture theatre. This was a powerful and nuanced discussion about the exhibition. It was extremely thought-provoking for non-Pacific Islanders who work with Pasifika materials. The keynote was given by PHA president Anne Perez Hattori, who addressed the conference theme of ‘the gift’, sharing her own cultural and familial experiences of giving and reciprocity.

The two days of presentations that followed were held at Robinson College in Cambridge. Pambu chaired a panel on the final afternoon. It began with a brief acknowledgment of the late Gideon Kakabin and featured presentations about legal archives in the Solomon Islands, archival dialogue between Hawaii and Tonga and what to do with a personal archive of things “only a palangi would keep”, gathered long ago in Tonga. Pambu also presented on its achievements over 50 years and considered its contemporary and future opportunities and challenges. Thank you to Eve Haddow and Myjolynne Kim for their excellent contributions as co-convenors.

The European Society for Oceanists (ESfO) conference followed after PHA, 7-11 December. The opening was also held alongside the Oceania exhibition at the Royal Academy with a plenary session on archives and museums. This session presented a series of powerful examples of connecting European collecting institutions with the Pasifika community. This was very thought-provoking and inspiring.

The following 3 days of ESfO were in Cambridge, where Pambu also presented a paper. This paper also covered our 50 year history and milestones, and reflected on how, as an organisation, we have been able to fill gaps not easily filled by other collecting institutions. In keeping with the conference theme of inequality, the paper also discussed how we are addressing inequalities in access and in the voices represented in the collection. This paper was part of the panel ‘intervening archives’, which considered different modes of collecting cultural memory such as poetry and music, and in decolonising collections. It was useful to reflect on how and what we do, and a reminder of the importance of engagement with Pacific communities. Other sessions focused on issues such as climate change, repatriation and fashion.

Both conferences were engaging, confronting, challenging and inspiring. Both were a great opportunity to engage with friends and colleagues, old and new. Thank you to the organisers of both for their outstanding efforts.
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