Pacific Manuscripts Bureau: 50 Years of Preserving and Improving Access to Pacific Histories

Kari James, European Society for Oceanists, Cambridge, 9 December 2018
What is the Pacific Manuscripts Bureau?

• Lists and copies manuscripts, photographs and rare printed materials about the Pacific Islands.
• Makes these copies available to researchers through an international consortium of libraries.
• Provides reference support to researchers.
• Advocacy and information sharing for archives and libraries in the Pacific Islands.
Overview

• History and achievements of PAMBU
• Digital opportunities and challenges
• PAMBU filling the gaps
• European and Pacific voices
• The future
Henry (Harry) Maude
Research Fellow,
Australian National University

Gordon Richardson, Librarian
Mitchell Library
State Library of NSW

Dr Floyd Cammack,
Librarian
University of Hawaii
Robert (Bob) Langdon, First PAMBU Executive Officer, 1968 - 1986
Adrian Cunningham, seconded from the NLA

Ewan Maidment at Tuvalu National Library and Archive, Endangered Archives Programme, 2005
Microfilm to Digital

Former Executive Officer, Kylie Moloney, microfilming in Samoa

The new digital camera, Cook Islands
The Microfilm Collection

Reels in PMB Ms. Series by Content

- Govt records: 246
- Exploration: 174
- Travel: 154
- Ethnography: 154
- Diaries, letters: 154
- Church/Mission records: 154
- Trading/shipping: 154
- Whaling records: 154
- Labour trade: 154
- Planters records: 154
- Miscellaneous: 154
- Political polemics: 154
- Vernacular: 154
- Unpublished research: 154
- NGOs, trade unions: 154
- Judiciaries: 154
- Scientific organisations: 154
Pacific Membership

USP signs on as PAMBU member, 2015

UPNG signs PAMBU Member Agreement, 2018
PAMBU Member Libraries
Photo Collections

Item 197 - Crab-claw sail canoe (lakatoi) in water with people standing on board - PNG.

Solomon Islands photographs > Crab-claw sail canoe (lakatoi) in water ...

Identity area

Reference code: AU PMB PHOTO 58-197
Title: Crab-claw sail canoe (lakatoi) in water with people standing on board - PNG.
Date(s): nd (Creation)
Level of description: Item
Extent and medium: Digital photograph scanned from original

Context area

Name of creator: Woodford, Charles Morris (1852-1927)
As Fiji goes to the polls today, we look back to 1966, to the first elections in which political parties competed for power in the government of Fiji. This photo is polling day in Lomanikoro. See the full collection of Robert Norton's 1966 election campaign photos here: [https://asiapacific.anu.edu.au/.../slides-and-photographs-of-...](https://asiapacific.anu.edu.au/.../slides-and-photographs-of-...)
The PAMBU Model

- No physical repository
- No regular deposit obligations
- Structured for mobile/agile operation
- Broad collecting policy
- Management Committee
Collection Voices

PAMBU-USP workshop, Suva, 2016
Thank you!

Contact Us pambu@anu.edu.au
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