

PACIFIC MANUSCRIPTS BUREAU

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Trip Report

PMB Fieldwork in Samoa, 21 August – 3 September 2011



**Banner promoting the PARBICA conference
on the roof of the art and craft market, Apia, Samoa.**

Summary

The main purpose of this trip was to:

- represent the Pacific Manuscripts Bureau at the Pacific Regional Branch of the International Council of Archives (PARBICA) conference and begin one or two of the following PMB copying jobs:
- Student theses at Piula Theological College
- Student theses at Malua Theological College
- Archives of the Samoa Umbrella for Non-Government Organizations
- Student theses on agriculture at the Alafua Campus Library, USP
- Special collections held at the National University of Samoa

PARBICA Conference
Mon 22 – Sat 27 August



Delegates of the 14th General PARBICA Conference, Apia, Samoa

The theme of the 14th General PARBICA conference was “Evidence and Memory in the Digital Age”. Over 105 participants attended the 14th General PARBICA conference.

The conference included:

- keynote speakers, including Mr. Henry Invarature from the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat and Mr. Tunumafono Apelu Afemata Aiavao, a Samoan author, chief and editor.
- the launch of the PARBICA digital toolkit by the Australian High Commissioner, Mr. Stephen Henningham. The development of this toolkit was funded by AusAID’s Public Sector Linkage Program.
- workshop and training sessions on topics such as “Archival basics: arrangement and description for good access and running a reading room”, “Disaster preparedness and response in the Pacific”, “Implementing recordkeeping strategies in the Pacific: lessons from the front line” and “Pacific archive education opportunities”.
- reports on activities undertaken by Archives throughout the Islands including the Samoan Digitization Program of German Colonial Administration records (1900-1914) supported by Archives NZ, the Government of Samoa and the German Government and the Pacific Digital Library which supports archives to scan documents in Yap, Federated States of Micronesia, Pohnpei and American Samoa.

I delivered a presentation on “Assisting small Pacific archives with digitisation projects” which was well received.

Key themes that emerged from the conference include:

- the need for more training and professional development opportunities for Pacific archivists.
- an interest amongst Pacific archives in embarking on their own digitization/scanning projects. Several Pacific Island archives have begun their own scanning projects. These projects focus on digitisation for access (jpg or PDF format only). The long-term storage and back up of

digital files is an issue for Pacific archives. The Pacific Manuscripts Bureau continues to play an important role in preservation copying of archives throughout the Pacific.

- issues such as storage space and suitable buildings as well as infrastructure challenges, including computers that work and power outages, are ongoing issues for Pacific Island archives.
- the ongoing need for Pacific Archivists to train public servants in the importance of record keeping.
- the continual threat of environmental challenges such as tsunamis, cyclones, floods and pests to Pacific archives.

For me the highlights of the conference were:

- making professional connections and friendships with Pacific Island archivists.
- learning about current issues and challenges for Pacific Archives.
- learning about digitization software products that are suitable and cheap for Pacific archives to use, including Archivematica, Hopla, Greenstone, Koha and Kete.
- learning about funding agencies such as the Commonwealth Pacific Governance Facility that supports the implementation of the Pacific Plan.

During the PARBICA conference I met with Diane Woods from the Alexander Turnbull Library and some other Pacific archivists. Together, we developed a Library and Archive panel session called “Serving our Pacific Communities” for the Pacific History Association conference in December 2012.

PARBICA was founded in 1981 and celebrated the past 30 years of Pacific Archivist collaboration at the conference with a cake! Amongst other social opportunities, our Samoan hosts organized a very enjoyable final night celebration with an impressive Siva (dance) by the Faatoia Youth Entertainment Group.



Faatoia Youth Entertainment Group
taking a bow after their Siva performance

At the General Conference meeting on Saturday 27 August, Ewan Maidment was nominated and awarded honorary life membership to PARBICA.

The PARBICA country reports, list of participants and General Conference minutes can be found on the PARBICA 14 conference web site at:

<http://www.parbica.org/conf14.htm>

The openness, honesty, and genuine care and concern shown by participants for each others' archives at the PARBICA conference was refreshing and supportive.

There were many opportunities to talk with other archivists and learn about the challenges they are facing, as well as the creative solutions they are using to deal with issues.

Samoaan Umbrella Non-Government Organisation (SUNGO)



On Wednesday 24 August I met with Roina Fa'atauva'a, Chief Executive Officer of the Samoaan Umbrella Non-Government Organisation (SUNGO) in Vaitele. SUNGO was established in 1987 and provides capacity building, governance advice, information sharing and advocacy and research for 128 member organizations. I was invited to SUNGO to survey their office files with a view to copying them. SUNGO has recently moved office and the only files I could access were those on a computer dating from 2002+. The types of SUNGO files that the PMB should pursue copying include Executive Council Minutes and related papers, AGM Minutes, the SUNGO Constitution, Members Meetings, Strategic Plan Documents, SUNGO history files, Annual Reports and the Tusanmi Assessment (2009).

SUNGO headquarters at Vaitele

Due to the limited space at the new SUNGO offices in Vaitele, many of the old paper files are still in storage at the former SUNGO premises in Apia. I arranged to meet with a SUNGO staff member to survey these files, however this appointment did not eventuate. When I return to Samoa, I will arrange another meeting with the SUNGO staff members when the records have been relocated to the Vaitele SUNGO offices so that I can survey the records and make an assessment on which files to copy.

The SUNGO office at Vaitele has limited space for storing files



University of the South Pacific, Alafua Campus, School of Agriculture

On Wednesday 24 August I met with the Angela Jowitt, the USP librarian, to advise on possible digital copying solutions for USP Alafua campus. I gave Angela a copy of my PARBICA presentation and talked with her about the digitization needs of the Alafua Library.



Angela seemed keen on accessing PMB collections. She asked if the PMB Member Libraries would consider offering some kind of consortia membership for USP and other Pacific Universities. I will raise this with PMB Member Libraries at the next PMB Management Committee Meeting.

Library, USP, Alafua Campus, Samoa

The USP Alafua campus library has a large collection of 3rd year student projects (1973-) that would be good to copy for the PMB member libraries. However Angela is currently looking at digitizing these herself, and is hesitant to allow the PMB permission to copy these theses as she is not sure who

owns the copyright. I have written a formal letter to Angela offering to copy the 3rd year student projects on my next visit to Samoa.

The USP Alafua campus also holds several agriculture journals (including USP/IRETA and SPAN – South Pacific Agriculture News). These journals are held in several libraries throughout the Pacific and are therefore not a priority for PMB copying.

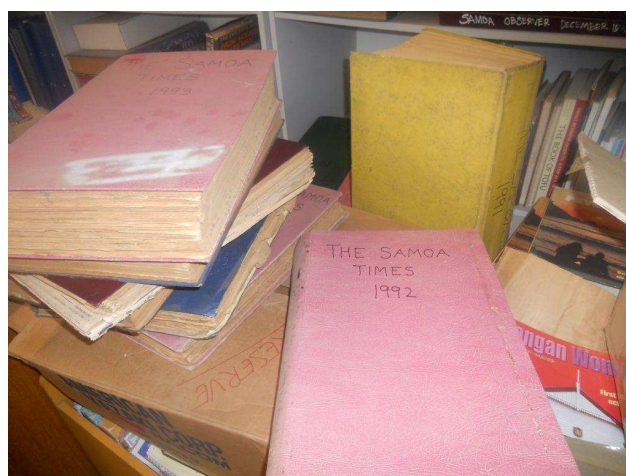
Library, National University of Samoa



On Friday 26 August I visited Avalogo Togi Tunupopo, the Librarian, at the National University of Samoa. The National University of Samoa has a large collection of Samoan newspapers and a special Pacific collection which includes student theses, journals and rare books. I returned to the NUS on Tuesday 29 August and made preliminary listings of the Samoan newspapers, NUS reports and conference proceedings, audio cassette collection and several Pacific journals. There was a small earthquake whilst I was listing the collections in the library. It shook the building a little, but there was no damage.

Newspapers at the NUS Library

The Librarian estimated that the earthquake was a “5 or 6, but very deep”. The NUS library also has a large collection of DVDs of NUS history seminar series from 1999-present. The NUS library had an excellent exhibition in the foyer highlighting treasures from the 19th and 20th century collections of the American Samoan Government Archives. It is likely that the PMB will work with the Library at NUS to make preservation microfilm copies of *The Samoan Times* (1984-1993) for PMB member libraries.



Meeting with Sharon Dell, Librarian at Hocken Library, University of Otago

On Sunday 28 August I met with Sharon Dell, the Librarian of the Hocken Library at the University of Otago. Sharon expressed interest in the Hocken Library, University of Otago becoming a PMB Member Library. I explained the work of the PMB and she asked me to follow up our meeting with a letter of invitation (emailed 16 Sep 2011). The Hocken Library is particularly interested in strengthening their Melanesian collection through becoming a PMB Member Library. There are several supporters of the PMB at the University of Otago including Professor Judy Bennet who has previously requested that the Bureau copy her collection of Solomon Islands Forestry papers.

Public Service Commission

On Monday 29 August I met with Iulia Liu-Kuey (Records Manager) and Daniel Boon (Principal IT officer) at the Samoan Public Service Commission. Iulia invited me to visit the PSC to talk about the

digitization of PSC records. I advised Iulia and Daniel on how to plan a digitization/copying project as well as key aspects to consider when embarking on a digitization project. I also gave them information on scanning equipment and software programs that they could use as their document management system.

Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)

On Monday 29 August I met with Miraneta Williams and Lupe Silulu at the SPREP library to learn about SPREP collections and advise on the digitization of their archives. The SPREP librarian and records manager are very capable and have good resources in their library/archive. Most of the SPREP publications are freely available online. I encouraged the records manager to ask the SPC for back-up support for digitized files. They were able to advise me about some other organizations in Samoa that may be willing to collaborate with the PMB on future copying jobs: Beautiful Expressions of Nature (a local art school) and the Catholic Library and Archives as well as the Catholic Theological College.

Nelson Memorial Public Library



On Tuesday 30 August I visited the Nelson Memorial Public Library in Apia. They have a Pacific room with rare and special books as well as another room which houses archives. Unfortunately Perosa Ioane, the librarian was away on family business. I met with Tala, the deputy librarian. It was not possible for me to view the archive room, however Tala said that it includes several German newspapers that relate to the German period in Samoa. Tala was welcoming and explained that it is difficult for them to negotiate access or copying of any of their archives as they are in the process of recruiting a manager. They asked me to keep in touch and to arrange another visit when I return to Samoa.

The Pacific Room at the Nelson Memorial Public Library

Piula Theological College

On Wednesday 31 August I was invited to visit Piula Theological College. I met Rev. Dr Eteuati Tuioti, (Principal), Rev. Iosefa Lefaoeseu (Librarian) and Rev. Solomona (Registrar).

Piula Theological College is a Methodist training institution in Samoa. It was established in 1868 in Lufilufi on the north coast of Upolu island after its initial beginnings in 1859 at Satupa'itea on the south coast of Savai'i island. The Methodist Mission in Samoa purchased the land and later named their training center Piula Theological College. The name Piula is a transliteration of the biblical name Beulah which means married (to the Lord).



The chapel at Piula Theological College

The theological college offers a four year course leading to a Diploma in Theological Studies with the possibility of going on to secure a Bachelor of Divinity degree. The training prepares people for Ministry in the Samoa Methodist Church. Some of the students are married and their wives and children live at Samoa. Many of the wives undertake courses to prepare them for the role they will play as minister's wives.

The Principal, Librarian and Registrar said that they support the work of the PMB and would like to collaborate with the Bureau. They formally asked me to return in March 2012 to make preservation copies of the student theses. They said that the student theses at Piula have something to offer Pacific researchers in the wider community. Rev Iosefa Lefaoeseu will provide me with an electronic listing of the student theses prior to my visit. The Principal, Librarian and Registrar also expressed an interest in acquiring some PMB titles in digital format. I promised to investigate the possibility of Yale University assisting with this collaborative copying project and the supply of PMB titles in digital format for Piula Theological Collge.



Rev. Iosefa Lefaoeseu (Librarian), Rev. Dr Eteuati Tuioti, (Principal) and Rev. Solomona (Registrar) in the library at Piula Theological College.

Malua Theological College

I had hoped to visit Principal Rev. Dr. Afereti Uili at Malua Theological College during this field trip, however Malua Theological College was very busy hosting the Pacific Council of Churches 50th anniversary conference. I will re-schedule a visit to Malua Theological College next time I am in Samoa.

Thank you

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

Amela Silipa, Vaveao Toa and the Samoan organisers of the PARBICA conference

Roina Fa'atauva'a - Chief Executive Officer of the Samoan Umbrella Non-Government Organisation (SUNGO)

Avalogo Togi Tunupopo - Librarian, National University of Samoa

Angela Jowitt - Librarian at Alafua Campus, USP, Samoa.

Iulia Liu-Kuey (Records Manager) and Daniel Boon (IT Officer) Samoan Public Service Commission

Miraneta Williams-Hazelman and Lupe Silulu at the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme

Dr. Asenati Chan Tung – University of the South Pacific, Fiji.

Rev. Dr Eteuati Tuioti, Principal, Piula Theological College

Rev. Iosefa Lefaoeseu – Librarian, Piula Theological College

Rev. Dr. Afereti Uili - Malua Theological College

Jennifer and Allan Nilon – Thank you for providing accommodation at your home in Faleasi'u

PMB work emerging from this trip to Samoa:

- Ask the PMB Management Committee if they would be willing to allow Pacific Universities access to PMB collections (digitally) for a lower cost.
- Assist Cook Islands with a scanning project at the Ministry of Justice to copy their Birth, Death and Marriage records.
- Work with Ken Scadden to arrange copying of some parts of the Marist collection in New Zealand (aim for Dec 2012).
- Invite the Hocken Library, University of Otago to subscribe to the PMB.
- PMB fieldwork in Samoa 2012:
 - Deliver an information session about the work of the PMB to local librarians/archivists with the help of the Samoan Library Association.
 - Visit Malua Theological College
 - Collaborate with Piula Theological College to copy their student theses in March 2012.
 - Collaborate with the Library at NUS to make preservation microfilm copies of *The Samoan Times* (1984-1993) for PMB member libraries.
 - Survey the SUNGO archives.
 - Visit the Nelson Memorial Public Library with the aim of surveying their archive collections.

Kylie Moloney
PMB Archivist

September 2011