

PACIFIC MANUSCRIPTS BUREAU

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Trip Report

**PMB Fieldwork in Port Moresby and Kavieng, Papua New Guinea
25 March – 9 April 2017**

Summary:

The main purpose of this trip was to complete the copying of archives at the Catholic Bishops Conference in Waigani, Port Moresby and to survey, organise, list and digitise archives held in the vault at the Catholic Bishops' office in Kavieng, New Ireland.

Over 4900 digital images were taken and processed creating the following PMB titles:

PMB MS 1400 – Catholic Bishops Conference, Gordons, Port Moresby, P.N.G., Press statements and pastoral letters from the Catholic Bishops Conference, 1957-2014 PDF. Available for reference.

PMB MS 1401 – Catholic Bishops Conference, Gordons, Port Moresby, P.N.G. Reports and minutes from the Annual General Meeting of the Catholic Bishops Conference, 1957-2014. PDF. Restricted access.

PMB MS 1423 – Catholic Bishops Conference, Gordons, Port Moresby, P.N.G., Secretariat Correspondence, 1962- PDF. Restricted access.

PMB 1424 - Lihir Language Dictionary and Grammar books in German, PDF. Available for reference.

PMB 1425 - Archives from the Catholic Bishop's house, Kavieng, New Ireland Province, P.N.G. PDF. Available for reference.

Catholic Bishops Conference, Port Moresby

I arrived in Port Moresby on Saturday 25 March and was greeted at the airport by Sr. Marie Turner. We went to the local supermarket where I bought supplies for the week and then to my accommodation at the Catholic Bishops House compound in Waigani. During the week I stayed with Sr. Mary McCarthy, an Australian Presentation sister who has been based in PNG for many years.

In 2014 I began working on the archive at the Catholic Bishops Conference. There was no appointed archivist and the records were disorganised. During the 2014 trip I partly digitised PMB MS 1401 – Catholic Bishops Conference, Gordons, Port Moresby, P.N.G. Reports and minutes from the Annual General Meeting of the Catholic Bishops Conference,

1957-2014. Since 2014, Fr.Victor Roche the General Secretary of the CBC has appointed Sr. Marie Turner as a part-time archivist to care for and administer the archives. I was very impressed with the progress made and the orderly manner in which the CBC archives are now stored and preserved in the Archive room at the CBC offices in Waigani.



Kylie Moloney with Sister Marie Turner, the Catholic Bishops Conference archivist.

The digitised images taken will be processed and converted to PDF files once back in Australia. A brief history of the Catholic Bishops Conference can be found below.

The Catholic Missionaries arrived in Papua New Guinea in 1848. Marist Missionaries landed on 28 May 1848 in Siassi Island (Morobe Province) and then the Pontifical Institute of Foreign Missions (P.I.M.E.) started evangelising at Woodlark Island on 8 October 1852. Missionaries of the Sacred Heart (MSC) began the Mission in Matupit Island, Rabaul on 28 September 1882. In 1848 the Catholic Church was called the “Vicariate of Melanesia” which included all the islands of Melanesia and Micronesia. The Catholic Church grew rapidly in different parts of PNG. The Catholic Church is the largest Non-Government body to provide services – including education and health care – in Papua New Guinea. On 15 November 1966 the hierarchy of Papua New Guinea was established with Archdiocese and Dioceses.

Today, the Catholic Bishops Conference has 19 Dioceses in Papua New Guinea and 3 Dioceses in Solomon Islands with a total of 23 Bishops.

PNG Dioceses: 1. Vanimo, 2. Aitape, 3. Wewak, 4. Madang, 5. Lae, 6. Wabag, 7. Kuniawa, 8. Mendi, 9. Goroka, 10. Mt. Hagen, 11. Kavieng, 12. Rabaul, 13. Kimbe, 14. Buka, 15. Alotau, 16. Port Moresby, 17. Berena, 18. Kerema, 19. Daru/Kiunga.

Solomon Islands Dioceses: 1. Auki, 2. Gizo, 3. Honiara

The Press Statements and Pastoral letters (PMB MS 1400) copied include the Catholic Church of PNG’s commentary on issues such as media and social communications (including freedom of the press), education (messages to teachers in Catholic schools, education systems in crisis, religious education), family and marriage (family values, bride price,

violence against women, population control, polygamy, domestic violence, Catholic men, Fathers and leaders), Government and politics (Church and politics, Bougainville crisis, elections, leadership in PNG, letters to the Prime Minister, corruption in PNG, village court systems, casinos in the Solomon Islands, deteriorating state of the nation, slush fund concerns, environment, nuclear disarmament, starvation), Health (HIV/AIDS, STDs, Church health services, drug abuse, rural health centres), Justice peace and development (Famine relief, respect for human life, logging codes, imprisonment of refugees, Australian Asylum seekers), Law and order (guns, attacks, Deaths of Catholic Church members, violence in Port Moresby, death penalty, crime and punishment), Liturgy, Moral and pastoral issues (abortion, Respect for human life, pornography, Charismatic churches in Papua New Guinea, Youth), Theology (pastoral letters).



The well-organised Archive at the Catholic Bishops Conference.

Other PMB work in Port Moresby

During my stay in Port Moresby I visited the Papua New Guinea National Museum at the invitation of Catherine Nolan, an archivist from Melbourne. Catherine has been working on the archives in the Modern History section of the museum and the United States of America have been supporting the project by purchasing archival stationery and equipment. These documents will be used as part of “WWII missing persons” work. The next step is to list and digitise the documents which will happen later this year. I shared with Catherine information on the Bureau’s digitisation standards and equipment.



Some of the WWII archives at the PNG National Museum

On Wednesday 28 I visited the PNG National Archives where I met with Elias Masuali and Vicki Puipui. The National Archives of PNG recently submitted a National Library, Archives and Records Services 10-year strategic plan (2016-2025) to the Papua New Guinea Department of Education which includes the opening of new provincial branches of the Archives and over 600 new positions, 200 of these positions are to be part of the National Archives. The plan includes new regional provincial archivist positions and provincial archives based in the provinces. The plan was endorsed by Hon. Nick Kuman, MBE MP, Minister for Education and the Office of the Director General, Office of Libraries and Archives will provide leadership in implementing the Plan.



Vicki Puipui, Kylie Moloney and Tukul Kaiku meet to discuss the PNG National Archives

The PNG National Archive repository is at full capacity and records have not been collected from the Provincial Governments in the past three years as there is no funding. The PNG National Archives staff are advising Government Departments to keep their own records

until they have more capacity to acquire records. Some Departments have acquired shipping containers and converted them to small scale repositories, but Vicki informed me that many Departments are not interested in having shipping containers in their Departmental grounds. The National Archives is currently staffed by fourteen people and the National Library has twenty-one staff.



Some archives in the PNG National Archives repository.

I was given a tour of the PNG National Archives repository, staffing areas and reading room. Limited numbers of researchers are allowed to use the reading room because there is a rule of five customers to one staff member. The PNG National Archives staff informed me that the main enquiries received in the reading room relate to land and genealogies. Certified copies of archival documents from the PNG National Archives can be purchased by researchers for a small fee. Researchers cannot take their own photographs.



The PNG National Archives Reading Room

Four senior staff members have modern computers that are supposed to be networked, but the network does not work. There is no working microfiche reader at the Archives. The PNG National Archives received the UCSD digitised patrol reports and are printing them onto paper for customers. The printer has recently run out of ink meaning only the patrol reports for two of the provinces have been printed.

PNG National Archives staff asked me for ideas on how they can make collection material more accessible to people living in the provinces. I gave the example of the Fiji National Archives and the Government “road show” and encouraged them to send print copies if the regional provincial archives are established as well as to promote Archives on International Archives Day. The staff have recently identified three provinces, Milne Bay, Simbu and Lae where they will trial some outreach projects.

I talked with the PNG National Archives staff at length about digitisation projects, including equipment, standards, back-ups and workflows. The PNG National Archives is keen to begin digitising their historical photographic collections, but do not have a server or any back up hardware, no software and only a small flatbed scanner donated by Ewan Maidment, the former Executive Officer of the Pacific Manuscripts Bureau in 2011 (See: <http://asiapacific.anu.edu.au/pambu/docs/11FebPNG.pdf>).

One of the issues that the PNG National Archives staff face in advocating for more funding and support for the Archive is that the Directors of Departments keep changing and relationships need to be rebuilt.

PNG National Archives take fieldwork students from the UPNG Fieldwork and Professional practice course. Vicki Puipui recently graduated with a Diploma in Education Management Training from Divine Word University. In her final practicum for the Diploma Vicki organised and arranged and listed the Hugh Stevenson archive and material objects at the PNG National Collection held at UPNG.



Vicki Puipui stands proudly with her certificate for a Diploma in Education Management Training from Divine Word University

Overall I was impressed with the current state of the Archive considering their limited resources. The staff are solid and strong and are undertaking good work with what they have. They are motivated and passionate about archives and good record keeping.

On Wednesday 29 March I visited the University of Papua New Guinea Library accompanied by Tukul Kaiku (lecturer in Information Management) and met with Leah Kalamori, Karen Karo (PNG Special Collections librarian) and Benzamine Chee (Serials Librarian). Most of the PNG special collection microfilm and AV collection have had to be discarded due to vinegar syndrome. Leah said that the University of Papua New Guinea is very interested in joining the Pacific Manuscripts Bureau. I said that I would send through a PNG finding aid as well as information about the ANU UPNG MOU which might allow for the ANU to subsidise the UPNG subscription to the PMB. We talked at length about digitisation projects within the UPNG Special Collections and I said that I would send through information about equipment and digitisation standards. They said the PMB is welcome to digitise some of their special collections and it would be helpful if the Bureau could assist them to source their own digitisation equipment and set up a digitisation project. The PNG special collections section often has students undertaking practicums.



Karo (PNG Special Collections librarian), Tukul Kaiku, Leah Kalamori (Head Librarian, UPNG) and Kylie Moloney at the University of Papua New Guinea library.

On Thursday 30 March I was invited by the Pacific History lecturer, Ruth Crocombe, to the Pacific Adventist University to present a talk to history students. The students were extremely interested in the work and collections of the Pacific Manuscripts Bureau. Whilst at PAU I also visited the well-resourced library. I hope to follow up this visit with a letter of invitation to the PAU Vice Chancellor inviting the PAU Library to join the Bureau as a member library.

Catholic Bishop's office, Kavieng, New Ireland

In 2016 Paige West, a cultural anthropologist from Colombia University in New York alerted the Pacific Manuscripts Bureau to a collection of archives in a vault at the Catholic Bishop's house in Kavieng that were in need of preservation. Paige has worked in Papua New Guinea for over 20 years, in the Highlands and in New Ireland Province.

On Sunday 2 April I travelled from Port Moresby to Kavieng accompanied by Tukul Kaiku. Tukul is a Senior Lecturer in Information and Communication Sciences within the School of Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Papua New Guinea. Tukul is from New Hanover, New Ireland Province and has extensive experience in working with archives in Papua New Guinea. I am most grateful for Tukul's assistance during the week of work in Kavieng.



Tukul travelling on an out board motor boat to Nusa Island.

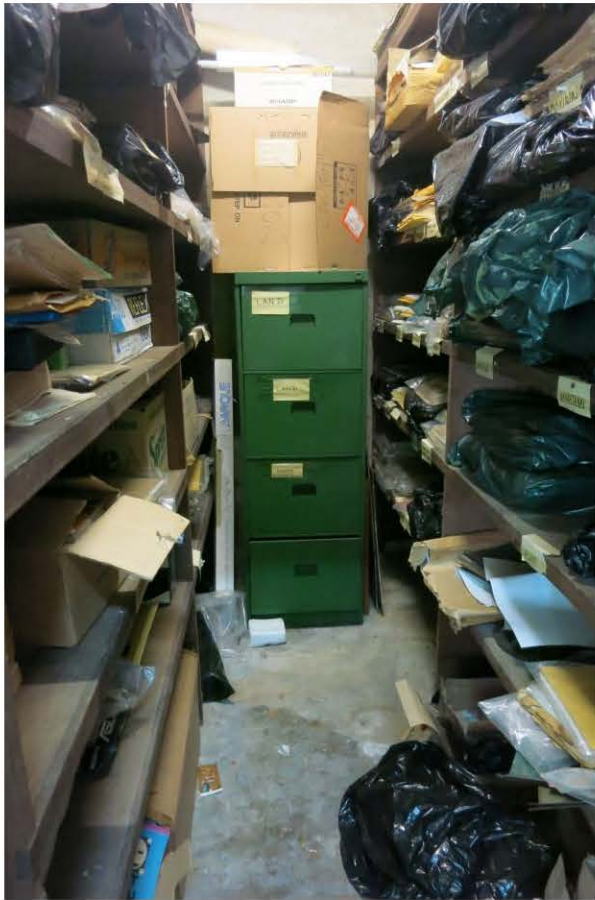
Tukul and I were met at the airport by Paige West and her local colleague, John Aini. John and Paige organised our accommodation and transport and also arranged for four people to work with Tukul and I to organise, clean and list the archive in the Catholic Bishop's office during the week.



The vault holding archives at the Catholic Bishops house in Kavieng, New Ireland.

On Monday 3 April Tukul and I opened the heavy metal door to a concrete vault with two bays of shelves, and approximately 36 shelf metres of archives stored in black plastic bags as well as a filing cabinet holding historical land papers. The collection included many different archival formats including correspondence, minutes, church circulars, rolled maps and plans, language lists, a dictionary, photographs and large (incomplete) unbound pages of sacramental records. In addition to this, the vault had been used as a general storage room and contained Church artefacts, pictures, glass louvres and altar wine! We began the laborious task of opening each bag and surveying the papers which involved lifting bags of papers off shelves, organising the papers and making lists. We sorted the lists into series and began cleaning and re-housing the archives. On Tuesday 4 April Jon Aini and Paige West arranged for four staff to assist us with this work. We all worked extremely hard over the next four days listing, cleaning and re-housing the archives in conservation boxes. The large sacramental records were re-housed and wrapped in brown paper.

Working on the Archive inside the vault at the Catholic Bishops house in Kavieng,
New Ireland





Working on the Archives at the Catholic Bishops House, Kavieng. Surveying, cleaning, listing, re-housing and digitising. Thank you TEAM!

The Catholic Diocese of Kavieng encompasses the two provinces of Manus and New Ireland. Out of a total population of 96,000 about 45,000 are Catholic. The present Archbishop of Rabaul is Francesco Panfilo. By the turn of the Century, evangelisation had begun in New Ireland, and ten years later the first missionary priests reached Manus. In both cases, Catechists preceded the missionaries. By 1935 parishes had been founded throughout the two major islands of Manus and New Ireland and on most of the larger adjacent islands.

During WWII the Vicariate of Rabaul lost over 40 priests and 40 brothers, and most buildings in many parishes were destroyed. After the War came a new influx of missionaries came from the German, Irish, and American provinces of the M.S.C. Schools, churches, convents and health centres were quickly rebuilt from scrap materials salvaged from installations left by the American forces. At the same time, the mission made a strong commitment to Education and began training large numbers of local teachers.

In 1957 Kavieng was separated from Rabaul and made a Vicariate under Bishop Alfred Stemper, M.S.C. In 1966 Kavieng and other Vicariates were made Dioceses, and more conscious attention was given to the development of the local church. The first two national priests from Kavieng Diocese were ordained in 1968. Bishop Stemper retired in 1981, handing over the Diocese to the care of Bishop Hesse. Bishop Stemper passed away in Kavieng on 20 February 1984. Transportation and communication remain the main difficulties due to the size of the Diocese (136kms square). The Diocese has several national priests, Brothers and Sisters.

A hand-typed dictionary of the language of Lihir was copied as well as other significant historical papers relating to the Catholic Church in New Ireland Province, some of which were written in tok pisin by local people. The New Ireland people who worked with us informed me that the land and sacrament records are some of the most significant records in the archive collection at the Bishop's house. I did not prioritise the digitisation of these documents as they would be "closed access", however it may be useful on a future trip to

take two digital cameras so that the Bureau can digitise these documents for the Catholic Church and people of New Ireland.



Bishop Ambrose having a stroll and laugh with Tukul Kaiku one afternoon.

Whilst in Kavieng Tukul Kaiku arranged for Dr. Bernard Minol, a retired lecturer from UPNG who undertook a PhD on the literature of the Pacific (UQ), to come and meet me. Dr. Minol is currently finalising his manuscript on the history of the Catholic Church on Manus Island. He provided the Bureau with a lot of information on the history of the Catholic Church on Manus and throughout the New Ireland Province.

Tukul Kaiku suggested that whilst we were in Kavieng, we should try to find the papers of Jim Rydges, a retired Ombudsman who had a keen interest in the history of New Ireland. Jim returned to the UK more than seven years ago for health reasons leaving his collection at the Our Lady of the Sacred Heart International School in Kavieng. He told Tukul to “keep an eye” on his papers and care for them whilst he was away. Tukul and I visited OLSH where the current principal, Jo Martin kindly showed us Jim’s collection of books relating to the Pacific Islands and a two drawer cabinet of papers which was taped shut in the Library at OLSH. We made contact with a friend of Jim Rydges’ who informed us that Jim would be returning to Kavieng in about three weeks’ time.

Further work in Papua New Guinea

I hope that the PMB can make a return trip to New Ireland to work on the Jim Rydger's papers in Kavieng. It may also be useful to make contact with Bp. Karl Hesse at Vunapope and the Archbishop of Rabaul Francesco Panfilo in East New Britain as the Catholic Church was the original location for the Catholic presence in this part of Papua New Guinea and may have older historical papers relating to the Catholic Church in PNG.

I could not have reached so many new contacts, undertaken such intensive archival work nor made such progress on the archive at the Bishop's house in Kavieng without the help of my colleague Tukul Kaiku and the team of archivists' who worked with us. A big thank you to Tukul and the staff who worked so hard during our one week stay to clean, organise and list the archive in the Bishop's house in Kavieng.

Thank you

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

Sr. Mary McCarthy, Presentation Sister.

PNG National Archives

PNG National Museum

Catherine Nolan

Mrs. Tukul Kaiku, Senior Lecturer in Information and Communication Sciences within the School of Humanities and Social Sciences

UPNG Library staff including Leah Kalamori, Karen Karo (PNG Special Collections librarian) and Benzamine Chee (Serials Librarian).

Ruth Crocombe and the Pacific Adventist University

Bp. Ambrose Kiapseni and Father Gordon (Kavieng Catholic Diocese)

Jenny, John, Solomon and Tommy who assisted with the clean-up and digitisation of the archives in the Bishop's house in Kavieng

Paige West and Jon Aini for organising the archival preservation project, including staff assistance, at the Bishop's House in Kavieng, New Ireland.

Kylie Moloney

Executive Officer

Pacific Manuscripts Bureau

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