



Contents

Pambu News	1
Farewell from Kylie	3
PARBICA 17 'Archives Engaged: Personal, professional, political'	3
'The Marshall Islands Journal' now available in the Pambu catalogue	4
Project Banaba Exhibition	5
Reviving pottery in South West Bay, Vanuatu	6
Pacific Research Program at the Australian National University	6
Release Titles	7

Pambu news

Greetings from Canberra and welcome to the 2017 edition of the Pambu newsletter. 2017 has been a year of change for the Pacific Manuscripts Bureau with Executive Officer Kylie Moloney leaving the Bureau in May. Kylie started with the Bureau as an archivist back in 2008, and went on to succeed Ewan Maidment as Executive Officer from 2012.

Perhaps Kylie's most significant accomplishment as Executive Officer was transitioning the Bureau from microfilm to digital. Under Kylie's direction, the Bureau phased out the use of microfilm and introduced digital tools like a DSLR camera and a flatbed scanner for image capture, and launched a new online catalogue. Digital delivery has opened up access to researchers in the Pacific, with the National University of Samoa and the University of the South Pacific now able to provide students with access to Pambu's digital content at campuses in 12 countries. Going digital has also meant that PDF copies of collections can be more easily repatriated to collection owners.

Kylie is a natural teacher, a passionate advocate and a great connector of people, and she brought all these qualities to Pambu. She generously shared her expertise and learning experiences at conferences, ran in-country workshops in the Pacific, enabled improved access to archival materials for Pacific island communities and always advocated for the strengthening of Pacific archives. She has left a great legacy and enormous shoes to fill.

Succeeding the giants who have come before me can at times be daunting, but I'm delighted and honoured to have been passed the Pambu baton. I come to Pambu with a diverse background, having worked as an archival researcher for television news, a volunteer at the National Archives of Solomon Islands and most recently managing a small research archive for

[\(top\)](#)

W.C. and Doris Groves
*Women dancers,
Manu Manu*

PAPUA NEW GUINEA
TRANSPARENCIES, MAINLY
1950s. PMB PHOTO 26_075



a Native Title Representative Body in Western Australia. My interest in preserving archives in the Pacific began while working at the National Archives of the Solomon Islands, where I got a glimpse of the wealth of knowledge held in their collections and the ever present threat of the country's extreme climate. To be given the opportunity to assist in the preservation of collections in the Pacific is an honour.

With the staff changeover there have been fewer fieldtrips than usual this year. In January, Kylie returned to Honiara to digitise the remainder of the National News Bulletins of the Solomon Islands Broadcasting Corporation. This digitisation project commenced in 2015 and is now available in full as PMB MS 1414 – National News Bulletins in the Pambu catalogue. Late in March Kylie visited the Catholic Bishops Conference in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, where a number of titles were copied. These titles are still being processed and should be released in 2018. In early April Kylie visited the Catholic Bishop's house in Kavieng, New Ireland Province, accompanied by Tukul Kaiku, senior lecturer in Information and Communication Sciences at the University of Papua New Guinea, where they listed, cleaned and re-housed archival materials kept at the Bishop's house. Kylie and Tukul were assisted in their work by an excellent local team. Two titles were copied during this week – PMB MS 1424 – Lihir Language Dictionary and Grammar Books in German and PMB MS 1425 – Archives from the Catholic Bishop's House. Both titles will be released in 2018.

In September I spent some time at the Pacific Theological College in Suva copying student theses. PMB MS 1427 – Bachelor of Divinity and Master of Theology theses, 1994 – 2016 will be completed and released in 2018. It builds on an earlier title copied by the Bureau: PMB MS 1084 – Bachelor of Divinity and Master of Theology

theses, 1968 – 1993. While in Suva I took the opportunity to visit staff at one of Pambu's newest members, University of the South Pacific. I met with academic and library staff, learned about USP's Pacific collections and provided some basic training to the library's new Pacific collections librarian.

In November I travelled to Victoria, where I copied the diary of Rev. Conrad G. Stallan, written during his time as a missionary in the village of Wintua on Malekula, Vanuatu in the early 1940s. This will be made available via the Pambu catalogue in 2018. A big thank you to ANU PhD candidate Paul Mitchell for enabling this copying project and to Stallan's family for allowing us to make this diary available to researchers.

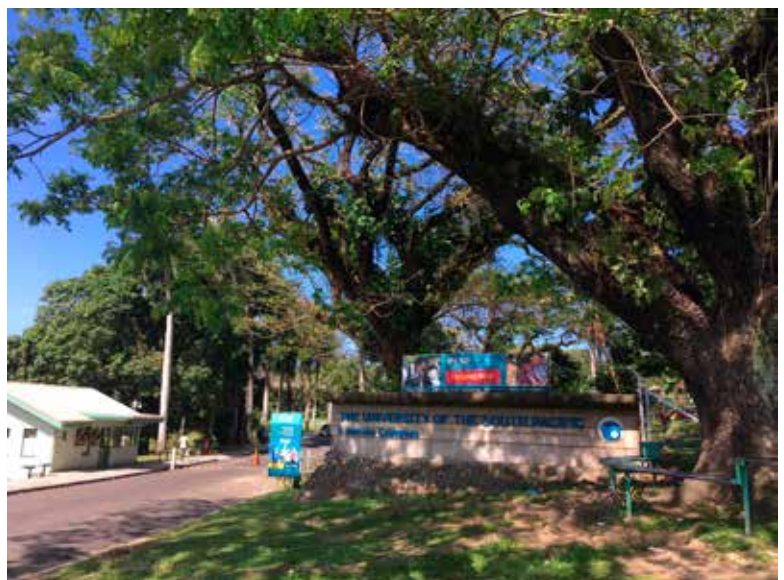
2018 is shaping up to be a busy year with a number of collections to copy both locally and internationally. The Bureau will celebrate its 50th anniversary with a number of events

(above left)

Digitising archives from the vault at the Catholic Bishop's house in Kavieng, New Ireland

(below)

The University of the South Pacific, Laucala Campus



throughout the year, some in conjunction with Pambu member libraries who are also celebrating 50th anniversaries in 2018. Founding member University of Hawaii, Manoa (UHM) will celebrate 50 years of the library's Pacific collection. This will be marked with a Pacific Librarianship conference to be held in May. Fellow founding member the National Library of Australia will celebrate 50 years since the opening of the grand library building we know and love today. The Bureau's newest member, the University of the South Pacific (USP), will also celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2018, with celebrations focusing on the library also taking place in May. Both USP and UHM Libraries will host small exhibitions on their

shared history with Pambu as part of their 50th anniversary celebrations.

A big thank you to Kylie and to Ewan Maidment for being so generous in making themselves available to answer the many questions that have popped up over the past six months. Many thanks as well to the casual staff and volunteers who work so hard at putting our digital content online. Thank you to the Bureau's Chair Associate Professor Paul D'Arcy and the dedicated members of the Management Committee who help steer the Pambu ship.

KARI JAMES, EXECUTIVE OFFICER
DECEMBER, 2017

Farewell from Kylie

In May this year I waved farewell to the Bureau in my role as the Executive Officer to take up a position at the National Library of Australia as the Curator of Manuscripts.

I wish to thank the Pacific Islanders that I have worked with and who so generously welcomed me into their lives and stories through their archives, work places and homes. In my PMB role I was fortunate to travel on numerous field trips to several Pacific Islands across the region to microfilm and digitise significant historical archives and to make them accessible.

I am most proud that the Bureau has made the transition from microfilm to digital copying and delivery and is now accessible to many

Pacific Island people through new member libraries based throughout the region. I want to acknowledge and thank Ewan Maidment for teaching me the ways of the Bureau and encourage Kari James as she steers the 'ship' of the Bureau in new and exciting directions.

I look forward to having a continuing connection with the Bureau and Pacific Island archivists through PARBICA and my interest in the education of Pacific Island archivists throughout the region.

Thank yu tumas, Lukim yu.

KYLIE MOLONEY, FORMER EXECUTIVE OFFICER
DECEMBER 2017

PARBICA 17 'Archives Engaged: Personal, professional, political'

The biennial conference of the Pacific Regional Branch of the International Council on Archives (PARBICA) was held in September in Pacific Harbour, Fiji. The conference theme was 'Archives Engaged: Personal, professional, political' and this focus on engagement set a really positive tone for the four-day conference.

Over the first two days, delegates heard presentations from places throughout the Pacific. Papers dealt with a range of issues, from the implementation of records management plans to the construction of new repositories and projects such as community outreach, repatriation and digitisation. Big picture issues such as new information laws in Vanuatu and the threat of climate change were also discussed. The history of Pambu was told in a paper co-written by Kylie



(right)

Kari presenting a paper on the history of PAMBU
PHOTO COURTESY OF NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF FIJI



Moloney and myself: “Pambu: Engaging with the Pacific Islands for 50 Years”.

Day three saw delegates attend workshops on disaster preparedness for digital records, establishing a records management program and the Memory of the World Committee for Asia and the Pacific (MOWCAP) program. I attended the MOWCAP workshop where we had productive, practical discussions about overcoming hurdles that are often faced by Pacific Island archives in the MOWCAP nomination process.

Day four we were treated to a firewalking demonstration at the Pacific Arts Village en route

to the National Archives of Fiji in Suva, where delegates were given a tour of NAF’s repository and processing areas. We were shown treasures from the NAF repository, toured the digitisation lab and were treated to a delicious lunch.

The silent auction fundraiser also returned to PARBICA this year, with delegates donating artworks or goods from their home country. The auction raised AUD\$1,180 to assist Pacific Island delegates attend the conference. A huge thank you and congratulations to everyone from NAF and PARBICA for hosting a really enjoyable and inspiring conference.

(above left)
Delegates on tour at National Archives of Fiji
(above right)
Performance at Pacific Arts Village

‘The Marshall Islands Journal’ now available in the Pambu catalogue

Some readers may remember in 2016 previous PMB Executive Officer Kylie Moloney travelled with Ingrid Ahlgren to Majuro in the Marshall Islands, to digitise *The Marshall Islands Journal*. Pambu was also fortunate to get any missing journal issues from the Library of the University of Hawai‘i, Manoa. This year, I have been working back here in the Pambu offices at ANU to process the material, cataloguing and arranging it, before uploading to the PMB catalogue. I have processed a whopping 49,301 images, to create 357 documents of the weekly issues, running from 1965 to 2016!

The Journal, which has previously been titled *Micronitor* and the *Micronesian Independent*, has varied illustrated content. It offers a snapshot of social life in the Marshall Islands over the past 50 years, and will be a valuable resource for tracing the broader history of the area. In addition to regular news on local politics and community events, such as fishing competitions, there is content on the developing response to nuclear testing in the area, and stories relating to climate change. Some of the material is in local language, offering

a useful linguistic resource. While processing the Journal I was particularly struck by the advertisements, which notably change with the time period, and often have a distinctly American flavour – think Budweiser beer and the Marlboro man!

The Pambu team is happy to share that this copying project is now complete, and all of the issues are accessible online via our member libraries as PMB Doc 543.

EVE HADDOW, ARCHIVES ASSISTANT & PHD CANDIDATE
DECEMBER 2017

(right)
Front page of *The Marshall Islands Journal*, March 21, 1967. Vol. II, No. 12



Project Banaba Exhibition



Associate Professor Katerina Teaiwa's research on phosphate mining on the island of Banaba was the basis of a solo exhibition at Carriageworks in Sydney which ran during November and December, 2017. Curated by internationally renowned New Zealand artist Yuki Kihara, through this exhibition Teaiwa expanded her own definitions of research, as well as bringing this little known chapter of Australian history to a broader public audience.

To transform the research into her exhibition, Associate Professor Teaiwa enlisted the help of practitioners, artists and students at the ANU School of Art and Design, immersing herself in practice-led artistic research to deliver this ambitious exhibition at Carriageworks, the largest multi-arts centre in Australia.

The exhibition comprised three interconnected works exploring how the people and the land of Banaba were viewed and transformed by powerful imperial mining and agricultural interests.

"From 1900 to 1980 a series of companies and the British Phosphate Commissioners mined the island of Banaba in what is now known as the Republic of Kiribati. As a result, the island was rendered uninhabitable and the Banabans were relocated to Rabi in Fiji. This exhibition brings together rare historical archives and new work that sheds light on this history and its ongoing impact on Pacific communities. Banabans view their ancestral island, the rock of Banaba, as te

aba, the body of the land, and the body of the people," says Associate Professor Teaiwa.

For most of the 20th century, phosphate was a matter of national and food security. During her research for the exhibition, Teaiwa identified approximately 518 metres of government files associated with the British Phosphate Commission in the National Archives of Australia, some of which have only recently been declassified.

The valuable rock found naturally on Banaba was first identified from a sample in a Sydney company office, which was then manufactured into superphosphate fertiliser and applied to farms across Australia and New Zealand, resulting in a dramatic increase in agricultural productivity in those countries.

The value of the minerals on Banaba also made the island a target for Japanese occupation during World War II and many Banabans and Pacific Islander or "kanaka" mining workers were killed during this period. The 72nd anniversary of Banaban displacement was marked on 15 December 2017 during the exhibition.

Associate Professor Teaiwa is of Banaban, Kiribati and African American descent. She is the author of *Consuming Ocean Island* (2015) and editor with Polly Stupples of *Contemporary Perspectives on Art and International Development* (2016).

The Pacific Manuscripts Bureau also holds a number of titles relating to Banaba, including diaries, letters, company records and photographs.

Reviving pottery in South West Bay, Vanuatu



I recently travelled to Victoria to meet some people associated with the Presbyterian mission in Vanuatu. I was lucky enough to meet with Alistair Whyte, whose father, the Reverend Nielson Whyte, had been a missionary in South West Bay on the island of Malekula back in the 1950s. Alistair spent his early childhood at South West Bay. I met with Alistair at his studio outside of Melbourne where he told me about a project he's been working on for the last eight years to help revive the lost art of pottery in South West Bay.

For years people found ceramic shards in their gardens, but the practice of making pottery had been lost. Knowing Alistair was an accomplished potter (his mother had taken gifts of his work on an earlier trip) he was invited to return to South West Bay to teach pottery and to bring the equipment needed for throwing and firing pots. In 2010 Alistair took a foot-powered kick wheel (there is limited electricity available), worked with people to dig clay and taught some basic hand

building techniques. The response from all involved was very positive, with written support from village chiefs, school and church leaders to seek further assistance to establish pottery as a cottage industry.

The following year South West Bay craftsman Ken Naki spent a month at Alistair's studio for intensive pottery lessons, with the aim of establishing a pottery back in Vanuatu and passing the skills on to others. As well as learning various pottery techniques, Alistair, Ken and others worked on building a kiln prototype that could be recreated back in Ken's village of Labo.

In 2012, Alistair returned to South West Bay with a group which included two other potters who assisted Alistair and Ken in teaching a group of twenty people some basic techniques of mixing clay, building coil and slab pots and surface decoration techniques using local designs. The group brought with them pottery tools and materials for building a kiln, which they constructed and tested before leaving. After

the team returned to Australia Ken successfully fired many of the pots made during the week's training.

Several trips have since been made by Alistair and other potters, including a trip in 2014 to install a wood-firing kiln which was funded by a generous private donation. In 2016 Ken made a second visit to Australia where he spent another month in Alistair's workshop, producing bowls, drums and eggs decorated with designs based on sand drawings traditional to his village. Sales of the work Ken produced in Australia help fund materials such as clay and glazes for the potting community in Vanuatu. Ken continues to make pottery back in South West Bay, where it is used in the village and sold to tourists.

Alistair is hoping to host an exhibition of Ken's work in Canberra in 2018. He is interested in hearing from other wood fire potters and pottery teachers who may be interested in travelling to South West Bay to teach workshops. He can be contacted at potter.alistair@gmail.com.

Pacific Research Program at the Australian National University

In October, Australia's Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Honourable Julie Bishop MP, launched the Pacific Research Program at the Australian National University. The four-year, \$20 million program will be funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and led by ANU's College of Asia & the Pacific. This global

centre of excellence for research on the Pacific will be implemented by a consortium that includes the College's Department of Pacific Affairs (formerly known as the State, Society and Governance in Melanesia Program), ANU's Development Policy Centre and the Lowy Institute.

Contact us

Room 4201, Coombs Building (9)
College of Asia and the Pacific
The Australian National University
Canberra ACT 0200 Australia

Ph: (612) 6125 0887

Email: pambu@anu.edu.au

<http://asiapacific.anu.edu.au/pambu/>

ISSN 2204-2601

Pacific Manuscripts Bureau New Digital Titles, December 2017

PMB MANUSCRIPT SERIES	
PMB MS 1412	Research papers, correspondence and articles on land tenure in the Pacific Islands
PMB MS 1414	Solomon Islands Broadcasting Corporation National News Bulletins (1991-1997, 2009-2014)
PMB MS 1421	Paton Archives
PMB MS 1426	Malu'u dictionary
PMB PRINTED DOCUMENT SERIES	
PMB DOC 539	Papua New Guinea Coffee Industry Corporation Publications
PMB Doc 543	The Marshall Islands Journal, 1965-2016
PMB PHOTO SERIES	
PMB PHOTO 17	LMS Samoa District, Niue Centennial Album, 1846-1946
PMB Photo 18	New Guinea Photographs, 1920-1940
PMB Photo 69	Vanuatu prints
PMB Photo 91	New Hebrides Mission Lantern Slides, 1890-1945
PMB Photo 92	New Hebrides Mission Lantern Slides, 1890-1945
PMB Photo 95	New Hebrides Mission Photographs
PMB Photo 96	New Hebrides Mission Photographs, 1950-1965
PMB Photo 101	Fiji 2009
PMB Photo 102	Vanuatu photographs
PMB DIGITISED MICROFILMS	
MS 1115	Documents relating to Tama
MS 1168	Papers on Pacific Islands land matters
MS 1249	A brief sketch of the fate of 3000 Indian POWs in New Guinea