

Pambu

Pacific Manuscripts Bureau Newsletter

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PAMBU NEWS

The PMB has been carrying out its usual vigorous programme of archival projects in the Islands and in Australia:

- working with Sr Margaret Sullivan on the archives of the Catholic Diocese of Tarawa and Nauru;
- microfilming the English translations of the Hawaiian language documents in the Micronesian Collection at the Hawaiian Mission Children's Society Library in Honolulu;
- microfilming archives of the Rabaul Volcanological Observatory;
- organising archives of the Unevangelized Fields Mission at the Bible College of Victoria;
- microfilming Melanesian Mission archives at the National Archives of the Solomon Islands.

In Canberra the PMB has microfilmed two major record groups: CSR Fiji correspondence, 1880-1947; and the Cooke Collection documenting volcanic activity in PNG before 1944. All these PMB projects are made possible by close collaboration with enthusiasts seriously

concerned about long-term preservation and accessibility of Pacific Islands documents. To such people and to Pacific researchers in general the destruction of records held in the Court House in Port Vila on 6 June is an immense tragedy.

If the strong room and adjacent records room at the back of the Court House were destroyed, we have lost all the records of the Joint Court (Supreme Court of Vanuatu), including its minutes, judgements, registers, correspondence and the complete series of *procédure* files, consisting of several thousand files detailing cases before the Court, 1910-1979. Not to mention the loss of Native and some Land Court records. A large number of company registration case files dating from the late 1980s to 2000 were also stored in a disused cell underneath the main Court building. In total, about 300 shelf metres of records may have been burnt, the patrimony of France and Britain as well as Vanuatu.

Of this material the PMB had microfilmed a tiny proportion, possibly 5%: the civil and criminal judgements of the Joint Court, 1911-

1977, microfilmed in 1999 at PMB 1145/Reels 1-7; and archives of the *Tribunaux français des Nouvelles-Hébrides*, the French side of the Joint Court, microfilmed by the PMB in collaboration with the Territorial Archives of New Caledonia in 2005, consisting mainly of *arrêtés et décisions* 1910-1978, *conférences* 1910-1939, and *correspondance* 1915-1979, at PMB 1254/Reels 1-17. With regret, I report that the PMB was due to continue microfilming at the Court House in 2006, but our tiny resources did not enable us to pursue the opportunity.

While reporting on this archival tragedy, it should be noted, more optimistically, that there are signs of an increasingly broad interest in helping to preserve Pacific archives. The Government of Fiji is proceeding with construction of a new Archives building for the National Archives of Fiji and the refurbishment of its existing building. AusAID is supporting records preservation programs in the law and justice sector and in radio archives in PNG (see articles by Sam Kaima and Jordie Kilbie in this issue of *Pambu*). AusAID and the National Archives of Australia are also supporting appointments of advisers to the National Archives of the Solomon Islands. A team of New Zealand archivists have been working in Niue this year to help re-establish its National Archives. The British Library's Endangered Archives Programme is supporting several projects in the Pacific, including a major project at the Tuvalu National Library and Archives in which the PMB is participating. The German government is supporting a reformatting and training project in Apia aimed at preserving Samoan German Colonial administration archives. The UNESCO, Pacific Office, is funding support for the establishment of an archives of the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart in Tarawa, Kiribati.

Reflecting this increased interest in the preservation of Pacific documentary heritage, the Australian National University has appointed a Pacific Archivist and a Pacific Librarian, to administer and develop its magnificent Pacific collections (as Karina Taylor reports in this issue of *Pambu*).

Ewan Maidment, PMB Executive Officer

2nd edition update. The PMB has received news from Ismet Kurtovitch and Adrian Cunningham that the Port Vila Court House strong room did survive the fire.

COURT HOUSE FIRE

After the Court House fire, the Vanuatu National Cultural Council calls for:

- (a) urgent building of a new National Archives building;
- (b) reconstruction of new Court House building in its original historical architecture style on the same site.

In response to the recent Court House fire, the Vanuatu National Cultural Council, the body responsible for the preservation, protection and development of the country's cultural heritage, has called on the national government to prioritise building of a new National Archives building to preserve the invaluable and irreplaceable documentary memory of the nation and to rebuild the Court House in its original style on the same site, to preserve the historical character of the building and site.

The National Cultural Council, which is comprised of the President of the Malvatumauri, a Director, the Director of the Vanuatu Cultural Centre, the CEO of the Vanuatu National Council of Women, a representative of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Chief Librarian of the University of the South Pacific Emalus Campus and, until his death at the end of last year, the Chief Archivist of the National Archives, points to the recent destruction of the Court House as a "wake up call" to the Government regarding the ongoing loss of Vanuatu's irreplaceable historical site and documentary heritage.

a) Need to prioritise construction of a National Archives of Vanuatu building.

The loss of irreplaceable and invaluable historic court archives dating back to the earliest proceedings and decisions of the Joint Court at the beginning of the 1900s in the recent Court House fire have reinforced and vindicated the repeated calls by the National Cultural Council for the Government to construct a new purpose-built National Archives building to safely keep all the Government's archives.

The plans for a new National Archives building have been in existence since the early 1990s, when the masterplan for the National Cultural Complex was approved by the Government. This plan situates the National Archives building in the existing space between the National Museum and the Chiefs' Nakamal. The project profile for the project to construct the new National Archives building was first

approved by the Government's Ministerial Budget Committee in 2002. The budget for this same project was revised last year and now is roughly 150 million vatu.

Appalling situation of the current National Archives: The situation with the National Archives is now completely unsatisfactory. The bulk of the nation's archives are housed in the converted colonial asylum ("depot"), which was not built for the purpose of keeping national records and is now over 50 years old and cracked and crumbling in places. If a severe cyclone were to hit Vanuatu and remove part of the roof of the building, almost all the records kept there would be damaged beyond repair, as the records are stored all over the floor as well as piled to the ceiling. Another strong earthquake like the one in 2002 will destroy the building and destroy many records also. These records include many unique and irreplaceable documents relating to the administrative history of the colonial and independent governments, including unique documents relating to all the important events and transactions in this country's history.

The appalling situation of the National Archives reflects the very low priority the Government has given to this important national institution: for the last decade the National Archives has been allocated an operating budget of next to nothing and budget allocation for only one archivist. None of the Chief Archivists appointed to this position since Independence have ever had the necessary qualifications or support for this job, including the latest Chief Archivist, the recently deceased Mr Tom Sakias. Since Mr Sakias' death in December 2006, no new Chief Archivist has been appointed.

Completely unsatisfactory situation of archives kept in various Government departments: Due to the inability of the National Archives to properly keep the Government's historical records, each Government department was requested in the late 1990s to store their own archives until such time as the National Archives had its own building. The National Cultural Council is aware that these important national records being kept by Departments are often kept in a very unsatisfactory state: often the records are simply shelved or heaped up in a room, not catalogued or indexed and kept in non-air-conditioned conditions. For example, the archives of the National Parliament and the State Law Office are all currently kept piled up in a room in each of these Departments and no files can be

accessed because they cannot be found in the mess. What this means is that important Government records are being damaged and are deteriorating and access to particular documents is impossible because there is no way of finding them again.

Preparation by the National Cultural Council for a new building: The Council is currently putting some of the staff of the National Library and Vanuatu Cultural Centre through the Librarianship Diploma at the University of the South Pacific in preparation for staffing a new building. In addition, almost all the records of the National Library are now properly shelved in the National Museum building and catalogued in a new purpose-built computer database, which means that the records held by this institution at least are safe and accessible. The Council has also secured promises of support from the National Archives of New Zealand and Australia and other record-keeping institutions overseas for the additional skilled manpower required to do the work of sorting through all Government records and cataloguing them once a new building is in place.

A new building and an increased budget and staff for the National Archives will ensure that the records now held in the National Archives building, the National Library and various Government departments will be able to be centralized into one purpose-built facility, sorted out and properly catalogued and properly cared for in appropriate conditions. This will mean that these records will then become accessible to the Government and the people of Vanuatu for the foreseeable future.

Recommendation: On the 18th of January this year, the Council wrote to the Minister for Internal Affairs requesting that the Government make construction of a new building for the National Archives of Vanuatu a national priority for 2007. In this letter, the Council specifically recommended that:

- 1) the Council of Ministers make a decision that the Government's aid management unit (DESP) make obtaining funding for a new National Archives building a priority
- 2) additional Government resources need to be allocated as soon as possible to employ and train additional staff in preparation for staffing this new building.

With the loss of the Court House archives, the urgency of constructing a new National

Archives building has been made even more starkly apparent.

b) Call to rebuild the Court House in its original historical architectural style on the same site.

The Vanuatu National Cultural Council is calling upon the Government to rebuild the Port Vila Court House in its original historical architectural style on the same site.

The Court House was Vanuatu's most famous historical building and was classified as one of Vanuatu's first protected historical sites by the Minister of Internal Affairs under the *Protection of Sites and Artifacts* act in 2005.

The significance of the building and site:

The Court House was one of the first big administrative buildings built by the Condominium Government in the New Hebrides. It was completed in 1910, four years after the New Hebrides officially became a colony of Britain and France, and was originally built as the residence of the President of the Joint Court. The other big administrative buildings built in the same era were the original Joint Court (once located where the Reserve Bank now is) and the residences of the British and French judges (now also gone: the French Judge's house was where the residence of the Prime Minister now is). These buildings were all built on the top of the hill facing the entrance to the harbour as a way of demonstrating the rule of colonial law to all who entered the harbour. The Court House was the last of these first big colonial administrative buildings. During World War II the building provided the headquarters for the American forces in the New Hebrides and after the War it became the Joint Court, a function it retained until it was burnt down earlier this month.

The Court House had been extensively repaired over the years, particularly after the 1959 cyclone that hit Vila, but always with a view to retaining the original architectural style and historical integrity of the building.

Recommendation: Given the extraordinary historical value of this building and the site on which it stands, and given that the original historical architectural character of the building had been faithfully preserved with extensive maintenance work for over 55 years (both before and after Independence), the National Cultural Council is calling on the Government to rebuild the building in its original architectural style on the same site. By doing this, the Government will be demonstrating not only its commitment to

maintaining all the historic, heritage and national values and meanings embodied in the original building and site, but also its commitment to ensuring these values continue to be instilled in future generations of ni-Vanuatu.

While this may be an opportunity for building a new Court House which is more architecturally suited to the current needs of the judiciary, the Council believes that such needs can be accommodated by a building with a modern interior, but which retains the same façade (outside appearance) as the original court house building.

The Council is writing to the Minister for Justice, the Minister for Internal Affairs and the Judicial Services Commission with this request.

Vanuatu National Cultural Council / Vanuatu Cultural Centre, Press release, 18 June 2007.

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**PACIFIC RESEARCH COLLECTION AT
THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL
UNIVERSITY**

Kia ora, my name is Karina Taylor, I joined the Australian National University (ANU) Archives in February 2007 as Pacific Archivist. Prior to this appointment, I was working as Accessioning Librarian in the Manuscripts section of the Alexander Turnbull Library in Wellington, New Zealand. Over the past few months I have been very busy setting up the Pacific Research Collection.

The Pacific Research Collection (PRC) at the ANU was created with the vision that it will be the leading Australian resource centre for accessing resources and information on all aspects of the Pacific Islands. The PRC is based in the ANU Archives and is jointly supported by the International Centre of Excellence in Asia-Pacific Studies, the Pacific Centre in the Research School of Asia and Pacific Studies (RSPAS), and the ANU Division of Information. It aims to collect archival, unpublished and published material from and about the Pacific Islands, particularly material collected by scholars in the course of their research.

As part of the PRC project, the ANU has recently appointed Deveni Temu as Pacific Librarian. Deveni and I are working together to manage the publications that are received with collections. We have also begun meeting with the staff of RSPAS to discuss their requirements for

acquisition of publications relevant to their research and teaching and to seek their input into the PRC.

Currently, I am working on the papers of Gerard Ward who is a well-known Human Geographer and former Director of the Research School of Pacific Studies at ANU. The papers cover Professor Ward's research career of more than 50 years in the Pacific, including papers documenting his research on ocean currents and Pacific migration. The PRC has also received material from Diana Howlett, a Human Geographer from RSPAS, and Dr John Ballard, who is a specialist in post-colonial policy-making in Papua New Guinea and also has research interests in health and gender issues in Australia and the Pacific.

The PRC is working in collaboration with the Pacific Manuscripts Bureau. The PMB Executive Officer Ewan Maidment, is on the PRC Management Committee, which advises the Pacific Archivist about the establishment and future of the Collection. Ewan in particular has a role advising the Pacific Archivist of Pacific collections that may be suitable for accessioning into the PRC in the ANU Archives. There are also plans for the PMB and the PRC to work together in making Pacific collections held by the ANU more widely available through microfilming and digitization projects.

I look forward to the challenges of this role, the future interactions with the PMB and my other colleagues in the Pacific.

Karina Taylor
Pacific Archivist, ANU

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Malinowski taking photographs in the Trobriand Is.

MALINOWSKI'S TROBRIAND PHOTOGRAPHS ACCESSIBLE ON-LINE

Bronislaw Malinowski's archive, held by the Library of the London School of Economics and Political Science, is a major resource for the study of anthropology in the 20th century. The 220 boxes of field notes, correspondence, articles, drafts of writings and photographs illustrate Malinowski's career from 1914 right through to his death in 1942. The foundation of much of his working and thinking throughout his career were the three field trips that he made to the Trobriand Islands in 1914-1918. As well as documenting his observations on the lives and culture of the islanders in an extensive series of field notebooks, Malinowski took a large number of photographs. In 1914, soon after arriving in the Trobriands, he declared in a letter to his supervisor Charles Seligman that he had "ambitious schemes of recording much of their dances, children's plays [*sic*], economic activities (fishing, making gardens, etc.) & technology". The photographs from his first visit (to Mailu) have been lost, but over 1000 images from his second and third visits (to Kiriwina Island) have survived and form an integral part of the collection at LSE.

Malinowski made an active attempt to capture a wide range of the islanders' activities and the photographs provide a detailed and evocative record of their lives. They cover 31 subject areas defined by Malinowski, including fishing, canoes, mortuary, dance, pregnancy, magic, pottery, dress, cooking, children's games, kula, housebuilding, ropemaking and gardening. There is even a section of photographs recording Malinowski's own presence on the main island of Kiriwina, with photographs of him sitting in his tent, watching children playing, and photographing villagers. These photographs were probably taken by Billy Hancock. Hancock was a pearl trader but also a keen photographer and helped Malinowski develop his photographs (he had his own dark room) as well as offering general help and advice. Malinowski was not a confident or patient photographer and his fieldwork diaries reveal his frustration at the time-consuming nature of photography and the technical difficulties he experienced.

Anthropologists had been aware of the advantages of using photography in anthropological studies since the late 19th century. Photography was extensively used by the 1898-99 Torres Strait expedition. However took the use of

photographs a stage further by using them extensively in his published works. Recent research has shown the high ratio of photographs to text in Malinowski's published works. He also tried to capture images of people and objects in their natural surroundings, rather than separating them from their context to photograph them.

Malinowski used about 300 photographs in all to illustrate *Argonauts of the Western Pacific* and his other works on the anthropology of the Trobriand Islands. A further 200 were used by Michael Young in his 1999 book, *Malinowski's Kiriwina Fieldwork Photography 1915-191*. Now the entire collection has been digitised and is available via the LSE Archives Catalogue. The catalogue for the whole of the collection can be accessed by searching for Malinowski in the RefNo field, or you can limit your search to the photographs (section 3 of the main collection) by searching for Malinowski/3 in the RefNo field.

For further information, please visit our website at <http://www.lse.ac.uk/library/archive/> or contact us at document@lse.ac.uk

Anna Towlson
Assistant Archivist
Library of the London School of Economics and Political Science

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PROJECT CANTERBURY WEBSITE: OCEANIA AND BEYOND

I commend to the PAMBU community the Oceania, Papua New Guinea, New Zealand and other directories of "Project Canterbury: An online archive of Anglican books and texts" at <http://anglicanhistory.org>. As one of the site's episcopal patrons, I have been working for the last two years with the Project Canterbury Founder and Director, Richard Mammana, especially developing the Oceania site.

Project Canterbury was founded in February 1999 in order to provide an online venue for the hosting and dissemination of out-of-print Anglican texts. In the last eight years, the site has grown through volunteer efforts to become the largest Anglican website of any kind. In its entirety, the site now includes about 10,000 files (this figure includes text files as well as photographs and indices). Last year the site had some 4 million hits.

Project Canterbury is a voluntary, non-commercial, non-profit enterprise, with volunteers providing transcriptions and the director uploading them for easy internet access. The intention from the beginning has been to provide out-of-print Anglican historical and theological documents free of charge to anyone with internet access.

The Oceania directory consists of 19 Polynesia (including Hawaii) entries and 109 Oceanic Melanesia entries; the Papua New Guinea directory consists of 25 entries, and Norfolk Island entries files. There is also Maori and Australian Aboriginal material in the New Zealand and Australian directories. Many of these are old and out-of-print books and pamphlets. Some are transcriptions of archival material, others contemporary scholarship on Anglicanism in the Pacific. In the case of the Oceania directory, one aim is to include all Melanesian Mission publications unless they are already on other internet sites. New material is being added all the time as we find it, and find time to scan and edit it for uploading.

For example, we are halfway through putting the *Melanesian Mission Occasional Papers* (1892-1897) on the site. The next major book to be added is Ruth Godden, *Lolowai: The Story of Charles Godden and the Western Pacific* (1967). Also slated for inclusion is Arthur Innes Hokpins, ed., *Melanesia To-day: A Study Circle Book* (1927).

The site hosts some original research such as Michael Blain's biographical directory of (Anglican) Diocese of Honolulu clergy before Annexation at http://anglicanhistory.org/hawaii/blain_directory.pdf.

The particular areas of focus of Project Canterbury overall are the history of missionary life among indigenous peoples in Canada, New Zealand, Oceania, the United States, Africa and South America; translations of the Book of Common Prayer; Anglican poetry; sermon collections and charges; commentaries on the Book of Common Prayer; documents by and about Anglican women; Tractarian devotional and doctrinal writings; the works of John Mason Neale, John Keble and E.B. Pusey; documents on both sides of the Ritualist controversies of the nineteenth century; texts connected with Anglican relations to Orthodox Christianity, Roman Catholicism, Lutheranism and Old Catholicism; general missionary history; the writings of the Caroline Divines and the Nonjurors; the works of

pre-Tractarian High Churchmen and biographical works. There are also a relatively small number of translations of the Book of Common Prayer into lesser-known languages, including Haida, Hungarian, Neklakapamuk, Oneida, Swedish, Sea Dyak and several others. (The Oceania site includes some material in Mota.)

The site is totally searchable and indexed frequently by Google. The site also has its own internal Google search engine. The vast bulk of the material is easily and quickly downloadable in .html, although there are some .pdf files. With some exceptions, we do not link to other sites because of the time and energy involved in keeping up those links.

As I am located in the Solomons, it has been easy for me to access sources here, so there is much Melanesian Mission material in the Oceania directory. There is much early Anglican Diocese of New Guinea material that we would like to put on the site, but need a cooperative person in PNG or Australia to find and scan this material. As many libraries do not allow reproduction of their older pamphlets, access to material, even if it is in the public domain, is sometimes difficult. The Oceania and PNG directories have the full support of the Archbishops of Melanesia and Papua New Guinea. Copyright is, of course, respected, with any recent material requiring the consent of the author and publisher.

The broader theological and historical material on Project Canterbury should also be helpful for Pacific researchers in providing the background for mission practices and theological perspectives of Anglican missionaries in the Pacific, for example, in relation to church and culture, confession, liturgy, church and government, etc. We are currently developing a directory on St. Augustine's Missionary College, Canterbury, which produced a number of Anglican missionaries for Oceania.

The site is accessed by clergy, researchers (in theology, history, anthropology, etc), professors, students, Anglican laity and the general public. If the material is used or reproduced publicly in any way, we only ask that the Project Canterbury origin be acknowledged and that it not be placed on other websites without permission.

As the site continues to grow, we hope that it will be able to represent for new generations of readers the riches of the Anglican tradition. As the internet continues to be a primary point of research for students and scholars alike, we hope that Project Canterbury will be a source of

accurate information and responsible scholarship, focused on primary and early secondary sources.

We welcome suggestions of documents for inclusion and volunteer transcribers. Please be in touch with me at domauki@solomon.com.sb. Feedback on the site is also welcome.

*Bishop Terry Brown
Church of Melanesia, Solomon Islands
March 17, 2007*

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DIGITISING THE BROADCASTING PAST OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Papua New Guinea's National Broadcasting Corporation (NBC) recently broadcast a short speech given by American General Douglas MacArthur while he was stationed in Port Moresby during World War II. The speech was heard throughout the country via the NBC's Karai and Kundu network stations. Within days the station began receiving correspondence from around the country from its older listeners, asking about the voice of a "white man's ghost" they had heard. The voice had stirred many memories of a different time in the history of the country.

General MacArthur's speech was taken from a reel to reel recording made in Port Moresby and held in the main archives of the NBC at Five Mile. It is among thousands of recordings currently being digitised as part of a co-operative project between the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) and the NBC, supported by AusAID, the Australian Agency for International Development. The project is part of the second phase of a larger program, the Media for Development Initiative (MDI), the other part of which is being coordinated by the PNG Media Council. The NBC/ABC partnership has several broad goals: (1) to build organizational capacity within the NBC, (2) to strengthen its news and program output areas and (3) to introduce digital technology to the Corporation's archives.

The archival aspect of the project seeks to provide the NBC with equipment, training and mentoring to enable the digitisation of its entire audio collection. To date, equipment provided includes the installation of a modified version of UNESCO's CDS/ISIS database, computers, editing software, airconditioning units and appropriate storage units. Several ABC advisors have also been working with NBC's library and

archive staff to plan for, and better manage, their growing collection.

The MDI Archive project began in 2005 with visits by ABC archivists, John Spence & Ben Whitten. After assessing the NBC's needs, they devised a plan to develop an electronic catalogue, install the software and train staff. Because of its free availability, WIN/ISIS archives database software was chosen. WIN/ISIS was developed by UNESCO and was both simple and flexible, enabling developmental work to suit the needs of individual organisations. Mr Spence determined the NBC's requirements and contracted and briefed Maureen Henninger, Senior Lecturer Information and Knowledge Management at UTS in Sydney, who customised WIN/ISIS for the NBC. Mr Spence then took the software to Port Moresby, installed it on newly purchased computers and tested the software for problems. These were addressed in Sydney, and changes made whilst Mr Spence was in Moresby.

Both Mr Spence and Mr Whitten, a technical specialist, led staff and management in workshops on archival principals and practices. In a follow up visit, NBC library staff were trained in cataloguing principles, given some basic computer training and then trained in searching and cataloguing using the new database. Whilst in Port Moresby, Mr Spence and Mr Whitten surveyed current practices at the NBC in library and archival-related matters. The result was a series of recommendations that covered storage, technical considerations and techniques as well as relationships with other collecting bodies and collection development. In November 2006, ABC archivist Jordie Kilby joined the team as the in-country advisor.

The NBC audio collection is spread across 19 provincial stations and at headquarters at Five Mile in Port Moresby. Each of the stations hold reel to reel recordings of local string bands, cultural events, political speeches and traditional 'sing sings'. The main library in Port Moresby has tapes going back to the 1940s – including records relating to World War II. Many of the early recordings were compiled onto archive tapes from their master recordings in the early 1970s. The library holds large numbers of historic interviews, NBC produced dramas, Papuan string bands and current affairs programs. It also has an excellent collection of material relating to Papua New Guinea's elections since independence, which is being aired frequently in the lead-up to the country's elections this year. All tapes in the Port

Moresby library are currently stored in two rooms at the end of the main building. The project has installed two new air-conditioning units to promote a controlled climate for these recordings.

There is still work to be done on building an accurate picture of the nature and quantity of material being held in the provincial stations. Stations visited so far hold an average of 1,000 recordings marked as being of archival value. The storage conditions vary from station to station. Many tapes stored in humid, coastal areas have suffered from years of exposure to the elements. Part of the collection in Rabaul was rescued by staff from a building that had collapsed under the weight of volcanic dust from the eruption of Mount Tavurvur in 1994. Many of the tapes were ruined in the eruption, which destroyed much of Rabaul. One goal of the project is to facilitate better storage solutions for the collection as a whole. This may involve centralising the recordings into several storage centres with properly controlled environments.

Over the last 30 years there have been periods of both great activity and inactivity within the NBC's libraries. This has resulted in a patchy representation of the Corporation's and PNG's histories. In some cases, one can easily access an entire year's worth of locally produced drama programs; but on the other hand several years' worth of current affairs programs were never kept.

In many stations, decisions on what should be archived rest with the station manager, who has no guidelines on the process. Library staff have now drawn up a Collection Development Policy. Its application will depend on re-acquainting staff with the value and need for archival records. Another issue is simply a lack of tapes on which to save material in many provincial stations. The project is working with the NBC to introduce digital production equipment in all stations to overcome the need for tapes. In the meantime, some new tape has been supplied to preserve existing recordings.

So far, the focus of the project has been on the main library in Port Moresby. All equipment has been installed, training with local staff has taken place and more than 250 archive tapes have been digitised. It has taken time for staff to become sufficiently relaxed and confident with the database to work with it, but they have now begun entering all the details into the ISIS database. Valuable lessons have been learned that will assist in extending the program out into the regional areas.

Digitising such a large collection is a long-term task, and it will certainly continue after the MDI 2 has finished. From this point, the project will draw up a plan for digitising the provincial stations, and will begin to implement it. The project is currently reviewing how it will ensure the long-term success of the task at hand. The NBC has committed itself to the long-term nature of the task, and stands to benefit greatly from a much improved, modernised archive and library system.

*Jordie Kilby
Advisor, Media for Development Initiative
Port Moresby*

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KEEPING RECORDS OF THE LAW AND JUSTICE SECTOR IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Under the Law and Justice Sector Project (LJSP) current records management practices of five agencies in Papua New Guinea are being surveyed and improved. The agencies covered in this project are the Department of Justice and Attorney General, National Judicial Staff Services, Magisterial Services, the Corrective Services and the Ombudsman Commission. Unfortunately, the Police Department has been left out because of politics involved with ECP.

Filing systems and records management have been neglected over the last thirty years since political independence in all government departments including the law and justice sector agencies. Many departments have lost their records when moving office or simply by ignorance. In cases where records are created and retained there still remains a management problem as most departments do not have procedures or facilities for keeping records. This often results in duplication and retention of unnecessary records, thus creating storage problems. Many departments do not know how long to keep the records for or when to destroy files. There are no retention/disposal schedules in most departments. This results in all records being stored regardless of the value of the record. We cannot keep all the files. At the same time we cannot destroy all the files.

In the long run important historical records of these departments and the nation are being lost and this will continue unless attempts are made to improve methods of managing records in government departments. A nation without a

history is a lost nation. People will need to identify important records for storage and preservation in the National Archives in future. The records management consultancy under the LJSP is based on records surveys of all the sector agencies throughout the country. Reports and photographs have been made of offices visited. There are very similar problems encountered throughout the country. We have as a result planned for the re-organization of records of these agencies. We hope that Law and Justice Sector agencies covered in this project will develop policies and procedures for management of their records. This Project should take the lead and showcase the need for proper records management to other government departments.

The Department of Justice and Attorney General (DJAG) is the biggest in the Sector with several divisions performing functions at different locations. The LJSP records survey looked at the offices of the constitutional office holders in the Department, including Public Solicitors, Public Prosecutors, Solicitor General, Lands Titles Commission, Law Reform Commission, Parole Board, Public Curators, and the Village Court Secretariat. Each of these offices create and keep their own files and policy, although staff records and administrative files are kept by the Departmental headquarters.

The Department has a central registry or records centre, consisting of five shipping containers which store closed files. Although these containers hold valuable files, at the time of LJSP records survey there was no record of what is kept in the containers. The shipping containers have now been cleaned and casual staff hired to make a complete list of the files in the containers. The contents of one of the containers, infested with termites, has been reorganised and treated with insecticide.

The shipping containers are going to have to be searched again for the purpose of appraisal before destruction is commenced. Records that are not archival in nature should not be stored in these containers. The shipping container cannot be a dumping ground. This records centre will store vital and valuable records of the Department. In the long run archival records will have to be transferred to the National Archives for permanent preservation. Much of this will be decided and implemented when we have drawn up a Departmental disposal/retention schedule.

At the moment there is no centralised control of DJAG records. There are bound to be duplicate

copies of records held in the different offices of the Department. This is particularly true of court files which are kept by lawyers in the Public Prosecutors and Public Solicitors Offices throughout the country. There is a need for centralized control of all DJAG records so that duplication of files is minimised. The DJAG records office will control and issue standard policies and procedures for records management in the constitutional offices of the Department.

The DJAG has now appointed a records manager, Vagi Igo, who will oversee Departmental record keeping. He has travelled to offices of the Department in the country and knows the problems faced by its regional and provincial offices. From his observations Mr Igo will draw up plans and policies for management of files and records created in each division and in particular by the constitutional office holders who have vital records for the Department as well as the nation at large.

National Judicial Staff Services. The National Judicial Staff Service (NJSS) keeps the records of the National Court and the Supreme Court. These are some of the more important records of the nation; very numerous and created almost daily. The court system involves a lot of file creation by the police, prosecution, judiciary and correctional services. Along the way, duplication of files is likely. Although administration of all these records is difficult, policies and plans for management of these records are being put in place. The court registries are the central repositories of these records. In order to facilitate efficient operation of the registries, some records have to be destroyed. We cannot continue to create files and records without undertaking selective destruction.

Court orders and records management policies are required so that we are permitted to destroy records after completion of use. Dagi Golu, an experienced archivist who was formerly based at the National Archives, has developed an archives policy and procedure manual for the management of NJSS records. It has been endorsed by management and the procedures are being followed.

The only problem is the need to set up better storage facilities for closed and important records at the NJSS headquarters and at the regional level. At the NJSS headquarters in Waigani, we installed new shelves, with dividers, in the central court registry while the National Court was in recess before the legal year began in 2007. There are also

plans for expansion of storage space at the NJSS Headquarters.

Records are also held at the regional centres in which Supreme Court judges are based, *i.e.* Lae, Mt Hagen, Kokopo, Kimbe and Madang. Under the LJSP we have visited all of these centres to assess the records and to look at options for setting up regional storage centres. Shipping containers are used at Madang, Lae and Kokopo for storage of closed Court files. We are installing shelves at the Mt Hagen Court House to allow proper storage and retrieval of Magistrate's Court records as well as those of the Supreme Court.

Mr Golu's archives policy and procedure manual has been applied in each of these regional centres, mainly in relation to management of Court files and records. However it appears that administrative and policy files, in particular general correspondence file series, may have been neglected. The Court transcripts are another series of records which also need organised management and appropriate storage facilities, if possible in digital format. In association with Mr Golu, we will revise and update the NJSS records policy and procedure manual to cover all NJSS records series, aiming to design a computerised database system for indexing and retrieval.

Mr Golu's appointment is a step in the right direction; however he needs more funding and assistants in order to operate an effective records management system. There is a need for positions to be created for registry/archives officers to be stationed at regional centres. At present only librarians are responsible for records. There has recently been an advertisement for librarian/archivist positions in the regional centres, which is a good start. Training workshops and procedures will have to be held in NJSS in order for records management standards to be implemented consistently across the nation.

Magisterial Services (MS). Magisterial Services is responsible for records created by District and other lower Courts throughout the country. The Court files are organised according to the type of Court where the case is heard (Civil, Criminal or Family Court) and then by case number.

There is a need for a procedure manual so that the process of creating records is applied nationwide. After attending my records management workshops in 2004, Leslie Kolis wrote a draft procedure manual for MS records, a standard MS file index, and other papers. These need to be updated and published, possibly as an

addition to the manual of Court procedures which has already been had been created.

We hope this MS records management manual and policies can be developed and published and distributed to all the Court Houses to ensure application of a nation-wide record keeping system. Clerks of courts are responsible for creation of files and keeping records at the District Courts, however there is also a need for a position of records manager/archivist to be established, with overall responsibility for records generated by Magisterial Services.

The MS headquarters in Port Moresby needs to set up a proper records centre to keep all its important and valuable records. This will fall in line with what is planned for the NJSS, Ombudsman Commission and Corrective Services headquarters. These records centres will organise the transfer of closed files and take responsibility for them pending their final transfer to the National Archives or destruction, based on appraisal of the archival value of each file.

At present the MS Port Moresby Records Room, where the closed files are located, needs to be renovated and fitted with proper shelves and air conditioning. The records are not listed and need to be reorganised. Proper file covers and archives boxes are needed to store the files and to ensure that these are kept in order. It would seem that all Court case files have been kept. This leads to space problems so there is a need to develop a retention/disposal schedule for appraisal and sentencing court files.

Wewak District Court records were destroyed by fire in 2003. Unlisted Magisterial records held in a leaky shipping container in Goroka were dampened by rain water and destroyed.

Corrective Services (CS). This is the most unorganised agency of the five covered by the LJSP records survey. One of the major problems CS had faced over the last few years had been continuous relocation of its headquarters, leading to uncertainty in setting up permanent offices and destruction of Departmental records. The Department is now occupying a permanent building so there is a good chance that it can sustain a stable records management program which can be applied.

A national CS file index is being used but needs revision. Sergeant Anis Natusere, who attended some of my training workshops, has made recommendations for improvement of records management practices in the Department.

A Departmental records management policy and procedures manual will be written up and steps taken to introduce staff and officers throughout the country to apply the same procedures and practices in all of the country's nineteen prisons.

Central control and storage of all CS records is required so that all records of the department are created and transferred according to procedures. A former mess at the CIS College has been identified which can be renovated as a temporary storage shed for records of the Department. We have established a records centre/archives at the CS Headquarters and have installed compactus shelving for storage of intermediate and closed Departmental files.

Ombudsman Commission (OC). The Commission is a small organisation with regional offices in Lae, Hagen and Kokopo, and plans for another office in Buka. Within the OC there is a recognition that record keeping is an important part of their management practices. As a result, officers of the different divisions of the OC keep records of all the transactions of the Commission. Some records have been transferred to the basement 'archives', while other semi-current and closed files are located in the divisional repositories. It is possible to setup a good record keeping system for the Commission if a staff position is established for a records manager who will oversee the record keeping practices and supervise the management of the Commission's records.

There will be workshops conducted addressing records management problems in the Commission and I hope that one of the participants at these workshops will take over the role of records management within the Commission. We will also draw up a policies and procedures manual for the Commission staff to follow when creating records in future. There will be some Commission records which are clearly archival in nature, and amongst these will include leadership tribunals and life stories of leaders under the leadership code. We hope all these records can be transferred to the National Archives when the leaders lose their positions. All investigations conducted by the commission are important and will have to be transferred to the sector wide records centre/archives in future as well.

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Pambu, July 2007

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