

University of the South Pacific Law Library

In 1994 the University of the South Pacific took its first intake of 78 LL B students on its Laucala campus in Suva, Fiji. Prior to this the University had been running a Law Certificate course and Diploma in Legal Studies from the Pacific Law Unit on the University campus in Port Vila, Vanuatu. The Law programme will be based at the Laucala campus of the University of Suva, Fiji, for 1995 as well. From 1996 the Law Department will be based at the University campus in Port Vila. New buildings, including a library, are currently being built.

At present the Department of Law has five members of staff including myself. I was appointed in June 1994. The Foundation Professor, Mark Findlay, will arrive in February, 1995. His previous position was Director of the Institute of Criminology at the University of Sydney. The other teaching staff are Professor Don Paterson, Mere Pulea, and Alan Marsh.

I have spent the last six months travelling and building the collection to support the teaching programme as it has been developed to date. This has been a slow road as until December I had no assistance from existing general library staff or law library staff. As of December I have had a law library assistant who will concentrate on processing the material for inclusion in the collection.

Obviously obtaining material for major common law countries such as Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, Canada, and America has not been much of a problem except that the budget for 1994 was only \$F150,000 for current material and collection development! Fortunately I have received generous donations of material from colleagues in Australia, New Zealand and America, most notably, Victor Lipski from

Victoria University of Wellington, Margaret McAleese from Sydney University, Julia McMahon-O'Higgins from Auckland University, Jackie Patrick from the University of New South Wales, Nick Pengelley from Monash University, Lynn Pollack from the Law Courts Library, Sydney, Helen Wallace from the University of Western Australia and Lorraine Weinman from Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department Library. The Asia Foundation, a non-profit organisation with an office in Suva, has also been highly supportive with book donations and assistance with travel. They sponsored my attendance at the AALL meeting in Seattle and visits to major university law libraries down the West Coast of America and in Hawaii.

1995 promises to be another busy and varied year. Shelving will arrive in Suva in March and I should have a functioning law library in place by April/May - but not for long! It is envisaged that the collection will be packed and shipped across to Vila to be merged with the collection already there (mainly Pacific legislation and law reports) in November.

I will also be visiting the major island states to supplement the collection of Pacific law developed by Professor Paterson in Vila. Gaps need to be filled and unreported judgments, etc. collected and collated. The book budget for 1995 stands at \$F250,000 for recurrent material and collection development. As you are all aware, in Australian and New Zealand terms this is not substantial for an academic law library, so I do ask that if anyone has material they would like to donate or sell please contact me as follows:

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Library, USP, GPO Box 1168, Suva FIJI
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email: BAHRIJ J@usp.ac.fj

John Bahrij

Law Librarian, University of the South Pacific

Ten Prisoners, One Policeman and a Flat-topped Truck

Lorraine Weinman

Lionel Murphy Library

Attorney-General's Department, Canberra

In August last year, Rebecca Robinson and I spent two weeks in Western Samoa moving the Attorney-General's library. It was moved from a very cramped 26 square metre room in an old German turn-of-the-century building, to the 4th floor of the new multi-storey Government Building, built on the waterfront as a gift from the Chinese government.

I had done a great deal of planning before the project started, including months of consultation and advice on the construction of the new shelves. These were built locally, and had most of the features I had suggested - like adjustable shelves.

Most librarians have moved a library at some stage of their working life. I am sure no-one has moved a library without the "normal" aids of trolleys, boxes, and lifts.



Samoans are very strong, a prisoner was able to lift a box of books by himself.

This move was very excitingly different. There were no trolleys; only about 50 cardboard boxes which we had to constantly re-label and re-use; and no lift, only a steep external stairway. However, we did have ten prisoners who carried the large and very heavy boxes down the stairs. I was rather concerned at being responsible for so many prisoners, so I was quite relieved to have a policeman detailed to supervise them. This only happened because one of the prisoners had escaped the day before the job started, so the Police Commissioner decided they should have proper supervision.

All went amazingly smoothly. I stayed in the old library, packing with the help of the 'office prisoner', Fourteen. (So called because he was the fourteenth child, he came in daily to clean the office and make the tea). Rebecca was positioned in the new building, unpacking with the help of one of the office staff, Maria. Unfortunately there was no phone contact between us, no way for me to tell her 'leave more space for the *All Englands*, I've just found another shelf of them', so there was quite a bit of double handling.

Samoans are extremely strong people. Most of them could carry a box full of books single handed. They carried the boxes down the stairs and loaded them onto the flat-topped truck in the street below. There was no rope to tie anything down, and I was concerned that the boxes would bump off the truck, spilling law reports all over Beach Road, but the prisoners sat on them so the trips were accomplished safely.

We moved nearly 5,000 books in this fashion, and completed the job in five days.

The new library looks very professional, and the Samoans are delighted with it. There was a colourful library-opening ceremony during the recent PILOM (Pacific Islands Law Officers' Meeting), attended by delegates from 15 Pacific countries and agencies.



A view of the new library on opening day, with three of the Attorney-General's Office staff. L to R: Soteria, Makerita, Iina

Rebecca and I, and the Attorney-General's Department, are happy to have been associated with this project and able to help, and we have certainly brought unique experiences and memories back with us

Western Samoan Law Reports

Volume 6 of the *Law Reports of Western Samoa*, covering the period 1980-1993, was launched at the same time as the opening of the new Library

The production of this volume was undertaken by a Committee consisting of the Secretary for Justice, Tuala D Kerlake, the late magistrate Bill Dillon, Helen Aikman formerly of the Attorney-General's Office, and Soa Tusipa Masina, Deputy Registrar of the Supreme Court. Financial assistance was provided by the Asia Foundation

Copies of the *Reports* are available from Tuala Kerlake, Justice Department, PO Box 49, Apia, Western Samoa. The price is not known.

List of Twinned Libraries

Pacific Library

1. COOK ISLANDS

Mata Tutai
Law Librarian
Dept of Justice and Lands
PO Box 111
Rarotonga COOK ISLANDS

2. FIJI

Ms Akosita Rokemarama
Library Assistant
High Court of Fiji
Government Buildings
Suva FIJI

The Librarian
DPP's Office
PO Box 2355
Government Buildings
Suva FIJI

3. KIRIBATI

Hon Michael N Takabwebwe
Attorney General
Attorney General's Chambers
PO Box 62
Bairiki, Tarawa KIRIBATI

ANZ Twin Library

Ms Lynn Pollack
Law Courts Library
GPO Box 3
Sydney NSW 2000

Ms Jackie Patrick
Law Librarian
University of NSW
PO Box 1
Kensington NSW 2033

Mr Bruce Bott
Law Librarian
Bond University
Level 2, Building FO1
Gold Coast QLD 4229

Mr Nicholas Pengelley
Law Librarian
Monash University
Clayton VIC 3168

Pacific Library

Rose Boia
Chief Registrar
High Court of Kiribati
PO Box 501
Betio, Tarawa KIRIBATI

4. NAURU

Principal Legal Officer
Justice Department
REPUBLIC OF NAURU

5. PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Mrs Mary Wilson
University of PNG
Law Library
PO Box 319
Port Moresby PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Ms Farapo Opa
Librarian
Attorney-General's Dept
PO Wards Strip
Waigani PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Ms Anita Ogomeni
Librarian
Legal Training Institute
PO Box 9084
Hohola, NCD PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Ms Madeline Orovea
Magisterial Service
PO Box 1616
Port Moresby
PAPUA NEW GUINEA

6. SOLOMON ISLANDS

Chief Justice John Muria
High Court
Honiara
SOLOMON ISLANDS

7. TONGA

Chief Justice
Supreme Court
Nuku'alofa
TONGA

Siosaia Aleamotu'a
Deputy Secretary of Justice
PO Box 130
Nuku'alofa
TONGA

ANZ Twin Library

Ms Jacqueline Elliott
Court Librarian
High Court of Australia
PO Box E435
Queen Victoria Terrace ACT 2600

Ms Lorraine Weinman
Librarian
Lionel Murphy Library
Attorney-General's Dept
Robert Garran Offices, Barton ACT 2600

Mr Mark Powell
Librarian
Australian Govt Solicitor's Office
14th Floor
200 Queen Street
Melbourne VIC 3000

Mr Aladdin Rahemtula
Librarian
Supreme Court Library
PO Box 19
North Quay
Brisbane QLD 4002

Ms Julie Montgomery
Librarian
The Law Society of S A
124 Waymouth Street
Adelaide SA 5000

Ms Lorraine Doyle
Librarian
Butterworths
PO Box 345
North Ryde NSW 2113

Ms Catherine Crawford
Law Librarian
QUI
GPO Box 2434
Brisbane QLD 4001

Ms Gail Dallimore
Librarian
Bell Gully Buddle Weir
PO Box 4199
Auckland NEW ZEALAND

Ms Lorraine Weinman
Librarian
Lionel Murphy Library
Attorney-General's Dept
Robert Garran Offices Barton ACT 2600

Pacific Library

8. VANUATU

Professor Don Paterson
Director
Pacific Law Unit
PO Box 12
Port Vila
VANUATU

Chief Justice Charles d'Imecourt
Supreme Court
PMB 041
Port Vila
VANUATU

9. WESTERN SAMOA

Ms Vaimauga Sausi
Library Clerk
Justice Department
PO Box 49
Apia
WESTERN SAMOA

Attorney-General
Attorney-General's Chambers
PO Box 27
Apia
WESTERN SAMOA

ANZ Twin Library

Ms Gayle Davies
Director of Library Services
Office of the Chief Executive
Family Court of Australia
GPO Box 9991
Sydney NSW 2001

Ms Gail Robertson
Manager, Library
Federal Court of Australia
Law Courts Building
Queen's Square
Sydney NSW 2000

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