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## Pambu news

**Greetings from the new Pambu office!** 2019 has been another busy year of change for the Bureau. The Coombs Building, where Pambu has been located for most of its history, is undergoing a major refurbishment, to modernise and to create more teaching spaces. Though we didn't have to move very far – from the north hexagon to the south hexagon – everyone is moving into smaller offices to accommodate new teaching spaces. This meant a lot of time was spent sorting, culling and rehoming materials that had accumulated over a couple of decades. The new office space has better climate control and is a safer distance from La Baguette café, which I love a bit too much. We are now located in Room 3.360 of the south hexagon, opposite CartoGIS. Please do drop in!

We also had some sad news this year with the passing of our colleague Ms Leah Kalamorah, Librarian at the University of Papua New Guinea. Leah was a friend to many in the extended Pambu network and her passing caused much shock and sadness. The words I heard most commonly used to describe Leah were: generous, kind, welcoming and role model. Her passing is a great loss to librarianship and my heart goes out to her family and her UPNG colleagues.

We had some personnel changes this year with the retirement of Sioana Faupula. Sioana has had a long association with Pambu and she is dearly missed. Sioana has retired from Pambu but remains very active in church, community and family life. You can read more about Sioana's life and contribution to Pambu on page 2. Our two academic representatives, Dr Vicki Luker and Dr Morgan Tuimaleali'ifano, also finished their terms on the Management Committee this year. I thank them both enormously for their enthusiastic contributions over the past 3 years. Michael Wesley, Dean of College of Asia and the Pacific (CAP), has accepted a new post as

(top)

W.C. and Doris Groves  
*Women dancers,  
 Manu Manu*  
 PAPUA NEW GUINEA  
 TRANSPARENCIES, MAINLY  
 1950s. PMB PHOTO 26\_075

Deputy Vice-Chancellor International at the University of Melbourne. We wish Michael every success and sincerely thank him for his support for Pambu during his time as CAP Dean.

We've also made some updates to the Pambu website this year and started the process of upgrading the online catalogue, which will be completed in the new year. We've added some new collections to the catalogue this year, including several photo and manuscript collections from missionaries Conrad Stallan and Neilson Whyte, both of whom worked in South West Bay in the New Hebrides. We've also added press statements from the Catholic Bishops Conference (Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands) and a selection of records from the Catholic Bishop's office in Kavieng. There is also a large collection of Rev Dr Sione Latukefu's research papers and some military correspondence from pre-cession Fiji. These papers that were found in a locked suitcase in Victoria and you can read more about them on page 7. I'm also excited to

add a collection of stunning photographs of West Papua, taken by author and photographer Kal Muller. There is a full list of new collections on the last page of this newsletter.

These collections would not have made it online without the hard work throughout the year of staff and volunteers Sioana Faupula, Eve Haddow, Bruma Rios Mendoza, Talei Luscia Mangioni, Jan Gammage and Ewan Maidment.

Pambu has some interesting projects planned for 2020 but we always welcome suggestions for new digitisation projects. There is growing research interest in historical weather recordings that pre-date the official record and I welcome any information about meteorological records from the Pacific before 1950 – [pambu@anu.edu.au](mailto:pambu@anu.edu.au)

Thank you for your ongoing interest in the work of the Bureau and best wishes for safe and happy holidays.

KARI JAMES

EXECUTIVE OFFICER, PACIFIC MANUSCRIPTS BUREAU

## Mrs Sioana Faupula retires from Pambu

**Having passed her 80th birthday**, Sioana Faupula retired earlier this year after nearly 20 years as Translator and Assistant Archivist at the Pacific Manuscripts Bureau (PMB). Sioana graced Pacific studies throughout the Coombs Building with her presence, not just the Bureau. She is well known here and in Tonga as a Pacific community leader, a Uniting Church Lay Preacher, a radio presenter, and an advocate for Pacific Islands women, Tongan language and heritage. At the ANU Sioana provided a key link to the Tongan community and diplomats in Canberra.

Sioana was educated at Queen Salote College in Nuku'alofa, an all-girls school that emphasises Tongan cultural heritage in its curriculum. Having trained at Sydney Teachers' College, Sioana returned to Tonga to teach at Queen Salote College, 1960-1967. She is still President of its ex-students' association in Australia. Sioana moved to 'Eua in 1969 with her husband, Reverend Haloti Faupula, where as head teacher, he helped establish the Hango Agricultural College. From 1972, Sioana, Haloti and their three children spent a decade as missionaries at the Yirrkala Methodist Mission in the Northern Territory: Sioana as teacher at the Indigenous Community School and Rev. Haloti as the Minister. They were amongst the first wave of missionaries to go from Tonga to Aboriginal mission stations in Australia. Returning to NSW in 1982, Rev. Haloti became Minister at Dee Why Uniting Church and later at Kurri Kurri, Western Parish. Following his retirement in 1997,



Sioana and he moved to Canberra to be with their adult children and their families. Sadly, Rev. Haloti Faupula died soon after in 2000.

In 2001, the Mitchell Library transferred Dorothy Crozier's papers to the PMB, including the papers of Reverend Shirley Waldemar Baker and Beatrice Baker. Rev. Baker was a Wesleyan missionary in Tonga who, having won the confidence to King Tupou 1, was appointed Premier, set up the Free Wesleyan Church under his own control and persecuted the Tongans who refused to join it, including Sioana's

(above)

Sioana and Kefilina Faupula, at the PMB 40th anniversary celebration, June 2008.



Grandfather, Sione Teu-ki-Kolisi Havea, who was tied to a tree and whipped. Rev. Baker survived an assassination attempt, fell out of favour after Tupou 1 had died, and eventually died in poverty in Ha'apai (Noel Rutherford on Rev. Baker, *ADB*, Vol.3, 1969).

While surveying archives in Ha'apai in 1950 for her study of social services in Tonga, Dorothy Crozier acquired the Rev. Baker's papers from Lillian (Ku) Baker, his last surviving child. Dorothy herself eventually became quite reclusive, living on the Mornington Peninsula in Victoria and, as far as is known, never allowed anyone at all to sight the Baker Papers in her possession. Nevertheless Dorothy did ensure their survival by bequeathing them to the Mitchell Library, which transferred the papers to the PMB.

At the time, the Bureau's former Tongan translator, Siua Laftani, had become unwell. Sioana's friend, Elizabeth Wood Ellem (the biographer of Queen Salote), mentioned to her that the Bureau would need an expert to identify and translate the Baker Papers. Consequently, Sioana graciously offered her services which were gratefully accepted. At first on a voluntary basis and then as a part-time member of staff, Sioana worked on the Baker Papers (PMB 1203), the collected papers of Rev. Dr Sione Latukefu (PMB 1124, PMB 1315 & PMB 1393) and other Tongan languages materials.

Among Sioana's translations is J. Fekau's graphic account of his arrest, bashing, imprisonment and trial after the attempted assassination of Rev. Baker (unpublished Ms.,



*A Bad Time in Tonga: the Journal of J. Fekau 'Ofahemo'oni, 18 January-27 March 1887*). Fekau's original diary is held in Sione Latukefu's, Collected Tongan Papers, 1884-1965 (PMB 1124, now in the custody of the Mitchell Library). Sioana reported on the Baker Papers at the Tongan History Association Conference at the University of Melbourne in July 2005 (*Shirley Waldemar Baker, 1836-1903: Papers filmed by the Pacific Manuscripts Bureau*). She also provided translations of documents for scholarly works, such as John Spurway's biography, *Ma'afu, prince of Tonga, chief of Fiji* (ANU Press, 2014) and Geoff Cummin's, *Letter from Tāufa'āhau* (*JPH*, 45:3, December 2010). In addition, Sioana undertook routine arrangement and listing of archival material and became adept at operating the microfilm camera and, later on, digital cameras.

For the staff of the Pacific Manuscripts Bureau, Sioana is a living witness to the events recorded in many of the documents we handle. She brought history to life for others too. For example, Sioana and another living treasure, Deveni Temu, gave talks in the Vaka Moana Series, *Stories of the sea: travellers across the Pacific*, convened by Jenny Newell, at the National Museum of Australia in September 2009.

Sioana's presentation, *Tin Can Island volcano eruptions*, about the Tongan outlier, Niuafu'ou Island, was only partly about its exotic mail service. Sioana described the massive eruption in 1946, which destroyed half the island, including its main village, Angaha, and the opposition of Fusitu'a, the noble of Niuafu'ou, to the compulsory evacuation of the entire population of the island. Sioana's father, Salesi Manoa Havea, Tongan Police Magistrate, enforced the evacuation under orders from the Privy Council in Nuku'alofa. The last group sailed from Niuafu'ou in December 1946 to live in Nuku'alofa, without basic possessions, with little shelter and scant food supply.

Sioana recorded that, "The Queen had personal responsibility for the people". Queen Salote was a descendant of a former Fotofili of Niuafu'ou and owned the estate of Mataāho on the island. The Queen responded to growing pressure "from the Niuafu'ou people for

(left)

Kefilina Faupula, Sioana's granddaughter, dancing at PMB 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, June 2008.

(above right)

Sioana dancing, *tu'u lafale* (with supporters), Joel Nilon, Kylie Moloney and Stella Naimet, in the Coombs Courtyard, ANU, November 2011.

permission to return to their ancestral home - to their ruined houses and gardens, the graveyards of their forebears and, above all, to resume the struggle for survival against the forces of nature. To permit them to return was an agonising decision for Queen Salote and her ministers to take." Sioana explained the significance of the return of the islanders to Niuafo'ou:

In September 1958, the first party of 200 was allowed to go back to their devastated island—an occasion of such sentimental significance that it is not easy for non-Polynesians to fully comprehend. Their island has a history of nine eruptions in the past century. On each occasion villages, paths, houses and gardens had been destroyed. Yet they are there today, fearful but happy, no longer landless exiles but back with their ancestors.

To make it quite clear to the audience Sioana's family performed a dance and a song composed by her father, Salesi Manoa Havea, the Police Magistrate, to mark the return of the people to Niuafo'ou. It was a song and a dance about the Malau birds. "The people have left, the human beings, and only these living beings are left, the Malau birds, because they like the hot sand. That is where they love to lay their eggs. So they couldn't go to Tonga, they had to live in Niua." (Audio recording and transcript accessible at: <https://www.nma.gov.au/audio/audio/vaka-moana-series/transcripts/stories-of-the-sea-travellers>.)

We at the Bureau were very lucky to have had such a teacher, week after week and year after year, and to have experienced such beautiful dances and songs on special occasions.

EWAN MAIDMENT  
17 NOVEMBER 2019

# Collections of Reverend Conrad George Stallan

A significant collection of over 500 photographs from Malakula island, Vanuatu, dating from 1940 – 46, is now available on the Pambu catalogue. The images were taken by missionary Reverend Conrad George Stallan, who lived and worked on the island at Wintua mission station, South West Bay, with his wife Christina (Chriss) and children Donovan (Fofo), Roger, Janet, and Rachael. The material was made available for Pambu to digitise by Janet, who was less than a year old when the family arrived on Malakula.

The photographs offer a unique visual record of Malakulan life in the 1940s. As well as capturing images around the Wintua mission, Stallan took his camera to the Big Nambas area and Toman island. Several photographs also document the 1944 New Zealand Royal Air Force expedition to recover the bodies of four men who sadly died in Flight Lieutenant Frank Rolston's crashed plane in Meteniamb, south central Malakula.

Three sets of photographs are mounted into albums, with detailed captions provided by Conrad Stallan. These include geographical locations, and some feature people's names. In cataloguing this historically valuable material, Janet has shared her memories of the names of Malakulan friends and places. Pambu also received generous assistance from Paul Mitchell, who recently completed a PhD here at ANU—congratulations Paul! As part of his research, Paul worked with Vanuatu Kaljoral Senta fieldworkers in SW Bay to share some of Stallan's photographs with communities there. Building on this work, Paul hopes to secure

further funding to promote access to these important historical records on Malakula, and record knowledge of them for future.

Last year Pambu released Conrad Stallan's diaries (MS 1428). Further archival papers relating to the Stallan family's time in Vanuatu are now also available (MS 1433). The photographs can be accessed on the Pambu online catalogue (PHOTO 104, PHOTO 107, PHOTO 109, PHOTO 110, and PHOTO 111).

EVE HADDOW  
ARCHIVE ASSISTANT

(below)

'Aindip, holding tail, caught this Sting Ray', Malakula, Vanuatu, from 'Reverend Conrad Stallan, album of photographs of the New Hebrides (Vanuatu), 1940 – 1946' PMB PHOTO 111-004.



# Pacific languages metadata project

Fortuitously, 2019 is the United Nations' 'International Year of Indigenous Languages', as well as the year of my first 6-month sabbatical. I spent most of the sabbatical working with the National Library of Australia on their Pacific language metadata, which included a whole (glorious) month working physically at the NLA. Being in Canberra also gave me the wonderful opportunity to visit Kari at Pambu, Tom Foley at ANU, and Kylie Moloney at AIATSIS.

My sabbatical project with the NLA is a continuation of a previous 3-year project we completed at the UHM Pacific Collection. The full details of that project are here ([guides.library.manoa.hawaii.edu/pacific\\_language](https://guides.library.manoa.hawaii.edu/pacific_language)), but in summary, the Library of Congress adequately describes only 23 of the Pacific's 1,400 languages, so my work is to enhance the language descriptions of anything written in or about the other 1,377 languages.

Working with the Training and Policy team at the NLA was a true privilege, as they are leading the way by applying the AUSTLANG standard for language description, specific to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages. While my project was focused on a different set of languages, I learned so much from the workshops, meetings and informal discussions that were happening at the NLA as they worked through how to apply this new standard.

I still have a few minor changes to make to the spreadsheet before I submit it to the NLA, but it is anticipated that I will provide enhanced metadata for approximately 3,450 bibliographic records in the NLA catalog. I should also note



(clockwise from top left)  
Eleanor Kleiber and  
Kylie Moloney at AIATSIS.

The outside of AIATSIS.

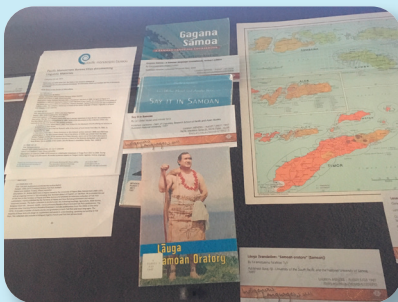
Eleanor Kleiber and  
Kari James.

that Pambu records (which exist in both UHM and NLA catalogs) were not edited. I suggest working with the Pambu records as a separate project and input the metadata directly into the Pambu database.

ELEANOR KLEIBER  
LIBRARIAN – PACIFIC COLLECTION  
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII, MĀNOA

Catherine Argus and  
Jenny Stephen from the  
Training Policy team at the  
NLA. Also in the shot are  
me (Eleanor) and Eleanor  
Goodwin who sat right  
next to me which caused  
great confusion whenever  
anyone said "Eleanor!"

## Australian National University celebrates International Year of Indigenous Languages 2019



The United Nations declared 2019 the International Year of Indigenous Languages (IY2019), recognising the crucial role of language in daily life and its

importance 'at the heart of each person's unique identity, cultural history and memory' (United Nations, 2019). The ANU Library and University Archives celebrated with an exhibition on campus in Menzies Library. Running from July to September, the collaborative exhibition explored

the diversity and importance of Indigenous Languages. It also highlighted the ANU's contribution to research and teaching related to those languages. On display were items from the University Archives and Library, as well as contributions from across the university, CartoGIS, PARADISEC, and the Pacific Manuscripts Bureau.

Pambu's Pacific Indigenous language collections come from a diverse range of geographical locations. Some of these collections previously copied to microfilm have been digitised as part of ongoing collaboration with PARADISEC. They can be accessed via the PARADISEC catalogue or in Pambu member libraries. A list of our extensive linguistic holdings can be found on our website <http://asiapacific.anu.edu.au/pambu/findingaids.php>

EVE HADDOW, ARCHIVE ASSISTANT

## SEAPAVAA and PARBICA conferences



In June I travelled to Noumea for the 23rd conference of the South East Asia Pacific Audiovisual Archives Association (SEAPAVAA). It was a great opportunity to meet with archivists from the Pacific and further afield. I also took the opportunity to visit the Tjibaou Cultural Centre, Bibliotheque Bernheim and the Archives de la Nouvelle Calédonie. The conference was an absolute pleasure to attend and it was a delight to meet with people from Noumea's collaborative and welcoming heritage community. Thank you

to everyone involved for such warm hospitality and I hope to return to Noumea for Pambu projects in the near future.

The Pacific Manuscripts Bureau was represented at the 18<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Pacific Regional Branch of the International Council on Archives (PARBICA) in Adelaide, South Australia. The 'Designing the Archive' conference brought PARBICA together with delegates from the Australian Society of Archivists (ASA), Archives and Records Association of New Zealand (ARANZ) and the International Council on Archives (ICA). I presented a paper on Pambu's experience using AtoM on a panel dedicated to this open source archive management software. It was a great opportunity to meet with other AtoM users and some delegates were keen to meet regularly – in person and online - to discuss AtoM. If you're interested in being involved, please get in touch [pambu@anu.edu.au](mailto:pambu@anu.edu.au)

On the final day of the conference, the ICA hosted an Indigenous Matters Summit and it was a privilege to attend. It was moving and important to hear indigenous professionals from around the world share similar experiences of professional isolation, exhaustion from the expectations placed on indigenous people when they are the only indigenous staff member, the trauma in the archives themselves and the tensions between professional and community expectations. Thank you to the indigenous speakers who generously shared their time and experiences with us. The theme for the day was 'see us hear us walk with us' and I do hope we're at least a few steps closer to walking together.

(above left)

Kari James speaking at the PARBICA conference in Adelaide.

PHOTO: SOPHIE MOSS PHOTOGRAPHY

## Do you have daily weather records in your collection?

This year Pambu has been talking to scientists from the International Atmospheric Circulation Reconstructions over the Earth (ACRE) Initiative about aiding their ongoing efforts to locate and digitise instrumental meteorological data held in a variety of archival holdings and repositories. ACRE is an international consortium of organisations working towards the dynamical reconstruction of a database of daily global weather circulation patterns spanning the last 200-250 years. To create this weather reconstruction, climate scientists and meteorologists are on a data rescue mission, to locate and recover meteorological data that pre-dates the official record. Of particular interest are daily to sub-daily recordings of temperature, rainfall and barometric pressure from before c.1950, and they are particularly interested in both extending and filling gaps in global records. These recordings might be found in sources such as newspapers, observatory records, shipping logs, lighthouse registers, colonial publications, military reports, missionary diaries

and telegraphic messages. Located data are then imaged/scanned and extracted from such archival records using a range of specialist data keyers and companies through to citizen scientists, who enter the data into spreadsheets. The keyed data can then be ingested/assimilated into a range of weather reconstructions or reanalyses, climate models and for numerous research purposes. You can find out more about ACRE at <http://www.met-acre.net/citsci.htm>. If you have any records in your collection that you think might be useful, please get in touch [pambu@anu.edu.au](mailto:pambu@anu.edu.au)

Date	Time	Temp	Wind	Bar	Humid	Dir	Cloud	Other
1874/46	Apr 27	6 60.00	9 30.17					
	Apr 28	6 71.00	9 30.16					
	Apr 29	6 67.65	9 30.21					
	Apr 30	6 77.75	9 30.15					
	May 1	6 70.75	9 30.15					
	May 2	6 64.35	9 30.33					

(left)

Extract from Daily meteorological records, 1874-1878, PMB MS 985-010'.

RECORDINGS MADE BY J.E. MOULTON AND STUDENTS AT TUPOU COLLEGE, TONGA

# Fijian military papers found in suitcase



While renovating the house in 2013, Liz Howarth found a locked suitcase with her grandfather's name on it. Her father, Wilfred Waring Bentley, had brought the suitcase from Fiji to Australia after packing up the house of his own father, Leonard Charles Bentley. Inside the suitcase, amongst other things, was a plastic shopping bag filled with papers. The documents were a surprising collection of letters written during the Ba military campaign of 1873-74 and an assortment of gazettes, family photos and other odd documents.

Most of the documents are correspondence between Captain James Harding, then head of Police, and various government officials and European planters. There had long been friction in the Ba River region between the Kai Colo people of the interior, coastal Fijians and European planters. There was also tension between some of the planters and the Fijian government. After the Burns family and their staff were murdered on their plantation in a Kai Colo raid, Fijian troops were sent to the Ba River headwater, under the command of Major W.H. Fitzgerald, to set up a defensive outpost. Many settlers were angered by the arrival of this force, arguing it wasn't capable of defending the settlers and would increase the risk to their safety. A group of rebellious settlers took up arms against Fitzgerald, whose troops withdrew until they were joined by Captain James Harding and his troops.

Fitzgerald and Harding then lead a deadly attack on the Kai Colo at Na Korowaiwai, killing around 170 people. On their return to the coast, there was a skirmish between the armed settlers and Harding's men. The group of armed settlers disbanded when their leaders were taken into custody. Fitzgerald and Thurston went on the lead a campaign against the Kai Colo, which came to a head at the village of Na Culi, where many Kai Colo were killed and many were taken prisoner. Having captured Na Culi, the campaign

was paused when Harding and H.C. Thurston accused Major Fitzgerald of cowardice and had him court martialled. There are papers relating to the charges against Fitzgerald in this collection.

The letters also describe plantation disputes including land acquisition, evictions and murder, the collection of taxation and other matters. There is some correspondence in Fijian language. Also included in these papers is a collection of verses, Government Gazettes, photos of the Waring family and Turpin's Almanac 1873. There are also envelopes addressed to Mrs LC Bentley (Margaret Bentley), hospital Christmas cards from 1955 and a newspaper article on Mr Leonard Charles Bentley.

It is unknown how these papers came to be in the Bentley family and anyone likely to know had died before the documents were discovered. Henry Bentley migrated to Fiji in 1867 to plant cotton but went on to work in law enforcement during the years these papers were written. It is unknown if he knew Harding or if he had contact with these papers in any way. His son Robert Bentley also held government positions, though post-Cession. There are also papers related to the Waring family in this collection, though less is known about this side of the family. These papers are now available on the Pambu catalogue as Collection PMB MS 1429. They are accessible to researchers at all Pambu member libraries, including the University of the South Pacific in Suva.

(above left)

PMB MS 1429 Armed planters

(above right)

Map of action

## PAMBU at the State Library of New South Wales

Thank you to the State Library of New South Wales for this new guide to searching the PAMBU catalogue. SLNSW is a founding member and holds the full PAMBU collection. [https://guides.sl.nsw.gov.au/pacific\\_manuscripts\\_bureau/home](https://guides.sl.nsw.gov.au/pacific_manuscripts_bureau/home)

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## Pacific Manuscripts Bureau New Digital Titles, December 2019

PMB MANUSCRIPT SERIES	
MS 1393	Correspondence, articles and research papers of Sione Latukefu
MS 1400	Press statements and pastoral letters from the Catholic Bishops Conference, Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands
MS 1425	Selected Archives from the Catholic Bishop's Office in Kavieng
MS 1429	Bentley family papers including letters of Cakobau government and military authorities of Fiji
MS 1430	Diaries of Isaac Neilson Whyte
MS 1431	Letters of Isaac Neilson and Mary Grace Whyte
MS1432	Extracts from the autobiography of William Diapea alias Cannibal Jack
MS 1433	Archival papers of Reverend Conrad Stellan, 1931-1947
PMB PHOTO SERIES	
Photo 19	Louis Budérus, Photographs of Samarai, British New Guinea [Papua New Guinea], c.1900.
Photo 104	Reverend Conrad Stellan's photographs of the New Hebrides (Vanuatu), 1940s
Photo 106	Photographs of West Papua
Photo 107	Reverend Conrad Stellan's photographs of the New Hebrides (Vanuatu), 1940-1946
Photo 108	Photographs of Isaac Neilson Whyte
Photo 109	Reverend Conrad Stellan, album of photographs, New Hebrides (Vanuatu), 1940-1946
Photo 110	Reverend Conrad Stellan's photographs of the New Hebrides (Vanuatu), 1940-1946
Photo 111	Reverend Conrad Stellan's photographs of the New Hebrides (Vanuatu), 1940-1946
PMB DIGITISED MICROFILMS	
MS 985	Tupou College Records
MS 1178	SEPIK DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, Papua New Guinea: monthly and quarterly reports and related papers, 1939-1962. 1 reel. (Available for reference.)
MS 1189	Papers on the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu
MS 1292	Papers relating to the Western State movement, Solomon Islands
MS 1313	Isaac Rooney's manuscript and printed material
MS 1371	Papers on town planning in Bougainville and Honiara, and provincial administration in Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands, including PNG Constitutional planning committee papers