Evidence and Memory in the Digital Age

Fourteenth Conference of the Pacific Regional Branch of the International Council on Archives, 22-27 August 2011, Samoa

Members of the Samoan Records Taskforce with the copy of the Public Records Act 2011

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Dear Colleague,

Invitation to PARBICA 14 Conference, Samoa, August 22-27 2011

Bonjour, bula vinaka, warm greetings to you from across the Pacific!

On behalf of the PARBICA Bureau and our hosts the Government of Samoa, I am delighted to invite you to participate at PARBICA’s 14th Biennial Conference.

The theme of the conference is **Evidence and Memory in the Digital Age**. We must cooperate to succeed in developing robust systems that can sustain evidential information and document the memory of the world in the digital age. The digital age comes with the risk of creating a digital landfill - where information is discarded, expensive to locate and retrieve, or just lost forever. However new technologies also provide exciting opportunities for us to connect more users to our collections and preserve fragile records through digitisation, and support our government’s commitments to good information governance by utilising the guidance available from PARBICA.

There will be a range of practical training workshops on such things as PARBICA’s new guidance on managing digital records for the ‘Recordkeeping for Good Governance Toolkit’, on the UNESCO Memory of the World Programme, on ‘archival basics’ and on disaster preparedness and response for Pacific archives. There will also be many opportunities to discuss participants’ experiences in using new technologies to engage with users. All participants will be expected to engage actively in the conference, to speak and to contribute.

Delegates will also have opportunities to take part in a special day long cultural visit and set of activities.

If you have any questions about PARBICA 14, please feel free to contact Mark Crookston, PARBICA Secretary General, or Amela Silipa, Principal Archives Officer, Ministry of Education Sport and Culture, Samoa.

We hope to welcome you in Apia this August.

Warm regards,

*Setareki TALE*

*President, PARBICA*
2011 is a very exciting year for the Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture through the Archives Unit.

**PARBICA 14**

The Government of Samoa through the Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture will be hosting the 14th Biannual Conference from the 22nd – 27th August. As a hosting country we look forward to the opportunity to show the participants not only our unique culture but also to build the capacity of Records Manager in Samoa by attending workshops and training during the Conference.

**Archives Legislative**

The Public Records Act 2011 was passed by the Legislative Assembly of Samoa during its final sitting in January 2011. The Act now pave the way for the establishment of the National Archives and the Records Authority and also the position of a National Archivist, who will be appointed by Cabinet on the Advice of the Minister responsible for Culture. We hope that the Act will come into force before the PARBICA Conference.

Archives staff working at collecting some very old records from 1920 – 1980 which were kept at the old court house in Apia by the Ministry of the Prime Minister when they moved to their new building in 1992. The records are in a good condition apart from the dust.
The Records Taskforce

This taskforce was established in 2005 and all twenty two (22) Government Ministries and Agencies has a representative, they meet on a regular basis to discuss issues to strengthen good record keeping within the whole of Government. The Archives Unit and the records Taskforce have come up with eleven procedures for seven guidelines from our Code of Best Practice to help with the work of records Managers. These will standardize procedures will be implemented soon.

The Records Taskforce during one of their meeting discussing one of the phases of the PARBICA Toolkit

Files at the old Court House in Apia
Digitization Project

The Project is now in its third year and progressing well. We have managed to submit to the Federal Republic of Germany through Archives New Zealand more than 60,000 images during the German Administration which was between 1900 – 1914.

PARBICA 14 Conference Information

Pacific colleagues,

You are all required to pay a departure tax when leaving Samoa. The tax is WST 40. - (Samoan Tala, approx $20)

The conference will be held at the Orator Hotel, Tanumapua. Other recommended accommodation includes:

Moanalisa Hotel, Vaitele (5 minutes away from the Conference venue) [http://www.moanalisahotel.com/](http://www.moanalisahotel.com/)

Sebrina’s Lodge, Tuanaimato (3 minutes away from the Conference Venue) [http://www.samoa-hotels.ws/Sebrina_s_Lodge](http://www.samoa-hotels.ws/Sebrina_s_Lodge)
Programme Outline

Monday 22 August
Opening Session: Evidence and Memory in the Digital Age
- Official welcomes from the Government of Samoa and PARBICA and an opening keynote address.

Workshop 1. Recordkeeping for Good Governance. Digital Records
- A workshop on managing digital records developed by PARBICA as part of the award winning Recordkeeping for Good Governance Toolkit.

Workshop 2. Recordkeeping for Good Governance. Introduction
- An introduction to earlier guidance of the Recordkeeping for Good Governance Toolkit.

Evening Reception

Tuesday 23 August
Workshop 1. Recordkeeping for Good Governance. Digital Records
- Continued from Monday

Workshop 2. Archival Basics. Running a Reading Room Service
- An introduction to the basic principles and practices of operating a reading room service in a range of archival situations

Workshop 3. UNESCO Memory of the World
- An introduction the UNESCO Memory of the World Programme with guidance on how to set up a national committee

Workshop 4. Disaster Preparedness and Response in the Pacific
- Participate in developing new PARBICA guidance on preparing for, and responding to disasters

Wednesday 24 August
Samoan Cultural Tour and Activities
Thursday 25 August
Latest Developments & Current Issues in the Pacific
- PARBICA Country Reports and discussion of challenges and achievements

Digitisation, Collaboration and UNESCO Memory of the World
- Plenary sessions and panel discussions on key activities in more detail

Evening Reception

Friday 26 August
The Role of the Archive in the Digital Age
- Plenary sessions and panel discussions on key activities in more detail

PARBICA Planning Sessions
- Sessions and discussions on priorities for PARBICA for 2012 - 2016

Closing Presentation

Evening Reception

Saturday 27 August
PARBICA General Business Meeting

More Information
For information about PARBICA 14, please visit our website or contact:
Mark Crookston, PARBICA Secretary General
Phone: +644 4961394 Fax: + 644 495 6210 mark.crookston@dia.govt.nz

Amela Silipa, Principle Archives Officer, Ministry of Education, Sport and Culture, Samoa
Phone: +685 64627 Fax: +685 64664 a.silipa@mesc.gov.ws

PARBICA website www.parbica.org
The Director-General of UNESCO has announced National Archives of Australia (NAA) as the laureate of the 2011 UNESCO/Jikji Memory of the World Prize for its work, which includes publications, and innovative initiatives in the preservation of digital records.

The prize recognises the Archives’ ability to be innovative in this area, its willingness to share the results of its research and its professional leadership. Over the last 40 years, the Archives has become a world leader in the archival profession, consistently sharing professional expertise through numerous publications and open source tools for digital preservation. The prize also recognises the Archives for its worldwide investigation into the conservation issues of parchment documents written in iron gall ink, which are vulnerable to iron gall corrosion.

The Jikji is the earliest known book printed with movable metal type in 1377. The UNESCO/Jikji prize, wholly funded by the Republic of Korea, was established in 2004 in cooperation with the South Korean government to promote the objectives of the Memory of the World Program. The US$30,000 prize is awarded biennially to individuals or institutions that have made significant contributions to the preservation and accessibility of documentary heritage. Previous winners are the Czech Republic, Austria and Malaysia.

The prize money will go to fund a conservation student placement at the Archives as an investment in the future of documentary heritage preservation.

The Prize-giving ceremony will take place in Cheongju City (Republic of Korea) on 2 September.

Source UNESCOPRESS 30.05.2011


Vale Bruce Burne
It is our sad duty to report that our Honorary Member Bruce Burne passed away on Thursday 20th May 2011. His passing is a deep loss to the archives community and felt by all of us. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family at this time.
On May 2nd, 2011, the Bureau of Palau National Archives, Ministry of Community and Cultural Affairs was informed by the Australian Embassy, Pohnpei States, FSM that it has awarded their two proposals application and that Ambassador Quinn will be in Palau this week and plan to visit the Archives office. The first proposal application in the amount of $USD 10,725 was awarded to fund the MOE/MCCA Palauan Language Summer 2011 program and the second proposal in the amount of $USD 12,557.62 is for archives supplies and equipment including supplies to upgrade the needed 20 footer shipping containers that needs to house all of the Republic of Palau records for their upcoming Survey analysis and assessment of records project.

The MOE/MCCA Palauan Language Cultural activities program first conducted its one week 1-4 pm pilot project in 2009 as requested by the President Office. The 2009 program was a success and from the parents feedback they asked that the program be continued and conducted for (8) eight hours a day. The 2011 program activities will include Chants, storytelling (boys roles as making spearfish and wrapping fish with coconut leave), Basic weaving of coconut leafs, Palauan dance and songs, storytelling (girls roles as housework and taro garden) for children ages 6-9. The program will be held at Bai ra Maiberel on June 7-18, 2011 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. The organizing committee for this project will later announce to the Public by mid May 2011 on how to enrol for this program.

The Bureau of Palau National Archives will be moving/relocating its office to the new two story building located at Ked, Airai State. Since their new office has very limited office space, their intention is to solicit 20 footer shipping container and transfer them to their new office ground area and work inside these shipping containers. Their upcoming project is to assess and survey all the Republic of Palau records and be update with all its inactive records so it can start establishing the Republic of Palau Records Management Program.

The above photo shows Ambassador Quinn and Archives staff at their old office at Koror State after presenting his credentials to his Excellency President Johnson Toribiong.
The new Director for the National Archives of Fiji is Mr Misiwaini Qereqeretabua, who took up his new appointment in November, last year.

Mr Qereqeretabua started his career in 1981 as a secondary school teacher and has taught in most of Fiji’s prominent secondary schools before taking up the post as the Secretary to the National Commission for UNESCO in Fiji in 2000. Also during the same year he became the Principal Administration Officer for the Institute of Fijian Language and Culture where he undertook a three weeks attachment with the Maori Language Commission in Wellington, New Zealand.

During his years at the Institution for Fijian Language & Culture, Mr Qereqeretabua was instrumental in putting together the first ever Fijian monolingual dictionary, expansion of the Institute’s documentation and archival section for its researchers and a cultural mapping program with its aims to register the “traditional knowledge” and “cultural expressions” in all villages in Fiji.

Mr Qereqeretabua’s vision for the National Archives of Fiji is to provide the leadership capacity to further enhance the preservation and accessibility of Fiji’s documentary heritage.

Mr Qereqeretabua is a graduate of the University of the South Pacific with a Bachelor of Arts and holds a Post Graduate Diploma in Maori & Pacific Development Studies & a Masters Degree in Social Science (Anthropology) from Waikato University, New Zealand.
UPDATE ON MEMBERSHIP MOVEMENTS

The PARBICA Bureau and PARBICA family wish to congratulate our members on their achievements:

AUSTRALIA

On April 21, Adrian Cunningham left the National Archives of Australia to start a new role as Director of the Digital Archive Program at Queensland State Archives. This meant that Adrian also finished up in his role as PARBICA Treasurer. PARBICA would like to thank Adrian for his commitment, support and enthusiastic sharing of knowledge while in his role at PARBICA, and wish him the very best up in Queensland. It is not a farewell though as we welcome Adrian as an individual member of PARBICA.

Ross Gibbs, the NAA Director-General takes up new position: In February Ross Gibbs announced he was leaving the position of Director-General to take up the role of Director of the Archives’ Melbourne Office. The vacancy in the Melbourne Office presented an opportunity for Mr Gibbs to return to his home town. He commenced in this role on 4 April.

Dr Stephen Ellis, Assistant Director-General of the Archives’ Operations and Preservation branch, has been appointed Acting Director-General until a permanent appointment is made.

Welcome to Helen Walker, new PARBICA Treasurer. Helen has been appointed to the position of Director, Strategic Relations vice Adrian Cunningham, starting on Thursday May 12. Helen started with NAA in 1997, after completing a Graduate Diploma in Archives and Records Management at Monash University. She has worked in diverse functional areas at NAA, including reference, arrangement and description, transfer, appraisal, public events and management of the NAA Advisory Council and CAARA (then COFSTA). Helen has spent the last six years in senior management roles at NAA, which have included responsibilities for strategic planning, financial management and staff development. During this time Helen has also undertaken reviews of operations and delivered improvements in efficiency. The NAA has put Helen forward to fill the PARBICA Treasurer position until the next General Conference of PARBICA in August in Samoa.

NEW ZEALAND

Greg Goulding has been appointed Chief Archivist and General Manager of Archives New Zealand within the Knowledge, Information, Research and Technology Group (KIRT) of the new Department of Internal Affairs. Greg took up his new appointment on 4 April 2011. Prior to his new appointment Greg had been acting in the Chief Archivist’s role and was formerly Group Manager, Government Recordkeeping. He led the development and implementation of the Public Records Act 2005 which now provides the basis for security of government information across the State sector.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

To Jacob Hevelawa on his confirmation as Director General Office of Library and Archives which was endorsed by his Minister through the National Executive Council on 30th March 2011.

Mrs Vicky Brian Puipui is now acting National Archivist until further notice.
PARBICA Bureau 2009-2011

President
Setareki Tale
National Archives of Fiji
Government Buildings P.O. Box 2125, Suva, Fiji
telephone: +679 3304 144 - fax: +679 3307 006
email: stale@govnet.gov.fj

Vice-President
Dianne Macaskill
24 Lohia Street
Khandallah
Wellington, New Zealand
telephone: +64 4 9702368
email: dianne.macaskill@paradise.net.nz

Secretary General
Mark Crookston
Archives New Zealand
PO Box 12-050, Wellington, New Zealand
telephone: +64 4 499 5595 - fax: +64 4 495 6210
email: mark.crookston@archives.govt.nz

Treasurer
Helen Walker (from May 2011)
National Archives of Australia
PO Box 7425, Canberra Mail Centre 2610, ACT, Australia

Member
Naomi Ngirakamerang
Palau National Archives
Bureau of Community Services
PO Box 1886, Koror, 96940 Republic of Palau
telephone: +680 488 4720 - fax: +680 488 3354
email: archives@palaunet.com

Vice-President
Amela Silipa
Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture
Malifa
PO Box 1869 Apia, Samoa
telephone: +685 64627 – fax: +685 64664
email: a.silipa@mesc.gov.ws

Secretary General
Julian Chonigolo
Solomon Islands National Archives
PO Box 781, Honiara, Solomon Islands
telephone: +677 24897 - fax: n/a
email: chonigolo_julian@yahoo.com.au

Editor
Karin Brennan
University of New South Wales Archives
Sydney NSW 2052, Australia
telephone: +61 2 9385 2906 - fax: +61 2 9385 1228
email: k.brennan@unsw.edu.au

PARBICA website – www.parbica.org

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