PARBICA 17, 4-7 September 2017, Suva, Fiji

Dear PARBICA colleague

I am pleased to invite you to attend the 17th Conference of the Pacific Regional Branch of the International Council on Archives (PARBICA) in Suva, Fiji from 4-7 September 2017.

PARBICA’s inaugural meeting took place in Suva in 1981 and the last time Fiji hosted the conference was 11 years ago, in 2005. The archives and recordkeeping sector in Fiji has made great strides in its practice in recent years and has been able to provide professional development opportunities to other archives in our region. It is therefore a very appropriate place to host the conference this year.

About the Conference

The conference, entitled Archives Engaged: Personal, professional, political, will focus on how we, as record keepers and archivists of the Pacific region, must face outward and engage with external parties to generate growth and increase sustainability for our sector. There are three obvious levels of engagement at which organisations can aim: public engagement, engagement with professional stakeholders, and strategic engagement. At PARBICA 17 we will explore ways that organisations can engage on these levels and with current issues that we must address to safeguard the records and archives we manage.

Spread over four days, the programme will include a mixture of conference sessions, practical training workshops and site visits. It will include the PARBICA General Assembly on 5 September. There will be ample opportunity to participate in discussions, share ideas and network with a wide range of professional contacts from throughout the Pacific.

Registering to attend

The PARBICA 17 Brochure and Registration Form are attached. Registrations should be completed in full and submitted to the PARBICA Treasurer by 31 August 2017.

Call for papers

Please consider submitting a brief proposal for a presentation at PARBICA 17. Proposals must be made by 9 June 2017. Relevant information is attached.
Conference costs

The PARBICA Bureau would like as many of you as possible to attend the conference. The only funding source available for this year’s conference is that which the Bureau has obtained from sponsorship. Once again the Bureau needs to cover conference costs as well as assist members to participate.

All participants should seek financial assistance from their respective governments, institutions, aid agencies or other sponsorship sources from within their own territories/countries to cover costs of attendance. A sample letter to submit to your Manager or potential sponsor is attached and will also be available on the PARBICA website for use by members. It will also be necessary to set a conference registration fee for this event for some members; others may apply for a waiver.

Funding applications

Members may apply to the PARBICA Bureau for partial funding assistance. This assistance can be used to help pay for flights and/or accommodation to attend PARBICA 17. Other associated costs such as visas and living expenses must be met by the participant. Due to financial constraints funding will be very limited and it is possible that not all applications to the PARBICA Bureau for funding will be successful.

To apply for financial support you should fill in the Funding Request Application Form. This is attached and will also be available on the PARBICA website. Return the completed form to the PARBICA Treasury by 2 June 2017.

Please check the PARBICA website regularly for information updates and forms. However, specific enquiries about the programme, registration process, or funding arrangements can be directed to:

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p: +64 4 894 6079
e: parbica.secretariat@dia.govt.nz

PARBICA Treasury (Helen Walker)
p: +61 2 6212 3988
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We look forward to welcoming you to Suva where we will gather to build on our professional knowledge, share our experiences, investigate new ideas and consolidate friendships. Together we will depart with new ideas for engagement strategies and be prepared to make our institutions more sustainable.

Yours sincerely,

Opeta Alefaio
President, PARBICA