Please scan our code if you may be able to assist us to establish a university archive for the South Pacific
http://www.usp.ac.fj/records

Music to my ears
You've got a friend in me
Building an archive with the support of friends from across the waves

The University of the South Pacific, only three years away from its 50th birthday celebration, begins the process of establishing its own archive, with a little help from my friends, seeking potential collaborators to cooperate in the spirit of professional friendship

With no professional accreditation process in Fiji, the archives and records management community supports itself Qualifications from other countries are expensive so formal qualifications in archives management are unheard of in Fiji

The University built relationships with in-country collaborators, such as ICA branch (PARBICA) and similar institutions in Australia to explore the requirements and options of building a USP archive

Each new partner responded in-kind, asserting you've got a friend in me

The end goal is not simply a new archive but a framework or toolbox to assist others who may find themselves in a similar predicament

USP has indeed been fortunate to gain expertise, advice and resources from a wide source of friends who have eagerly shared their knowledge and wisdom, experiences and tools

It is incumbent on us to explore the ways that we may share the resources that we have collected and developed with new friends that we have not yet made

We welcome additional support to help us achieve our goal of a university archive for the South Pacific

We have learnt a great deal but our journey is just beginning

With help from
Edith Cowan University
Deakin University
University of Tasmania
National Archives of Fiji
The University of the South Pacific
Australasian Universities Recordkeeping and Archivists
Island Culture Archival Support
Australian Society of Archivists
Music to my ears: You've got a friend in me
Building an archive with the support of friends from across the waves: an island perspective

It’s February 2014: in the truest sense of friendship and cooperation a number of agencies, across countries and an ocean, come together to help a friend in need. The University of the South Pacific, looking out only three years away from its 50th birthday celebration, begins the process of establishing its own archive. For over 45 years the University has not, for many and varied reasons, invested in preserving its past for the benefit of its future. Now, only a few short years out from a significant milestone the University begins the slow process of deciding upon, building and establishing its own archive; with a little help from my friends (Lennon & McCartney, 1967).

Through a musical lens this paper explores the assumptions of a friend in need (Placebo, 1998) and the apprehensions we bring to the table about the willingness or otherwise of potential collaborators to cooperate in the spirit of professional friendship. The desire for help and assistance is based on You Got What I Need (Gamble and Huff, 1968), but in reality it is cautiously explored and stalled in the knowledge that the hunger for information and development must be measured against the offering of little in return; but in the hope they are Gonna make you an offer you can't refuse (Worth, 1990).

With no professional accreditation process, nor formal qualifications available in Fiji, the archives and records management community very much supports itself. Qualifications from other countries are expensive, in terms of dollars, for individuals to gain and so formal qualifications in archives management is practically unheard of in Fiji. With this reality the University approached and built relationships with both in-country collaborators, ICA branch (PARBICA) and similar institutions in Australia to explore the requirements and options of building a USP Archive. With each at different points in their own maturation, offering different perspectives, each new partner without hesitation did not shirk from our approach, but rather responded in-kind, asserting; You’ve got a friend in me (Newman, 1995).

The end goal is not simply a new archive – the USP Archive – but a framework or toolbox to assist others who may find themselves in a similar predicament. USP has indeed been fortunate to gain expertise, advice and resources from a wide source of friends – who have eagerly, surprisingly even, shared their knowledge and wisdom, experiences and tools – and it is incumbent of us to explore ways to share the resources we have collected, and some we make ourselves, to new friends not yet made.

At the end of the day all we need is Just a Friend (Markie, 1989).