

*Jacqueline Elliott*  
High Court of Australia

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## *Fire in Tonga*

There was a terrible misfortune in Tonga in May. Fire spreading from the market in Nuku'alofa, Tonga, early on Saturday morning, 6 May, destroyed the annexe which late last year had been converted into a new library for the Supreme Court. The UK *Law Reports* and all the new materials and books from the Federal Court were lost in the fire including the shelves, an air-conditioning unit, and also a photocopier which was recently provided as a gift by the British Government. All the books listed by Lorraine Weinman when she visited Tonga last year have been lost as well, except, fortunately, the valuable items in the Chief Justice's Chambers.

Lawyers in Tonga have been devastated by the fire and are especially depressed at the destruction after the Chief Justice and the Federal Court had spent so much time and money on establishing the collection.

Other records lost in the fire include 200 ring binders with all the manuscript records of the 1988 *Revised Laws of Tonga*, and the entire records for Accounts and Bailiffs.

The annexe was a temporary arrangement and there is at least some light on the horizon for Tongan lawyers. Just before the fire Cabinet had approved an extension which would be the new Supreme Court Library and some funds have been provided for this purpose in 1995/1996. Let us hope that the Library can be re-established as soon as possible.

## *Palau National Code*

Orakiruu Corporation is publishing a new two-volume looseleaf edition of the *Palau National Code Annotated to 30 September 1994*. The work will include the Constitution and all statutes enacted by the National Government up to 30 September 1994, including references to Palau and Trust Territory case-law. Regular supplements to update the work will be published.

The Republic of Palau became a sovereign nation on 1 October 1994 with close ties to the United States. The new edition of the *Code* is available from:

**Orakiruu Corporation**  
PO Box 1484  
Koror, Palau 96940

Note that prepaid orders only will be accepted. The cost of the set is US\$375.00 and cheques are payable to Orakiruu Corporation.

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## *Federation Press Gift*

Chris Holt of Federation Press kindly supplied a number of free copies of books for the Pacific which were distributed in April to libraries in Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Kiribati and Western Samoa. Each library received about six titles covering the topics of natural resources law, health law, torts, legal bibliography and business law. Many thanks to Chris for making these books available.

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## *Twinning Gifts to Kiribati*

In May Monash University Law Library sent ten boxes of law books to the office of the Attorney-General in Kiribati. Donations from Butterworths and Federation Press are gratefully acknowledged as is the assistance promised by Diskrom. In March the High Court Library also sent two boxes of books to its twin, the High Court of Kiribati.

## *New Pacific Twins*

**Joanne Pentony** of the Commonwealth DPP Office in Canberra has agreed to be a twin to the Public Prosecutions Office Library in Port Moresby. Joanne's contact is **Farapo Opa** at the Attorney-General's Library in Port Moresby. Farapo's collections in the offices of both Public Prosecutions and Public Solicitors in Rabaul were affected by the volcanic eruption so establishment of a twinning arrangement at this time is especially welcome.

Another new twin library is the Supreme Court Library in Papua New Guinea. **Frieda Evans**, Librarian of the Supreme Court Library in the Northern Territory, has kindly offered to send spare material to her counterpart in Port Moresby, **Tom Dangiaba**.

**Gail Robertson**, Librarian, Federal Court, should also be added to the list of twins published in the last issue of *ALL*. The Federal Court is sending material to the Supreme Court of Tonga as well as to the Court in Vanuatu. Gail is collecting sets and texts to send to Tonga to replace material lost in the fire. If anyone has any spare texts, in particular, please contact Gail on telephone number: (02) 230 8576 or fax: (02) 223 7706.

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## *Butterworths' Gift to Tonga*

Butterworths, through Sharon Sunderland, have advised that they will donate a complete set of *Australian Law Reports* for Tonga to replace the set burnt in the fire.

This is a really generous gift by Butterworths and will go a long way towards rebuilding the resources that were lost.

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## *Attorney-General's Department Donation to Tonga*

The Attorney-General's Department through the Lionel Murphy Library is giving the Supreme Court of Tonga a complete set of *Law Reports*. The Department is providing funds to bring the set of *Law Reports* up-to-date.

Close contact established through the ALLG's Pacific Twinning Scheme between the Ministry of Justice

in Tonga and the Lionel Murphy Library has enabled the Australian twin to act quickly to assist after the fire. The degree of assistance so readily available is gratifying and shows that it pays to have the links established when there is an emergency.

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## *Asia-Pacific Library Conference in Brisbane*

The Australian Law Librarians' Group, and the Pacific Twinning Programme had a great deal of exposure and positive publicity at a conference held in Brisbane from 28 May to 1 June 1995, in the brand new Convention Centre. There were delegates from 32 countries, and a total attendance of over 500. Three ALLG members attended and presented papers.

My paper was entitled *Law Libraries in the Pacific: an Account of the Australian-New Zealand Pacific Twinning Programme*. This was illustrated with slides of the several countries and libraries that have been visited, and was very well received by the audience. The ALLG and the practical and valuable aspects of the Twinning Programme were referred to by several other speakers, including Warren Horton, Director-General, National Library of Australia, in his opening address, and the closing speech by Virginia Walsh, Executive Director of ALIA. I would like to thank Pat Northey, John Hutley, Gail Robertson and Lisa Telford for lending me some of their photographs for use in the slide presentation.

Terry Hutchinson from QUT Faculty of Law spoke on *Electronic Access to Pacific Law*, an interesting and thought provoking paper, developed in association with John Bahrij.

Yvonne Butler's theme was *Business Information: It Works Both Ways*. It was a topical subject which sparked questions from the audience on guidelines, ethics and conflict of interest.

## *Lorraine Weinman*

