

## Jacqueline Elliott

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### **THANKS TO LORRAINE WEINMAN**

The Pacific Twinning Scheme was first proposed by Lorraine Weinman at the Specials, Health and Law Libraries Conference in Canberra in 1991. At that conference a lawyer from the Attorney-General's Office in Honiara, Solomon Islands, Primo Afeau, gave delegates a firsthand account of the difficulties encountered in the government law office of a small jurisdiction with no trained law librarian. The lawyers themselves had to order material and when it arrived the books took so long to get catalogued at the Public Library at the other end of town that future orders were kept in their boxes on the floor of the Attorney-General's Office so they could at least be on hand to be used even if they were not listed or organised.

Since the establishment of the ALLG Pacific Twinning Scheme, this Solomon Islands library has been moved to a new building with the help of two High Court law librarians, and the Scheme has organised two visits for cataloguing and maintenance of the collection. The twin library, QUT Law Library, has set up a system of regular shipments of books. This is just one example of the difference the Scheme has made to a Pacific law library.

Lorraine of course has written in these columns of her visits to Nauru, Tonga and Samoa on which she and her staff have given practical assistance to the extent of setting up shelving and installing and training staff in CD-ROM technology, as well as providing help with cataloguing, filing, weeding and advice on planning. Other librarians have visited twin

libraries in Kiribati and Vanuatu to give similar assistance. Much has been achieved in six years and the feedback from the Pacific law officers has been enthusiastic and grateful.

Funding for freight to the islands is still the main problem. The ALLG has assisted in the last two years but may not be able to keep this up. The Scheme does not need a lot of money - most shipments are 2-6 boxes costing up to \$500 per year. If there is any business willing to put even \$500 a year towards freight for the Pacific Twinning Scheme that would be a great help. I am looking for sponsors! We would certainly publicise any assistance.

The Scheme has always had wonderful assistance from the publishers who have given generously of their texts and CDs: LBC, CLS, Butterworths and Federation Press have all supported the

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Scheme Thank you to all. AusAid, several airlines and even a few island consulates have also helped. Lorraine and I have been most grateful for all this assistance.

Lorraine can now see the "fruits of her labours" and look back with enjoyment on all that was achieved. I know she would like to continue her association with the Pacific so with any luck there may be further opportunities for her to contribute. Congratulations Lorraine, on all that you have done, and thank you.

### NAURU, SAMOA AND TONGA

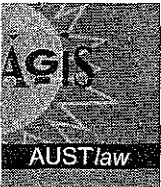
With Lorraine Weinman's retirement in October the Pacific libraries twinned with the Attorney-General's Department Library in Canberra lost their most active supporter. However, Lorraine's successor, Gary Anderson, will be taking over from Lorraine in maintaining assistance to the

law libraries in Nauru, Samoa and Tonga on which to some extent they have come to rely.

### TUVALU

The Office of the Attorney General in Tuvalu, through Mr William Halm, Senior Crown Counsel, recently enquired if they could join the Pacific Twinning Scheme. Di Thompson, Librarian of the Legal Services Commission of South Australia, kindly volunteered to be their twin. Sarah Parsons of Freehills in Sydney also advised that her library has been sending loose parts of law reports and journals to the Attorney General's Office in Tuvalu since 1984. These libraries are now recorded as joint twins for Tuvalu. The Legal Services Commission will be mainly responsible for sending texts on the topics requested by the Office in the twinning questionnaire.

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