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Fiji

The RAAF provided free transport from Sydney to Nandi, Fiji, in June for 13 boxes of All England Law Reports. The set was donated by the College of Law Library, Sydney, to the Library of the High Court of Fiji.

Kiribati

Setting up the High Court of Kiribati Library

From 24 June to 13 July I spent three weeks in Tarawa, Kiribati, six degrees north of the equator, setting up the library of the High Court of Kiribati. The project was sponsored by AESOP (Australian Expert Service Overseas Program) with the support of the Australian Government as part of its overseas aid program. Since the High Court of Australia Library has been twinned with the High Court of Kiribati for the last eight years I was delighted to have the opportunity to see the Pacific end of our twinning arrangement, and to assist in organising the law material that we had been sending. The job entailed organising the collection, and training Mrs Teboua Botaa to maintain the library when I left.

Since I knew in advance that there were virtually no library stationery items available for purchase in Kiribati, everything required to start a library from scratch had to be taken with me. The High Court staff in Canberra helped in assembling the following essentials:

- 4-drawer card catalogue;
- 4 volumes of *Library of Congress Subject Headings*;
- a copy of *Moys Classification* (kindly donated by Brian Murray, Legal Library Services, UK);

- 3 boxes of catalogue cards;
- a carton of pamphlet boxes (kindly donated by Raeco International Pty Ltd);
- 2 hole punches;
- 2 staplers;
- various pencils and pens; and
- a bodkin.

The last item was removed as a dangerous weapon at Canberra Airport and had to be retrieved in Brisbane. The remainder, in five heavy boxes, incurred an excess luggage fee of A\$650 at Brisbane Airport, which was refunded by the Court in Kiribati. I preferred to take the boxes as accompanied luggage to be sure that they arrived, otherwise it would have been impossible to complete the task.

The collection was dispersed in the Chief Justice's Chambers and an ante-room, a second justice's chambers (disused and unairconditioned), and in 79 boxes transported by the RAAF under the ALLG Pacific Twinning Scheme in May. These last were waiting for unpacking in a disused courtroom on the other side of the court building from the room designated for the library. There were several other sets in the Registrar's office in the Registry building over the road. There were no trolleys – everything had to be carried.

During the three weeks we cleaned out and reorganised the Chief Justice's Chambers and his personal assistant's area, and emptied the second justice's chambers of all books. We also catalogued, classified, labelled, typed up, printed and filed the cards for 300 monographs, and carried, unpacked and despatched to five different locations the contents of the 79 boxes of reports and statutes donated by the BHP Library in Melbourne.

Finally, Teboua had a brief introduction on how to organise a law library by learning the basics of assigning Moys classification numbers, doing descriptive cataloguing, processing the books and filing the cards. All this was new to her and she had a

very hard task to learn so much in so short a time, but she did a magnificent job. It is hard for us to imagine the difficulty of moving from the 13 letter Gilbertese alphabet to our 26 letter alphabet used for all filing, labelling and Moys shelving order. She also learnt to organise loose parts of law reports, etc. in pamphlet boxes and label them, and to arrange the unclassified serials in order of jurisdiction.

The High Court is expecting to have to move into the town centre of Tarawa in a year's time because a deep water port is being built right next to the Court and the noise of the container loads going by will make it impossibly noisy for Court sittings. When this occurs it may be necessary to help with the re-organisation of the library in its new location. So I look forward to a possible visit next year and the renewal of recent friendships, especially with Teboua, who in the meantime has to carry the expectations of her colleagues that after three weeks she is now "the librarian"

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Law Via the Internet '99

On 22-23 July AustLII held a two day "Law via the Internet '99" conference at UTS in Sydney during which there were several papers of Pacific interest. The first was presented by the Dean of the Law School of USP in Vila, Vanuatu, **Professor Bob Hughes**, who spoke on "Putting the Law of the South Pacific States on the Web". As previously noted in this column, USP Vila has set up a Web page at www.vanuatu.usp.ac.fj as part of its Internet Law Reporting Project which aims to provide copies of Pacific judicial decisions in full text on the net. Materials are already available on this site from Fiji, Samoa, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Vanuatu and Solomon Islands. Professor Hughes gives an interesting account of the Project and its future in his paper, a copy of which is held in the conference proceedings in the High Court of Australia Library.

A second paper of interest was presented by **Dr Val Haynes** of Niimedia Pacific Pty Ltd and the

University of Tasmania on the topic "Computerising the Law of Papua New Guinea". Dr Haynes is participating in the Australian Government's Access to the Laws in PNG Project which plans to make available through various media the judgments and legislation of Papua New Guinea. The paper describes the aims and methods of this timely Ausaid project. A copy of Dr Haynes's paper is also available as above

New Zealand News

Strategic Retreat

The NZLLG is finalising preparations for the '99 strategic retreat. The retreat concept was introduced in 1996 as a means of setting a clear direction for the NZLLG with identified and achievable goals

This year's retreat precedes the 1999 Library and Information Association of New Zealand Aotearoa (LIANZA) conference to be held in Auckland. The retreat will take place over two days on Sunday 7 and Monday 8 November. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

The programme will be released shortly and likely topics for discussion include:

- continuing education programmes for law librarians offered on a nation-wide basis;
- the need for a professional code of ethics;
- the term of office for NZLLG Executive and the positions on the Executive;
- how to formally recognise the contribution members make to the NZLLG;
- adoption of a code of conduct for the law-lib email discussion group;
- the future of the *New Zealand Law Librarian* and the relationship between hardcopy publications of the NZLLG and the NZLLG website; and
- formation of a NZLLG lobby group/sub-committee to actively ensure the NZLLG's voice is heard before Parliamentary Select Committees, with particular emphasis on 'access to state and government information', and other bodies where legal information issues arise.

Further information on the retreat will appear on law-lib and the NZLLG website.

NZLLG Conference in 2000 – Just Enrichment, 19–20 October 2000

The NZLLG's 2000 conference will be held in Christchurch, the South Island's largest city, for the first time. The conference programme is still being finalised but preliminary ideas include:

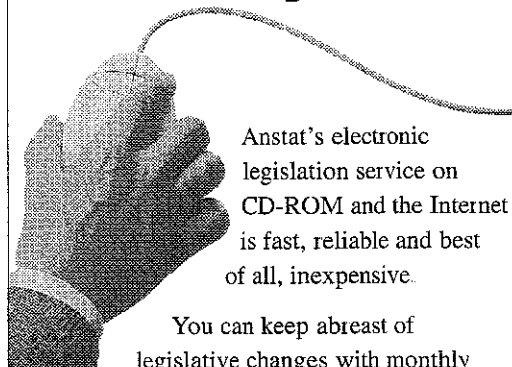
- sessions that will have appeal and relevance to both law and special librarians;
- a day that will focus on issues relating to career development and which will include a workshop run by Eugenie Prime, the manager of HP Labs Research Library, in the US. Ms Prime is responsible for the strategic direction of the library function throughout Hewlett-Packard. She holds numerous degrees and received the 1998 Dow Jones Leadership Award, an award co-sponsored by Dow Jones Interactive Publishing and the Special Libraries Association (SLA); and
- a legal day focusing on legal developments, legal information issues and information technology.

Further information will become available over the next few months so check out the conference information on the NZLLG website – www.knowledge-basket.co.nz/nzllg

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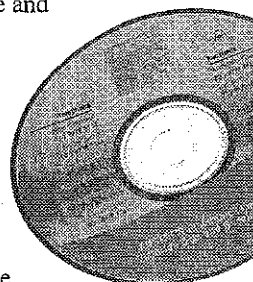


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