



APSIG Newsletter
ALIA Asia Pacific Special Interest Group

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**APSIG lunchtime talk,
Wednesday 5 November 2014,
12 15 – 1 15 pm, McDonald
Room, Menzies Library, ANU**

Dr Ray Edmondson will speak on the UNESCO Memory of the World project in the Asia-Pacific region

Ray has been involved with this important project since its inception and served as its Chair from 2005 to 2014. It is an international project, noted for its co-operation and working together.

More details of its work at
<http://www.unesco.mowcap.org/register.htm#lb2>

**APSIG Christmas lunch:
Wednesday 10 December
12 noon at the Golden Drum, 14
Childers Street, Civic.**

Come and join your colleagues at our annual Christmas lunch to be held this year at the Golden Drum, a new Chinese restaurant in Civic.

A tempting banquet menu awaits with vegetarian options for those who wish to request when booking. Dessert, Chinese tea is included.

Cost \$30 per head. BYO. Numbers limited, please RSVP to Libby Cass: email :
ecass@nla.gov.au



Spices, Magic and a Missing Mermaid: Old, Rare and Beautiful Books on Indonesia in the National Library of Australia

Andrew Gosling's talk on 24 September attracted over 50 librarians, academics and researchers (plus family). He has extensive knowledge of the collection and has written about the Library's Asian collections in journal articles and in a book on the topic, *Asian treasures : gems of the written word*, published in 2011 by the Library.

The book display attracted much interest. It



concentrated on early contacts with European explorers, scientists and administrators initially attracted by Indonesia's lucrative spices; traditional Indonesian literary and magical texts on palm-leaf and bark; and brilliantly coloured picture books on local culture, fauna and flora, such as an extraordinary depiction of marine life, though sadly the Library's copy lacks the final pages showing a supposed mermaid.

Historic grouping

At Andrew Gosling's talk on 24 September, the occasion was taken to capture the Australian-based Indonesian Acquisitions Officers. George Miller undertook two pilot

acquisition projects in Jakarta in 1969 and 1970, then with the formal establishment of the office in 1971 he was in charge until 1972; Ilse Soegito filled the post from 1972-1979 (Judith Baskin relieved Ilse briefly in 1974); Pauline Haldane filled in for two months, May to July 1979 between Ilse departing and Andrew arriving in 1979 until 1983. From 1983-1993 there was no A-based officer in Jakarta. Then Amelia McKenzie was appointed 1993-1996; Oliver Mann from 1996 to 2004; Ralph Sanderson 2004 to 2007 and Tieke Atikah 2007 to 2009.

Since then the Indonesian Acquisitions Office located in Jakarta has been very capably filled by a dedicated team of four Indonesian professionals: Wishnu Hardi, manager together with Rudy Santoso, Dedy Effendi and Nia Yulianti. locally engaged staff.



Pictured, from left

Ilse Soegito, George Miller, Ralph Sanderson, Tieke Atikah, Judith Baskin, Pauline Haldane, Andrew Gosling. Absent from the photo were Amelia McKenzie and Oliver Mann.

New East Asian collection manager at ANU Library



Dr Frieda Schimmelpfennig has recently taken up her role as the Chinese, Japanese and Korean Collection Management Librarian at the Asia Pacific Division of Menzies Library, ANU.

Frieda started working as a librarian in 1989 while studying Sinology at the University of Heidelberg, Germany and has worked in various German university libraries and institutes. She holds a master's degree in Library and Information Studies from the University of Wales Aberystwyth (UK).

IFLA RSCAO in Lyon

The Regional Standing Committee for Asia and Oceania's 2014 Open Session at the IFLA Conference in Lyon in August went well with a number of interesting papers. In particular, the Keynote presentation, *The Ideas Box: Connecting and Empowering Communities in the Asia-Pacific Region*, by J r my Lachal, Director of Biblioth ques Sans Fronti res, or Libraries Without Borders, was well received.

Jeremy reported on the development of the Ideas Box, a portable multi-media toolkit,

which was developed in conjunction with UNHCR, and which has been rolled out to refugees in Congo and Syria so far. It provides access to new tools and new information channels through the Internet (provided through a satellite connection).

The ultimate goal of Libraries Without Borders is to develop global partnerships that can merge into a single network of exchanging and sharing libraries and Ideas Box devices worldwide. It is working on developing further partnerships which will have implications for the Asia Pacific region.



Tina Yang, University of Hong Kong Library (RSCAO Committee member), Jeremy Lachal, a French student; and Jayshree Mamtora, CDU Library (RSCAO Committee member).

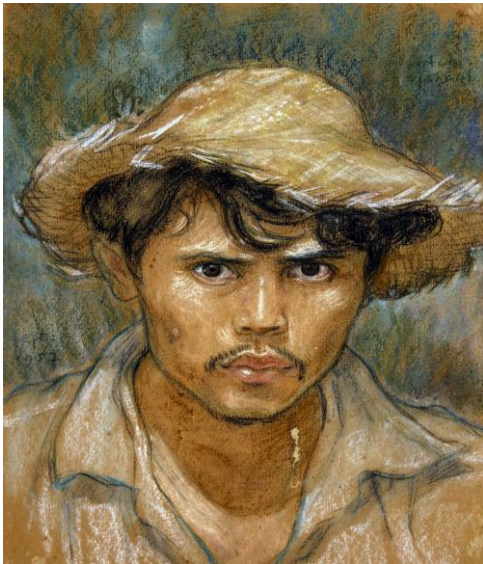
See more here: <http://www.ideas-box.org/en/>
The full presentation can be accessed here: <http://library.ifla.org/984/>

Jayshree Mamtora
Regional Standing Committee for Asia and Oceania Committee member

Indonesian portraits on display in Canberra in October

A major National Gallery of Indonesia initiative, *Masters of modern Indonesian portraiture*, was an exhibition of thirty-five

significant Indonesian art works presented at the National Portrait Gallery in Canberra. The exhibition offered significant insight into the rich portrait practice of Indonesia, showcasing key modernist works (1930 - 1980s) drawn from the National Gallery of Indonesia's collection along with a selection of contemporary works by leading contemporary artists. It was the first time works from the National Gallery of Indonesia were shown in Australia and importantly a rare opportunity for Australian audiences to view the work of eminent modern artists from Indonesia, including masters S. Sudjojono, Hendra Gunawan and Affandi.



Portrait Diri 1957
Sunarto PR
Crayon on paper
National Gallery of Indonesia

Pacific Manuscripts Bureau goes digital

Kylie Moloney, Executive Officer of the PMB, reports that she has recently visited Papua New Guinea, using for the first time, digital scanning equipment to copy manuscripts (pictured). This is a major step forward from the use of microfilming which has been the method used for the past 40 years.

Kylie was in Port Moresby from late July to mid-August beginning the digital copying of the archives of the Catholic Bishops Conference of Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands. Kylie is pictured below with Fr Victor Roche.



These important documents will now be available to researchers and preserved for future generations. This project will continue in future field trips.



With Josepha Kapa in the stacks of UPNG Library

Contact was also made with other organisations on further possible projects and to spread the word on the new digital database. Kylie found a lot of enthusiasm for

the possibilities of the new digital system which will replace microfilm. She notes that there were a number of potential new members, users and contributors.

Later this month, the new digital Pacific Manuscripts Bureau will be celebrated at ANU at an event "From microfilm to megabytes".

Further details from Kylie - email :
kylie.moloney@anu.edu.au



International Librarians Network

Alyson Dalby, Program Coordinator reports.

I am part of a team of four people based in Australia who run the International Librarians Network (ILN), a facilitated peer mentoring program that's designed to help librarians develop international professional networks. My fellow program coordinators are Kate Byrne, Clare McKenzie and Amy Barker.



The program is designed to match people into partnerships, not using traditional mentor and protege roles but as peer-mentors. Peer mentoring puts both partners at an equal level and assumes that we all have something to learn, and something to teach, regardless of our professional seniority.

We ask applicants some questions about their sector and professional interests, and then we match people up. Participants are always matched with someone in another country, and as much as possible with someone who shares their interests. The program runs for four months, and we send discussion topics to our participants every fortnight which include suggested questions to help them get to know their partner.

We have a wide range of participants (some pictured at IFLA Singapore 2013). Over 1500 people have participated in the program over the last 2 years, from 103



countries, including Thailand, China, Philippines, Vanuatu, Malaysia, Singapore, South Korea, Japan and Australia and New Zealand. A quarter of our current participants are from the Asia Pacific region and have been matched with other participants all over the world.

We have participants from all library sectors, in junior and senior roles. The program is free for participants; the only requirements

are a reliable internet connection, English fluency and time to participant.

We are all volunteers who run the program in addition to our full time jobs, and the program is independent of any professional associations or institutions.

We've recruited a network of country coordinators to help us promote the program in their country, and it's been exciting getting to know about their countries and about how librarians around the world communicate with each other. We welcome new participants - the next round of our program will be in early 2015. You can find out more about the program on our website at <http://ilnetwork.wordpress.com/>.

Fijian families documented in a new book

Soso Families, Naviti Island, Fiji : a pictorial record of families in Soso village from 1977 – 2012 arranged by tokotoko, by Geraldine Triffitt and Tom Triffitt. Published by Blurb, 2014. 252p., maps, photographs, index. Size 33 x 28 cm. Weight 1.66 kg. Price \$200 plus postage.

Canberra colleague and respected Pacific bibliographer Geraldine Triffitt has published the above this year.

The book contains nearly 800 portraits taken from 1977 to 2012. There are details of 1230 people, in up to six generations, including dates, size of families, marriage partners, and location in 2012. Soso is a Fijian village which follows a traditional way of life and maintains its culture. The chief and the elders of the clans administer the village with very little contact with the government. Although there are now several resorts bringing more contact with Europeans,

marriages largely occur within the village or from neighbouring villages and islands.

The publication by the online publisher Blurb was the culmination of a project to photograph the people of Soso, started by Tom Triffitt in 1977 and continued until 2012 by his wife, Geraldine, after Tom's death in 1985. The project was self funded and created as a tribute to the Soso people. The information, however, gives a unique view of the social structure of a traditional village and would be of interest to anthropologists, historians and Pacific researchers.



In July, Geraldine and her son Ross Triffitt went to Soso village, Fiji to present copies of her book to the heads of the clans in the village. Here are the heads of the clans with their presentation packs with Geraldine on the left. (Photo by Ross Triffitt).

<http://tinyurl.com/sosobook>. Publisher contact, <http://au.blurb.com/>
Geraldine Triffitt is at gtriffitt@gmail.com.

IFLA Building Strong Library Associations program in Jakarta

Jennifer Hainrick - Helieisar and Imengel Mad represented the Pacific Islands Association of Libraries, Archives, and Museums (PIALA) at the 2014 IFLA Building Strong Library Associations (BSLA) Asia and Oceania Convening in Jakarta, Indonesia.



R to L Jennifer, Imengel and Dexterine Ho

More than 10 library associations and institutions were represented at this year's convening from the following regions: Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, the Pacific, the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, and Thailand.

The 24th Pacific Islands Association of Libraries, Archives, and Museums (PIALA) Annual Conference will be held November 10-15, 2014 in Koror, Republic of Palau. The 2014 theme is "Be Connected. Stay Informed. Community Transformation!"

Libby Cass | Manager eResources Consortium | National Library of Australia
(02) 6262 1871 | e: ecass@nla.gov.au

Unique Collection on East Timor bequested to Charles Darwin University Library

Kevin Sherlock (1934-2014) was a resident of Darwin with a particular interest in East Timor. He first visited the island of Timor in 1974 and over the next 40 years undertook a personal crusade to research and archive information on East Timor.

This passion, mostly self-funded, took him to Macau and Lisbon, as well as all over Australia and East Timor, collecting and transcribing archival information, learning

Portuguese along the way. The collection is now with the university.

Ruth Quinn
Director Library Services, Charles Darwin University
E: ruth.quinn@cdu.edu.au; Ph: 08 8946 6192.

Batak bark divination calendar acquired by the National Library of Australia

A Batak bark divination calendar, probably dating from the 19th century has been generously donated to the Library. It was produced by the Batak people of north central Sumatra and written in Batak script. The calendar was used by a diviner/spiritual leader to identify auspicious days. The Library already holds a larger Batak calendar, but this new acquisition is quite different in style. The cover is made of animal bone with carved decorations, including what appears to be a large lizard, and the bark pages are in an accordion style.

Julie Whiting Manager, Overseas Collections

Email : jwhiting@nla.gov.au

Japanese Contemporary Art in Brisbane

Current exhibitions are : *Future Beauty: 30 Years of Japanese Fashion* 1 November 2014 – 15 February 2015 | GOMA | Ticketed
'Future Beauty: 30 Years of Japanese Fashion' explores the tremendous innovation of Japanese fashion designers from the early 1980s to the present. With nearly 100 garments featured in the exhibition, ranging from the classic and elegant to outrageous, this is a fascinating experience and rare opportunity to view these unique creations first hand. Japanese fashion made an enormous impact on world fashion in the

late 20th century. Designers such as Issey Miyake, Rei Kawakubo of Comme des Garçons and Yohji Yamamoto revolutionised the way we think of fashion today.

'The 8th Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art' (APT8) will be presented at the Gallery of Modern Art (GOMA) and Queensland Art Gallery (QAG) from November 2015 to May 2016.

Cathy Pemble-Smith, Senior Librarian,
QAGOMA Research Library.
Email: library@qagoma.qld.gov.au

Khmer masterpieces on display in Canberra



In August the National Gallery of Australia unveiled three Khmer masterpieces on long-term loan from the collection of the National Museum of Cambodia.

The sculptures, created during the golden age of Cambodia's ancient civilization. One (pictured) is an extremely rare twelfth to thirteenth century representation of a girl in the form of the Buddhist goddess of wisdom, Prajnaparamita. The poignant figure is one of the only Khmer sculptures of a child and was much-admired when first exhibited in Canberra in *The Age of Angkor*.

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Copies of the APSIG newsletter are sent via the Internet to members with email addresses

