

## The Pacific Manuscripts Bureau

*Adrian Cunningham, the Acting Executive Officer of the Bureau, has news of some changes*

The Pacific Manuscripts Bureau (PMB) now has a closer working relationship with the National Library of Australia and the Research School of Pacific Studies at the Australian



*Adrian Cunningham*

National University. These changes have been precipitated by the resignation last September of the Executive Officer, Gillian Scott.

The PMB was established within the ANU in 1968. Since

than it has produced over 1600 reels of microfilm of official, business, religious and personal records and rare printed documents located throughout the Pacific, some of which were at great risk for climatic or other reasons. It has also filmed material of Pacific interest held in other parts of the world such as mission archives in Rome and whaling logs in Nantucket.

Sets of the film have been deposited in six member libraries in Australia, New Zealand and the United States, while copies of reels have also been sold to a variety of other interested libraries and individuals. In addition to filming unique or rare material, the Bureau has described and listed the records filmed and publicised their existence through a newsletter and a variety of published catalogues and indexes.

In 1993 a three-year strategic plan was finalised. This helped to clarify and make explicit the objectives and primary focus of the Bureau. Member libraries, however, raised some doubts as to whether the funding basis of the Bureau is sufficient to enable the plan to be properly implemented, especially with regard to the Bureau's travel requirements. With the resignation of the Executive Officer, the precarious financial position of the PMB was thrown into sharp relief. In order to attract a new Executive Officer with the appropriate sub-

ject and language expertise and administrative and negotiating skills, a much higher salary and greater degree of job security than is currently feasible was deemed necessary.

It has therefore been agreed to defer the appointment of a permanent Executive Officer for one year, during which time efforts will be made to gain access to increased funding. The National Library offered to make one of its staff available on secondment to act as part time Executive Officer during this period.

This offer was accepted and Adrian Cunningham, from the Manuscripts Section of the NLA, has now commenced working for the Bureau three days a week. His twofold task will be to complete a number of filming projects which are currently in process and to investigate and pursue possible sources of additional funding, principally by persuading other libraries to become members of the Bureau.

Adrian will report to an Interim Management Committee chaired by Dr Brij Lal of the ANU Research School of Pacific Studies. If the Committee succeeds in strengthening the funding base of the Bureau, it will then consider the appointment of a full-time Executive Officer and finalise a program of surveying and filming Pacific records in the years 1995-97. ■

## New contacts in Victoria

*Ted Strehlow reports on the recently formed Law Printer—Librarians' Liaison Committee*

Early in 1993 the Government Publications Subcommittee of the Victorian branch of ACLIS decided to approach Vic North, the Victorian Government Printer (now known as *The Law Printer*), to discuss issues of common interest.

Vic North proved most cooperative and the first joint meeting was held on 1 July 1993 at the Law Printer's Office. After a factory tour, the business of the meeting ranged from gaps which librarians perceive in the Law Printer's publishing program, to

the future electronic publication of legislation, as well as the archival quality of the paper used in official publications.

We librarians also had a chance to point out to an official publisher the problems and work caused by name changes of serial titles, viz. *The Law Printer—Publications List*, *New TLP releases from the Law Printer* and, currently, *The Law Printer—New Releases*.

The second meeting was held on 10 December 1993. This time the Law Printer again reviewed de-

velopments in both legislative and electronic publishing, while we librarians expressed interest in a possible electronic Government Gazette. A name was agreed for the group: 'The Law Printer—Librarians' Liaison Committee'.

Anybody interested in learning more about the work of the Liaison Committee should contact either Louis de Vries, Publishing Manager of the Law Printer, South Melbourne, or Ann Miller, Government Publications Librarian at La Trobe University, Bundoora. ■