

# Women, Intangible Heritage and Development: A Feasibility Study conducted in the Pacific Region

## Part One

A synopsis of major issues and problems with regard to safeguarding, preserving and revitalising women's roles in relation to intangible heritage and development.

## Part Two

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- 1.0 Discussion of the value of culture in the Pacific
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A report submitted by Dr. Susanna Kelly and Dr. Lissant Bolton  
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**Synopsis of major issues and problems with regard to safeguarding, preserving and revitalising women's roles in relation to intangible heritage and development.**

1. The Pacific is a large and complex region, comprising 22 nations (including those territories and states of other nations such as the United States and France), in which over 1000 languages are spoken. Although the land mass is small, the cultural diversity is enormous. The region has been extensively altered through the influence of expatriate colonisers and settlers since approximately 1770. Christianity is now widely practiced and valued through the Pacific. Much local language and culture has been irretrievably lost, especially in the eastern islands of the region. However, significant amounts of traditional knowledge and practice is still known through the region, and new cultural forms, combining local and introduced elements, have developed in the last two centuries.

2. The documentation and revival of traditional knowledge and practice is important in the Pacific today. It is the subject of widespread discussion and political rhetoric. There are a diverse range of existing programs addressing this concern. While many existing programs do not directly focus on women, intangible cultural heritage and development, they frequently overlap with the goals of the present project.

2.1 Existing programs are not co-ordinated, but are managed and funded by a wide range of groups including regional governments, and government organisations such as museums and cultural centres, agricultural and fishery departments, women's affairs and so on. Programs are also supported by churches, foreign aid organisations and so on. As a result there is duplication in some cases, while many important areas are not addressed at all.

2.2 Dominant foci for existing programs in the region are: the recording of traditional stories, traditional medicine, fishing and marine resources management, and handicraft production.

2.3 In general, men's traditional knowledge and practice has received more attention in existing programs that has traditional knowledge and practice distinctive to women.

2.4 Existing programs have often been developed on the basis of European cultural assumptions about the nature of society and of knowledge which are not always be applicable in the Pacific.

3.0 In many Pacific contexts knowledge is owned, generally by a family or lineage. Such knowledge (for example, traditional medicine, stories, and skills of manufacture) is not available freely and is not open to straightforward documentation. Owned knowledge of this type is generally sold, and in some cases, once sold, can no longer be used by the seller.

3.1 European cultural models for classifying knowledge do not always fit Pacific models. For example, agricultural knowledge may not be understood to include the cultivation of fruit and nut trees. In fact,

however, the cultivation of trees is often crucial to food production in the Pacific.

- 3.2 European models of Pacific culture tend to identify Christianity as an introduction, and to discount it. However, Christianity is now deeply incorporated into Pacific practice. While in some areas, Christian churches are strongly opposed to traditional culture, in others the Church has both accepted and adopted local practice, and is a conservative force, preserving aspects of local culture.
- 4.0 Existing Pacific programs relating to women, cultural heritage and development often, directly or indirectly, target women's rights. Such programs sometimes misunderstand practices of the place and locality, and the way in which rights are locally understood and enacted. This makes them less acceptable, and less effective for rural women. Pacific gender models assume that men and women are very different but complementary, although in many societies men have greater apparent authority in decision making.
- 4.1 The inclusion of men as central supporters in any "women's project" is usually essential for its success. A careful balance needs to be maintained in helping women with these issues of cultural values and the status quo between men and women.
- 4.2 Western-educated Pacific women sometimes adopt liberal feminist perspectives on gender relations in their own cultures. In some instances, rural women have found these alienating and unacceptable.
- 5.0 The Pacific region is currently in a phase of rapid change. This is partly the result of increasing social and political unrest in the region (for example in Fiji, the Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea). It is also the result of massive population growth. In many parts of the Pacific, more than half the population is under 20 years of age. There is an increasing growth in urban settlements, but there is often no work available. Increasing numbers of people are turning to crime of necessity, and to alcohol and other substance abuse.
- 5.1 Many Pacific women's organisations were set up to overcome problems arising from domestic violence, alcohol or kava abuse, and sexual violence. These priorities may co-incide with Unesco aims to identify and support women's central role in the preservation of cultural identities, values, and diversity, but the value of intangible cultural heritage in providing an alternative perspective needs to be underlined.

- 5.2 A lack of elders to teach young people is an increasingly recognised concern in the region. There is an especial need for programs addressing young people in urban areas.
- 5.3 Western films (widely available through video stores) are having a substantial impact on the culture of young people. In some countries pornography is widely available and has had a negative impact.
- 5.4 The Vanuatu Cultural Centre, through the Vanuatu Young People's Project, has completed an extensive research program among young people in Vanuatu. One of the key findings of the project was that young people want to know their own cultural heritage, and see it as a viable alternative to the western dominated lifestyle in urban areas. Of the more than 1000 urban-resident young people interviewed 'over 80% expressed a strong desire to learn their kastom'.<sup>1</sup>
- 5.5 Social changes in the region include the growth of class distinctions based on education and on monetary resources. This has created a mostly urban elite who often work for national governments or for various non-governmental organisations. The implications of this development have not been widely recognised.
- 6.0 Despite the variety of existing programs, a number of aspects of women's intangible cultural heritage are currently overlooked. This is partly a product of the lack of co-ordination between existing programs. Aspects we have not found to be the subject of documentary programs include women's religious and ritual practice, food production and childbirth and child-rearing.
- 6.1 An exception to this is the highly successful Vanuatu Cultural Centre 'Women Fieldworkers Program'. This program teaches volunteer female extension workers, who are based in their own villages throughout the country, to document and revive aspects of their cultural practice, focussing on a different topic each year. Over the past seven years,

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<sup>1</sup> Mitchell, Jean 1998 *Young People Speak: A report of the Vanuatu Young People's Project June 1997- June 1998*. Vanuatu Cultural Centre: Port Vila

research topics have included mourning practices, marriage, status enhancement rituals, food gardening and seasonal calendars, traditional cooking methods and recipes, and the indigenous concept of respect.

7.0 Methodologies for the documentation and revival of cultural knowledge in use in the Pacific include workshops, interviews, audio and video recording, radio and television programs. Of these, radio programs appear to have the greatest impact, broadcasting cultural material on a regular basis and giving it importance. An article detailing the impact of radio in supporting cultural revival in Vanuatu is attached.

8.0 The Pacific Islands Museums Association has a secretariat based in Fiji, which is funded by the Canadian aid organisation, CUSO. The PIMA secretariat was extremely helpful to us in preparing this survey, and could act as a point of coordination for cultural programs in the region.

9.0 As well as Pacific nation based programs, documentation of women's intangible heritage is also carried out by academic researchers, mostly by anthropologists, but also by cultural geographers, agricultural specialists, linguists, medical researchers and so on. While the material recorded and published by these mostly expatriate reporters is often very detailed, it does not always re-enter the local community. Some countries now have research policies which demand the deposit of research findings within the country. We have attempted to indicate some of the more important of this material, but it is not possible to record it all in a short project such as this.

### **Recommendations**

We recommend that:

- ▣ Information about the diversity of programs addressing cultural heritage in any one country, and throughout the whole Pacific, should be held centrally, so that duplication in programs can be avoided, where possible.
- ▣ Wherever possible programs should be developed in consultation with the women who hold intangible heritage. It is especially important that local leaderships should be consulted and involved in the implementation of programs.
- ▣ Programs in the Pacific region focus in particular on enabling the cross-generational communication of intangible cultural heritage, especially to young people who are now urban residents.
- ▣ Funding be given to the support of radio programs for women, identifying and valuing intangible cultural heritage, and discussing ways in which it can be maintained and developed.

## **Annotated Bibliography**

### **1.0 Discussion of the Value of Culture in the Pacific**

Douglas, Bronwen 1998 'Traditional Individuals? Gendered negotiations of identity, Christianity and citizenship in Vanuatu' Discussion paper No. 98/6 State, Society and Governance in Melanesia Project, Australian National University [http://rspas.anu.edu.au/melanesia/Douglas98\\_6.html](http://rspas.anu.edu.au/melanesia/Douglas98_6.html)

*Anthropological and historical analysis of missionary representations of indigenous Aneityumese women and their contemporary situation. Discusses Aneityumese women's membership and activities within organised women's groups, and the role played by church, custom and community.*

Finnegan, Ruth and Margaret Orbell (ed.) 1995 South Pacific Oral Traditions  
Bloomington: Indiana University Press

*Edited collection of anthropological papers discussing the legacy and practice of oral cultures in Pacific.*

Healey, Christopher. James (ed.) 1989. Culture and Development in Papua New Guinea Special Issue Canberra Anthropology 12 (1)

Hooper, Antony (ed.) 2000 Culture and Sustainable Development in the Pacific  
Canberra: Asia Pacific Press

*Collection of papers arising from the UNESCO conference 'Culture and Sustainable Development in the Pacific', Suva, Fiji 9-12 July 1997. Discussants examine regional discourses of culture and development. Case studies include logging, marine resource development, local hierarchies of authority, tradition and modernity, and tourism.*

Mitchell, Jean 1998. Young People Speak...A report on the Vanuatu Young People's Project, Vanuatu Cultural Centre April 1997 to June 1998 Port Vila: Young People's6 Project, Vanuatu Cultural Centre

*Report of an innovative research project that trained young people to carry out qualitative and quantitative research addressing the concerns and problems of young people in Port Vila, capital of Vanuatu. Over 50% of the population of Vanuatu is under 18 years of age, and this report gives results of the enquiry*

*into urban migration, work, education, family, health and tradition among 1,047 young people.*

Kaeppler, A. 1994. "Paradise regained: the role of Pacific Museums in forging national identity," in Museums and the making of "ourselves": the role of objects in national identity. Edited by F. Kaplan, pp. 19-44. London; New York: Leicester University Press.

Keesing, R. M. 1989. *Creating the past: custom and identity in the contemporary Pacific.*

Contemporary Pacific:16-35.

*Academic analysis of the politicization of tradition in Pacific states.*

Warren, D.M., Brokensha, D. and Slikkenveer, L.J., eds. (1992) Indigenous Knowledge Systems: The Cultural Dimensions of Development London:Kegan Paul International

White, Geoffrey Miles and Lamont Lindstrom (ed.) 1993 Custom Today in Oceania Special Issue Anthropological Forum 6(4) Nedlands: University of Western Australia

*Collection of academic papers considering the politics and practices of culture in the contemporary Pacific.*

White, Geoffrey Miles and Lamont Lindstrom (ed.) 1994 Culture, Kastom, Tradition: developing cultural policy in Melanesia Suva, Fiji: Institute of Pacific Studies  
*Volume of papers addressing issues of culture in a region of wide diversity, the relationship between tradition and modernity, and the high value attached to local culture in Melanesia.*

## **2.0 Discussion of Women and Development in the Pacific**

Anastacio, Juliana M. 1998. "Palauan Women: Their Involvement in Politics." In Don Shuster, Peter Larmour & Karin von Strokirch,eds. Leadership in the Pacific Islands: Tradition and the future Canberra:Australian National University

Asian Development Bank 1994 Women in Development: issues, challenges and strategies in Asia and the Pacific Manila: Asian Development Bank

*Examines women's rights and employment in Asia and the Pacific area.*

Atu Emberson-Bain (ed.) Sustainable Development or Malignant Growth: Perspectives of Pacific Island Women

*Feminist critique of development agendas, resource use, migration, tourism and colonialism.*

Commonwealth Secretariat 1996. Women and Natural Resource Management - a manual for the South Pacific region Commonwealth Secretariat

Connell, John (1984). 'Status or subjugation?: Women, migration and development in the South Pacific' International migration review. 18 pp 964-83.

Crocombe, Ron Asesela Ravuvu and Rajesh Chandra Pacific Perspective: Women and Rural Development Fiji: South Pacific Social Sciences Association

*Collected papers analyse the achievements and initiative of women's associations in Western Samoa, the importance of women in rural development, electoral politics, timber rights on clan land. Includes a discussion by Levy Laka of the diversity and preservation of oral traditions, and Leonard Maenuou writes of the continued use of traditional medicines and their importance as substitutes for expensive, imported drugs.*

Counts, Dorothy Ayers 1993. 'The Fist, the Stick and the Bottle of Bleach: Wife Bashing and Female Suicide in a Papua New Guinea Society' in V.S Lockwood, T.G Harding and B. J Wallace (ed.) Contemporary Pacific Societies - Studies in Development and Change New Jersey: Prentice Hall

*Ethnographic account of female suicide as a response to abuse in West New Britain.*

Cruz, Lynette and Ulla Hasager 1998 'Pacific Women : experiences with international networking' in Diana Vinding (ed) Indigenous Women: The Right to a Voice Copenhagen IWGIA Document 88

*Discussion of the Pacific Women's Network established in 1995 in Hawaii, and reports on the results of an International Cross-Cultural Women's Forum, Honolulu July 1995.*

Development Bulletin 2000 Special Edition 'Conflict and Peacemaking in the Pacific:

social and gender perspectives' Vol. 58

Dinnen, Sinclair and Allison Ley (ed.s) 1999. Reflections on violence in Melanesia Canberra: Hawkins Press

*Series of articles considering the diverse meanings of violence in Melanesia.*

ESCAP 1987 Women's Information Network for Asia and the Pacific (WINAP)  
Bangkok: United Nations, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

*Examines information services and information networks and their impact on women and development in Asia and the Pacific area.*

ESCAP 1994. 'Women in Asia and the Pacific: 1985-1993' New York: Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

*Report on the Second Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Women in Development. Examines social conditions, and women in development in Asia and the Pacific region.*

Fairbairn-Dunlop, Peggy 2000. 'Gender, culture and sustainable development - the Pacific way' in Hooper, Antony (ed.) 2000 Culture and Sustainable Development in the Pacific Canberra: Asia Pacific Press

*Discusses the strategies that Pacific women are employing to achieve development goals. These include economic strategies that include and rely on family systems and preserving customary ways. Author questions whether these customary ways as practiced are ensuring women's well-being in times of rapid change.*

Herda, Phyllis (editor). 1997 'Indigenous women in the Pacific' Special issue Women's Study Journal University of Otago, New Zealand

Hoskins, Marilyn W (n.d) 'Various Perspectives on Using Women's Organisations in Development Programming' Report prepared for the Office of Women in Development, United States Agency for International Development

Macpherson, Cluny and La'avasa Macpherson. 1990. Samoan Medical Belief and Practice Auckland: Auckland University Press.

Molisa, G. M. Editor. 1990. Rejistri blong ol woman lida blong Vanuatu. Festival infomesen mo pablikesen komiti mo VNKW eksekiutiv komiti, Port Vila. (Registry of Women Leaders of Vanuatu, Festival Information, publication committee and Vanuatu National Council of Women Executive Committee) Port Vila: Vanuatu Nasonal Kaonsel blong ol Woman.

*Bislama report of the Vanuatu National Council of Women's executive committee, publication committee and festival information.*

Molisa, G. M. 1991. "The Vanuatu National Council of Women," in A situational analysis of children and women in Vanuatu. Edited by UNICEF. Port Vila: Vanuatu Government.

Moral, Beatrice. 1998 'Changes in women's status in Micronesia: an anthropological approach' in Diana Vinding (ed.) Indigenous Women: the Right to a Voice Copenhagen: IWGIA Document 88

*Author identifies threats to women's status and guardians of Chuukese culture in the globalization of Christianity, shift to a wage economy, changes in family structure in Micronesia. Concludes that shifts in the redefinition of gender roles have not benefited women.*

Nabalarua, Eci K 2000 Discussion "Gender is about women and men, boys and girls" (United Nations) <http://abc.net.au/ra/carvingout/issues/gender.htm>

*Discussion of role of Pacific women, the family and gender equality in contemporary development initiatives. Author concludes that gender as a development issue has the capacity to address and deliver needs of the current generation of Pacific peoples.*

Nero, Karen. L 1990. 'The hidden pain: drunkenness and domestic violence in Palau' Pacific Studies 13:63-92

Nii-K-Plange 2000. Generation in Transition: Pacific Youth and the crisis of change in the late twentieth century Institute of Applied Studies/Dept of Sociology, USP.

O'Brien, Denise and Sharon W. Tiffany (ed.) 1984. Rethinking Women's Roles- Perspectives from the Pacific University of California Press

*Academic discussion of Pacific women lives, re-evaluating the issues from an anthropological and feminist perspective. Includes papers on 'Women, work and change' (Jill Nash), 'Women in the churches of Oceania' (Charles W. Forman) and 'Domesticity and Denigration of Women' (Marilyn Strathern).*

Ralston, C. 1992. The study of women in the Pacific. The Contemporary Pacific 5(1):162-174

Riles Annalise 2000. The Network Inside Out University of Michigan Press  
*Academic discussion of United Nation documentation projects in the Pacific, particularly in the aftermath of the Beijing Women's Conference. Describes a number of Fijian and other Pacific women's groups and the work that they are engaged in.*

Secretariat of the Pacific Community (In preparation) Directory of Pacific Women's Organisations Third edition Noumea, NC: Women's Resource Bureau, SPC

Sexton, Lorraine. D 1993 'Pigs, Pearlshells, and Women's Work: Collective Response to Change in Highland Papua New Guinea' in V.S Lockwood, T.G Harding and B. J Wallace (ed.) Contemporary Pacific Societies - Studies in Development and Change New Jersey: Prentice Hall

*Anthropological examination of the 'Wok Meri' ('women's work'), groups, socio-economic change and women's roles in Eastern Highlands Province, PNG.*

Scheyvens, Regina n.d 'Church Women's Groups and the Empowerment of Women in the Solomon Islands' Paper, State, Society and Governance in Melanesia Project, Australian National University  
<http://rspas.anu.edu.au/melanesia/Scheyvens.html>

*Analysis of innovative development strategies initiated by three church women's groups in the Solomon Islands*

Tongamo, Taiamoni (ed.). 1988 Pacific Women - roles and status of women in Pacific societies Suva: Institute of Pacific Studies, University of the South Pacific

*Present overviews of the position of women in five case studies: Fiji, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Tonga and Papua New Guinea*

Vinding, Diana (editor). 1998 Indigenous Women: The Right to a Voice  
Copenhagen: IWGIA Document 88

*Global perspective on the roles, rights and situation of indigenous women. Sections include 'Keeping Traditions Alive', 'Changing Gender Roles', 'Networking and Building Solidarity'.*

Zimmer-Tamakoshi, Laura and Jeanette Dickerson-Putnam (ed.) 1994 Women and Development in the Pacific Special Issue Urban Anthropology 23(1) New York: Institute for the Study of Man

*Academic discussion of the role of women in development including women's responses such as small enterprises. Three papers examine the contribution that the Pacific region makes to analysis of the issues involved.*

### **3.0 Documentation of Women's Knowledge and Practice**

Antoine, Charlotte 2001 'Crabs are women's business' in Women in Fisheries Bulletin

*Details women's tradition of crab hunting in New Caledonia*

Arbeit, Wendy 1990. Baskets in Polynesia Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press

\_\_\_\_\_. 1994 Tapa in Tonga Honolulu: Palm Frond Productions

*Illustrated discussions of the tradition of weaving and tapa making.*

Barker, John and Anne-Marie Tietjen 1989. 'Female facial tattooing among the Maisin of Oro Province, Papua New Guinea: the changing significance of an ancient custom' Oceania 60(3):217-234

*Anthropological discussion of how traditional practices evolve and become signifiers of change.*

Ewins, Rod 1982 Mat-weaving in Gau, Fiji Suva: Fiji Museum

*Illustrated discussion of the tradition of mat-weaving.*

Huntsman, Judith and Ann Chowning (ed.)1999. 'Kie Hingoa 'Named Mats' , *le Toga* 'Fine Mats' and other treasured textiles of Samoa and Tongoa' Special Issue Journal of the Polynesian Society 108(2)

*Compilation of papers looks at changes in Polynesian tradition of textiles and new developments such as tivaevae quilts.*

Jolly, M. and V. Lukere (eds) (forthcoming) Birthing in the Pacific: Mothers, Midwives, and Nurses University of Hawaii Press, Honolulu

Kihleng, Kimberlee S and Nancy P Pacheco (eds.) 2000 Arts and Culture of Micronesian Women University of Guam

Keck, Verena (ed.)1998. Common Worlds and Single Lives: Constituting Knowledge in Pacific Societies Oxford: Berg

*Anthropological discussion of the nature of knowledge transmission in the Pacific, in particular, local responses to globalisation. Analyses Pacific concepts of knowing and knowledge which are very different from western knowledge systems.*

Louise Kubo, (editor) 1997. Women in Hawaii, Asia and the Pacific: The Office for Women's Research Student Working Papers Series Volume 2:4-13 Honolulu, Hawai'i: University of Hawai'i at Manoa, Office for Women's Research

Lambeth, Lyn 2000 'An assessment of the role of women within fishing communities in the Republic of Palau' Noumea, New Caledonia: Secretariat of the Pacific Community, 1999. 32.

\_\_\_\_\_. 'An assessment of the role of women in fisheries in Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia'

\_\_\_\_\_. 'An assessment of the role of women in fisheries in Nauru'

\_\_\_\_\_. 'An assessment of the role of women in fisheries in the Republic of the Marshall Islands'

*South Pacific Commission bulletins outlining women's participation in marine resources and practice.*

Lutkehaus, Nancy. C and Paul B. Roscoe (ed.s) 1995. Gender Rituals: Female Initiation in Melanesia Routledge: London and New York

*Academic exploration of gender, lifecycle rites and ritual knowledge and practice in Papua New Guinea.*

Nelson, Rencelly S.1997 Pohnpeian Women's Fishing Hilo, Hawaii: Micronesian & American Samoa Student Internship Program (MASSIP)

Tonga, Nola, Milika Naqasima-Sobey and Norman Quinn 2000 'Local marine biological practices in Hihifo village Ha'apai, Kingdom of Tonga' Women in Fisheries Bulletin South Pacific Commission

*Documents traditional practices, methods and knowledge of fish species and migration including how women's knowledge and practice is distinct from men's.*

Vunisea, Aliti 1999. 'Eco-woman: women's role in traditional knowledge' Tok blong Pasifik: News and Views from the Pacific Islands 52(4):28-30

Gina Whewell, L., 1992. 'Roviana women in traditional fishing'. South Pacific Commission

Traditional Marine Resource Management and Knowledge Information Bulletin1: 12-13.

*Documents traditional practices, methods and knowledge of fish species and migration including how women's knowledge and practice is distinct from men's.*

Schoeffel, Penelope 1997. Sustainable Development or Malignant Growth? Perspectives of Pacific Island Wome' edited by Atu Emberson-Bain." (book review) The Contemporary Pacific Vol. 9, No. 1, 288-290.

Tuisese Susanna and Kerry Strathie. 1999 'No-more witches: valuing traditional medicine' Tok blong Pasifik: News and Views from the Pacific Islands (52)4

Walter, Annie 1996. 'The feminine art of mat-weaving on Pentecost' in Joel Bonnemaison, Christian Kaufmann, Kirk Huffman and Darrell Tryon editors Arts of Vanuatu Bathurst: Crawford

*Description of the tradition of pandanus weaving practised by women in Pentecost, Vanuatu. Details the method of production including dying, types of mats, examples of patterns and designs, and explores their symbolism.*

#### **4.0 Documentation of Tradition**

Bolton, Lissant 1999.'Radio and Kastom in Vanuatu' in The Contemporary Pacific 11(2):335-360

*Discussion of the role played by radio in the positive re-evaluation of kastom ('tradition') during Vanuatu's transition from condominium to independent nation.*

\_\_\_\_\_. 1999a. Introduction. Oceania (special issue): Fieldwork, fieldworkers: development in Vanuatu research 70:1-8.

S. M. Eoe and P. Swadling (ed.) 1990. Museums and cultural centres in the Pacific Port Moresby: Papua New Guinea National Museum  
*Series of short papers discussing the role and future of cultural institutions in the Pacific.*

Huffman, K. W. 1996b. "The fieldworkers of the Vanuatu Cultural Centre and their contributions to the audiovisual collections," in Arts of Vanuatu. Edited by J. Bonnemaïson et al., pp. 290-293. Bathurst: Crawford House Publishing.

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Tarisesei, J. 1995. Oi mat blong Ambae (Ambae Mats) May 1992: Blackstone Publishing and Womens Unit of the Vanuatu Cultural Centre.

\_\_\_\_\_. 1998. "Today is not the same as yesterday and tomorrow it will be different again: kastom on Ambae, Vanuatu." *Women, Christians, citizens: being female in Melanesia today*, conference, Sorrento, 1998.

Tryon, D. Editor. 1992.. Ples blong ol pig long kastom laef long Vanuatu (The role of pigs in traditional life and practice in Vanuatu) Vol. Book 1. Port Vila: Vanuatu Cultural

Centre

*Presentations from the Vanuatu Cultural Centre Fieldworkers' Workshop 20-29 June 1990. Published in Bislama language.*

Tryon, D. 1999. 'Ni-Vanuatu Research and Researchers' Oceania (special issue): Fieldwork, fieldworkers: development in Vanuatu research 70:9-15

Vanuatu Cultural Centre. 1984. Samfala kastom storian blong Vanuatu long langwis mo Bislama. (Some traditional stories in local languages and Bislama)

Vanuatu: Vanuatu Cultural Centre

*Results of a Vanuatu Cultural Centre Fieldworkers' Workshop.*

Yorigmal, F., et al. 1992. Wokabaot blong olgeta blong V.C.H.S.S. (Survey work of

the  
Vanuatu Cultural and Historical Site Survey) Port Vila, Vanuatu:

**List of institutions and experts engaged in research and projects relevant to women, intangible heritage and development.**

We have contacted all the individuals and institutions on the list, informing them of the project and requesting information and recommendations. Not all have responded. Those institutions and organisations that have responded, have generally been those with some involvement in the area of women, intangible heritage and development. Details of programmes around these issues have been noted with the corresponding organisation below.

**Within the Pacific region, listed by country:**

**1.0 American Samoa**

1.1 Organisations  
Arts Council  
P.O Box 1540  
Pago Pago  
American Samoa 96799  
Tel: (684) 6332059 Fax: (6334347)

**2.0 Cook Islands**

2.1 Organisations  
Ms. Ruth Pokura  
Programme/Research Officer  
Women's Division

Ministry of Internal Affairs  
P.O Box 98  
Avarua  
Cook Islands  
neti@oyster.net.ck

Cook Islands Association of Non-Government Associations  
P.O Box 574  
Avurua  
Cook Islands  
Tel: (682) 29420 Fax: (682) 28420

Cook Islands National Council of Women  
Rarotonga  
Cook Islands  
Fax: (682) 28420

### **3.0 Federated States of Micronesia**

#### **3.1 Organisations**

The FSM Women and Development Programme  
Department of Health, Education and Social Affairs  
P.O Box PS 70  
Palikir, Pohnpei  
FM 96941  
(691) 320-2872 FAX:(691) 320-5263

Mrs Flora Fillmed  
Secretariat  
FSM Women's Conference  
P.O Box 593  
Colonia, Yap  
FM 96943  
Fax: (691) 350 2223

Tanseny Reynolds  
Special Assistant to the Governor on Women's Affairs  
FSM Office of the President  
P.O Box 34  
Palikir, Pohnpei  
FM 96941  
Tel: (691) 320 4356 Fax: (691) 320 2458

Women's Association Network  
PO Box PS-78  
Palikir  
Pohnpei  
FSM 96941  
(691)  
Tel: 320-5133-5379, Fax: (691) 320-5854

fsmfrc@mail.fm

FSM Women's Association Network  
Palikir  
FM 96941  
fsmfrc@mail.fm

#### **4.0 Fiji**

4.1 Organisations  
Fiji Ministry of Women and Culture  
GPO Box 14068  
Civic Tower  
Suva  
Fiji  
Fax: (679) 303829  
slomaloma@govnet.gov.fj

Ms. Titilia Naitini  
Coordinator, Fiji National Council of Women,  
GPO Box 840, SUVA, Fiji Is.  
Tel: (679) 311 880. Tel/Fax: (679) 315 429.  
Ncwf@is.com.fj

Kate Vusoniwailala  
Director  
Fiji Museum  
P.O Box 2033  
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Fax:(679) 305143  
director@fijimuseum.org.fj

National Council of Women  
P.O Box 840  
Suva  
Fiji  
ncwf@is.com.fj

Fiji Women's Rights Movement  
P.O Box 14194  
Suva  
Fiji  
fwrmm@rrrt.org.fj

World Wide Fund for Nature  
South Pacific Program Office  
4 Maíafu Street  
Suva FIJI

Tel: 679-315533  
general@wwfpacific.org.fj

#### 4.2 Programmes

Women's Association for Natural Medicinal Therapy (Wainaimate) South Pacific Action Committee for Human Ecology and Environment (SPACHEE)  
wainaimate@is.com.fj

WAINIMATE was established by Fijian women in 1993 in response to concerns about the loss of traditional medicine knowledge and medicinal plants in Fiji and other parts of the Pacific. These women organized themselves to document, reclaim and promote the use of traditional medicine, and to work on a campaign to conserve medicinal plants employing the theme Save the Plants That Save Lives. More recently they have also focused their efforts on educational programmes and public awareness campaigns working towards "Affordable Health Care for All by the Year 2000".

South Pacific Action Committee for Human Ecology and Environment (SPACHEE) Regional Traditional Medicine Practitioners' (TMP) Workshop held in August 1993 at Nadave, Fiji. The basic aim of the workshop was to encourage the documentation and promotion of indigenous knowledge about medicinal plants. Participants from seven Pacific island nations, representing government and non-government organizations in Tahiti, Cook Islands, Tonga, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Fiji. Workshop outcome saw the formation of the Regional Women Traditional Medicine Healers' Association to:

1. encourage the conservation and documentation of traditional medicine knowledge.
2. encourage the protection of traditional medicine plants,
3. encourage Pacific Island governments to recognize the important role that traditional medicine can play in national health services.

### 5.0 French Polynesia

#### 5.1 Organisations

Council of Women of French Polynesia  
P.O Box 3164  
Papeete  
Tahiti  
French Polynesia  
Tel: (689) 432225

Conservatoire Artisque Territorial  
BP 463 Papeete  
Tahiti

Le Centre des Metiers d'art (CMA)  
BP 1725  
Papeete

Tahiti  
Fax: (689) 430306

## **6.0 Guam**

6.1 Organisations  
Bureau of Women's Affairs  
P.O Box 2590  
Agana  
Guam 96910

## **7.0 Hawaii**

7.1 Organisations  
Bishop Museum  
1525 Bernice Street  
Honolulu  
HI 96817

## **8.0 Kiribati**

8.1 Organisations  
Kiribati Women's Federation  
Division of Social Welfare  
Ministry of Environment and Social Development  
Tarawa  
Kiribati  
mesd@tskl.net.ki

National Council of Women,  
TARAWA, Kiribati.  
Tel: (686) 21 050. Fax: (686) 21 401.

## **9.0 Marshall Islands**

9.1 Organisations  
Alele Museum  
P.O. Box 629  
Majuro, Marshall Islands 96960  
Tel: (692) 625 3372 Fax: (692) 625 3226  
alele@ntamar.com

Ms.lone de Brum  
Women's Affairs Officer  
Ministry of Internal Affairs  
Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands  
96969

Handicraft Co-operative  
P.O Box 44

Majuro, MH 96960

9.2 Alele Museum has documented the roles of women in the family and community using audio-video recordings. This includes traditional ways of preserving foods, cooking, story telling and mat and basket making. Traditional knowledge of medicine has been recorded as extensively due to owned knowledge by individual families or lineages.

## **10.0 Nauru**

### 10.1 Organisations

Culture and Tourism

Nauru

Tel: (674) 444 3382/3292

Fax: (674) 444 3791

Women's Affairs Section

Chief Secretary's Department

Yaren District

Nauru

Fax: (674) 3159

## **11.0 New Caledonia**

### 11.1 Organisations

Centre Culturel Tjibaou

B.P 378 NOUMEA

New-Caledonia / Nouvelle Calédonie

Tél : (687) 28 32 90

Fax : (687) 28 21 78

adck.dir@canl.nc

### 11.2 Programmes

Symposium on the protection of traditional knowledge and expressions of indigenous cultures in the Pacific Islands (15-19 February 1999, SPC, Noumea, New Caledonia).

## **12.0 Niue**

### 12.1 Organisations

Phyllis Richmond-Rex

Director

Department of Community Affairs,

PO Box 77, ALOFI, Niue.

Tel: (683) 4021/4019 Fax: (683) 4391

NIUE COUNCIL OF WOMEN (MATAKAU GAHUA HE TAU FIFINE NIUE)

P.O. Box 49

Alofi

Niue

Phone: (683) 4145 Fax: (683) 4301

Contact: Tiva Tongatule

### 12.2 Programmes

The Niue Council of Women target the maintenance of culture in language, crafts, traditions and customs and the performing arts as a key goal along with working towards the economic and social advancement of women and promoting good health and nutrition to improve family life with emphasis on children and the elderly.

Activities: Drum oven project; home gardening project.

Publications: Circular published every two months.

## 13.0 Northern Mariana Islands

### 13.1 Organisations

Women's Affairs Office

P.O Box 10007

Saipan MP

96950

(670) 2880845

Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture

PO Box 5553, CHRB

Saipan, MP 96950

Fax: (670) 3229028

## 14.0 Palau

### 14.1 Organisations

Belau National Museum

PO Box 666,

Koror, Palau,

PW 96940.

Fax: 680-488-3183.

[bnm@palaunet.com](mailto:bnm@palaunet.com)

Bureau of Women's Interests

Ministry of Community and Cultural Affairs

P.O Box 100

Koror

Palau 96940

Tel: (680) 488 3929 Fax: (680) 488 3354

Bureau of Arts and Culture

P.O Box 332

Koror

Palau 96940

Tel: (680) 488 3361 Fax: (680) 488 3594

Division of Historical Preservation Office

P.O Box 100  
Koror  
Palau 96940  
Tel: (680) 488 2489 Fax: (680) 488 2657

Ekei Women's Organisation  
P.O Box 6033  
Koror  
Republic of Palau 96940

## **15.0 Papua New Guinea**

15.1 Organisations  
Papua New Guinea National Museum and Art Gallery  
P.O Box 5560  
Boroko  
National Capital District  
PNG  
Tel: (675) 325 2458  
Fax:(675) 325 1779

Dr. Linus Digim'Rina  
Anthropology Department  
University of Papua New Guinea  
Port Moresby  
Papua New Guinea  
lsdigi@upng.ac.pg

Institute of PNG Studies  
P.O Box 1432  
Boroko 111  
Papua New Guinea  
*No longer runs wide research programmes but concentrates on music studies.*

Trust Meri  
PNG Integral Human Development Trust  
P.O. Box 279, UPNG,  
National Capital District  
PAPUA NEW GUINEA  
Ph: +675 326 2261  
Fax: +675 326 2671  
Pngtrust@pactok.peg.apc.org  
*Runs programmes on women, social development and literacy.*

15.2 Programmes  
Cultural Heritage Workshop 2001, Kavieng, New Ireland. The programme, organised by Glenn Summerhayes of Australian National University, has three years funding and will conduct workshops in West New Britain 2002, and Manus 2003. A graduate student (Jenny Homerang) will be studying

women's traditional knowledge among Nalik speakers as part of the programme.

## **16.0 Samoa**

### 16.1 Organisations

The Ministry of Women's Affairs

Private Bag

Apia

Samoa

Tel: (685) 23315 Fax:(685) 23639

Women in Business Foundation

P.O Box 720

Apia, Samoa

Tel/Fax: 011 685 21959

adi@samoa.net

### 16.2 Programmes

Workshop 7-9th November 2000 'The traditional practice of medicine and health sector development.' World Health Organisation.

The Women in Business Foundation set up a 'Fine Mat Project' in 1994 to restore mat making skills and generate income for rural women. A trainer and accomplished weaver visited every village in Samoa to organise a revitalisation of a weaving tradition.

## **17.0 Solomon Islands**

### 17.1 Organisations

Solomon Islands National Museum

P.O Box 313

Honiara

Solomon Islands

Fax: (677) 23351/23309

Women and Development Division

Department of Women, Youth and Sports

Honiara

Solomon Islands

Fax: (677) 26316

wdd@welkam.solomon.com.sb

Lamour Gina-Whewell

Solomon Islands Embassy

Canberra

Australia

info@solomon.emb.gov.au

Juli Makini  
Worldwide Fund for Nature  
Gizo  
Western Province  
Solomon Islands  
wwf@solomon.com.sb

## **18.0 Tonga**

18.1 Organisations  
Women and Development Centre  
Prime Minister's Office  
P.O Box 62  
Nuku'alofa  
Tonga  
Tel: (676) 23888 Fax: (676) 24644  
pmo1@kalianet.to

Tonga National Council of Women (Langafonua 'a Fafine Tonga)  
P.O Box 267  
Nuku'alofa  
Tonga  
Tel: (676) 25988 Fax: (676) 25988  
lgafonua@kalianet.to  
*Currently developing a directory 'Tongan Women and their Heritage'.*

Pan-Pacific and South-East Asian Women's Association of Tonga  
P.O Box 642  
Nuku'alofa  
Tonga  
Tel: (676) 21760  
nanasi@kalianet.to

Tonga Association of Non-Governmental Associations  
P.O Box 1202  
Nuku'alofa  
Tonga  
Tel: (676) 25512 Fax: (676) 25511  
silapelu@candw.to

Tonga National Centre  
P.O Box 2598  
Tofoa  
Nuku'alofa  
Tonga  
Tel: (676) 23520 Fax: (676) 26020  
Tonga Traditions Committee  
P.O Box 6  
Nuku'alofa

Tonga  
Tel: (676) 24102 Fax: (676) 25063

## **19.0 Tuvalu**

19.1 Organisations  
Tuvalu National Council of Women  
Private Mail Bag  
Funafuti  
Tuvalu  
Tel: (688) 20852 Fax: (688) 20643

Department of Women's Affairs  
Ministry of Health, Women and Community Affairs  
Private Mail Bag  
Funafuti  
Tuvalu  
Fax: (688) 20405

## **20.0 Vanuatu**

20.1 Organisations  
Vanuatu National Council of Women  
Port Vila  
Vanuatu  
vncw@wantok.org.vu  
*The VNCW are currently working on a media and data collection project.*

Merilyn Tah  
Vanuatu Women's Centre  
PO Box 1358,  
Port-Vila  
Vanuatu  
Phone: (678) 25764/24000  
Fax (678) 22478  
Email: [yvnc@vanuatu.com.vu](mailto:yvnc@vanuatu.com.vu)

Vanuatu Cultural Centre  
P.O Box 184  
Port Vila  
Vanuatu  
vks@vanuatu.com.vu

Vanuatu Young People's Project  
c/o Vanuatu Cultural Centre  
P.O Box 184  
Port Vila  
Vanuatu  
vypp@vanuatu.com.vu

## 20.1 Programmes

The Vanuatu Cultural Centre runs a Women's Fieldworkers' Programme, co-ordinating a network of indigenous women documenters of women's material and oral tradition. A Women's Traditional Marine Tenure Project is also coordinated at the Cultural Centre. The project documents women's traditional fishing practices and customary marine management.

### **Regional Institutions and NGO's**

College of Micronesia-FSM,  
P. O. Box 159, Kolonia,  
Pohnpei  
Federated States of Micronesia 96941  
national@comfsm.fm

Jodi Bacchiochi  
Secretary-General  
Pacific Islands Museum Association  
c/o Fiji Museum  
P.O Box 2033  
Government Buildings  
Suva, Fiji  
Fax: (679) 305143  
secretariat@pacificislandsmuseum.org

Lyn Lambeth  
Community Fisheries Officer  
Secretariat of the Pacific Community  
BP D5 98848 Noumea  
New Caledonia  
Tel: (687) 262000 Fax: (687) 263818  
LynL@spc.int

### SPC Programmes:

Secretariat of the Pacific Community Cultural Affairs programme in co-operation with the Pacific Island Secretariat and the Pacific sub-regional office of UNESCO is drafting a regional framework consisting of guidelines and a model law for the protection of traditional knowledge and expressions of culture. This includes both men and women's knowledge.

Secretariat of the Pacific Community Cultural Affairs Programme and the Pacific Women's Resource Bureau are collaborating on a regional workshop on the production and marketing of Pacific handicrafts to be held in 2002. The aim of the workshop is to develop strategies to preserve endangered weaving and craft techniques, increase craft production, and to identify the need for a regional craft association to aid the preservation, protection, training and disseminating craft knowledge.

Pacific Peoples' Partnership

(formerly the South Pacific Peoples' Foundation)  
1921 Fernwood Rd.  
Victoria, BC Canada V8T 2Y6  
Phone: (250) 381-4131 Fax: (250) 388-5258  
sppf@sppf.org

Pacific Islands Association of Non-Government Organisations  
Secretariat  
Box 164, Port Vila, VANUATU  
ph: (678) 25607 fax (678) 25609  
email: piango@vanuatu.com.vu

Pacific Concerns Resource Centre  
Suva  
Fiji  
pcrc@is.com.fj

*Produced a Proceedings of a Consultation on Knowledge and Intellectual Property  
Rights in 1995*

Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat  
Private Mail Bag, Suva, Fiji  
Tel : +679-312 600 Fax : +679-305 573  
info@forumsec.org.fj

South Pacific Action Committee for Human Ecology and Environment (SPACHEE)  
Private Mail Bag  
Government Building  
Suva, FIJI  
SPACHEE runs Wainaimate and Ecowomen programmes. Both document women's  
traditional knowledge.

### **Academics**

John Barker  
Department of Anthropology and Sociology  
University of British Columbia  
Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z1  
Canada  
Tel: (604) 822 4982 Fax: (604) 822 6161  
barker@interchange.ubc.ca  
Research: Women's facial tattooing, tapa cloth production in Oro Province, Papua  
New Guinea.

Jane Barnwell  
Pacific Specialist  
University of Hawai'i at Manoa  
Hamilton Library  
Special Collections  
2550 The Mall  
Honolulu, HI 96822

tel: 808-956-9779  
fax: 808-956-5968  
[barnwell@hawaii.edu](mailto:barnwell@hawaii.edu)

Dr. Lissant Bolton  
Curator, Pacific and Australian collections  
Department of Ethnography  
The British Museum  
London  
W1X 2EX  
lbolton@thebritishmuseum.ac.uk  
Research interests: gender, material culture, the ethnography of place, kastom in Vanuatu.

Dr Shirley Campbell  
Visiting Research Fellow  
School of Archaeology and Anthropology  
Australian National University  
ACT 0200  
Australia  
Shirley.Campbell@anu.edu.au  
Research: Women's skirt-making skills in the Trobriand Islands, Papua New Guinea, more specifically, Vakuta Island. This activity is not yet a matter of revival as women continue to make skirts not just as clothing, but as an important object of women's exchange wealth.

Kathryn Creely  
Melanesian Studies Centre  
UC San Diego 0175-R La Jolla, CA  
92093-0175

Bronwyn Douglas  
State, Society and Governance in Melanesia Project  
RSPAS  
Australian National University  
Canberra ACT 0200  
bronwen.douglas@anu.edu.au  
Research: Women, history of Christianity, civil society in Melanesia.

Sina Emde  
Department of Anthropology  
RSPAS  
Australian National University  
Canberra, ACT 0200  
Australia  
Research: women and commerce in Fiji

Phyllis Herda  
Women's Studies,

Faculty of Arts  
University of Auckland, Private Bag 92019, Auckland.  
Phone: (09) 373-7999  
p.herda@auckland.ac.nz  
Research: gender, power and colonialism, oral tradition as history and production  
and presentation of textiles in the Pacific.

Edvard Hviding  
Department of Social Anthropology  
University of Bergen  
N-5007 Bergen, Norway  
Tel: +47 5558 9264  
Fax: +47 5558 9260  
edvard.hviding@sosantr.uib.no  
Research: Solomon Islands women's marine resource knowledge and practice.

Susanna Kelly  
Department of Ethnography  
The British Museum  
London  
W1X 2EX  
United Kingdom  
Tel: +44 20 7323 8045  
Fax: +44 20 7323 8013  
skkelly@thebritishmuseum.ac.uk  
Research: material culture, gender and land relations in Vanuatu, textiles and  
clothing in  
the contemporary Pacific.

Barbara Lawson  
Redpath Museum  
McGill University  
Montreal, Quebec H3A 2K6L  
Canada  
Tel: (514) 398 4086 ext.4093 Fax: (514) 398 3185  
blawso1@po-box.mcgill.ca  
Research: Historical documentation of women's dress on Erromango Island,  
Vanuatu. Women's production of barkcloth and pandanus.

Martha Macintyre  
Centre for the Study of Health and Society  
The University of Melbourne  
Parkville Victoria 3010  
AUSTRALIA  
Telephone (H): +61-3-9380-2650  
Fax: +61-3-9344-0824  
m.macintyre@medicine.unimelb.edu.au  
Research: health, mining, gender, history, Papua New Guinea. New study on  
ecological knowledge by gender.

Jean Mitchell  
University of Prince Edward Island  
Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island  
C1A 4P3  
j.mitchell@upei.ca  
Research: Young people, urban migration, in Vanuatu.

Grant McCall  
University of New South Wales  
Sydney Australia  
Fieldwork on Rapanui (Easter Island)  
2001 - 2002  
e-mail: [g.mccall@unsw.edu.au](mailto:g.mccall@unsw.edu.au)  
Tel/FAX: (56 32) 551 248  
Postal Address: Easter Island, Chile

John Naitoro  
National Centre for Development Studies  
Australian National University  
Canberra ACT 0200  
Australia  
Research: Articulating kinship-based community rights with state objectives of national development projects.

Karen Nero  
Department of Anthropology  
University of Auckland  
Private Bag 92019  
Auckland, NEW ZEALAND  
Phone: 649-373 ext. 5316  
Fax: 649-373 ext. 7441  
k.nero@auckland.ac.nz  
Research: Micronesia, particularly Palau, colonial culture, migration and history.

Maev O'Collins  
Department of Political and Social Change  
RSPAS  
Australian National University  
Canberra ACT 02000  
Australia  
maevoc@coombs.anu.edu.au  
Research: Social impact analysis, development projects, gender issues in Melanesia.

Karen Peacock  
Pacific Collection  
UH-Library  
2550 The Mall  
Honolulu, HI 96822  
phone: 808-956-2851

fax: 808-956-5956  
email: peacock@hawaii.edu

Vina Ram Bidesi  
Marine Studies Programme  
University of the South Pacific  
Suva  
Fiji  
Research: Ocean resource management and gender.

Margaret Rodman  
Professor and Graduate Director  
Social Anthropology  
York University  
Toronto M3J 1P3  
Tel: 416 736 2100 ext.40142 Fax: 416 736 5768  
mrodman@yorku.ca  
Research Interests: customary land tenure, colonial history, and development issues.  
Her most recent trip to Vanuatu in 1995 began a new project. This considers colonial housing in native spaces and native housing in colonial spaces as sites for the mutual construction of difference and identity.

Annalise Riles  
Associate Professor of Law  
Northwestern University School of Law,  
357 East Chicago Avenue,  
Chicago, IL USA 60611  
Tel: (312) 503-3100  
a-riles@nwu.edu  
Specialist in comparative and international law and the law of the East Asian and Pacific region. Research focuses on the cultural foundations of legality and how the law manages cultural differences in a wide variety of settings, from United Nations bureaucracies to derivatives markets.

Christine Salomon-Nkiriai  
Centre d'Anthropologie des Mondes  
Contemporains de l'Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales (CAMC-EHESS, Paris).  
Research interests: traditional medicine, medical knowledge and know-how of Kanak (New Caledonia) women, and gender (violence against women).

Ian Scales  
Department of Anthropology  
Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies  
Australian National University  
ACT 0200  
Australia

Tel: +61 2 6125 2162 Fax: +612 6125 4896  
iscales@coombs.anu.edu.au  
Research: Community development; women (and men's) crafts in Kolombangara,  
Western Solomon Islands.

Claire Slatter  
School of Social and Economic Development  
University of the South Pacific  
Suva  
Fiji  
Research background: gender and development

Karen Stevenson  
Senior Lecturer, School of Fine Arts  
University of Canterbury  
Christchurch, NZ  
tel: 64 3366 7001 fax: 64 3364 2858  
k.stevenson@fina.canterbury.ac.nz

Glenn Summerhayes  
Archaeology and Natural History  
RSPAS  
Australian National University  
Canberra ACT  
Australia  
Tel: +61 26125 2217 Fax: +61 2 6125 4917  
glenn.summerhayes@anu.edu.au  
Research: Cultural heritage, New Ireland, Papua New Guinea.