

Jeanette Little

A Tribute

The first introduction to Jeanette Little and the theological libraries of the Pacific for many of us was at the Brisbane conference in 1990. Jeanette had come from tropical Fiji to a very cold winter in July in Brisbane and she had borrowed layers of clothes from family members to keep warm. We quickly discovered a caring, gentle person who was passionate about theological libraries in the Pacific.

At that time, she was working as Librarian at Pacific Theological College in Suva, Fiji. We soon came to realise that although we might see our resources as limited, to try and run a library to support degree courses in Suva was even more challenging. Jeanette encouraged us as individuals and as an Association to find ways to assist some of the Pacific Colleges. It was directly through her influence that the South Pacific Association of Theological Schools (SPATS) funded six librarians from Pacific theological colleges to attend the ANZTLA conference in Auckland in 2001.

While working at the George Knight Library at Pacific Theological College, Jeanette had been responsible for organising various basic training programmes for those working in small theological libraries, and had travelled widely in the Pacific area. She was instrumental in encouraging one of her staff to gain a library qualification so that the library could continue to operate at its usual high standard when she left.

She then became Library Consultant for SPATS under the Accreditation Programme, thus enabling her to continue her support and training role. Beside being Library Consultant, she also did editing and sub-editing work for the *Pacific Journal of Theology*. She returned to Australia in 2000 and became the librarian at Trinity Theological College in Brisbane.

During all of these years she came to at least every second ANZTLA conference, keeping us in touch with Pacific libraries, and in her own way ensuring that at least some of us gained an understanding of appropriate ways to assist those from the Pacific who were students at our own institutions.

Alongside her library work, Jeanette completed two masters degrees. In 1993 she was awarded an M.Theol. by Pacific Theological College for her work entitled: *And God sent women : women in the South Sea Evangelical Mission*. In 1999, she switched disciplines to gain an MAppSc (Info Studies) from Charles Sturt University for her work on *A comparison of different methods of measuring collection overlap using two theological libraries in Fiji*. Lawrence McIntosh drew the attention of the ANZTLA conference to this latter thesis, describing it as 'a very fine piece of work'. Jeanette also assisted with tutoring of students working on theses themselves.

Jeanette will be deeply missed by family, friends, students and colleagues.



*Judith Bright and Helen Greenwood
on behalf of all ANZTLA Members*

Those pictured (from right):
Jeanette Little, Helen Greenwood,
Denise Drake, Judith Bright,
Kim Robinson.

Photographed at the ANZTLA
Conference, July 2001.