1 HISTORY AND OUTLINE OF THE PROJECT

The State, Society and Governance in Melanesia Project is an outstanding example of collaboration between university and government sectors. The Project was conceived in December 1994 when Pacific Islands specialists in the Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies (RSPAS) of the Australian National University (ANU) agreed that there was an urgent need to address issues of governance and state-society relationships in the Melanesian region. Accordingly, a detailed proposal was made by the School to the University’s Strategic Development Fund. In September 1995, in University-wide competition, this bid won a major commitment of $275,000 per annum from the University to provide for the appointment of three fellows to the State, Society and Governance in Melanesia (SSGM) Project. In the meantime an approach had been made by the Director of the RSPAS, Professor Merle Riklefs, to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). DFAT agreed to finance the secondment of a senior officer, Mr David Ambrose, to the RSPAS for three years to liaise at a senior level with the Australian and foreign governments, with other universities and with the corporate sector in developing and coordinating research activities on the perceived crises of governance, state and society in Melanesia, and to seek outside funding for this work. Simultaneously, AusAID made the generous provision of $40,400 per annum for three years towards the administrative costs of the Project, a contribution matched by the University.

The SSGM Project was formally inaugurated on 1 January 1996 in the RSPAS, building on the Research School’s longstanding status as the world’s leading centre for scholarly and practical research on the southwest Pacific. In May three full-time fellows were appointed to work on specific, but related aspects of the nexus between state and society in Melanesia: Dr Sinclair Dinnen began work on the Project in September 1996, and Dr Bronwen Douglas and Mr Anthony Regan in January 1997. The SSGM Project is administered by a Steering Committee drawn from all areas of the RSPAS and with Library representation, chaired by Professor Ron Duncan, Executive Director of the National Centre for Development Studies (NCDS). Mr David Ambrose served as convenor of the
Project until his return to full-time duties in DFAT in December 1997.

The major research activities of the Project had to await the arrival of the fellows, but a seminar program was under way from the middle of 1996, drawing on expertise available from within the ANU, from other Australian and overseas institutions, and from the region. Since that time the growing capacity of the Project to harness and focus the dispersed energies and expertise of Melanesian specialists within and outside the ANU has been a signal virtue.

2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The SSGM Project explores the nexus between state and society with specific reference to the concept of governance and its perceived weakness in the independent states of the southwest Pacific. It does so in terms of particular intersections of global, regional, national, provincial and local contexts. A core concern is with the nature and problems of sovereignty in new, avowedly Christian nations, which were effectively colonial creations and had no overarching indigenous polities. These nations, furthermore, are located within the world’s most diverse region, in social, cultural, ethnic and linguistic terms, and are subject to multiple external pressures, especially but not exclusively economic.

In such varied and fragmented contexts, political representation, public order, violence, religion, nationalism, ethnicity and separatism take on unexpected, idiosyncratic shapes and relationships. Socio-cultural diversity greatly complicates the unifying efforts of national governments in the region. The framing and delivery of effective aid and development programs demand familiarity with, and sensitivity to, the nuances of local cultures and social and gender arrangements, rather than universalist presumptions and prescriptions.

The RSPAS offers a singular range and concentration of scholarly expertise—in anthropology, archaeology, development studies, economics, history, human geography, international relations, law, linguistics and political science—to address systematically the seemingly intractable problems faced by Melanesian nations by reason of internal diversity, colonialism and underdevelopment. There are more than fifty Pacific (including Papua New Guinea) specialists currently working in the Research School and nearly twenty based elsewhere in the University. The three Project fellows bring particular constellations of background, interests and abilities to complement this existing scholarly body and focus attention on the particular concerns of the Project.

The Project combines the normal academic agenda of scholarly research, writing, training graduate students, and performance in national and international forums with focussed investigation of strategies for addressing practical problems of governance and society in Melanesian contexts. It does so in communication with interested government agencies and non-government organisations (NGOs) in Australia and the region, and in collaboration with universities, churches, scholars and other individuals within and beyond the region.

A major strength is the fellows’ established links with administrative and scholarly institutions and NGOs in the region. Dr Dinnen and Mr Regan have both been fellows at the National Research Institute (NRI) in Papua New Guinea and taught at the University of Papua New Guinea (UPNG). Mr Regan is editing a collaborative book with the UPNG on twenty years of the operation of the PNG Constitution. Dr Douglas has longstanding relations with the South Pacific Commission in Nouméa and with church and women’s organisations in New Caledonia and more recently in Vanuatu. Such contacts are especially valuable in facilitating regional participation in seminars and workshops held within Australia and in planning the workshops and other activities which will be held in the region in 1998–99.

3 THE FELLOWS

The inherent strength of the Project and its academic setting has been consolidated and enhanced by the synergy between the three
fellows. The interests of each span the gamut of state/society relationships, but their perspectives differ. Their individual research projects tackle variations on the common relationship, with different, but complementary orientations: Anthony Regan’s emphasis is more to ‘state,’ Bronwen Douglas’s more to the ‘social,’ while Sinclair Dinnen tends to bridge the two.

Curricula vitae for the fellows and detailed reports of their research and other activities since they began work on the Project are included in Appendix A. Summaries of their interests, research projects, work to date and work planned for 1998 are as follows:

3.1 Sinclair Dinnen: ‘State, society and violence in contemporary Melanesia’

Sinclair Dinnen is examining the state/society nexus with particular reference to issues of crime, violence and public order in the Melanesian countries. His project looks at the representations of violence and disorder which have become such a central feature in depictions of daily life in many parts of Melanesia, as well as investigating the cultural, political and economic dimensions of the phenomenon of violence in a variety of social and institutional contexts. Emphasis is placed on assessing the generation of violence and the responses it provokes at the levels of state, civil society and localised contexts. As well as advancing our theoretical understanding of violence in the socially diverse and rapidly changing Melanesian environment, the project aims at contributing in a practical way to the development of strategies for violence reduction within an overall framework of good governance.

In 1997, Dr Dinnen presented seven seminar papers covering a range of violence-related topics. They included papers addressing the social and economic dimensions of raskolism in Papua New Guinea, papers dealing with the so-called Sandline Affair in Papua New Guinea, as well as an historical analysis of changing state/society relations in Papua New Guinea and their implications for social order. A paper on the role of private military security in Papua New Guinea was presented at the VIII Pacific Science Inter-Congress in Suva, Fiji, in July 1997. As well as publishing a number of refereed journal articles and chapters in books, Dr Dinnen co-edited a book on the Sandline Affair jointly published by the SSGM Project and the NCDS (see Appendix A). In December 1997 he organised a two-day workshop on ‘Violence in Melanesia’ involving twenty-three speakers, of whom eight were from the region (see Appendix B).

In 1998, Dr Dinnen will complete a single-authored monograph on crime and violence in Papua New Guinea for external publication. He is editing (with Allison Ley) a collection of papers from the workshop on ‘Violence in Melanesia,’ to be jointly published with the NCDS in the SSGM Project Monograph Series. He is engaged in the planning for a workshop on governance issues relating to the drought in Papua New Guinea, in collaboration with the Papua New Guinea National Research Institute. It will be held in Papua New Guinea later in 1998 and bring together a range of individuals and organisations involved in the drought relief operations. An SSGM Project workshop to examine transnational crime in Papua New Guinea is planned for mid-1998 in conjunction with the Australian Defence Studies Centre of the Australian Defence Force Academy. Several senior Papua New Guinea officials have agreed to participate in this workshop which will initially be held in Canberra and may later be taken to Papua New Guinea. In 1997 Dr Dinnen taught at the University of Canberra and gave guest lectures at the NCDS and in the ANU Department of History; he will do so again in 1998.

3.2 Bronwen Douglas: ‘Christianity as ideology and practical strategy in Melanesian politics and identities’

Bronwen Douglas is focussing on the intersections of state and civil society with particular reference to the pragmatic and ideological importance of Christianity to Melanesian nations and persons. Her project
explores comparatively the multiple, fluid, at times subversive significance of Christianities in global, national, local and personal politics and identities in the postcolonial states and remnant colonies in the southwest Pacific. The extent to which one or several varieties of Christianity saturate Melanesian social and political worlds—in quite crucial ways which are often invisible or perplexing to Western observers—has been repeatedly demonstrated in the political crises of the past decade: the Fiji coups, the civil war in New Caledonia, Bougainville and the Sandline affair in Papua New Guinea. The project will also elucidate how Western preconceptions, attitudes and field experiences with respect to Melanesian Christianity and Christians have shaped the production of knowledge about Melanesia and the delivery of aid and development programs.

During 1997 Dr Douglas completed a book on indigenous leadership, fighting and encounters with Christianity in Melanesia, to be published by Harwood Academic Publishers in July 1998. She had an article accepted for publication in a leading international journal and a chapter accepted for a book to be published by Cambridge University Press. She submitted another book chapter, published two book reviews and submitted another, and recently contributed a paper for publication in the SSGM Project Discussion Paper series. To date Dr Douglas has given seven conference and seminar papers, including papers on colonial representations of Melanesian women to the ‘Foucault Goes Troppo’ conference in Canberra in June 1997, and on women, Christianity and citizenship in Vanuatu to the Australian Anthropological Association meeting in Washington DC in November. She also gave papers to the Australian Society for French Studies conference, to the SSGM Project workshop on ‘Violence in Melanesia,’ and to the ANU’s Centre for Cross-Cultural Research (CCCR) seminar on ‘Current Research in Vanuatu’ in January 1998 (see Appendix A). She did five weeks’ fieldwork in New Caledonia and Vanuatu with particular focus on women’s social movements and Christianity, and travelled to the United States and England for conference attendance, network-

3.3 Anthony Regan: ‘Understanding the Bougainville conflict; and constitutional development in Melanesia’

Anthony Regan’s academic interests include the relationship of constitutional law and politics in Melanesia and Uganda, decentralisation policy in Papua New Guinea and ethnic conflict in Melanesia. His main research projects involve the Bougainville conflict and constitutional development in Melanesia. The Bougainville project involves writing a political history of the conflict which seeks to understand its complex origins and development in part in terms of the...
interaction of traditional cultures and the impact of economic inequality since World War II, associated with cash crop development and the Panguna copper and gold mine. The constitutional development project focuses on the ways in which interaction between state and society determined the roles and operation of constitutions and other aspects of state law in Melanesia, thereby influencing standards of governance in the region.

In 1997 Mr Regan tended to focus on the Bougainville conflict. His research has been enriched by ongoing practical involvement in the peace process. Work was undertaken for the former PNG Minister of Provincial Affairs (Peter Barter) to develop a Bougainville Peace Strategy for the PNG government; and for the Bougainville Transitional Government to assist in development of a system of local government based on traditional authority (chiefs and clan leaders). He wrote several pieces on the Bougainville conflict, including one in an SSGM Project publication on the Sandline crisis in Papua New Guinea, another published in March 1998, and others to appear later in 1998. These and other 1997 publications are listed in Appendix A. Mr Regan undertook other practical work in Papua New Guinea, including provision of advice to the Department of Provincial Affairs about legal and administrative problems involved in implementation of decentralisation policy. He was also an adviser to the Australian Parliament’s Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Trade, and was consulted informally by officers from both AusAID and DFAT about various aspects of developments in Papua New Guinea, and especially in Bougainville. Mr. Regan gave a paper on protecting judicial independence to a Northern Territory Government seminar on ‘Development of a State Constitution’ in September 1997, and one on governance in Uganda to the African Studies Association conference in October.

In 1998, Mr. Regan will continue research towards his book on the political history of the Bougainville conflict. He will complete the editing of a book on the Bougainville peace process including papers by all categories of Papua New Guinean and Bougainvillean participants in the process. He will also finish editing a book of papers on the first twenty years of the Papua New Guinea Constitution, to be published jointly with the UPNG; most of the papers were written by Papua New Guineans. Mr. Regan is organising two major workshops for 1998: one will examine the roles and problems facing the ombudsmen and administrators of leadership codes in the Pacific, and it is hoped will involve all the Chief Ombudsmen from the Melanesian nations; the other will examine the ‘deeper background’ to the Bougainville conflict and involve both senior Bougainvilleans and researchers who have worked on Bougainville over many years. He is also collaborating with Professor Brij Lal (Pacific and Asian History, ANU) and Mr. Robert McCorquodale (Law Faculty, ANU) on an edited book on the politics and processes of constitutional reform in Africa and the Pacific. In 1997 Mr Regan gave lectures and taught a short course at the NCDS and supervised three PhD students; he will do so again in 1998.

4 SEMINARS, WORKSHOPS, CONFERENCES AND PUBLICATIONS

4.1 Seminars, workshops and conferences

In June 1996 the SSGM Project began a regular program of seminars, held more or less on a monthly basis (see Appendix B). The seminars have been very well attended from both within and outside the ANU. Many of the papers delivered as seminars have subsequently been published in the Project’s Discussion Paper Series, together with several other papers with a governance theme (see Appendix C). The seminar series is continuing in 1998.

Several well-attended, highly successful workshops have also been held, mostly with significant Melanesian participation (see Appendix B). One on Electoral Systems in Fiji involved presentations by the three members of the Fiji Constitution Review Commission as well as several advisers to the Commission. Brij Lal, a member of the SSGM Project’s Steering Com-
mittee and an organiser of the workshop, was one of the Commissioners. A workshop on the PNG Ombudsman Commission involved presentations by the Chief Ombudsman, the Counsel and Secretary to the Commission and its Director of Legal Services. The workshop on ‘Violence in Melanesia’ brought Melanesian women and men, who are actively engaged in combatting domestic and other violence in Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Fiji, together with academics and graduate students from the ANU, other Australian and regional universities.

The capacity of the Project to facilitate informed discussion on contemporary crises was demonstrated in the convening at relatively short notice of workshops on issues raised by the Sandline affair, and on unexpected developments in the Bougainville peace process in the second half of 1997.

The proceedings of two of the 1997 workshops have already been published in the Project’s Monograph Series (see Appendix C); the proceedings of another two are in press. A collection of essays derived from the workshop on ‘Weak and Strong States in Melanesia and Southeast Asia’ is currently under consideration by a leading academic publisher.

Workshops so far planned for 1998 include a ‘PNG Review’; workshops with Pacific Ombudsmen and Melanesian women; a workshop on the underlying causes of the Bougainville conflict; a workshop on governance and the drought in Papua New Guinea to be held in Papua New Guinea in collaboration with the NRI; a workshop on transnational crime in Papua New Guinea in collaboration with the Australian Defence Studies Centre.

The complementarity between the fellows’ interests and projects will ultimately give rise to several major joint conferences, in addition to workshops dedicated to their particular projects. Joint conferences will include one in 1999 reviewing the Project’s themes in the light of the research accomplished, with a view both to mapping the next stage and producing a substantial scholarly publication on work done to date.

This and subsequent joint publications will be additional to the working papers, articles, collections of essays and major monograph(s) which each fellow will publish on his or her project and which each has already begun to produce (see Appendix A). Planning is also under way for the Project to collaborate with the Humanities Research Centre in a major conference in 2000 on ‘Culture, Governance and Society in Melanesia,’ in conjunction with the centre’s special theme for that year, ‘Oceania.’

4.2 SSGM Project publications

A two-tiered publication program is well under way (see Appendix C). Its twin aims are rapid publication in an attractive format of high quality, topical works, and wide, inexpensive distribution, especially to the region. Both have so far been achieved. Coordination and quality control are delegated to a sub-committee convened by Professor Donald Denoon, and production is handled with remarkable speed and efficiency by Ms Maree Tait and her publications team in the NCDS. The SSGM Project publications include a significant number of Pacific Islands’ authors: of the 14 Discussion Papers published so far, 6 are written by Pacific Islanders, while Islanders wrote a total of eleven chapters in the three Monographs which have appeared to date. Three more Discussion Papers are in press, including one written by an Islander.

In addition, the SSGM Project is helping to fund other publications on governance-related issues in Melanesia. For example, a grant from the Project enabled Dr Peter Larmour of the NCDS to complete a book on state and governance in the South Pacific, to be published externally; a grant has been made to Dr Bill Standish of the Department of Political and Social Change, RSPAS, to enable him to write a book on Papua New Guinea; grants were made to facilitate publishing projects by the distinguished journalists Mr Sean Dorney and Ms Helen Fraser (see 5.2).

Discussion Paper series

Scholars working on issues related to the Project are encouraged to publish in the Discussion Paper series. The aim is to produce a substantial
number of papers on a broad variety of topics. As this is not an internationally refereed series, the quality expected is ‘work-in-progress.’

Discussion Papers are distributed free to a wide range of more than 200 interested recipients and on the internet as well. The mailing list includes Australian Government departments; ANU and other Australian university staff; Pacific Islands universities; individual scholars and institutions in the US and Europe; Australian, Pacific Island and other nations’ diplomatic missions in Australia and the Pacific Islands; mining and resource companies and legal firms with interests in the Pacific Islands; and NGOs.

**Monograph series**

These are more substantial publications which are subjected to a more rigorous process of refereeing by an editorial panel of senior scholars.

5 ‘OUTREACH’

5.1 ‘Outreach’ in Australia

In the relatively short time of its active existence, the SSGM Project has come to play important roles within and beyond the ANU. It serves as a hub for Melanesian Studies within RSPAS and the University generally, in close alliance with the Pacific Islands Liaison Centre (PILC). PILC’s regular email postings and the South Pacific Information Network’s (SPIN) Web-site ensure wide publicity for the Project’s activities.

Externally, the Project serves as a bridge from the academy to the Australian government and community, and between Australian researchers and the region.

As convenor, Mr Ambrose engaged in regular liaison on behalf of the SSGM Project with senior government officials in Australia and the Asia-Pacific region. Dr Dinnen and Mr Regan have acted as advisers to AusAID on aspects of the Australian aid program in the region and briefed consultancy teams working on specific projects. Mr Regan is an adviser to the Australian Parliament on regional issues and a consultant to the PNG Government and the Bougainville Transitional Government (see Appendix A). Dr Dinnen is collaborating with the Australian Defence Studies Centre and the Australian Federal Police in the organisation of a workshop on transnational crime in Papua New Guinea.

The SSGM Project is ideally placed for a dual interpretive role: helping to make sense in Australia of the region, its cultures, politics and significant episodes; and helping to build links and understanding between Australia and the region. Within Australia, the SSGM Project fellows and ANU colleagues have been at the forefront of scholarly and public debate on recent crises in the region, such as the Sandline affair, the Bougainville conflict and the drought in Papua New Guinea. The speed with which workshops are convened, and accessible, quality publications are produced on such issues is testimony to the Project’s effectiveness and aptness.

The fellows have frequently featured in the Australian print and electronic media. Dr Dinnen and Mr Regan regularly contribute to debate on current events, especially in Papua New Guinea. They wrote articles for the *Sydney Morning Herald* and the *Australian*. Dr Dinnen was interviewed on ABC and SBS television news programs and ABC Radio National. Mr Regan featured on ABC television on ‘Lateline’; also appeared on ABC television news and Radio National; was interviewed on Radio Triple J news and other radio stations, including SBS community radio in both Sydney and Melbourne, and German National Radio.

Important efforts are in train to decentralise the activities of the SSGM Project, both within and outside Australia. Within Australia, Dr Douglas’ Melanesian women’s workshop in November 1998 is to be conducted as a two-day ‘retreat’ near Melbourne. This location will facilitate networking between the Melanesian visitors and the many Melbourne-based NGOs and church groups with interests in the region. Pacific specialists at La Trobe and Melbourne Universities are helping to organise the workshop.

5.2 ‘Outreach’ in the Melanesian region
The present credibility of the SSGM Project in the region is evidently high, but it must be reinforced by moving selected SSGM Project activities into the region and ensuring more effective involvement by regional scholars in helping set the Project’s agenda. The workshops already planned for Papua New Guinea in collaboration with regional institutions and scholars are important steps towards meeting these goals (see 3.1). Melanesian participants in the forthcoming women’s workshop are taking major responsibility for setting its agenda and have expressed appreciation that Melanesian Christianity is to be taken seriously in an academic setting: the Steering Committee for the workshop comprises three Melanesian women postgraduate students and Dr Douglas.

It is also vital that the Project continue to supply opportunities for Melanesians to attend workshops and conferences in Australia, enabling them to experience cultures very different from their own and providing neutral ground for them to establish networks within and beyond the region. This is particularly valuable for women, whose chances to move outside the local sphere are far more limited than those of most men. The ‘Violence in Melanesia’ workshop provided just such opportunities for five Melanesian women working in the area of domestic and sexual violence.

The potential for Project activities to have a significant impact in the region was demonstrated graphically in the aftermath of the SSGM Project workshop on Electoral Systems in Fiji, held in January 1997. As a direct result of the workshop the Joint Parliamentary Select Committee in Fiji adopted the system of voting recommended in the Report of the Fiji Constitution Review Commission, whereas before the workshop there had been considerable opposition.

The major contribution of the SSGM Project to public discussion about Melanesia within Australia is matched by a high profile in the region. This was facilitated when Dr Douglas liaised with Radio Australia to establish a register of ANU Pacific experts, on whom Radio Australia draws for regular contributions to its ‘Pacific Beat’ program. Dr Douglas was interviewed on Radio Australia about the SSGM Project and her fieldwork in Vanuatu. Mr Regan was regularly interviewed (in both Tok Pisin and English) on Radio Australia’s Papua New Guinea and Pacific services, as were ANU colleagues.

During 1997 the SSGM Project reinforced other important contacts with the Australian regional media, which will indirectly enhance the Project’s regional profile. The Project contributed to the visiting fellowship which brought the ABC’s long-term PNG correspondent, Mr Sean Dorney, to the ANU to write part of the manuscript of a book on recent events in Papua New Guinea. Mr Dorney delivered two seminars in the SSGM Project series, including one in conjunction with Ms Marie-Louise O’Callaghan, the Australian’s award-winning South Pacific correspondent, whose expenses were partly met by the Project. The Project also made a significant grant to assist the translation from French to English by Ms Helen Fraser of a book of the writings and speeches of the late Jean-Marie Tjibaou, the Kanak independence leader in New Caledonia. Ms Fraser has lengthy experience as a journalist in the region and edits the highly respected international affairs newsletter Pacific Report. Dr Douglas is to help Ms Fraser with technical anthropological aspects of the translation, which will be published with the SSGM Project imprimatur.

On-going institutional contacts are maintained with both the UPNG and the NRI, where Dr Dinnen and Mr Regan previously worked. Dr Douglas has contacts with the University of the South Pacific in Port Vila, and the Université française du Pacifique and the South Pacific Commission in Nouméa. The SSGM Project is to provide financial assistance to enable Dr Sandra Tarte, of the Department of Politics and History at the University of the South Pacific in Suva, to spend part of her 1998 sabbatical leave at the RSPAS, to work on the first general text book on Pacific politics.

Personal links between the ANU, the SSGM Project and leading individuals in the region are greatly enhanced by the DFAT-funded Pacific
Island Senior Visiting Fellowships (PISVF) program, which funds short-term visits to the RSPAS by actual or future Islands leaders and opinion-makers. Dr Douglas’s planned Melanesian women’s workshop and Mr Regan’s planned Pacific Ombudsmen workshop have received major PISVF grants to assist in bringing Melanesian participants to Australia. During 1997 Mr Ambrose took over administrative responsibility for the PISVF program and integrated it more closely with the SSGM Project and another major RSPAS project, Resource Management in Asia-Pacific.

Pacific Island Senior Visiting Fellows have the opportunity to interact with government and with ANU scholars, and to undertake a program of research and writing appropriate to their interests and expertise. They are encouraged to participate in SSGM Project activities and to give talks or seminar papers under the auspices of the Project. Those who did so in 1996 included Mr Patteson Oti, then Secretary to the leader of the Opposition in the Solomon Islands and currently Solomon Islands Minister for Foreign Affairs; Mr Alex Sword, editor of the *Cook Islands Times*; and Mr Tomasi Vakatora, one of the three Fiji Constitution Review Commissioners. In 1997, SSGM Project seminars were given by each of the Visiting Fellows: Professor Futa Helu of the Atenesi University in Tonga; the Hon. Sam Alasia, a Solomon Islands MP; Mr Philip Tepahae, chairman of the customary council of Aneityum (Vanuatu) and long-term fieldworker with the Vanuatu Cultural Centre; and Professor John Hagelgam of the College of Micronesia, former President of Federated States of Micronesia. Five of the SSGM Project’s 1997 Discussion Papers were written by PISVF fellows: Tomasi Vakatora, Futa Helu, Sam Alasia and Philip Tepahae.

Pacific Island Senior Visiting Fellows provide important indigenous input to the SSGM Project, while some have helped shape its direction and facilitated specific research projects. For example, Mr Tepahae worked closely with Dr Douglas when, during her field trip to Vanuatu, she paid a reciprocal visit to Aneityum and conducted in-depth interviews with him on questions relating to custom, indigenous leadership, land, gender relations, religion and politics. About twelve hours of highly pertinent taped interviews are at present being transcribed.

In addition to the extended interaction with visitors from the region made possible by the PISVF program, the SSGM Project also hosts other Melanesian visitors. In 1996 they included, at the request of DFAT, the former Prime Minister of the Solomon Islands, the Hon. Francis Billy Hilly, and the Solomon Islands government’s Special Envoy on the Bougainville Crisis, the Hon. Francis Saemala. In 1997 the Project contributed to the costs of a short stay in Canberra by Mr Joses Tuhanuku, a former Solomon Islands Member of Parliament and former PISVF fellow, who gave a paper in the SSGM Project seminar series; a Discussion Paper based on that paper is at present being prepared for publication.

### 6 INTERIM BALANCE SHEET

The great potential of the SSGM Project was evident from the outset. That potential was realised as the fellows settled into their projects and consolidated links with the region.

It is clear that the concentration and mobilisation of existing and new expertise enabled by the SSGM Project has contributed to a revitalisation of Melanesian Studies in RSPAS, confirming the ANU’s premier status in the field and producing a higher profile in Australia and in the region. Recent RSPAS intakes of high quality postgraduate students have reinforced a critical mass of scholarship, particularly on Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu. That this widening of research horizons should occur in a period of major financial constraints is a tribute to the foresight and sacrifice of the University, DFAT and AusAID in making substantial commitments of resources in parlous times.

There has as yet been no significant intake of postgraduate students from the region under the auspices of the SSGM Project, but the Project is still in its early stages. It is likely that shorter training courses and other kinds of contacts and collaboration may be as agreeable to Melanesians
as the long-term expatriation required to obtain an overseas doctorate, though protracted overseas training will obviously continue to be essential in specialised fields. Planning is well under way, in consultation with the National Centre for Development Studies, regional institutions and potential sources of funding in the corporate sector, for a range of training programs on questions relating to governance for Melanesian students. They include short courses, diploma, masters and doctoral programs.

There are also important prospects for collaborative projects with regional institutions and scholars, such as in the proposed cooperation with the Papua New Guinea National Research Institute in forthcoming workshops on governance aspects of the drought and on transnational crime. Short-term visits of leading Melanesians under the PISVF scheme are particularly valuable for the individuals concerned, their countries and the ANU scholars with whom they interact. Assistance in publishing and publicising the work of Melanesian authors and effective dissemination of SSGM Project publications in the region are important aspects of the publications program. The fellows will continue to seek heavy Melanesian involvement in their workshops and conferences, whether held in Australia or collaboratively in the region.
APPENDIX A
THE FELLOWS: CURRICULA VITAE; REPORTS
OF RESEARCH AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

CURRICULA VITAE

Sinclair Dinnen (‘State, society and violence in contemporary Melanesia’) joined the SSGM Project as a Post-Doctoral Fellow in October 1996. Prior to that he was completing his PhD on ‘Crime and State in Papua New Guinea’ in the Law Program of the Research School of Social Sciences. Before coming to the ANU, he was Head of the Crime Studies Division at the NRI in Port Moresby between 1992 and 1994. From 1984 to 1989 he taught in the Law Faculty of the UPNG and from 1989 to 1991 was a Lecturer in Law at the University of Canberra. He has written extensively on law and order issues in Papua New Guinea and was a consultant to the Law and Order Sectoral Review in 1993. (Bus. phone: +61 2 62492817; email <dinnen@coombs.anu.edu.au>).

Bronwen Douglas (‘Christianity as ideology and practical strategy in Melanesian politics and identities’) joined the Project as a Fellow in January 1997. From 1971 she taught in the History Department at La Trobe University, where she was a Senior Lecturer, having received her PhD in Pacific History from ANU in 1973. In 1991 she was a Visiting Fellow in the Comparative Austronesian Project, RSPAS; in 1995 she was a Visiting Professor at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales in Paris; in 1996 she was a Visiting Fellow in the Humanities Research Centre, ANU. Her major geographical focus is New Caledonia and southern Vanuatu, but she has a broad comparative interest in Melanesia and the south Pacific generally. She has published widely on the history and anthropology of indigenous religions, leadership, fighting, colonial encounters and gender relations, and more recently on science, art, ‘race’ and indigenous presence in colonial texts and images. (Bus. phone: +61 2 6249 3175; email <bronwen.douglas@anu.edu.au>).

Anthony Regan (‘Constitutional development in Melanesia; understanding the Bougainville conflict’) also joined the Project as a Fellow in January 1997. He is a lawyer (LLB Adelaide, 1976) who has worked in private practice in Australia and in government legal work in Papua New Guinea. As an academic, he was a Senior Research Fellow at the PNG Institute of Applied Social and Economic Research from 1985 to 1989, and Senior Lecturer in the Law Faculty, UPNG, from 1989 to 1996. He has published extensively on decentralisation in Papua New Guinea, and the operation of the PNG Constitution, and to a lesser extent on constitutional development in Uganda. He was a constitutional consultant to the Government of Uganda from 1991 to 1994. He has advised the Government of Papua New Guinea, the North Solomons Provincial Government and the Bougainville Transitional Government. (Bus. phone: +61 2 6249 2174; email <aregan@coombs.anu.edu.au>).

RESEARCH REPORTS

SINCLAIR DINNEN

Cooperation with Government and other public institutions


Member of Peer Group appointed to inform the review and design of the AusAID-funded Royal PNG Constabulary Development Project.

Publications

a. Edited book

b. Chapters in books


c. Articles in refereed journals


d. Chronicles/commentaries in refereed journals


e. Working paper
Discussion Paper 97/1, State, Society and Governance in Melanesia Project, The Australian National University, Canberra.

f. Conference proceedings

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**Conference and Seminar Papers**

a. International conferences


b. Paper to government department

c. Papers to university departments and centres

‘Perspectives on Raskolism’, Department of Political and Social Change Seminar, The Australian National University, Canberra, 4 April, 1997.


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**BRONWEN DOUGLAS**

**Publications**

a. Scholarly monograph

b. Chapters in books
‘Science and the Art of Representing “Savages”: reading “race” in text and image in South Seas voyage literature’, in Morris Low and Christine Dureau (eds), The Politics of Knowledge: science and evolution in Asia and the Pacific, special issue History and Anthropology (at press).

d. Book reviews


Conference and Seminar Papers

a. International conferences


Fighting as savagery and romance: New Caledonia past and present, SSGM Project workshop, Violence in Melanesia, The Australian National University, Canberra, 11 December 1997.

b. National conference


c. Papers to university departments and centres

History Department Seminar, La Trobe University, 18 August 1997. ‘Science and the art of representing ‘savages’: reading ‘race’ in text and image in French South Seas voyage literature’.


ANTHONY REGAN

Cooperation with Government and other public institutions

Adviser, Joint Parliamentary Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade.

Consultant, PNG Government, Department of Provincial and Local Government Affairs, on development of a peace strategy for Bougainville.

Consultant, PNG Government, Department of Provincial and Local Government Affairs, on reviewing the constitutional arrangements for provincial and local level government;

Consultant, Bougainville Transitional Government, on development of a local government system based on traditional authority (Councils of Elders).

Author of a paper on scenarios for Bougainville in 2020, prepared for AusAID, September 1997.

Publications

a. Edited books


b. Chapters in books
‘Preparations for war and progress towards peace: Bougainville dimensions of the Sandline affair’:82–93.
In R May and A.J. Regan (eds), 1997. *Political Decentralisation in a New State the experience of Papua New Guinea:*

c. Article in refereed journal

d. Book review

e. Conference proceedings
‘Developments in Bougainville’; Appendix 3, ‘Chronology of Events—Bougainville’.

Conference and Seminar Papers
a. International conferences

b. National conferences

c. Papers to government department


d. Papers to university departments and centres

Teaching
During Semester One 1997 Dr Dinnen jointly taught a course on ‘Politics in Developing Nations’ with Associate Professor Mark Turner at the Centre for Public Administration at the University of Canberra. He will teach this course again in 1998. He gave guest lectures to postgraduate students at the NCDS and to an undergraduate course in Pacific History in the History Department, ANU, and will do so again in 1998. He examined eight sub-theses by students doing the MA in Public Administration, NCDS.

In 1997 Dr Douglas was on the supervision panels of two doctoral students in the Division of Pacific and Asian History, RSPAS, and was associate supervisor for a PhD student in the History Department, La Trobe University. In 1998 she will supervise at least four ANU PhD students working on topics directly related to the SSGM Project, while continuing to supervise the La Trobe University student. She will teach two seminars in the CCCR Visiting Graduate Program on ‘Writing Voyages and Encounters’ in May.

In 1997 Mr Regan was a member of the supervision panels for three PhD students writing theses on Papua New Guinea. He gave two two-hour lectures to an NCDS postgraduate course on ‘Comparative Politics and Government’. Together with Professor Raymond Apthorpe, he presented a one-month full-time ‘short course’ on ‘Decentralisation, Participation and Local Area Planning’ for thirty-three postgraduate students at the NCDS in October. He will continue all these activities in 1998.
APPENDIX B SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS

SEMINARS

4 June 1996
Dr Peter Larmour, ANU
’Sates versus governance in Melanesia’

2 July 1996
Professor Lamont Lindstrom, University of Tulsa
‘Chiefs and the state in the Pacific’

6 August 1996
Dr Bill Standish, ANU
‘Democracy and governance in Papua New Guinea’

3 September 1996
Mr David Ambrose, ANU
‘A coup that failed? Recent political events in Vanuatu’

1 October 1996
Dr Margaret Jolly, ANU
‘Women and the Nation-State in Vanuatu’

30 October 1996
Professor Yash Ghai, Hong Kong University
‘Reflections on constitutions and governance in Melanesia’

5 November 1996
Dr Sinclair Dinnen, ANU
‘Restorative justice in Papua New Guinea’

3 December 1996
Dr Stephanie Lawson, ANU
‘Tradition versus the West in the South Pacific’

4 March 1997
Professor Futa Helu, Atenei University, Tonga, PISVF
‘Traditional culture and good governance’

11 March 1997
Dr Sinclair Dinnen, ANU
‘Fatal attraction: private security corporations and the PNG State’

1 April 1997
Hon. Sam Alasia, MP, Solomon Islands, PISVF
‘Political parties and government in the Solomon Islands’

22 April 1997
Ms Angela Mandie-Filer, ANU
‘Institutional and ideological control of women and development in Papua New Guinea: a personal reflection’

6 May 1997
Dr Satish Chand, ANU
‘Ethnic conflict, income equity and growth in independent Fiji’

21 May 1997
Mr Philip Tepahae, Aneityum (Vanuatu), PISVF
‘Chiefly power in South Vanuatu, especially Aneityum’

12 June 1997
Mr Tony Regan, ANU
‘Developments in the Bougainville peace process’

8 July 1997
Dr Brij Lal, ANU
‘After the storm: society and governance in Fiji 1987–1997’

9 September 1997
Mr Anthony Regan, ANU
‘Governance in Uganda: lessons for Melanesia?’

23 September 1997
Dr Penelope Schoeffel, University of Auckland
‘Myths of community management: governance, sustainability and rural development’

7 October 1997
Dr Bronwen Douglas, ANU
‘Traditional individuals? Gendered negotiations of Christianities and citizenship in Island Melanesia’

13 October 1997
Mr Sean Dorney, ABC
‘The PNG Defence Force—an undisciplined force’

13 October 1997
Ms Mary-Louise O’Callaghan, The Australian
‘Defence as an issue in the Australia/Papua New Guinea relationship’

14 October 1997
Mr Joses Tuhanuku, former MP, Solomon Islands
‘The 1997 Solomon Islands elections and the formation of the new government’

31 October 1997
Mr Sean Dorney, ABC
‘Origins and implementation of the Sandline contract in PNG, March 1996–March 1997’

18 November 1997
Mr Eric Wittersheim, EHESS (Paris)
‘Melanesian élites and modern politics in New Caledonia and Vanuatu’

2 December 1997
Dr Lissant Bolton, ANU
‘Incorporating traditional authority into governmental structures in Vanuatu’
### Workshops

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Contributors</th>
<th>Title/Organiser(s)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 December 1997</td>
<td>Professor John Haglegam, College of Micronesia, former President, FSM, PISVF</td>
<td>‘Traditional leaders and governance in Micronesia’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 February 1998</td>
<td>Sir John Robertson, formerly Chief Ombudsman, NZ</td>
<td>‘The role of oversight agencies in good governance in developing countries’</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 March 1998</td>
<td>Dr Peter Larmour, ANU</td>
<td>‘Making sense of good governance in the South Pacific’</td>
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<td>17–18 January 1997</td>
<td>Three leading international scholars—Professors Yash Ghai (Hong Kong University), Donald Horowitz (Duke University), Raj Mathur (University of Mauritius); two officers of the Australian Electoral Commission; the members and Legal Counsel of the Fiji Constitution Review Commission—Sir Paul Reeves, Tomasi Vakatora, Brij Lal, Alison Quentin-Baxter; the Leader of the Fiji Opposition—Jai Ram Reddy; the Deputy Parliamentary leader, Fiji Labour Party—Krishna Datt; a Fijian Association MP—Fereti Dewa.</td>
<td>‘Electoral systems in divided societies: the Fiji constitution Review’ Organised by Brij Lal and Peter Larmour with additional support from the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA) in Stockholm</td>
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<td>17 April 1997</td>
<td>Eight speakers, including three Melanesian graduate students, Angela Mandie-Filer, Ruth Saovana-Spriggs and Tarcisius Kabutaulaka.</td>
<td>‘The Sandline affair in PNG: views from near and far’ Organised by Sinclair Dinnen, Ron May, Anthony Regan and Bill Standish</td>
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<td>12–14 August 1997</td>
<td>Eight speakers from the ANU, including Tarcisius Kabutaulaka, with Professor Joel Migdal (University of Washington) as keynote speaker</td>
<td>‘Weak and strong states in Melanesia and Southeast Asia’ Organised by Peter Dauvergne</td>
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<td>2 October 1997</td>
<td>Four members of the PNG Ombudsman Commission: Simon Pentanu (Chief Ombudsman); Greg Toop (Counsel); David Canning (Director, Legal Services); Raho Italo (Secretary)</td>
<td>‘The role and performance of the PNG Ombudsman Commission’ Organised by Anthony Regan</td>
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<tr>
<td>21 November 1997</td>
<td>Seven speakers, including Ruth Saovana-Spriggs and representatives from AusAID and DFAT</td>
<td>‘The peace process in Bougainville’ Organised by Anthony Regan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11–12 December 1997</td>
<td>Twenty-three speakers, of whom fifteen were from the ANU or other Australian universities and eight came from the region. The Melanesian participants were Afu Billy and Christina Ramosaea from Solomon Islands; Andonia Piau-Lynch from Vanuatu; Sarah Garap and Maxine Makail from Papua New Guinea; Tarcisius Kabutaulaka (Solomon Islands) and John Ondawame (West Papua), PhD students at ANU.</td>
<td>‘Violence in Melanesia’ Organised by Sinclair Dinnen</td>
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APPENDIX C

STATE, SOCIETY AND GOVERNANCE IN MELANESIA PUBLICATIONS

MONOGRAPH SERIES


DISCUSSION PAPER SERIES

98/2 Binayak Ray, Good Governance, Administrative Reform and Socioeconomic Realities.

98/1 John Haglegam, Traditional Leaders and Governance in Micronesia.

97/9 Philip Tepahae, Chiefly Power in Southern Vanuatu.

97/8 Penelope Schoeffel, Myths of Community Management: Sustainability, the State and Rural Development in Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

97/7 Sam Alasia, Party Politics and Government in Solomon Islands.

97/6 Satish Chand, Ethnic Conflict, Income Inequity and Growth in Independent Fiji.

97/5 Peter Larmour, Corruption and Governance in the South Pacific.

97/4 Stephanie Lawson, Cultural Traditions and Identity Politics: some implications for democratic governance in Asia and the Pacific.

97/3 ‘I Futa Helu, Tradition and Good Governance.

97/2 Tomasi Vakatora, Traditional Culture and Modern Politics.

97/1 Sinclair Dinnen, Law, Order and State in Papua New Guinea.

96/3 David Ambrose, A Coup that Failed? Recent political events in Vanuatu.

96/2 Peter Larmour, Models of Governance and Development Administration.

96/1 Peter Larmour, Research on Governance in Weak States in Melanesia.

Three Discussion Papers are currently in press. The financial support provided by the Commonwealth of Australia through AusAID is gratefully acknowledged on all SSGM Project publications and publicity material.