

## Weaving Across Nations

Voices from yesterday, today & tomorrow  
Stories from the Bilum



*Anne-Marie Wanamp,  
University of Goroka*

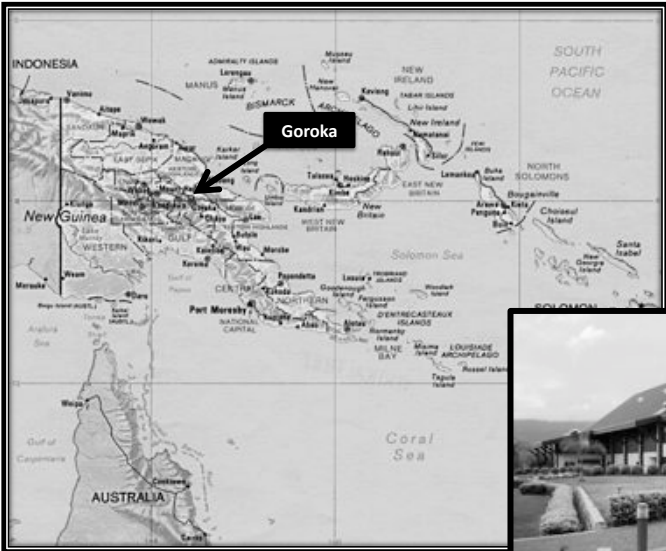
*Steven Bird,  
University of Melbourne*

*19 August, 2011*

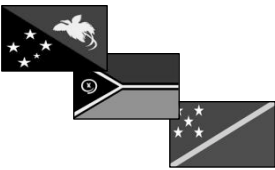
## Papua New Guinea






# The University of Goroka



# Serving students from across the Pacific



  
A presentation from the  
*Language & Literature Department*  
University of Goroka  
By Anne-Marie Wanamp

 *Papua New Guinea* 

## The Goals:



## Cultural Documentation:



Traditional Arts  
Culinary Arts  
Oral Literary Arts  
Performing Arts  
Visual Arts  
Traditional Architecture  
Traditional Healing Arts  
Traditional Transportation  
Traditional Recreation



## Departmental Aims for Language Documentation:

- Students recording oral literature as part of course requirements. This enables documentation, revitalization and preservation of our languages.
- Enhancement of students engagement; encouraging self-directed learning, building self-esteem and confidence (awakening their identity).
- Foster an awareness, knowledge and appreciation of local people, languages and cultures.
- From documented material; develop dictionaries, books and other educational materials for use domestically and abroad.

## Basic Oral Language Documentation (BOLD) Project PNG



*Dr Steven Bird at UOG*



## BOLD Basic Oral Language Documentation



*100 Staff and Students in 3 PNG universities, trained by Steven Bird*

### **BOLD: Training**



### **BOLD: Transcription**



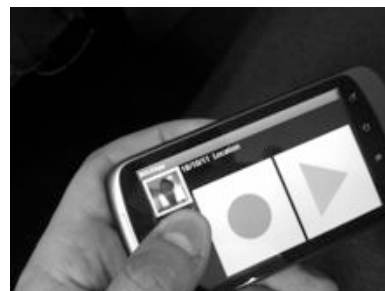
## BOLD: Metadata





| Date/Loc                   | Identifier | Operator         | Participants           | Type | Topic   | Comments  |
|----------------------------|------------|------------------|------------------------|------|---|---|
| 27/09/10<br>Pababak<br>Lae | D26-B01    | Ortis<br>MANDIKA | Mr Hendika<br>Batawang | N    | Legend  | - Recording was OK<br>- Permission granted<br>- Oral Translation - done<br>- Transcribing - done. |
| 28/09/10<br>Pababak<br>Lae | D26-B02    | ✓                | Mrs Zanigo<br>Batawang | P    | How to<br>make<br>oilum                         | - Recording OK<br>- Permission granted<br>- Oral Translation - done<br>- Transcribing - done      |
| 29/09/10<br>Pababak<br>Lae | D26-B03    | ✓                | Mr Gama Aze            | R    | Yam<br>story                                    | - Recording OK<br>- Permission granted<br>- Oral Translation - done<br>- Transcribing - done      |
| 30/09/10<br>Pababak<br>Lae | D26-B04    | ✓                | Mrs Zanigo<br>Batawang | I    | Non-<br>verbal<br>form of<br>communi-<br>cation | - Recording OK<br>- Permission granted<br>- Oral Translation - done<br>- Transcribing - done.     |
| 30/09/10<br>Pababak<br>Lae | D26-B05    | ✓                | Mr Gama<br>Aze         | R    | Traditional<br>Healing                          | - Recording OK<br>- Permission granted<br>- Oral Translation - done<br>- Transcribing - done.     |

## BOLD:PNG Summary

- 100 staff and students trained
- so far, materials from 50 languages have been collected and archived (IPNGS archive)
- ongoing work at UoG, DWU, UPNG
- new activities:
  - mobile application
  - establishing the Alekano Wikipedia



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|--|--|
| <h2 style="text-align: center;">Departmental Strands</h2>  |  |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Language/English</li> <li>2. Linguistics</li> <li>3. Literature</li> <li>4. Languages Other than English             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4.1 Alekano (Goroka)</li> <li>4.2 Japanese</li> <li>4.3 French</li> <li>4.4 Tok Pisin</li> <li>4.5 Hiri Motu</li> <li>4.6 Mandarin (In-progress)</li> <li>4.7 Bhasa Indonesia (In-progress)</li> </ol> </li> </ol> |  |

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <h2 style="text-align: center;">Current Courses Able to Integrate Documentation</h2>   |  |
| <p><u>Year One</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction to Literature</li> <li>• Introduction to Sociolinguistics</li> <li>• Styles of Writing in Literature</li> </ul> | <p><u>Year Two</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Literature of PNG</li> <li>• Literature of South Pacific</li> <li>• Oral Literature</li> <li>• Poetry</li> <li>• Art of Storytelling</li> <li>• Children Literature</li> <li>• Performance Literature</li> </ul> |
|   |  |

## Courses that will Integrate Documentation



### Year Four

- Folklore
- Film as Literary Text
- Language, Literature and Culture
- Other courses in the Honors Program....

### Year Three

- Creative Writing I
- Creative Writing II
- Performance Literature II
- Postcolonial Drama
- Postcolonial Literature



## Annual UOG Events where we are able to Integrate Documentation

- International Mother Tongue Day (Feb 21)
- UOG Day (March 25)
- UOG – Students Cultural Show (July 31)
- International Indigenous Day, (August 9)
- National Literacy Week (Sept 5-9)
- National Independence Day (Sept 16/Goroka Show)
- Many other opportunities

Students in Bilum Wear



**A sample of this approach used in an undergraduate course at UOG:**

**HLIT 336 – Oral Literature**  
**Course Description:**

- Examine the role of oral literature in the development of culture.
- Students will study oral narratives that have been collected from PNG and the Pacific-rim nations.
- They will also examine techniques in collecting oral stories and histories, as well as learn techniques in the art of telling oral narratives.
- Students will present an oral narrative from their own culture.

**Expected Outcomes:**

- This course aims to provide insight and appreciation of the rich heritage of oral literature in indigenous societies.
- This course will examine various genres under oral literature and ways in which these oral forms of literature can be preserved and maintained for future generations, with a particular focus of Papua New Guinean and Melanesian oral literature.

## *Language & Literature Students Celebrating International Mother Tongue Day*

**Oh arise all you sons of this land  
Let us sing of our joy to be free  
Praising God and rejoicing to be  
Papua New Guinea**

**Now give thanks to the God Lord above  
For His kindness, His wisdom and love  
For this land of our fathers so free  
Papua New Guinea**

**Shout our name from the mountains to seas  
Papua New Guinea  
Let us raise our voices and proclaim  
Papua New Guinea**



A proud Engan student from the Language & Literature department  
singing the Papua New Guinea national anthem in his mother tongue

**Students presentation of  
their items in their  
mother tongue**



A presentation board for International Mother Tongue Day 2011. The board features the title "INTERNATIONAL MOTHER TONGUE DAY CELEBRATIONS 2011" at the top. Below the title, it lists the theme: "The importance of traditional and communicative technologies for the safeguarding and promotion of languages and linguistic diversity". It also includes a question: "How can we use available information and communication technology to...". At the bottom, there are three checkboxes: "Promote our languages?", "Promote our linguistic diversity?", and "Safeguard our languages?". A photograph of a group of students is visible at the bottom of the board.

## Advantages of implementing BOLD methodology at UOG



1. Student populations consist literally of hundreds of individual languages and cultures from around the Pacific region.
2. Documentation is incorporated in coursework and assessed. No additional costs for students to learn documentation skills.
3. Students use their existing social and cultural networks to gather required documentation and work independently.

### Cultural occasions in society that the department has access to document:

- **Bride price ceremonies** (which differ significantly with different language groups)
- **Initiation ceremonies** (that differ significantly with different language groups)
- **Yam Festival** (preparation, planting and harvesting of yams – different language groups that grow yams have distinct ways of celebrating)
- **Traditional marriages**
- **And many more...**



A sample of the Department's documentation work

## **Bride Price Ceremony**

Nambari Village, Yangoru,  
East Sepik Province

### Food contribution



Communicating to the surrounding  
villages the date of the event



Preparing monies to contribute



Traditional Money: yua and cash  
used in bride price



Checking out the 'yua'



## Our Dreams for the Future

- To raise awareness of the importance of language documentation.
- Create opportunities for domestic and international research and documentation.
- To archive a central data bank of languages in the department.
- To integrate language documentation into as many courses as possible.

## Our Dreams for the Future

- To go into filming, audio and video recording for better and more comprehensive documentation.
- To have basic linguistic training and methods of documentation for all students and staff in the Faculty.
- To assist staff and students to conduct research in their own languages and cultures for further studies.
- To build capacity for language documentation across Papua New Guinea.

*As we continue weaving our bilum, we want to wish you the best with your weaving!*



**Tenk yu tru long tim bilong yu!**



**The Language & Literature Department**