United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

Memory of the World

MOWCAP

UNESCO Memory of the World
Regional Committee for Asia/Pacific

Nomination form
Asia/Pacific *Memory of the World* Register

Office Use Only	
ID code:	Item or collection short title:
Institution / Owner:	Country or countries
Assessed by: (Rujaya Abhakorn) (date) / / (xxxxxx) (date) / / (xxxxxx) (date) / / (xxxxxx) (date) / /	Decision: (circle as appropriate) 1. Recommended 2. Not recommended 3. Recommended subject to the following (attach additional comments if required):

Introduction

This form should be used to nominate items to the Asia/Pacific *Memory of the World* Register. It sets out, in logical order, the range of information needed. Nominations should be expressed in clear concise language and lengthy submissions are not required.

Supplementary data may be attached. Please clearly label and number every page in the boxes provided.

It is highly recommended that prospective nominees should carefully read the *Guidelines* for nominating items and collections to the Asia/Pacific *Memory of the World* Register for further information before and during preparing a nomination. Nominees should also look at the current International *Memory of the World* Register
http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL_ID=1678&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html
and the Australian *Memory of the World* Register to see examples of completed nomination forms.

Please submit two complete document sets on paper (one original and one photocopied versions) and one electronically.

Completed nominations should be posted by mail and submitted electronically to reach the following address:

Ms Helen Swinnerton
Secretary General of MOWCAP,
1/F Tower 2 & 3, HSBC Centre, 1 Sham Mong Road, Kowloon
Hong Kong
helen.swinnerton@gmail.com

The nomination form and any accompanying material will not be returned and will become the property of MOWCAP.

MOWCAP maintains a website at http://www.unesco.mowcap.org. Questions may be addressed to the MOWCAP Register Subcommittee (rujaya2000@yahoo.com). Please keep a copy of this form for your records and in case we need to contact you.

Please also keep an electronic version of the completed form as we will need this for successful nominations to speed up entries onto the MOWCAP website.

Ray Edmondson
Chair, MOWCAP

Nomination form

Asia/Pacific *Memory of the World* Register nomination form

Part A: Essential information

1 Summary (max 100 words)

The *Indentured labour records 1863 – 1908* are unique government records documenting the arrival, employment and deportation or exemption from deportation of South Sea Islanders in Queensland. As well as being significant for Australian-born descendents of the original Islander generation, they enable Islanders to reclaim their history and kinships and, on a broader scale, they provide a greater understanding of nineteenth-century migration regionally and its impact on social, economic and cultural ties today.

The South Sea Islander labour trade for Queensland's developing primary industries had substantial cultural, economic and political impact not only within Australia but throughout the Pacific region.

2 Nominator

2.1 Name of nominator (person or organisation)

Queensland State Archives
Department of Science, Information Technology, Innovation and the Arts (DSITIA)
Queensland Government

2.2 Relationship to the nominated documentary heritage

Custodian

2.3 Contact person(s)

Janet Prowse
Executive Director & State Archivist

2.4 Contact details

Name	Address
Janet Prowse	PO Box 1397 Sunnybank Hills Queensland 4109

Telephone	Facsimile	Email
+61 7 3131 7777	+61 7 3131 7764	info@archives.qld.gov.au

3 Details of the Nominated Documentary Heritage

3.1 Title of documentary heritage item or collection

Queensland South Sea Islander *Indentured labour records 1863 - 1908*

3.2 Catalogue or registration details

This collection of nominated records has been arranged and described by archivists at Queensland State Archives and the records are listed in the catalogue ArchivesSearch. All previous system identifiers have been included in the catalogue entry.

A descriptive list of all nominated records is outlined in Attachment A. Following is a summary of the nominated records.

Colonial Secretary's Office

Queensland Health Officer's Report on the passengers travelling on the labour ship *Don Juan*
17/8/1863 – 17/8/1863
Item ID 1238614

Inspector of Pacific Islanders

Register of agreements
1/04/1884 - 31/08/1897
Series ID 13173

Inspector of Pacific Islanders, Childers

Ledger, Pacific Islanders' wages
1/01/1896 - 31/07/1908
Series ID 7752

Inspector of Pacific Islanders, Maryborough

Register of ships' arrivals
2/06/1868 - 23/12/1881
Series ID 13176

Register of ships' arrivals at Maryborough
9/03/1869 - 26/03/1877
Series ID 13174

Register of ships' departures
5/01/1869 - 14/10/1881
Series ID 13177

Registers of agreements
1/06/1877 - 31/10/1903
Series ID 13184

Memoranda of agreements re employment of Pacific Islanders
1/01/1877 - 31/12/1906
Series ID 13175

Record of deaths of Polynesians
1/01/1878 - 30/11/1880
Series ID 13193

Register of Pacific Island Labourers exempt from the Provisions of Clauses 3, 4 & 10 of the Act
7/05/1884 - Circa 31/12/1885
Series ID 13179

Cash book, Pacific Islanders' wages
2/02/1885 - 26/11/1907
Series ID 13183

Ledger, Pacific Islanders' wages
1/02/1885 - 30/11/1907
Series ID 13181

Government Savings Bank Pass-Books
13/03/1885 - 31/08/1899
Series ID 5246

Cash books, Queensland National Bank Account
6/01/1886 - 7/10/1907
Series ID 13182

Circulars to the Inspector of Pacific Islanders
14/08/1887 - 28/07/1908
Series ID 13188

Letterbooks
31/12/1888 - 13/02/1908
Series ID 13185

Book of receipts for return passages of Polynesian (Pacific Island) labourers
30/01/1890 - Circa 31/05/1904
Series ID 13192

Books of telegrams sent
16/09/1892 - 1/05/1902
Series ID 13197

Register of Re-agreements
6/03/1893 - 1/02/1905
Series ID 13186

Book of permits to carry Pacific Islanders Coastwise
30/11/1896 - 23/03/1905
Series ID 13180

Miscellaneous correspondence & forms
28/03/1898 - 28/02/1908
Series ID 13190

Logbooks of vessels "Helena" and "Lochiel"
18/11/1898 - 14/07/1903
Series ID 16998

Books of memoranda sent
31/07/1899 - 1/06/1908
Series ID 13196

List of Pacific Island labourers engaged on the "Sydney Belle"
19/10/1903 - 19/10/1903
Series ID 13194

Inspector of Pacific Islanders, Port Douglas

Cash book, Pacific Islanders' wages
Circa 1/10/1890 - Circa 31/05/1902
Series ID 13201

Ledger, Pacific Islanders' wages
Circa 1/02/1891 - Circa 30/06/1907
Series ID 13199

Register of agreements
Circa 1/01/1894 - Circa 31/12/1905
Series ID 13202

Letterbook
12/08/1906 - 11/02/1908
Series ID 13200

Inspector of Pacific Islanders, Townsville

Ledger, Pacific Islanders' wages
12/12/1884 - 31/12/1907
Series ID 13203

Account book
7/01/1881 - 30/03/1883
Series ID 7244

Register of returns of number of Pacific Islanders employed
30/06/1885 - 30/06/1896
Series ID 13204

Cash book, Pacific Islander' wages
3/07/1885 - 30/07/1908
Series ID 13205

Register of B/Cs sent
30/07/1885 - 24/11/1896
Series ID 18559

Register of applications for exemptions
1/01/190 7 -31/12/1908
Series ID 18560

Immigration Department

Register of Pacific Islanders
1/01/1870 - 31/12/1903
Series ID 13122

List of Pacific Island labourers
1/12/1865 - 31/01/1904
Series ID 13092

Assistant Immigration Agent, Maryborough

Register of rations issued to immigrants, Maryborough
1875 – 1882
Item ID 18418

3.3 Photographs or a video of the documentary heritage

- Image 1: **Queensland Health Officer's Report on the passengers travelling on the labour ship "Don Juan"** (Queensland State Archives Item ID 1238614, Correspondence – inwards) Copyright Department of the Premier and Cabinet.
- Image 2: **Cover label of Register of South Sea Islanders (Pacific Islanders) employed on plantations** (Queensland State Archives Item ID 18844, Register - Pacific Islanders) Copyright Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Multicultural Affairs.
- Image 3: **Page 3 of Register of South Sea Islanders (Pacific Islanders) employed on plantations** (Queensland State Archives Item ID 18844, Register - Pacific Islanders) Copyright Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Multicultural Affairs.
- Image 4: **Page 143 of List of Pacific Island Labourers** (Queensland State Archives Item ID18598, Register - Pacific Islanders) Copyright Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Multicultural Affairs.
- Image 5: **Page 1 of Register of Pacific Islander labourers exempt from the provision of clauses 3, 4, and 10 of the "Pacific Island Labourers Act 1880 Amendment Act 1884"** (Queensland State Archives Item ID 18836, Register - Pacific Islanders) Copyright Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Multicultural Affairs.

3.4 History/Origin/Background/Provenance

The nominated records were transferred to Queensland State Archives during the period from 1960 to 2002. A detailed breakdown of these transfers is available in Attachment B.

3.5 Bibliography

Moore, Clive, 1985, *Kanaka: a History of Melanesian Mackay*, Institute of Papua New Guinea Studies and the University of Papua New Guinea, Port Moresby.

Moore, Clive, 2001, 'The South Sea Islanders of Mackay, Queensland Australia', in Judith M Fitzpatrick (ed.), *Endangered Peoples of Oceania: struggles to survive and thrive,* Greenwood Press, Westport (Ct).

Saunders, Kay, 1982, Workers in bondage: the origins and bases of unfree labour in Queensland 1824 -1916, University of Queensland Press, St Lucia.

3.6 Names, qualifications and contact details of up to three independent people or organisations with expert knowledge about the values and provenance of the documentary heritage

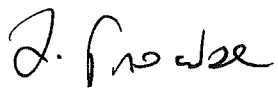
Name	Qualifications	Address
The Hon Ralph Regenvanu	BA (Hons), Development Studies and Anthropology LLB	Member of Parliament, Vanuatu P.O. Box 1189 Port Vila Vanuatu Email: ralph@graonmojastis.org

Name	Qualifications	Address
Professor Clive Moore	PhD BA (Hons) CSI	McCaughey Professor of Pacific and Australian History School of History, Philosophy, Religion and Classics The University of Queensland Brisbane Queensland 4072 Email: c.moore@uq.edu.au

Name	Qualifications	Address
Dr Alan Maxwell Quanchi	TPTC BA (Hons) MA (Monash) PhD (Qld)	Senior Lecturer, History Discipline School of Social Sciences University of the South Pacific Laucala Campus Suva Fiji Email: Quanchi_a@usp.ac.fj

I assert that the above named referees have given their written permission for their names and contact details to be used in connection with this nomination for the Asia/Pacific *Memory of the World* Register, and their names to appear on the website. (Contact details will not appear on the website or be disclosed by the MOWCAP to any third party).

Signature



Date 21 November 2013

Full name (Please PRINT)

Ms Janet Prowse
Executive Director & State Archivist
Queensland State Archives

4 Legal information

4.1 Owner of the documentary heritage (name and contact details)

Name

Queensland Government -
Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Multicultural Affairs
Department of the Premier and Cabinet

Address

Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Multicultural Affairs
PO Box 15397
City East QLD 4002

Department of the Premier and Cabinet
PO Box 15185
City East QLD 4002

Contact

Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Multicultural Affairs
Telephone: +61 7 3404 3622
Facsimile: +61 7 3224 2070
Email: askatsip@communities.qld.gov.au

Department of the Premier and Cabinet
Telephone: +61 7 3224 2111
Facsimile: +61 7 3229 2990
Email: premiers.master@premiers.qld.gov.au

4.2 Custodian of the documentary heritage (name and contact details if different from the owner)

Name	Address
Queensland State Archives	PO Box 1397 Sunnybank Hills Queensland 4109

Telephone	Facsimile	Email
+61 7 3131 7777	+61 7 3131 7764	info@archives.qld.gov.au

4.3 Legal status

The nominated records are permanent archival public records of the Queensland Government and are kept, managed and preserved at Queensland State Archives. Part 3 of the *Public Records Act 2002* outlines the functions and powers of the State Archivist and Queensland State Archives.

- Ownership statement signed by the Director General of the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Multicultural Affairs is attached (Attachment C)
- Ownership statement signed by the Director General of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet is attached (Attachment D).

4.4 Accessibility

All the nominated records are open records and have been digitised. Therefore the records are available to search and view on Queensland State Archives' online catalogue, ArchivesSearch.

An online index has been developed to assist with access to many of these records. This Australian South Sea Islanders' index is available on the Queensland State Archives' website. Further online indexes are planned over the next two years to increase accessibility to these records.

A Guide to Australian South Sea Islander records has been prepared and is available on the Queensland State Archives' website. This guide includes the nominated records and other records pertaining to the South Sea Islanders in Queensland.

A youtube video, The Australian South Sea Islander collection, was also developed to highlight the historical significance of the records in the Australian South Sea Islander collection at Queensland State Archives and to provide information about researching these records.

There are no access restrictions on these records.

4.5 Copyright status

The nominated records are subject to Crown copyright.

The Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation is responsible for the administration of Crown copyright and other intellectual property (IP) for the Queensland Government.

Enquiries about the administration of Crown IP should be directed to the Secretariat at crown.ip@qld.gov.au.

- Copyright statement signed by the Director General of the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Multicultural Affairs is attached (Attachment C)
- Copyright statement signed by the Director General of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet is attached (Attachment D).

5 Assessment against the selection criteria

5.1 First criterion: authenticity. Is the documentary heritage what it appears to be? Has its identity and origin been reliably established?

These South Sea Islander records are original official documents created under the legal framework, established through legislation, prescribing the operation of the indentured labour system in Queensland between 1863 and 1908. The records were created by the Inspectors of Pacific Islanders and the Immigration Department and their authenticity has been verified by the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Multicultural Affairs and by the Queensland State Archives.

5.2 Second criterion: world significance. Is the documentary heritage unique and irreplaceable, something whose disappearance or deterioration would constitute a harmful impoverishment of the heritage of humanity? Has it created a great impact over a span of time and/or within a particular supra-national cultural area of the region? Is it representative of a type, but it has no direct equal? Has it had great influence – whether positive or negative – on the course of history?

The records of the South Sea Islanders are of world significance in documenting a period of

indentured labourer movement from 1863 to 1908 that caused significant change and impact to people, place and systems both in Queensland and the Asia/Pacific region. The nominated records document recruitment, arrival, employment, and deportation or exemption from deportation of South Sea Islanders who were brought to Queensland during this time.

Australian South Sea Islanders are the Australian-born descendants of predominantly Melanesian people who were brought to Queensland between 1863 and 1904 from eighty Pacific islands, but primarily Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands. The records are of irreplaceable social, cultural, and historical significance as they capture a unique history of South Sea Islander communities:

- The South Sea Islanders who came to Queensland were displaced from their home land and their lives were transformed as they coped with the challenges of leaving their village existence and living and working in a new place, a foreign territory. The Islanders they left behind faced the challenges of loss of family and workforce, sometimes long term. Many South Sea Islanders returned to their home island at the end of an indenture period, many were deported but those exempted from deportation chose to remain in Australia and this has had enduring impact on descendants in Australia and in the Pacific islands.

- The contributions of South Sea Islanders to the burgeoning Queensland colony ensured the development and advancement of several industries, particularly the sugar industry.

- Leading up to the Federation of the Australian colonies, debate abounded regarding restricting categories of migrants to enter Australia. Some of the first pieces of Federal legislation focused on immigration restriction and, hand in hand with this, were the cessation of using "Pacific Labourers" and the compulsory return of South Sea Islanders to their home islands. These were the components of 'White Australia' legislation, which endured well into the second half of the twentieth century.

The records also offer a rich primary source material for academics, local and family historians. These records have been cited by historians exploring the indentured labour scheme and its impact on people and place and by scholars reconstructing the colonial administration of the time. The records also provide a unique and invaluable resource that enables Islanders to reclaim their history and their kinships.

And most importantly, these records are unique and irreplaceable being originals and the only authentic documentation available. Their deterioration or loss would leave a void in the greater understanding of nineteenth century migration in the Pacific and erode the sense of belonging and connection of many descendants of the original South Sea Islander labourers.

5.3 Third, world significance must be demonstrated in meeting one or more of the following criteria. Because significance is comparative, these criteria are best illustrated by checking them against items of documentary heritage already inscribed (for example) on the International *Memory of the World* Register:

Time: **Is it especially evocative of its time (which may have been one of crisis, or significant social or cultural change; it may represent a new discovery or be the "first of its kind")**

The records of the "Indian Indentured Labourers" were inscribed into the International *Memory of the World Register* in 2011. These records were submitted by Fiji, Guyana, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago and exhibit the records of the receiving colonies. As described in their nomination these records are an "irreplaceable part of our humanity".

Similarly, Queensland government officials recorded many aspects of the South Sea Island indentured labourers' arrival, employment and repatriation. These South Sea Islander records reflect the underpinning philosophies and priorities prevalent at the time of their creation. The nature and uniqueness of the records makes them an extremely valuable resource that is increasing in relevance as the islands of the Asia/Pacific region continue to reconnect with their past and heritage and descendants reconnect with their families.

Place: **Does it contain crucial information about a locality important in the history of the region and its cultures? Or did the location have an important influence on the events or phenomena represented by the documentary heritage? Or is it descriptive of physical environments, cities or institutions since vanished?**

The indentured labour system brought around 50 000 South Sea Islanders to Queensland from 1863 to 1904. This is represented by approximately 62 000 indentured labour contracts over forty-one years. Seminal to the development of Queensland's economy, this indentured labour system transformed the lives of Islanders by removing and relocating men and women to an unfamiliar environment, living and working conditions. The lives of their descendants, living around Australia, have also been affected as they sought to be recognised as a distinct cultural group.

The majority of South Sea Islanders provided an inexpensive workforce for sugar planters and played a significant role in the development of this industry. They also contributed to the pastoral, pearling and marine industries, and domestic services. South Sea Islanders worked long hours, performed physically exhausting tasks for little return and lived in poor conditions.

The practice of engaging indentured labour from the South Sea islands had an immediate and lasting impact on the growth and development of Queensland, ensuring its dominance in the Asia/Pacific region. These official records provide a tangible connection between the development of Queensland and the impact on the Islands of the removal of labour. Equally as important is that the records provide an indelible connection for the descendants of those labourers.

People: **Is it related to people in a social and cultural context that reflects significant aspects of human behaviour, or social, industrial, artistic or political development. It may reflect the important roles and impact of key or certain individuals or groups.**

Australian South Sea Islanders are the direct descendants of South Sea Islanders who were brought into Australia between 1863 and 1904 to work as indentured labourers. Australian South Sea Islanders have a unique place in Australian and Queensland history because they have neither an Indigenous nor a traditional immigration heritage. They have added to the cultural richness of Australian society, particularly when South Sea Islanders stayed in Australia and established permanent ties to local communities.

The return of South Sea Islanders at the end of the indenture period also had an enduring impact on the Pacific Islands. Through necessity, Pidgin English evolved as a means of communication in work environments and as a principal form of inter-group communication in settlements. Pidgin English was taken back to the Pacific islands and indeed is now the official language of Vanuatu.

As the most detailed record of the indentured labour system these documents contain personal details which provide an immensely important source of information for the descendants of the South Sea Island labourers and for researchers concerned with humanities, demography and development issues. These records hold considerable social and historical value in Australia and the Pacific.

Subject and theme: **The subject matter may represent particular historical or intellectual developments in natural, social and human sciences, politics, ideology, sports and the arts.**

Over a period of about 40 years South Sea Islanders were recruited from Melanesia, mainly the Solomon Islands and New Hebrides (Vanuatu). Islanders also came from the Loyalty Islands (part of modern New Caledonia), Gilbert (Kiribati) and Ellice (Tuvalu) Islands. Some came from islands now included in Papua New Guinea and a few from Rotuma which is now part of Fiji.

Both the Commonwealth (1994) and Queensland (2000) governments formally recognised Australian South Sea Islanders as a distinct cultural group. The formal Recognition Statement by the Queensland Government acknowledges the past injustices to the Australian South Sea Islanders as well as their significant contributions to the economic, cultural and social development of Queensland.

Although it is recognised that family/community oral history may provide an alternative view to the official record, these records provide evidence for ancestral and lineage research for South Sea Islander communities within Australia and in the Pacific Islands. The South Sea Islanders brought to Queensland between 1863 and 1904 were predominantly Melanesian people from eighty Pacific Islands, but primarily Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands. These documents may provide information that adds to generational stories and provides documentary evidence which supports the cultural understandings of regional events and the re-establishment of family/community ties in the Pacific Islands.

Form and style: **The item(s) may have outstanding aesthetic, stylistic or linguistic value, be a typical or key exemplar of a type or presentation, custom or medium, or of a disappeared or disappearing carrier or format.**

Much of the documentary heritage material is bound in registers typically used by government officers in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Many of the volumes have been specifically designed and typeset to match legislative requirements. Other features of these registers include half leather covers with springback binding, watermarked paper, embossed lettering and a decorative rolled border on the label. Officers recorded the information in the records using cursive script of the day.

6 Other matters taken into account: rarity, integrity and threat

Rarity **Does the content or physical nature of the documentary heritage make it a rare surviving example of its type or time?**

The nominated records are the unique and original records created by Queensland government officers from 1863 to 1908. This is the largest surviving collection of evidential material that documents South Sea Island indentured labourers in Queensland and corresponding migration patterns across the Asia/Pacific region during this period. These records are rare and such records are not held by any other Australian state or federal agency.

There was no government in a modern sense in the Solomon Islands or Vanuatu until the late 1890s – 1900s so the Queensland State Archives' records may be seen as the earliest government records for these countries.

National Archives of Australia holds records about South Sea Islanders. These records reflect the administration of the Commonwealth Act (*Pacific Island Labourers Act 1901*) and include records about deportation and exemption.

Integrity **Within the natural physical limitations of carrier survival, is the documentary heritage complete or partial? Has it been altered or damaged?**

This is the largest known surviving collection of records created by Queensland government officials concerning indentured South Sea Island labourers in Australia. The collections as a whole are comprised of primary source materials in their original state. These original records have been housed in various government agencies since the late 1860s and have survived a range of environmental conditions and organisational changes and are now in the care and control of Queensland State Archives. They have all been arranged and described according to sound archival principles and are searchable via Queensland State Archives' online catalogue, *ArchivesSearch*.

The records are largely complete and legible in their original form. The records have not been altered and remain accessible for research purposes.

Threat **Is its survival in danger? If it is secure, must vigilance be applied to maintain that security? Detail the nature and scope of threats.**

There are no unusual risks pertaining to the items other than those associated with these types of formats. The items are stored in a purpose built repository in secure, environmentally controlled storage on appropriate shelving for their formats.

Queensland State Archives actively manages risk to the collection, including these items, through risk assessment activities and planning, including a disaster management plan for collections. Other risk mitigation activities are carried out including integrated pest management, regular monitoring of temperature and relative humidity, maintenance and cleaning, and reformatting for preservation and access.

7 Preservation and Access Management Plan

Is there a management plan in existence for this documentary heritage? Are there strategies to preserve and provide access to it?

YES NO

If yes, describe or attach a summary of the plan. If no, please provide details about current method of storage and custody of the materials.

All the items identified have had a preservation assessment to ensure their longevity and preventative conservation plans have been developed to sustain and ensure the survival of the collection. They are housed in a purpose built repository in secure, environmentally controlled storage appropriate for their format. As part of the preservation assessment and ongoing management some items have been prioritised for preservation treatment and reformatting.

All of these records have been digitised.

8 Any other information

Please provide any other information that supports the inclusion of this item(s) / collection on the Asia/Pacific *Memory of the World* Register.

As part of the annual Harmony Day celebrations, Queensland State Archives produces a display highlighting the contributions made by one of Queensland's migrant communities.

In 2009, three banners were produced to highlight the contributions made by South Sea Islanders in Queensland. A variety of records held at Queensland State Archives were used in the production of the banners. The virtual banners can be viewed at: http://www.archives.qld.gov.au/Researchers/Exhibitions/Immigration/Pages/SouthSeaIslanders.aspx

As a result of these banners being circulated throughout Queensland for various community events commemorating the 150 year anniversary of South Sea Islanders being brought to Queensland, requests have been received for images to be sent to Vanuatu and to the National Archives of Solomon Islands in Honiara.

In a recent Australia Network story, 'Blackbirding' history to become part of Vanuatu's school curriculum, Catherine Graue reports that 'although storytelling is a popular pasttime in Vanuatu, the stories of those who were blackbirded have been surprising neglected'. Ms Graue continues to comment that Vanuatu's government is now undertaking a massive overall of the national school curriculum to address such historical legacies and has its sights set on amending the constitution to allow dual citizenship for South Sea Islander descendants. Not only can these unique records held at Queensland State Archives help connect Vanuatuns to a significant period in their history, the records are the only documents for ancestral and lineage research for the numerous descendants of these South Sea Islanders.

Throughout the records various terms are used to describe the indentured South Sea Islanders. These terms reflect the language of the day and include the descriptors Polynesians, Pacific Islanders, Kanakas and Melanesians.

9 Checklist

Nominees may find completing the following checklist useful before sending the nomination form to MOWCAP.

☑	MOWCAP website reviewed
☑	Introduction read
☑	summary completed (maximum100 word) (section 1)
☑	Nomination and contact details completed (section 2)
☐ N/A	If this is a joint nomination, section 2 appropriately modified
☑	Documentary heritage identified (sections 3.1 – 3.3)
☑	History/Origin/Background/Provenance completed (section 3.4)
☑	Bibliography completed (section 3.5)
☑	Names, qualifications and contact details of up to three independent people or organizations recorded (section 3.6)
☑	Declaration signed and dated that all referees have given their written permission for their names to appear on the MOWCAP website (section 3.6)
☑	Details of owner completed (section 4.1)
☑	Details of custodian – if different from owner - completed (section 4.2)
☑	Details of legal status completed (section 4.3)

☑	Details of accessibility completed (section 4.4)
☑	Details of copyright status completed (section 4.5)
☑	Evidence presented of authenticity (section 5.1)
☑	Evidence presented of world significance (section 5.2)
☑	Evidence presented against one or more additional criteria (section 5.3)
☑	Information presented on rarity, integrity and threat (section 6)
☑	Summary of Preservation and Access Management Plan completed. If there is no formal Plan provide details about current and/or planned access, storage and custody arrangements (section 7)
☑	Any other information provided - if applicable (section 8)
☑	Sample photographs or VDO prepared for MOWCAP use (if required)
☑	Printed copy of Nomination Form made for organisation's records
☑	Electronic copy of Nomination Form made for MOWCAP use (if required)