

30 November 1984

Mr Ashley Wickham
General Manager
Solomon Islands Broadcasting Studios
Honiara
Guadalcanal Island

Dear Mr Wickham,

While talking recently to Mr Jim Foster of the PNG sub-section of ADAB, I learnt of an earlier interest your Broadcasting Station had in encouraging local people to make tape recordings of their own music. I now write to enquire whether you have a definite program of this kind and whether you are still looking for Australian ethnomusicologists to visit the Solomons to help towards the training of people for this purpose.

As a musicologist who has spent many years in recording the music of Australian Aboriginal people, and as one who is constantly in touch with others of similar interests, it seems to me that some of us may be available if your Broadcasting centre is still looking for assistance of this kind.

The Musicological Society of Australia (MSA) has several members involved in ethnomusicological pursuits; and, as a past-President of this Society, I have often suggested that Australians should be attempting to encourage people in the South Pacific to preserve whatever they can of their traditional songs and dances.

Also, as the Australian Liaison Officer of the International Council for Traditional Music (ICTM), I have been attempting to promote interests of this kind. Both the MSA and the ICTM publish annual journals, bulletins and newsletters. There is also a Newsletter of the Australian Branch of the International Association of Sound Archives of which I am editor. Should you still be looking for practical assistance from ethnomusicologists and sound archivists, you may like to take advantage of these channels of communication.

Any suggestions you have should, I think, be widely circulated. If you are still interested in these matters and have plans requiring the help of ethnomusicologists, or trainees in Australia, I should be glad to redirect them accordingly.

Yours sincerely,

Alice Moyle (Dr)
Honorary Fellow