



A TRIBUTE TO PROFESSOR ANDREW PAWLEY

By May Huvi

It is with a heavy heart that I hear of the passing of Professor Andrew Pawley who was a linguist that has contributed a lot through linguistics. I came to know Andrew when he was looking for someone of the Nakanai Tribe of West New Britain to distribute copies of the Lakalai (Nakanai) Dictionary to the Galilo people of West New Britain.

Ann Chowning, the anthropologist who documented the Lakalai Language had tasked Andrew to do the delivery. Ann had done much of her research in the 1960's in Galilo village with the Bileki people. Andrew helped in the publication of the Lakalai Dictionary.

In 2015, Andrew saw the program for the LSPNG conference which I was part of as a presenter. He asked the LSPNG Editor Olga Temple, if I could help out which I did so in 2016. A few hard copies were sent to my home address in West New Britain. I was teaching in Bougainville so I booked a flight for a term holiday to deliver the dictionary to the adoptive family of Ann.

The few copies were given to the Bai family (Ann's adoptive family) in Galilo village. A photograph of the family which I took was sent to Andrew who showed it to Ann. A few months later she passed on.

The photo attached shows the last copies of the dictionary being sent to me to in 2023 by Andrew while in West New Britain to give to some village elders which I did so. Some are still requesting but I only have the soft copies.

Before Ann's passing, she had this wish that the people of Nakanai (Lakalai) will get hold of their dictionary which they eventually did especially those to whom the research was being carried out and Andrew had fulfilled this wish.

Such a great man he is. We will miss you in the field of linguistics for all the work you have done.

