

# Tribute to late Professor Andrew Pawley

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A linguist with profound love for PNG, its people and its languages...

I remember late Professor Andrew Pawley as a genuine and compassionate man who loved Papua New Guinea, its people and their indigenous languages.

Professor Pawley was the Principal Supervisor of my PhD studies at the ANU from 1996 to 2000. Professor Malcolm Ross and Dr. Tom Dutton were also my Supervisors. I benefitted immensely from these great linguists who studied the Kalam (Pawley), Waskia (Ross), and Koiari (Dutton) languages.

Professor Andrew Pawley's kindness and respect for Papua New Guineans touched the hearts of all those fortunate individuals who worked or studied with him. Occasionally, he would invite me to his home to have meals prepared by his lovely partner. He would say to his wife: "This man (Apoi) is from the Highlands of PNG and Highlanders love pork meat, so do prepare meals with pork meat".

From being an English language teacher, I have now become one of the very few Papua New Guinean structural (descriptive) linguists who have described the grammars of their indigenous languages. A detailed reference grammar of my mother tongue, "The Kewapi language of Papua New Guinea," has now been published and will always be a testament to the invaluable work of my great Mentor and Friend, Professor Andrew Pawley.

May his soul rest in eternal peace!

