



Una Voce News Letter

RETIRED OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

36 Prince Albert Street, MOSMAN. N.S.W. 2088

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December 1978

Dear Member,

The airlines strike interfered with our schedule for writing and printing this Newsletter and doubtless the annual mail rush will cause some further delays. Late or not, let us join together, at least in spirit, to wish one another joy at Christmas and to pray for health and happiness in 1979. On the world scene may the initiatives for peace begun this year come to fruition next year.

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The Minister for Finance has again written pointing out the problems raised by the changes your Committee is seeking in upgrading our benefits, and assuring us that our proposals will be submitted to the Government at the earliest possible time. A problem is that we are actually under several schemes, not merely a single one, and the schemes introduced in 1917 and 1928 need a deal of research. At least we know from this - and other sources - that active consideration is being given to our submission.

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Most of you will have read of the \$62 million being returned to retired Commonwealth Public Servants as a result of the last review of their Superannuation Fund. As you can imagine, this prompted a great many inquiries from our Members about our own Triennial Review which was due in 1973. At the same time our legal advisers made certain suggestions and the outcome of all of this was a three page letter to the Commissioner requesting that the Review be concluded and the results published. I cannot promise any "windfall" - in fact a debit balance would not be surprising - but at least the whole matter would be cleared up.

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We promised to review the Annual Reports of the Commissioner for Superannuation covering our Funds in this Newsletter, but as the 1975 and 1976 Reports have not yet been received we shall have to defer this matter.

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Amendments to our list of Members are published elsewhere. A few more have been received since going to print and these will appear in the next Newsletter.

My apologies to J.C. Williams who appeared as J.G. Williams. I hope the slip has not affected your ability to walk over water, John !

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We have received very few replies to the query about holding the Annual General Meeting during the day, but your Committee is conscious that evening Meetings will become increasingly difficult and would like the idea further discussed at the next Meeting in February. (See Special Notice). We shall try and provide transport for anyone who needs it - provided you let us know.

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Some time ago we reported the passing of David Fenbury. Unlike so many of us, David did put pen to paper and the results have just been published in a 315 page publication 'Practice without policy: genesis of local government in Papua New Guinea.' Professor Robert Parker writes -

'David Fenbury and a handful of other field staff established Papua New Guinea's first elected local councils in the 1950s, mainly on the Gazelle Peninsula. In this book he first details the practical tasks of explanation and persuasion in the villages, of winning co-operation from an uncomprehending and sometimes hostile bureaucracy, of procuring physical and financial resources and helping councils - often literally - to use them. Then he wryly recalls his attempts, with a few like-minded colleagues, to convince higher authority (including his Minister, Paul Hasluck) of the policy implications - the need to restore general native taxation, to encourage sympathetic attitudes in the territory administration, to establish village courts, to deal firmly with organised opposition to the council system, and to enlist councils as promoters and mediators of economic and social change. Fenbury's controversial views, here first published in full, were largely ignored, rejected or misunderstood. By the mid-1970s, disenchantment with local government was widespread. This book provides indispensable material for trying to understand what happened.'

Distributed by the Australian National University Press as Development Studies Centre Monograph No. 13, it is selling at \$9.00. Don't be put off by the academic trappings - David's own inimitable style is there, even if the editor restricts him to calling a spade merely a spade.

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AMENDMENTS TO LIST OF MEMBERS AND WIDOWS OF MEMBERS.

| | | |
|------------------------|--|-----------|
| BERESFORD C.E. | P.O. Box 206, MALANDA | QLD 4885 |
| BURFOOT G. | 52 Lord St., ROSEVILLE | NSW 2069 |
| CHAMPION C. | 12/27 Campbell Pde., Manly Vale | NSW 2093 |
| CLARK H.E. (Lynn) | Unit 24, 5th Floor, 70-72 Marine Pde., SOUTHPORT | QLD 4215 |
| ENDACOTT N.D. | 28 ARBROATH Rd., WANTIRNA SOUTH, MELBOURNE | VIC 3152 |
| HEALEY L.R. | P.O.Box 6695, BOROKO? P.N.G. | |
| HOUGHTON D.H. | Casa del Mar, 14/23 Ramsay St., COLLAROY BEACH | NSW 2097 |
| HUON de NAVRANCOURT J. | 68 Planet Ave., ATHERTON | QLD 4883 |
| Mrs. K. JONES | 6 Cheryl St. NEWPORT | NSW 2106 |
| LEVY I.S. | Unit 9 Casavilla, Booth St., QUEANBEYAN | NSW 2620 |
| MASON S. | 19 Kurrowah Crescent, MARGATE | QLD 4019 |
| McCUBBERY C.P. | 19 Ironside St., ST. LUCIA | QLD 4067 |
| ROBERTS A.A. | 124 Banksia St., HEIDELBERG | VIC 3084 |
| ROBERTSON J.G. | 3 Gilles St., BOWEN | QLD 4805 |
| ROBINSON W.H. | 27 Laurence Ave., ARMIDALE | NSW 2350 |
| WALLIS B.J. | 2A Marriot Way, MORLEY | W.A. 6062 |
| Mrs. G.L. CHALLIS | 104 Regatta Ave., SOUTHPORT | QLD 4215 |
| Mrs. M. HEALY | C/ Yarramin Station, LONGREACH | QLD 4730 |

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VALE

Your Committee regrets having to record the passing of -

Mrs. Mabel E. Allen 14/9/78

Mrs. Doris F. Groves 26/11/78

The Committee extends its deepest sympathy to the relatives of our late friends.

Lack of space precludes comments.

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The President and Committee extend to all Members and Associates their seasonal greetings and best wishes for 1979,

Yours sincerely,

Fred Kaad. (Hon Secretary)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

7.30 p.m. Friday, 9th February 1979

3rd Floor, Air Force Club

213 Clarence Street, Sydney

PLEASE RING PRESIDENT BILL SEALE ON 4283357
IF YOU WANT HELP WITH TRANSPORT

AGENDA:

Apologies

Adoption Minutes 1978 A.G.M.

Business arising from Minutes

President's Report

Financial Report - Treasurer

Progress Report on claim for increased benefits
- Secretary

Progress Report on Triennial Review
- Secretary

Election of Office Bearers

General Business

(a) Time of A.G.M. i.e. night or day

Would Members wishing to nominate Office Bearers
or to add items for discussion under General Business
please write or telephone Secretary (969 1888
969 7217)