



## Una Voce News Letter

RETIRED OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA

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

REGISTERED FOR POSTING AS A PUBLICATION - CATEGORY B

JUNE-JULY 1980

Dear Member,

You will remember that in the June 1978 Newsletter I set out the claims your Association was making to enlarge the eligibility and improve the benefits paid to spouses and children of Members in particular. At this date - 30 June - the claim has been processed by the Department and is with the Minister for Finance, with a reply expected within one or at the most two weeks.

I have therefore written the Newsletter but will defer posting it until the Minister's reply is received. This will be added as a postscript.

\* \* \* \* \*

The 10.5% rise in our superannuation payments will be officially announced tomorrow. When I think of rising costs and inflation I can't help being thankful that the Government did take over the Funds! Some Members have written complaining that we are always three months behind, as our annual July increase is based on the year ending 31 March. Others complain that as the pension is indexed every six months then our superannuation should be treated similarly. Whilst I agree in principle - and certainly sympathise with those Members on low super., and there are quite a few of them - there is no way in which this can be effected given the present ruling economic policies. With my fingers crossed, I predict that there will be very little change in the Budget, which would give the Government the opportunity to make some changes to pensions and superannuation conditions just before the elections - but even this is wishful thinking. Your committee feels that we are doing well under the present arrangements and would only apply for changes as part of a concerted effort by all retired officers' associations.

Members should remember that there is an important difference between a superannuation and, say, an old age pension, and we would be doing ourselves a disservice to try and equate the two in any way.

\* \* \* \* \*

Vice President David Marsh is giving me a helping hand with correspondence, which is improving our service to Members. Who knows, I may be able to twist his arm a little more and persuade him to become Secretary! I anticipate much more correspondence if and when any of our requested changes in superannuation are approved.

\* \* \* \* \*

A reminder for those filling in your taxation returns - your R.O.A.P.N.G. membership fees may be claimed at Item 13 of Form S.

\* \* \* \* \*

As you will see from the report of the Annual General Meeting there was no majority agreement to change the Life Membership fee, which remains as in the original Constitution at ten times the annual fee. Life Membership should have been raised to \$40 (or the Constitution changed) when ordinary membership was raised to \$4 p.a. several years ago, but by an oversight remained at \$20. Your Committee therefore has no alternative but to remind Members that under the Constitution the fee for Life Membership is \$40. Those who in good faith have paid \$20 or whose cheques are in the mail will be regarded as paid up Life Members.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Minutes of the A.G.M. are reported separately in this issue. The Meeting continued for longer than expected but most of the record number of Members attending stayed on for lunch at the Club. The food was good, the prices reasonable, the drinks were wet and alcoholic (depending on your order) and the company of course was excellent. Everyone enjoyed themselves and full marks and thanks go to Doug Parrish, who made the arrangements. As a result of written suggestions, and many comments made that day, your Committee has decided that for this year at least, the Annual Dinner should be replaced by an Annual Luncheon. This caters in particular for those Members who for various reasons find it difficult to attend night functions, especially in winter. Our Annual Luncheon will be held starting at noon on Sunday 19th October at the British Ex-Services Club, 541 Kent St, Sydney. MARK YOUR DIARY NOW - full details in our September issue, but Doug assures me the Parking Station near the Club will open at noon.

\* \* \* \* \*

Members who missed the announcement in the newspapers will be very happy to learn that Her Majesty was pleased to appoint E.G. (Ted) Hicks, former D.C. Wewak, an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire. (Ted came down from his mountain retreat but returned with a somewhat sore head. I wonder why ???!!)

\* \* \* \* \*

KURUMUL TEA

AVAILABLE IN GIFT PACKS FOR YOURSELF OR YOUR FRIENDS -

DESPATCHED IN CARTONS PACKED AS FOLLOWS :

16 x 1/2 lb packets )  
32 x 1/4 lb polycel pouches ) \$11.50

OR

2 x 5 lb polybags bulk tea \$12.00

ORDERS AND CHEQUES SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO :-

THE ACCOUNTANT,  
KURUMUL PLANTATIONS PTY LIMITED,  
C/- FRANCIS GRILL & CO.,  
9TH FLOOR, 6-10 O'CONNELL ST.,  
SYDNEY 2000

DELIVERY TIME BY SURFACE MAIL WOULD BE APPROXIMATELY TWO MONTHS

(We all know Kurumul Tea - it tastes good and it is good! Get the moths out of your pockets and send a carton to a friend! If you're not that friendly send him/her a few packets from your own carton.)

HEAR YE!

HEAR YE!

Our Annual Luncheon will be held at the British Ex-Services Club, 541 Kent St. Sydney, from noon on Sunday 19 October.

Kings Car Park (4 doors away) opens at noon, and the Club is 100 yards from the Kent St. entrance to Town Hall Station, 100 yards from George St. buses and 250 yards from York St. buses at Town Hall. Costs will be kept to a minimum, and individual charges will vary according to what you eat and drink. Full details will be advertised in the September Newsletter.

Sydney metropolitan area Members are expected -- Gosford, Blue Mountains and other nearby areas will be welcomed with open arms -- and country/inter-state Members will get the red carpet treatment !

It is very important for the caterers to have a good idea of the numbers coming, so start making up your parties now !!

AMENDED ADDRESSES

Mrs. H. Fenbury  
128 Ocean Drive  
Quinns Rocks W.A.  
6030

A.H. Johnstone  
56 Greenwood St.  
Brighton, Qld 4017

A.S.C. Patterson  
48 Lee Road,  
Winmalee NSW  
2777

R. Grimshaw  
36 Emblem St.  
Jamboree Heights  
Qld. 4074

Our next Newsletter is scheduled for the end of September and will contain as usual a list of Members. If you want any changes made to your last entry - and have not already let me know - please send new details to reach here by 20th September.

\* \* \* \* \*

V A L E

It is with sincere regret that we record the passing of the following Members. On behalf of all in the Association the Committee extends our sympathy to relatives of these Members.

MR. A.L. SMITH	35 Vulcan St., Kingscliffe, N.S.W. (formerly P & T )
MRS. H. STRONG	45 Holt Avenue, Cremorne, Sydney (widow of Harold George Strong)

\* \* \* \* \*

Newsletters addressed to the following Members have been returned undelivered:

Mr. N. Endacott Apia	Mr. E. Fitzgerald Port Moresby	Mrs. A. Cowley Turramurra	Mr. R. Webb Tweed Hds.
Mrs. E. Ecclestone Woolgoolah	Mrs. B. Webb Sth. Yarra	Mr. A. Corvan Tweed Hds.	Mr. W. Smart Curtin
Mr. R. Gibson Umina Bch.	Mr. K. Rogan Palm Beach	Mr. J. Cantley Bruni Island	Dr. Legrady Paradise Pt
Mrs. V. Towner Latham	D. Anderson Southport		

\* \* \* \* \*

The September Newsletter will go out on time with a revised list of Members and also further details of the Annual Luncheon, together with any more news of our log of claims.

Be happy -- and make someone else happy!

Sincerely

(F.P. Kaad)  
Honorary Secretary

STOP PRESS ::

HURRAH!

HURRAH!

HURRAH!

The letter from the Minister for Finance has finally arrived, having been held until the Budget was brought down. The body of the letter is as follows:

"I refer to previous correspondence concerning your request that the reversionary benefits provisions of the Papua New Guinea (Staffing Assistance) (Superannuation) Regulations be amended to restore their comparability with those of the Superannuation Act 1922.

The Government has agreed that the regulations be amended to:

- (a) increase the rates of, and widen the eligibility qualifications for, widows, children's and orphans' pensions in the same ways as under the Superannuation Act 1922 with effect from and including the first fortnightly pension payday after 1 July 1979; and
- (b) enable the restoration of previously cancelled widows' pensions and the granting of widows', children's and orphans' pensions in respect of contributors or pensioners who died before 1 July 1979 on the same basis as under the Superannuation Act 1922 for those who died before 1 July 1976.

I should mention that the Government considered carefully your request that the changes be made retrospective to 1 July 1976 but concluded that it could only agree to retrospectivity to 1 July 1979.

It will, of course, be necessary for the regulations to be amended before the Government's decision can be given effect and the increases paid. Action is being taken to have the regulations amended as soon as possible."

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To many of you this will be Double Dutch so I suggest you look at the Newsletter of 12 June 1978, where our claims were set out in detail on pages 1 and 2. In general, the Government has agreed to all of our requests, take effect from 1 July 1979. We were not successful in having our requests made retrospective to 1 July 1976, but the Commissioner is being given discretion in this matter. That's the good news - the bad is that action cannot be taken until the necessary Regulations have been passed by the Executive Council. However the Parliamentary Draftsman has been working on them. You will be notified by the Commissioner of all changes as they apply to you personally, and of general matters through your Association, but it will be some weeks before everything is finalised.

All I can say is that successes like this should show Members the worth of belonging to the Association. For me personally it is very satisfying to be able to help Members in this way - it justifies the efforts made over a period of more than two years !



MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 13 APRIL, 1980  
AT THE BRITISH EX-SERVICES CLUB, KENT ST. SYDNEY

The Meeting opened at 11.15 a.m.

Present:

President Seale and members of the Committee, Mr. Clifton-Basset, Mr. Kaad, Mr. Clout, Mr. Keleny, Mr. Parrish, Sir Horace Niall, Miss Oldroyd-Harris, Miss Bignold, Mrs. Foley, and Honorary Auditor Mr. Aitcheson. Approximately 60 Members attending.

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 9 February, 1979, were read, and confirmed on the motion of Mr. Clout, seconded by Sir Horace Niall.

The President suggested that Business Arising from the Minutes would be covered later under General Business. There were no objections.

Apologies:

Messrs. Cox, Clarke, Cottrell-Dormer, Cameron, Dix, Fisher, Ms. Frank, Messrs. Huon de Navrancourt, Husband, Kapp, Lillyman, Mrs. Lonegan, Mr. Leydin, Mrs. McAdam, Messrs. Matheson, Morton, Ogilvie, Pearsall, Pike, Palmer, Ryan, Sippo, Mrs. Smythe, Miss Sharp, Messrs. Tomasetti, Williams.

Persident's Report:

In presenting his report, President Seale welcomed all Members attending, and explained the considerations taken into account by the Committee when changing the venue for the Annual General Meeting - in view of the increased attendance it appeared to be a successful move. He thanked the Committee for their continued support and interest, in particular the Secretary for his energies in pursuing our claims for increased benefits and also, with the invaluable assistance of Mr. and Mrs. Clout, for the new and improved format of the Newsletter. Our membership list was being regularly updated, this being due to the combined efforts of Mr. and Mrs. Clout, Treasurer Miss Oldroyd-Harris, and Mrs. Foley. Miss Oldroyd-Harris was commended for her continued efforts in keeping the finances in order, and Mrs. Foley for her assistance to the Secretary and in the production of the Newsletter.

The President went on to advise the Meeting of the deposit of \$5,000 with the United Permanent Building Society, at the interest rate of 10% which would help to meet the increased running costs of the Association.

The attention of Members was drawn to the work done by Mr. Ian Holmes in his review of the P.N.G. Superannuation Fund Reports. This was greatly appreciated and would help to clarify the position for members.

In closing his report the President, on behalf of all members of the Association, expressed congratulations to the Hon. Secretary, Mr. Kaad on his recent award of the O.B.E.

A.G.M. Minutes cont.

Treasurer's Report

The Meeting was advised that the changes suggested by the Honorary Auditor last year had been implemented.

The Treasurer read the Financial Report. It was moved by Mr. Parrish and seconded by Mr. Howton that the report be accepted. Carried.

Correspondence:

The Secretary proposed that, following the practice approved at last year's A.G.M. only letters of particular interest be read as the bulk of correspondence was of routine nature. However all correspondence was available for inspection by any Member so desiring.

The Secretary mentioned, inter alia, donations from Mr. Meares, Mr. Dix and Mr. Williams, and commended Mr. Bond for introducing three new members.

He had recently written to the Department of Finance, Superannuation Section, requesting up-to-date information on our claim for improved benefits and had received a reply by telephone that morning (which would be confirmed by letter). The Secretary advised the Meeting that our claim had been processed by the Department and was about to go to Cabinet. Any change would require new legislation but we should hear tangible results by early July, and certainly in the Budget.

Election of Office Bearers:

With one exception, the existing Committee were re-elected. As Mr. Clifton-Bassett had advised that he would not be available for election, Mr. David Marsh was elected to the position of Vice-President.

Membership Fees

The Secretary said that he had had enquiries about possible rises in fees. The Constitution provided that changes in annual fees be determined at the A.G.M. The Committee felt that with our high inflation rate we had to build up our savings as much as possible. At the moment no rise in fees was envisaged, but the Committee would suggest that the Meeting give it authority to raise annual fees if it felt that this was desirable.

Mr. Clifton-Bassett raised the question of Life Membership fees but agreed to leave this until amendment of the Constitution was discussed.

Mr. Keleny suggested that the motion be amended to read 'as from 1.1.1981' in line with the Association's financial year accounting. The amendment was agreed to and the motion was carried.

A.G.M. Minutes, cont.

Advertising - Kurumul Tea

Committee Member Mr. Keleny had contacted Kurumul Tea Plantations, and as a result this company would be advertising in our Newsletter. Members will be able to order this flavoursome Highlands tea at favourable prices, and details would be published in the Newsletter.

The Secretary said that other matters would be dealt with in General Business as suggested by the President, but he would like to pay tribute to the sterling work done by Les and Doreen Clout and Pamela Foley.

The Constitution:

The Secretary said that in accordance with the direction of the 1979 A.G.M. the Committee had reviewed the Constitution, acting on the general principle of retaining as much as possible of the old Constitution. Changes had been suggested in Clauses 3, 4, 5, 6 and 10, and the draft of the new proposed Constitution had been circulated to all Members. Clause 8 had been amended at a Special General Meeting in January 1980 to allow the A.G.M. to be held not later than the 30th day of April each year. To safeguard and foster the retirement conditions applicable to all Members, including the conditions applicable to widows and dependents, still remained our major objective. A Member was still defined as a superannuant who was a retired officer or the widow of such an officer, but Associate Membership was widened to include not only public servants but also a former resident of PNG expressing an interest in the objects of the Association. Voting was still restricted to Members. Life Membership was to be five times the annual fee, and fourteen rather than seven days notice had to be given for A.G.M. and general meetings.

Discussion centred principally around membership, voting rights and Life Membership fees.

Mr. Clifton-Bassett made two points -

- (a) Clause 3(e) should be simplified to read "to assist Members to establish themselves in Australia and to advise them in social, legal, medical or other problems they may have"
- (b) The question of widening the eligibility for Associate Membership had raised the old query as to whether we were a social or a service organisation. It was his opinion that we should be a service organisation looking after the interests of Members.

The Secretary then said that the Committee had never at any stage questioned that our first priority must be maintenance of our rights. Section 10, by restricting voting rights to financial members, ensured that control would remain with Members.

Mr. Parrish suggested that Clause 10(a) be amended by inserting after 'Member' "as defined in Clause 4 (a) (1)". This would emphasise that only such Members had voting rights in and therefore no control of, the Association. This was agreed to.



A.G.M. Minutes, cont.

Mr. Holmes queried the status of Associate Members, saying that many would like to become more involved but that, for instance, they had no voting rights.

Discussion followed. There was comment that Associate Members should be restricted to those with many years in PNG - not just one or two. It was agreed that this Constitution did not offer a great deal to Associate Members but it was hoped nevertheless that they would take part in social and general activities.

The Secretary said that originally the annual fee had been two dollars, and Life Membership ten times the annual fee - twenty dollars. When the annual fee was raised to four dollars several years ago, Life Membership should have been raised to forty dollars, but in practice had remained at twenty dollars. The Committee felt that to change Life Membership to forty dollars now would be asking too much. On the other hand there were several cases of associations with a low life membership fee going out of business because they were unable to keep up with inflation and the cost of servicing their Life Members had become too much.

Mr. Holmes suggested that on an actuarial basis and anticipating higher postage charges, a multiplying factor of 10 would give more than the safety margin needed and that a multiplying factor of  $7\frac{1}{2}$  would be sufficient and fair.

Mr. Champion and others argued for safety and a factor of 10 as required in our original Constitution.

Finally it was decided to take a vote to determine whether Life Membership fees should be 10,  $7\frac{1}{2}$ , or 5 times the annual fee. The voting was -

10 times	-	11
$7\frac{1}{2}$ "	-	2
5 "	-	19

Mr. Champion pointed out that the 19 in favour of 5 times did not represent the required  $\frac{3}{4}$  majority and therefore the Life Membership fee should remain at 10 times the annual fee.

There followed some argument, the President finally ruling that as the  $\frac{3}{4}$  majority had not been achieved the 10 times factor required under the old Constitution should remain in force.

It was then moved by Mr. Parrish and seconded by Sir Horace Niall that the proposed Constitution, with amendments carried at this Meeting should be adopted. The motion was carried by an overwhelming majority.

A.G.M. Minutes, cont.

General Business:

The Secretary reported that-

- The analysis and notes on the Annual Reports of the Fund, written by Mr. Holmes and circulated in the Newsletter should finally dispel any ideas that Members might receive any refund from the Triennial Review being conducted at the time the Fund was taken over - in fact the analysis showed that overall and with indexation we were much better off;
- cooperation with the Commonwealth Retired Officers' and similar associations continued and was very helpful;
- The Committee wished to remind those present of the helping role which Members should adopt towards other Members. Mrs. Parrish, a member of a Caring Society in her own suburb, then suggested that Members could, among other things, visit those in hospital, give some help with shopping, get library books, mow the lawn etc. for those temporarily unable to do such things for themselves. Mrs. Parrish felt that most Members would be very willing to help, and emphasised the problem was that those needing assistance often would not ask for it. It was up to us to offer our help freely and in no way to act so that the other might feel he or she was under an obligation for our help.

There being no further business the President closed the Meeting at 1.08 p.m.

RETIRED OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Statement of Receipts & Expenditure for year ending  
31st December 1979

<u>Receipts</u>		<u>Expenditure</u>	
Balance brought forward from 1978	\$4483	Catering	\$405
Cash in hand brought forward from 1978	\$ 165	Hall Hire	\$ 15
Members subscriptions 1979	\$2113	Honorarium	\$100
Interest	\$ 423	Printing and Stamps	\$535
Advertising	\$ 20	Stationery	\$ 35
Overpayment refund	\$ 30	Petty Cash	\$ 80
Bank error in favour	\$ 22	Re-imbusement over payment	\$ 20
Dinner subscriptions	\$ 333	Transport	\$ 16
		Balance Commonwealth Bank	\$361
		Investment	\$6022
	<hr/> \$7589 <hr/>		<hr/> \$7589 <hr/>

Checked and is a true statement based on documents  
examined and information provided.

(Sgd) T.G. Aitchison,

Hon. Auditor.

