



Una Voce News Letter

RETIRED OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA

P.O. Box 199, MOSMAN, N.S.W. 2088 - Category B

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No. 2, 1984 - June

Dear Member -

Its that time of year again when we try to find the receipt which proves we paid/donated such and such a sum which is tax deductible. Don't forget that your subs. for this Association are deductible -- under the Item "Trade Union etc. Subscriptions" !!

The Consumer Price Index for the quarter ended 31st March was reduced to 0.4%, due mainly to the effects of Medicare reducing the official cost of living. The annual increase to 31st March fell from 11.4% last year to 5.9% this year.

However to 31 December the C.P.I. had risen to over 8%, so in the last issue we forecast that the percentage increase in our superannuation, because of indexation, would probably be about 8.5%. We now believe that it will increase by only 5.9% so don't go out and buy a Rolls Royce!. In early July the Commissioner will formally advise you of the exact increase and of your new fortnightly and annual entitlement -- which of course will now be reduced by the full 1% Medicare levy.

Also in our last issue we mentioned the possibility of some function between the A.G.M. and our Christmas luncheon. The A.G.M. left the matter to the Executive, and it has now been decided to hold such a function, which will take the form of a get-together on Monday 9th July at which Dame Rachel Cleland's long awaited book would be launched by Mr. Andrew Peacock. Full details are set out on a later page.

Gordon Bladen, 14 Coordilla St., Jindalee, Qld. 4074, would like to get in touch with Reg. Stephens (or Stevens ?) who was a patrol officer at Samarai in 1950. Can anyone assist please ??

Eileen McAdam, 2/37 Montpelier St. Clayfield, QLD. 4011 reminds members that the ex PNG ladies group in Brisbane meets twice a year for morning tea at David Jones' 5th Floor Cafeterier, Brisbane. Usually 30-40 attend and visitors are welcome. Phone Eileen (07) 262-1242 for details.

Some Members - or their children - will remember Ronnie Henderson, son of Liz Henderson who owned the Samarai Hotel. Prue Frank writes to say Ronnie and his wife will be in Australia in July-August and would like to see any ex-PNG friends. He will be in northern Queensland, Brisbane, Sydney and probably Canberra. His address is 1831 Madera Avenue, Mississauga, Ontario, Canada. Prue Frank of 4 Woolrych St. Holder, A.C.T. 2611 [(062)88-9497] will pass on messages.)

"Frog" Evans has written to say that he has a guest room adjacent to his house on a hill overlooking Apia in Western Samoa. He would be happy to let any Members visiting his beautiful island have the use of the guest room gratis. His budget would extend to a cuppa and light breakfast, but otherwise guests would have to eat out. The price of imported food has gone up even in paradise ! Thanks, Frog, for a generous offer -- I'd like to take it up myself !

Harry Jackman was recently perusing 'The Stud Book'. otherwise the PNG Government Gazette No. 41 of 11 August 1953, and thought Members would be interested in discovering who were the first "female officers" to receive permanent appointment. They were :

<u>Name</u>	<u>Office</u>	<u>Date of First Appointment</u>
Veronica Irwin	Matron	5 Mar 1939
Barbara McLachlan	Officer-in-Charge Women's Division	17 Jun 1947
Jessie Brown	Education Officer II	30 Jul 1947
Jean Parle	Education Officer II	20 Aug 1947
Ethel Walker	Education Officer 1A	27 Aug 1947
Grace Moore	Education Officer II	27 Aug 1947
Ruth Carter	Librarian	25 Jan 1949
Marie Egan	Education Officer 1A	21 Feb 1949
Erin White	Education Officer 1A	2 May 1949
Jo Keating	Education Officer 1A	4 Aug 1949

The details given were as at 30 June 1952, but as Harry also queries, it's strange that Veronica Irwin and Joan Refshauge were the only two permanent female appointees in Health in 1952. Many thanks, young Jackman !

Talking of women in the workforce and so on -- have you heard that what most women want is a big strong man - who can be wrapped around their little fingers.

P.N.G. News - from the Consul-General's office, Sydney -

'First Contact' (mentioned in an earlier issue), the award winning film of the first contact of Europeans with the Highland people of PNG, was nominated for an Oscar in this year's Academy Awards. The PNG made film 'Tukana' is one of 19 feature films from 14 countries to be shown at the 13th Annual New Directors/New Film Festival. 'Tukana' was produced by the North Solomons Provincial Government and Institute of PNG Studies.

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Sir Buri Kidu has been re-appointed as Chancellor to the University of PNG and Rose Kekedo as Pro-Chancellor. (Older Members will remember Rose as one of the Kekedo family from Kokoda - younger ones will know her as a school teacher and later as a departmental head..Ed.)

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WOMENS DAY. Mrs. Nahau Rooney, the only female among 109 members of Parliament, convinced her colleagues that there should be a Public Holiday for Women every March 24th. Mrs. Rooney said women wanted their men to acknowledge they were mothers. She said that PNG should be proud of the women's role in participating with the men to bring about development in the country.

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Police are considering using breathalyzers in an attempt to cut down alcohol-associated road accidents. The 1982 Police Report listed 699 cases of driving under the influence of liquor for that year. The Chief Superintendent of Traffic and Director of Traffic visited Australia to assess the breathalyzers' use.

(You can't get away from them !...Ed.)

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Niugini Mining Ltd. believes its discoveries of a big bulk low grade gold deposit on Lihir Island, N.E. of Rabaul could be part of a chain of volcanic gold-bearing islands stretching over 1,000km. from Bougainville to Manus Island.

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PNG is optimistic that it will increase rice production by more than 600 tonnes this year.

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The Government has launched its new White Paper on Industrial Development. It includes Tax deductions of up to 40% of the minimum wage per employee, changes in depreciation allowance systems, extending the present export incentive scheme, cut rate power, registration of company regardless of local shareholding.

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HYDRO SCHEME. The Commonwealth Development Corporation will help finance Elcom's \$33M Rouna 4 Hydro Scheme near Port Moresby. Rouna 4 will have a capacity to produce 13.5m.w. of power. Electricity will cost another 5% less from June. More decreases could be made over the next three years. Reductions are possible because of good rainfall for the Hydro Power and cost cutting measures in Elcom.

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P.N.G. news continued -

GAMES SPONSOR. Rothmans of Pall Mall (PNG) Pty. Ltd. will sponsor the 14 member PNG Olympic Games contingent this year. The sponsorship will be worth \$42,000.

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OK TEDI. With the Ok Tedi mine coming into production the next 12 months will see PNG become the world's third largest producer, after South Africa and USSR.

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END OF AN ERA. In June 1964 the 64 members of the first House of Assembly met for the first time in the original Parliament House in Moresby. The building was the old European Hospital, which many Members will remember either as patients or visitors. On March 16, Parliament transferred to the new Parliament House in Wainani. The building - which is an eye-opener - will be officially opened by Prince Char in August.

* * * * *

Did you hear that -

- Tony Normoyle is now Administrator of the West Australian Hotels Association, busy gearing up for an invasion of tourists from the east - to say nothing of those coming to try to win the Americas Cup. So, when you win Lotto seek Tony's advice for where to stay in the State of Excitement !

- Doreen Hogg - nee Ryan - of the pre schoolers was involved in a serious car accident from which she is still recovering. Fortunately husband Bob was not hurt. (Really Doreen, there's no need to go to such lengths to get into 'Una Voce' !!)

- Lynn Foster is still "soldiering on" in Moresby, but we understand he is think of retiring before too long.

- Mrs. Lorna Fleetwood is writing a history of Wewak, with the support of the East Sepik Provincial Government, and is seeking assistance in the way of information or photos. She would be most grateful, and would take care to return any material. Her address is -

c/- Dental Section
Boram Hospital
P.O. Box 395
Wewak
East Sepik Province
Papua New Guinea.

5.

A total of 75 Members and visitors attended our AGM and luncheon. The original plan was to finish the Meeting by 12.15 at the latest, to give more time for socialising before lunch. Due to the late start of the Meeting our social time was reduced to what many felt was an unacceptably short period. The Committee will take steps to ensure this does not happen again.

Our social spy tells me that -

The farthest to travel award was won by Dr. Kitty Fischer from Mt. Isa, closely followed by John Huon de Navrancourt from Atherton and Nancy Reason from Brisbane, whilst the de Graffs came from Canberra.

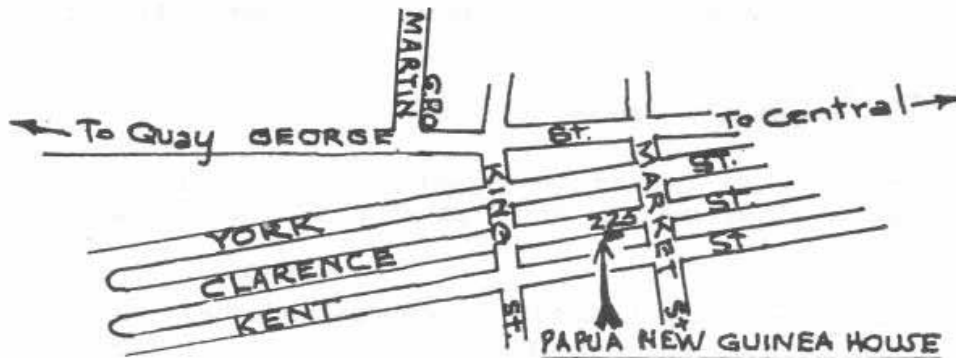
New Members included Dennis and Leonie Fisher and Bob Becke from the Blue Mountains and John and Chris Downie from Forresterville, Sydney. Good to see Mona Normoyle over from Bowral, Bonny Dun, ex-Treasurer Joyce Oldroyd-Harris, Ken Gorringe, Stan and Elaine Wigley, Albie King from Newcastle, Pat Jones and Mary Grahamslaw.

Visitors included Bill and Margaret Kelly with Arthur and Jean Carey from Wangaratta Thelma Burston of Brisbane, Marie Hazler and Clarissa Derka.

(Sorry I didn't have the chance to meet many of those mentioned, nor many of my other friendsEd.)

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One of our members who with her husband has been hard at work preparing for his retirement, has reminded me of the wide range of pamphlets and information generally now available through State Health Departments, and some major companies, for the people of 55 years and above. These cover a tremendous variety of topics, not only about cancer and purely health related matters, but about leisure, walking for pleasure, easy exercises to keep fit and just about every sport you can think of except the hard physical contact ones. It is well worth the small effort involved to contact or phone the nearest departmental office. In NSW they are the Departments of Leisure, Sport and Tourism and the Health Commission. Particularly helpful are the guides to what's available and where in your area. I'd take a small bet very few of us are aware of the leisure, recreation, sport and social facilities which are actually available -- and all for free, or very nearly so.



MINUTES OF THE 33rd. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Meeting opened 1205 p.m.

The President welcomed the 75 Members and visitors present and read all apologies received.

As copies of the Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting had been circulated at this Meeting and previously published in "Una Voce" it was proposed that they be accepted.

Moved: Mr. Williams, seconded: Mr. Rudge. carried.

The President presented his Report.

"Welcome to our AGM 1983/84 - its good to see so many Members and Locals. I do not propose to speak at length but am proud of such a successful group as ours. My thanks must go to our executive, and one of our strengths is our Newsletter. Editor Fred Kaad gathers and writes the material, Pam Foley puts it together and types it, Les Clout gets it to the printer and is responsible for the subsequent sorting and preparation for posting, and Harry West keeps an able executive finger in the pie. Treasurer Gabriel Keleny keeps a supervisory eye on all financial activities and must be congratulated for the really fine balance sheet he has presented. Your Committee meets regularly and I thank them for their time given up for these meetings. I also wish to speak of a non-member of the Committee who when Members were a little tardy in advising of their attendance for today's meeting 'stirred up the pot'. This was Candy Parrish and her efforts helped to bring the fine results you see here and she has our grateful thanks. Our guest speaker today is Mr. Gus Smailes, who has had a close journalistic association with many of our members when working in PNG, and a widespread reputation for objective, honest and reliable reporting. Dame Rachel Cleland will probably launch her fairly controversial book in June or July, and we are considering a social function to help the launch. Details will be advised in the next Newsletter. Our thanks go also to Doug Parrish and the Executive of The British Ex-Services Club. It is always most pleasant here and a suitable venue. A Happy Easter to you all and best wishes for the remainder of 1984."

The Treasurer presented his Report and Financial Statement. It was proposed that this be accepted.

Moved: Mr. Clout, seconded Mr. Rudge.

Mr. Clout wished that it be placed on record that the considerable detail and information provided in this Report and Statement by the Treasurer, Mr. Keleny, be recognised.

The Secretary tabled Inward and Outwards Correspondence, and stated it was available for perusal by Members. Letters dealing with more than routine matters were read to the Meeting.

(MINUTES OF A.G.M. CONTINUED..)

Mr. West also advised the Meeting that the Committee was maintaining contact with the office of the Commissioner for Superannuation and A.C.O.A.

The Election of Office Bearers was conducted. Mr. Seale vacated the Chair for this occasion and Sir Horace Niall presided while the election was conducted.

* (See below)

General Business

In regard to the proposal for an additional social function to be held before the annual pre-Christmas Luncheon a general discussion was held but no firm decision was reached.

The Secretary advised that he had received an assurance from the Papua New Guinea Consulate that a suitable venue in Papua New Guinea House would be made available for the function supporting the launching of Dame Rachel Cleland's book.

Mr. Williams said he believed all members would wish to support Dame Rachel Cleland's book launching provided the function was kept along simple lines, and he proposed that the decisions made by the Committee would be acceptable to all members.

Mr. Parrish said he felt the increase numbers in attendance at Meetings indicated that Members approved of the choice of the British Ex-Services Club as a venue, but he pointed out the difficulties the Club experienced in providing their premises on a Sunday.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 12.45 p.m.

* The following Executive were duly elected:

President:	Bill Seale
V/President:	David Marsh
Secretary:	Harry West
Treasurer:	Gabriel Keleny
Editor 'Una Voce' :	Fred Kaad
Asst. Secretary:	Pamela Foley
Auditor:	Tommy Aitcheson

Committee members:

Sir Horace Niall
Des Clifton-Bassett
Les Clout
Ian Holmes
Doug Parrish
Jim Rudge
Bert Speer
Mrs. Dot Oakley
Mrs. Truda Wood

STATEMENT ACCOMPANYING TREASURER'S REPORT

Statement of RECEIPTS & EXPENDITURE for the Year ending 31 December, 1983.

<u>Receipts</u>			<u>Expenditure</u>		
Balances brought forward:			<u>Newsletter:</u>		
<u>Investments:</u>			Printing	\$ 507-79	
Pipeline Loan	\$2000-00		Postage	\$ 331-55	
Commonwealth Savings Bonds	\$4506-00		Sundries	53-45	
Australian Savings Bonds	\$2200-00	\$8706-00	Postal Reg.	\$ 20-00	\$ 912.79
<u>Liquid Funds:</u>			P.O. Box Rental	\$ 18-00	
United Permanent Building Society	\$1456-65		Petty Cash	\$ 109-00	
Commonwealth Savings Bank	\$ 517-07	\$1973-72	Cheque Nook	\$ 2-50	
<u>Capital Gain:</u>			Rubber Stamp	\$ 9-75	
		494-00	Loss on Luncheon	\$ 102-00	
<u>Interest Received:</u>			Bank Charges		
Pipeline Loan	\$ 268-00		FID & FDT	\$ 4-20	
Commonwealth Bonds	\$ 310-00			\$1158-24	
Australian Savings Bonds	\$ 324-50		<u>Balance Carried Forward:</u>		
United Permanent Building Society	\$ 129-04		<u>Investments:</u>		
State Bank	\$ 43-96		Pipeline Loan	\$2000-00	
Commonwealth Savings Bank	\$ 23-41	\$1098-91	Australian Savings Bonds	\$2200-00	\$4200-00
<u>Subscriptions:</u>			<u>Liquid Funds:</u>		
Members	\$ 959-00		United Permanent Bldg. Society	\$1585-65	
Life Members	\$ 296-00	\$1255-00	Commonwealth Savings Bank	\$3655-78	
Donations	\$ 102-30		State Bank	\$3040-36	\$8281-79
Airmail Supplement	\$ 10-10				
		\$13,640.03			\$13,640-03

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

(Sgd.) T.G. Aitchison
Hon. Auditor.

SUBSCRIPTIONS! ARE YOU IN THE RED?

Outstanding Subscription\$ Current 1984 Sub.\$ Total \$

Please forward to Hon. Treasurer, P.O. Box 364 MAROUBRA NSW 2035.

RATES ARE: \$4 MEMBERS (Superannuants and their widows) \$2 ASSOCIATES (Non-Superannuants, wives of Superannuants and former PNG residents if they wish to join our ranks), LIFE MEMBERSHIP \$40.

Membership is free for widows of Pre-war Officers of Papua and New Guinea.

The following letter has been sent to non-members who we feel will be interested in attending the function mentioned on page 1. I'm sure that you would all enjoy yourselves - and the light refreshments which will be served - and it would be very nice to see Dame Rachel again. So please take the following as your personal invitation!

"Dear Member,

During the forthcoming visit of Dame Rachel Cleland, D.B.E., you are invited to be present at the Sydney launching of her book, "Papua New Guinea - Pathways to Independence", which will be carried out by the Honourable Andrew Peacock, M.P., Leader of the Opposition.

The function will be held on the 10th Floor, Papua New Guinea House, 225 Clarence Street, Sydney, at 2.30 p.m. on Monday 9th July, 1984, and has been arranged with the cooperation of the Consul-General for Papua New Guinea, Mr. Longas Solomon.

Acceptances, accompanied by a remittance of \$5.00/^{per person} to defray refreshment expenses, should reach the Association's Secretary, Mr. Harry West, at the address below by 2nd July, 1984.

Yours sincerely,

H.P. Seale, O.B.E.
President

To Mr. H. West
"Eryldene"
17 McIntosh Street
GORDON NSW 2072
(phone 498 2271)

_____ will be attending the launching

_____ Dame Rachel Cleland's book. Cheque for.....made payable to the "Retired Officers' Association of PNG" is enclosed.

(Please print) Name _____

Address _____

Telephone No. _____

The passing of Sir John Gunther is recorded in 'Vale'. Obituaries were published in major newspapers and periodicals but much remains for historians to say when his work can be appreciated in perspective. One of the aspects which also should be remembered was his influence on the development of organised sport in PNG. His enthusiastic acceptance of the idea of a South Pacific Games, his strong and continuing support for the establishment of the national sporting associations, so necessary for world recognition and acceptance, had its fruition in our entry into the international arena in the Commonwealth Games at Perth in 1962 and then the Second South Pacific Games in Moresby. As a long time associate and friend I find it difficult to be objective about John Thomson Gunther, but I commend to Members the words of Les Johnson in the 'Canberra Times' of 30/4/84 :

"John Thomson Gunther was undoubtedly the outstanding public servant in Papua New Guinea's post-war colonial history.

He exercised a dominant influence on Papua New Guinea development during his service there, first as Director of Public Health from 1946 to 1956, then as Assistant Administrator until 1966, and finally as foundation Vice-Chancellor of the University of Papua New Guinea 1966-72.

Paul Hasluck, Minister for Territories from 1951 to 1963, wrote of him, "I know of no-one who, in successive capacities, did better work for Papua New Guinea in the post-war years than John Gunther did."

He was born in Sydney on October 2, 1910, attended The King's School, Parramatta, and graduated in medicine from Sydney University. He also held diplomas in tropical medicine and tropical health and his first experience of tropical conditions was in the Solomon Islands before the war. During World War II he served in the RAAF, first as a malariologist and later as commanding officer of the First Tropical Research Field Unit. After the war he joined the reconstituted Administration of Papua New Guinea and began a long career of service to the people of that country.

He was appointed Director of Public Health in 1946 where his drive, allied to a charismatic personality, was responsible for the rapid development of health services throughout Papua New Guinea. He instituted effective programs for the control of malaria and tuberculosis and vigorously implemented a graduated system of health care. At the base of it were simple village procedures to control common and debilitating diseases by the widespread use of aid-post orderlies (doktabois), village men with sufficient rudimentary training to administer a range of simple remedies for the most common maladies. More serious problems requiring constant care were brought to centres presided over by medical assistants, (liklik doktas), while the seriously ill proceeded further up the chain to district and regional hospitals where specialist services were available from fully qualified staff. With this was associated the development of training opportunities for PNG nationals at all levels of the health service to the community. Paul Hasluck, in 1956, wrote, "The achievement of the Health Department in post-war years has been little short of 'amazing'."

Early in John Gunther's tenure of office he was faced with a catastrophic medical emergency when Mount Lamington in Northern Papua erupted with a Peléean-type explosion, incinerating more than 3,000 of the surrounding inhabitants and grievously injuring many more. It was a situation which required all of Gunther's drive and organisational skills in assisting to cope with the greatest natural disaster in Australasian history.

In 1957 a position of Assistant Administrator was created to cope with the increasing demands of the expanding PNG Administration. Gunther was appointed and began an active role in all aspects of PNG administration. His tenure of office was a period of dynamic growth in which he played a major role. He became the dominant individual in PNG affairs and nowhere was this felt more strongly than in the field of political development. He was the Leader in the Legislative Council and chairman of the select committee which recommended the creation of a parliament to be elected by universal suffrage. When that House of Assembly was established in 1964 he was its Leader and in a large sense its creator.

The early 1960s was also a time of rapid educational development and of pressure for opportunities for Papua New Guineans to play a larger role in the management of their country's affairs. The need for facilities for higher education was widely canvassed, and, to examine the problems, Hasluck appointed a commission consisting of Sir George Currie, Professor Oskar Spate and Dr. John Gunther. Out of this came the recommendation to establish a university and an institute of higher technical education, accepted somewhat belatedly by a new Minister for Territories, C.E. Barnes.

A fruitful partnership between Hasluck, a minister who knew what he wanted, and Gunther, who could deliver, ended before Hasluck could pursue his intention to appoint Gunther as Secretary of the Department of Territories. Barnes preferred an officer from the Commonwealth Department of Trade and Gunther's disappointment had some bearing on later events.

With the acceptance of the recommendation to proceed with two tertiary education institutions, interim councils were set up and foundation leaders for them were sought. It soon became apparent that the successful establishment of a university in Papua New Guinea would need someone of unusual vision, of wide experience beyond the confines of orthodox academia, a person of dogged determination and one who was a skilled bureaucratic infighter. The council could see but one person who filled these requirements and Gunther accepted the offer of the position of foundation Vice-Chancellor. With characteristic energy he lobbied, harried and cajoled his previous colleagues, bulldozed the obstacles and presided over the phoenix-like rise of a fine institution.

I believe that more than anything else, John Gunther would regard the University of Papua New Guinea as his principal monument for posterity. It was the culmination of his work for better health, better administration, better education and ultimately better capacity for Papua New Guineans to take control of their own destiny.

Increasing health problems, which had plagued him almost throughout his PNG service, caused his retirement to live in Australia in 1972, but he pursued an active interest in PNG affairs until his death.

John Gunther's service to Papua New Guinea and to Australia has been recognised by awards of OBE, the CMG in 1965 and a knighthood in 1975. He has also been the recipient of honorary doctorates from the University of Papua New Guinea and from Monash and Sydney Universities.

He is remembered with pride by his wife Dot, a son, three daughters and five grandchildren.

- L. W. JOHNSON.

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+ V A L E +

With deep regret we record the passing of the following Members and friends, and on behalf of the Association the Committee extends sincere sympathy to their families :

Stanley Christian 13/4/84	Senior Medical Assistant and noted entomologist in the field of Malaria research. (See next issue)
Sir John Gunther 27/4/84	Appointed Director of Public Health 1946, Asst. Administrator 1957, Leader of Government in PNG in first Parliament 1964, first Vice-Chancellor of the University of PNG. (See obituary elsewhere in this issue).
Richard Hilton 26/4/84	With the Transport Department in Port Moresby and Lae.
Gerald J. McLaughlin 26/2/84	Worked in Manus, Goroka and Port Moresby with District Administration and P.S.B. Remembered as a hard-working and knowledgeable officer able to help stations to run smoothly.
R.T. Pearson 13/4/84	Director of the National Broadcasting Commission.
F.P.B. Robb 29/5/84	Assistant District Officer who was stationed in many areas of PNG.
Walter W. Watkins 22/3/84	First as head of Crown Law then Secretary for Law, 'Wally' was <u>the</u> Legal Eagle, but justice was always tempered with mercy and understanding. After retirement Wally served on Veterans' Affairs Tribunals.
Mrs. H.W. Champion	Widow of pre-war Government Secretary of Papua
Mrs. Jean Fitzherbert	Wife of John - both well known from Treasury in Port Moresby