



Una Voce News Letter

RETIRED OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA
P.O. Box 199, MOSMAN, N.S.W. 2088 - Category B

Registered by Australia Post Publication No. NBH 2559

President: Bill Seale (02) 418-3357; V/Pres: David Marsh (02) 938-3501
Hon/Sec: Harry West (02) 498-2271; Treas: Gabriel Keleny (02) 349-7613
P.O. Box 364 MAROUBRA NSW 2035
Editor Newsletter: Fred Kaad (02) 969-7217, 969-1888
Asst. Secretary: Pamela Foley (02) 969-8271, 969-1888

No. 3, 1984 - September

Dear Member,

Doubtless you will have heard rumblings about State and Federal Governments' concern over the high and rising costs of Superannuation for public servants. The N.S.W. government has already announced it will soon introduce a new scheme and it is inevitable that others will follow its lead. Canberra seems to be heading for a national pension scheme as this is part of Labour policy. Members should not be personally too concerned, as any new schemes will not be retrospective nor pose any threat to the scheme under which our superannuation is paid.

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Your Committee is in contact with the Superannuated Commonwealth Officers Association which has similar objectives for its members as your Association and keeps a sharp eye on matters affecting superannuation. SCOA has been very helpful in the past and we look forward to continuing cooperation. Incidentally, Nick Gurd, long time National President of that Association, and a good friend of ours, has recently resigned - we wish him well after so many years of service.

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Don't forget our Christmas function - FRIDAY 9th NOVEMBER, P N G HOUSE.

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Your Association hosted the launching of Dame Rachel Cleland's book "Pathways to Independence" on July 9th at a gathering of more than 250 former PNG residents and friends, at the PNG Consulate in Sydney. The Consul-General, Mr. Longas Solomon, attended the launching and had kindly made the reception rooms of the Consulate available for the occasion. President Bill Seale in introducing the Honorable Andrew Peacock reminded the audience that as Minister for Foreign Affairs he had been responsible for improving our superannuation scheme, and for working out the basis for the retirement and resettlement conditions of many officers, leading up to PNG Independence.

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Mr. Peacock, in a splendid speech launching the book, paid tribute to the work of the late Sir Donald Cleland, and to Dame Rachel's unflagging enthusiasm and interest in many aspects of PNG life. It was a delightful occasion to meet old friends, to relive moments never quite forgotten. Many thanks are due to the Committee of the R.O.A. who assisted in the organisation of this function and serving of refreshments, which were prepared by John and Kay Ashcroft-Smith of the Air Force Club.

Sydney members of the Association naturally made up the largest group but it was also very pleasing to see so many others --perhaps the oldest was Ruby Crisp, 90 years and still going strong! Visitors from the South Coast were Vera Foldi and from Bowral Mona Normoyle.

Quentin Anthony, son of Tony, came from Canberra and Ted Hicks and the Tomasettis from the Blue Mountains. It was good to see Mr. & Mrs. Gabriel Achun, Bernard C and August Chan. Also the Fairfax-Ross' and Monty & Joan Stobo, Sir William Prentice, John Neve from Education and Brian Jinks; Bob and Mary Webb of Keravat and Hanuabada High Schools and Ela Beach Primary, and their daughters, and Matt Foley from Rabaul. Among the younger ones were David Cleland, son of Evan, and Jeremy Johnson, grandson of Sir Horace Niall and son of Lois and Frank Johnson, Bruce Clarke, son of Don Clarke, former chemist in Rabaul and John Hopper, son of Pat and the late Alex Hopper.,

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DONT'T FORGET THE CHRISTMAS GET-TOGETHER - 9TH NOVEMBER - P.N.G. HOUSE !

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There have been some complaints about late receipt of superannuation, and in particular about difficulty in finding out whether Canberra or the bank/building society is to blame and then in getting some corrective action taken. If Members are having either of these problems would you please write to the Secretary with details so that the Association can try to improve the situation.

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Calling all Camilla Wedgwood fans -- which would include just about all the field officers, teacher trainees, doctors, and so on, who were at the School of Civil Affairs and then at A.S.O.P.A., until the mid-fifties. A somewhat eccentric, in many ways lovable, and an intellectually challenging woman, the Honourable Camilla contributed much to education and anthropology in PNG - and especially to the development of the officers she taught. Dr. David Wetherell, Senior Lecturer in History, School of Social Sciences, Deakin University, Victoria 3217, is writing her biography and would appreciate any information about her, whether serious or humorous. This would be a good opportunity for those who were helped by Camilla to now assist.

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HAVE YOU HEARD...

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The Alan Champions have moved to a retirement village in Bauer Street, Southport. Since retirement in 1960 they have been living in a 17 sq. house and the move to a 7 sq. unit has had the problems that so many of you have experienced - what to dispose of, what to keep - and where to fit it, and perhaps hardest of all: where to find that something you had last week but haven't seen since !

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Our confreres in Hobart appear to be holding their own. Win Balfour-Ogilvie has retired from teaching but daughter Kate is doing first year Bachelor of Education, while Jessica is finishing secondary.

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a popular and sometimes provocative Tasmanian ABC radio show each week morning can be heard the unmistakable voice of Sue Becker. Although no longer doing those exercises on TV her trim figure shows she still keeps fit, and her programs create lots of discussion - and no little argument, we hear.

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The Fosters are still at Taroona, with Charles (ex Harbour Master) doing an occasional ships survey to keep his hand in.

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Mal Haywood, whose patrolling career led him mostly to the more remote outposts, is now keeping an eye on activities in the Department of Main Roads and giving his university-trained confreres some practical advice on building roads in mountainous terrain. Otherwise he's busy sailing a beautiful 10 metre craft.

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Bernie Mulcahy is heading up a local branch of Social Security. When not giving out cheques or chasing those who have doubled up he's busy with school rowing crews.

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David Fenbury's children have been in the news. Margaret Collins (nee Fenbury) has had a daughter, at Katherine, N.T. - sister to young David. Not to be outdone, Allan Fenbury's wife Leith had twins (a boy and a girl).

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Fred Cattell, a pre-war Medical Assistant in New Guinea, and now living in Brisbane, will celebrate his 90th birthday in October. Good luck, Fred -- keep it up for ten more years!

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For those who live in Sydney and have not yet paid their Tax - the new Sydney office is at 7 - 13 Hunter Street, near the Wynyard Station entrance.

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Dr. Doug Russell, ex P.H.D., is now consultant on Hansen's Disease to the Queensland Department of Health. He is also consultant to the Leprosy Mission U.K. visiting P.N.G. annually, as well as Indonesia, Irian Jaya and Thailand.

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Dr. Brian Jinks, former P.O. in Southern Highlands, later Principal of the Administrative College, recently senior lecturer in government at Macquarie University, is now Deputy Ombudsman in N.S.W.

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Tommy Aitcheson has a broken leg after an accident at home. He told the doctor that he hadn't even had a cup of tea before it happened. He also told your Editor that he did NOT have a horse called Fine Cotton spelling on his property !

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The Papua New Guinea club held its annual PNG Independence dinner at the Manly Civic Club. An invitation was extended to our Members and several did attend, but we had no way of letting you all know. A very good time was had by all, with Sir Horrie Niall making a fine speech for the occasion.

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The PNG Consul-General in Sydney, Mr. Longas Solomon, held a reception for other members of the consular community, ex PNG residents and other VIP's on Friday 14th September to mark the ninth anniversary of Independence Day. Church services were arranged for the day itself, the 16th.

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The following people received awards from the Queen on 16th June. Our congratulations are extended to them all. You will see many names you know:

- K.B.E. - Geoffrey Hand, Thomas Kavali
- C.M.G. - Paias Wingti
- C.B.E. - Kenneth Kora Noga, Pato Kakarya, Norris Pratt
- O.B.E. - James Fraser, William Grose, Siwi Korondo, Kamona Walo.
- M.B.E. - John Johnson, Unake Ikai, Raymond Maisu, Matthew Jaran, Parua Kur, Brian Lawi, Yaningao Nabilen, John Nilles, Andrew Sterns.
- I.S.O. - Joseph Nombri, Ravu Samuel.
- B.E.M. - Robert Aki, Paul Apes, Mesullum Apoppos, Nicholas Brunye, Alfie Ono, Isiah Tamti, Gilbert Wilkinson, Idu Kodi, Mrs. Laura Martin, Peter Moruma, Francis Reman, Wangu Wangu.
- Q.P.M. - Jack Gamea.

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"PAPUA NEW GUINEA - PATHWAYS TO INDEPENDENCE" - by Dame Rachel Cleland.

Artlook Books, P.O. Box 8268, Stirling St., Perth, W.A.

Recommended retail price: \$24.95

(Reviewed by Gabriel Keleny)

Sir Donald Cleland occupied key positions in Papua New Guinea for most of the time from 1942 when he became Chief of Staff of ANGAU, until his retirement as Administrator in 1966, and even beyond, right till his death in Port Moresby in 1975. Throughout this period he had the active and enthusiastic support of Lady Cleland, now Dame Rachel. She was not just the hostess at Government House, but took a leading part in the social and welfare work associated with being the wife of the Administrator. She was largely responsible for softening and popularising the rather remote image of her husband. She was also a keen observer of the political and social scene "from the unique position of one who was intimately involved".

Dame Rachel gives a clear and vivid picture of those exciting and creative years of bringing a country from its wartime destruction to the eve of self-government. Not unexpectedly, she describes some of her difficulties and adventures as a hostess entertaining, with limited facilities, important visitors and visits to various parts of the country off the main track. But more importantly, she deals in greater detail than one would expect with some of the important administrative and political problems encountered during the post war years. Thus, Dame Rachel has written an important book, containing much material not previously published, which will serve as research material for historians studying in depth how the "Administration" functioned in those days and the results of some of those policies. In particular, she refers to the difficult and delicate relationship between the Minister for Territories and the Administrator during the years that Paul Hasluck was the Minister. It was always a source of amazement to me how two such strong, yet obviously different personalities managed to work together over so many years without a major clash. Hasluck was a strong Minister, a hard task-master, with very firm views on what he wanted and how he wanted it executed. When events did not quite develop as conceived in Canberra, the Minister's often harsh notes apparently did not spare even his Administrator.

Among the specific examples, Dame Rachel quite rightly draws attention to the consequences of the policy of excessive legalism which overtook the country from about 1975, "the watershed year" as she calls it, when formalities of the law came to be considered as more important than the exercise of natural justice in judicial decisions.. She writes: "The result was the demoralisation of the police force, a bewildered public and a sudden proliferation of crime. Justice was no longer seen to be done."

Reference is also made to the erosion of the traditional cohesive forces in village society, even in comparatively remote areas, when the customary leaders of village communities were dismissed from their positions of trust and authority and replaced by Australian style local government councils - in the name of introducing democracy. She describes one such changeover ceremony: "There were forty or fifty elderly men, their faces lined and wise, some full of character, many with notable dignity. Their responsibilities were being taken over by the white shirted twelve, who were a different type altogether and I felt uneasy. I didn't know why..... But, of course, we should have known better.....it's funny how blind you can some-

times be to the obvious. But the unhappy results of this change didn't really emerge until a few years later, when lawlessness in the villages was becoming a problem.....Thus, at one stroke, we helped to break down the system of communication between government and people. This was particularly disastrous when it was also between the law system and the people."

The effect of the introduction of a local salary scale on the morale of local public servants is also mentioned, and how the Administrator was excluded from discussions leading to this important policy decision. Sir Donald was indeed "both worried and exasperated by the Minister's reluctance to discuss this issue". The Administrator apparently favoured a single service, with one salary scale geared to local economic conditions, overseas officers receiving an attraction allowance to bring their salaries up to Australian rates of pay. But this was not to be and a two tier system was eventually introduced, with all the consequent social and political difficulties. Dame Rachel writes: "I don't think anything in all my time in Papua New Guinea distressed me personally as much as this wage determination.....it made me deeply ashamed on behalf of my country. I felt it was a black stain which nothing could erase. I still think of it that way, to this day."

Life at Government House was punctuated by meetings of the Legislative Council, imposing extra strain on an already busy schedule, and visits of successive Governor-Generals to open new sessions of an ever changing institution, eventually evolving into the House of Assembly, of which the Administrator was no longer a member (or president). The nightly phone calls to Canberra on what compromise was necessary to have legislation passed, however, continued.

The above are just a few of the important administrative, social and ultimately political problems described by the author in illustrating the difficulties experienced by the Administrator and the detailed control exercised by Canberra on all matters. The saddest comment is that when Hasluck left the Department of Territories and was replaced by a Minister of more conventional views and methods, Sir Donald seems to have missed the personal contact with the Minister. Apparently, even at times unjust criticism was preferable to a lack of communication. Control by the Department of Territories remained.

Dame Rachel gives a colourful and highly readable description of a busy, active and eventful life. Different people will be attracted to different aspects of the book. Former Administration officers and scholars studying the work of the post-war Administration will be particularly impressed by her range of interests and sound evaluation of the administrative, legal and social problems occurring throughout her husband's long term of office and by her appreciation of the consequences of some major policy decisions. Above all, one is impressed by her enthusiasm, common touch, shrewd observation and obvious love of the country and the people. The book is essential reading to all who wish to understand the machinery of government and the salient features of the post-war development of Papua New Guinea. Additional colour is given to the book by the charming drawings by Jon Dangar to decorate the chapter headings.

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PAPUA NEW GUINEA NEWS - from the Consul-General's Office:

PNG has returned to the double figures for inflation with a CPI of 10.3% for the twelve months to March 1984. Betelnut saw a spectacular rise of 105.6% since March 1983. It accounts for only 2.7% of total consumption. (Betelnut is one of the commodities in the basket of CPI products).

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A new hospital will be built for Lae city to replace the Angau Hospital.

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PNG may soon be divided into time zones following moves to amend the Standard Time Act to allow daylight saving to be introduced in certain parts of the country. At present, for example, the sun rises as early as 5 a.m. in North Solomons.

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Sogeria National High School has celebrated its 40th anniversary. Originally established by ANGAU as the Papuan and Central Training School, the school has trained some of PNG's leaders such as Michael Somare, Sir Tore Lokoloko, Paulius Matane, and Alkan Tololo.

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PNG sent a team of 13 to the Olympic Games, made up of five athletes, three shooters and five officials.

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A meat cannery is to be established in Madang. Although some meat will be imported, as much as possible will be purchased from Madang and Morobe Provinces.

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On 7th August, the new Parliament House was opened by His Royal Highness, Prince Charles. Everyone who has seen it is full of praise. It is unfortunate that we cannot give you a colour picture.

In our last issue we recorded the passing of Stan Christian. We think that most members will have heard of Stan and his work, which included contributions about malaria of international importance which were published in major journals in 1954, 1958 and 1963. However the majority would not know just how great his contribution to Papua New Guinea really was. Bert Speer has written some details for us which appear later in this issue.

CHEERS NOW - SEE YOU AT PAPUA NEW GUINEA HOUSE ON FRIDAY 9TH NOVEMBER.

"F R E D D I E"

V A L E

Mrs. G.L.Challis	16 September	Widow of Basil Challis
Edmund A. O'Connell	25 February	Our Irish Magistrate in Moresby. Retiring 1966, returned to Ireland and later moved to England.
Guy Broad	15 September	Working as architect in PWD in Rabaul prewar and Moresby postwar.
Mrs. Cecily Perichon	17 June	Resident of Moresby from 1923. Cecily worked in the Govt. Secretary's office, retiring in 1962.
Mrs. Olive Costelloe	6 July	At Balranald, aged 74. Wife of the late Jack Costelloe. Olive went to Rabaul in 1928 accompanying Jack to many postings, and postwar to Chimbu, Goroka and Lae.
Herbert C. Gridley	23 August	Retired from the Police in 1947 since then living in Queensland.
Mrs. Evelyn Moncur	9 August	Widow of Percy - ex Police Superintendent.
W. Malcolm English	23 September	After long illness. Malcolm came to Kieta in 1937 as cadet patrol officer, during the war served with Z Special Unit & was awarded the Military Cross. Returned to field service on various stations, later became Commissioner i/c. Corrective Services, retiring in 1971/2. Survived by a daughter & two sons.
Father Bernard Franke	13 August	In Sydney. Perhaps one of New Guinea's best known priests, he first came to Rabaul in 1928. A POW during the war, he remained on the Gazelle peninsula where he did so much to assist ecumenism and co-operation between the churches. He was parish priest at Matupit until he came south for medical treatment just before he died, aged 81.

V A L E Ctd.

Father "Mike" Morrison

8 August,

In Sydney, after a short illness. Born 1927, Father Mike went to PNG in 1956. Greatly respected for his work in education, community affairs and the development of the Madang hinterland at Bundi and then Brahmin, he became a citizen of PNG and was buried at Alexishafen.

THE LATE STANLEY HINTON CHRISTIAN, Esquire O.B.E.

- 1896 Born at Buckhurst Hill, Essex, England on 16th July and migrated to Australia
- 1910 with parents as migrants. 1914 - 1918 served with Australian Medical Corps in 14th General Army Hospital in Egypt.
- 1922 Joined the Australian Administration of the Mandated Territory of New Guinea.
- 1926 Promoted to Senior Medical Assistant by Dr.R.Cilento.
- 1942 - 1945 Second World War served as Lieutenant in Angau.
- 1946 Joined the Civil Provisional Administration of the Territory of Papua New Guinea with the Department of Public Health.
- 1958 Awarded the O.B.E. for services.
- 1973 Retired from the Public Health Department Australian Administration Public Service of Papua and New Guinea in June.

Thus 51 years continuous service of a dedicated officer benefitting the people of Papua New Guinea. The above information was extracted from various articles and the help of Stan's Brother, Mr.Chris Christian of Canberra, Mrs Margaret Spencer and Professor Donald Dunoon of the Australian National University of Canberra. I was associated with Stan in the Post Second World War Years of the Provisional Administration Public Health Department of P.N.G. when he was Senior Medical Assistant in company with such others as Bill Thomas, Harry Erskine, L.J.Fisher, Tom Ellis, Norm Walsh, famous names all - but perhaps it was Stan's quiet nature and applied scientific bent that impressed me the most, from all of his peer fellows.

The story of Stan's life was outlined by himself in an article entitled "The Silent Battle", published in the Bulletin of the Malaria Erudication Unit of P.H.D. 1924- Established the first Native Hospital at Ambunti, 1930 Established the Native Hospital at Aitape and Training School for Medical Tul Tul's. 1942-1945 during war service walked from Iakikamu on the Papuan Coast to Goroka and supervised the health aspects of evacuation of displaced persons who had fled inland from the Japanese Forces at Madang and Wewak. 1945 Investigation of malaria in the Highlands, mainly Kainantu and Mt.Hagen, instrumental in isolating Highlanders from troop recruitment because of their low malaria incidence. 1946-49 building of the Kup Hospital and took over malaria investigations in the Highlands with surveys in the Wahgi Valley. 1950 - Commenced a pilot drainage scheme at Banz and Minj. 1953 - Established the Minj Malaria School. 1954 - First Inter Territorial Malaria Conference took place. 1963 - Malaria School transferred to Kundiawa.

Mrs Margaret Spencer, Authoress and Entomologist, detailing the latter years of Stan's Career which did not cease with this official retirement, pays tribute as follows:—"Christian retired, as a permanent officer, in 1961. Because of his highly specialised knowledge of the mosquitoes and malaria of PNG, he was offered a position as temporary officer. He continued in this capacity for the next twelve years. In his seventy-sixth year he was still identifying mosquito material sent to him from all over New Guinea and also supervising and teaching at the Malaria School at Kundiawa. He finally left the service on June 30th 1973, but not his work. At the Administration's request he continued to supervise activities at the Special Entomology Laboratory at Minj, which he had established twenty years earlier and he also continued the compilation of records at his own home "Wingay" outside of Minj in the Waghi Valley. Christian's official career in PNG stretched from four years after the end of the first World War to two years before Independence - from the early establishment of the Australian Mandate until preparation for self-government. He was integrally involved in the building of a nation. In his long and fruitful life, his total contribution, both tangible and intangible, to his adopted country and science, is very large. The University of Papua New Guinea houses his mosquito collection, and many of his papers and records. He was a meticulous and modest man, with a wry delightful sense of humour, a loyal friend and helpful colleague; he will be very much missed and always remembered by all who knew and worked with him". These words echo the feelings of all who knew Stan Christian and were his fellow workers. Stan's brother, Mr Chris Christian records specific references to his outstanding contributions to the general health services of PNG in the exploratory patrols, establishing of hospitals and in all these activities the abilities of Stan to show his fellow man, by example, the road to a better way of life was exhibited. His workers have succeeded; and those PNG people who stayed by his side have had considerable success.

Mrs Danga Goi M.B.E., and her adopted daughter Brunie, who is now a qualified Medical Doctor of the University of PNG, together with Stan's old time servant Periarrpi Gawi and his children are living evidence of his ability to assist and guide the people of PNG towards responsible nationhood. Mr Chris Christian relates how in the post war years the Anglican Bishop of New Guinea suggested to Stan that he might join the Church and mentioned the possibility of a having a parish of 5,000 souls to look after. Stan's reply was - "Why should I do that, I now have a district of 70,000 bodies to care for". That was typical of Stan a very private person with the welfare of humanity foremost in his mind.

Professor Donald Dunoon of A.N.U., Canberra writes: "What strikes as remarkable about Stan is That he had two distinct careers, first as the "Outside man" of a very peculiar regime in New Guinea, then as the spearhead of the malaria campaign. He acquired such a wealth of information in his first career, that he was invaluable to PHD in the second, That his very relaxed personal style made it easy for him to relate to black and white, in many ways he seems almost the characteristic Australian of his generation - not much formal education, boundless curiosity and willingness to learn on the job and always just putting one foot in front of the other".

Stanley Hinton Christian O.B.E. died at Canberra N.S.W. on the 13th April, 1984 in his 88th year. A Wing of the Wewak Hospital was named the "S.H. CHRISTIAN WING"

We honour his memory,

(Sgd) Albert Speer - Sydney, 1984.

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RETIRED OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

I would like to join the Association as a * Life
Member. I enclose * Ordinary
Associate

* \$40
\$ 4
\$ 2

I/my husband lived in PNG foryears, leaving
in 19.....

I/my husband worked in the (Dept.).....
mainly in the District(s) of
Other Details

.....
Please send to:

G.P.Keleny,
P.O.Box 364,
MAROUBRA JUNCTION
NSW 2035

Signature

Name(Please
Print)

Address

I support and subscribe
to the objectives of the
Association.

Post Code