



Una Voce News Letter

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

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Asst. Secretary: Pamela Foley (02)969-1888, 969-8271.

No. 3, June, 1985

Dear Member,

I always used to believe Sydney was in a temperate zone - a couple of weeks of cold weather in winter, a few weeks of really hot days in summer but generally rather good for the rest of the year. Over the last month and along with some other Sydney-based Members I've decided my assessment is all wrong, or else I'm really living in Tasmania and don't realise it! I'm even becoming envious of our overseas Members living in England! If on your next visit here you see someone selling papers on the corner, you'll probably be right -- I have to find some way of paying for the oil, gas and electric heaters!

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The A.G.M. is over and we have some new faces on our Committee, as you will see in the report of the Meeting. For convenience the names and telephone numbers of the Executive are shown on the letterhead above - the numbers of the Committee are:

Mrs R. Bates	(02) 560-2648	Mrs C. Grant	(02) 48-5450
Mr G. Burfoot	" 46-1546	Mr A. Speer	" 438-
Mr L. Clout	" 419-8357	Dr S. Wigley	" 918-9751

We are very grateful to those retiring Committee Members - Bill Seale who has been our President so many years, leading us through some difficult periods, Jim Rudge who travelled many hours each way from Campbelltown to attend meetings, Des Clifton-Bassett whose questioning of proposals was always worthwhile.

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Get out your diary now and mark SUNDAY 24 NOVEMBER - the date of our Association Christmas Luncheon, which is to be held at the Mandarin Club, 396 Pitt St. Sydney. Members attending the AGM appeared to be satisfied with the location so it has been re-booked. The Lotus Room is being refurnished, a bar opened and luncheon will be served in the same room.

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2.

Harry West, our Secretary, has a few copies left of Dame Rachel Cleland's book "Pathways to Independence". These are selling for \$ 24.95, from which the Association gets a commission. Would those interested please contact Harry by phone on (02)498-2271.

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The increase in the Consumer Price Index for the year ending 31 March was 4.4%. This is the 12 months upon which changes in our superannuation are based and I understand our payments will rise by this amount. Full details will be in a letter from the Commissioner which you will be receiving in early July.

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About two years ago I suggested that Members should seriously consider giving any diaries, photographs, reports etc about PNG, or copies, to the National Library, Canberra, A.C.T., or you might like to talk to Hank Nelson at the Australian National University - Pacific South East Asian History, (062) 49-4767, about their disposal.

It is really only in this way that information about our work in that country will be properly conserved and made accessible to others. Far too many valuable records have been lost already -- let's not lose any more. Don't leave it to your spouse or children to do, and don't think that because you perhaps weren't in the First Division in the Public Service that your work was not worth recording.

Harry Jackman recently reminded me of the importance of preserving records of this nature and I strongly urge Members to do this.

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On Sunday 4th August at 3 p.m. the Papua New Guinea Club will hold its A.G.M. at the Civic Club, Manly. President Don McIntosh has invited members of our Association to attend, and those wishing to do so should contact Margaret Cameron on 919 4974.

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Jim Sinclair's latest book, Papua New Guinea: The First 100 Years has recently been published by Robert Brown & Associates, of Bathurst. It's official launching in Sydney will be on 17th September to coincide with the tenth anniversary of Independence celebrations. This richly colourful and comprehensive pictorial book covers a history of exploration illustrated by unique archival photographs; the colonial era, the urban and rural life of today's Papua New Guineans.

Jim is also reported to have finished over 1300 pages of a book on aviation in post-war Papua New Guinea.

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3.

Plans for celebrating the tenth anniversary of Papua New Guinea's Independence are rapidly being finalised in Canberra, Sydney and Brisbane. The High Commissioner's and Consular Offices would be very pleased to answer any questions about proposed activities. In Sydney the special events in September include:

15th -- 11.30 a.m. Church Service - Cecil Street Church, cnr. Pacific Highway and Cecil St., Gordon. GUEST SPEAKER: Sir Alkan Tololo - Papua New Guinea High Commissioner in Australia.

16th National Arts School Performance of Traditional Dance and Song.

17th

18th Venue: Martin Plaza.

19th To be advised.

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All events will be advertised
in the press.

20th-26th Events in Wellington area.

26th-27th Events in A.C.T.

Displays

17th-19th PNG Trade Display - International Trade & Development Centre
Edgecliff - 10.00 a.m. - 2.00 p.m.

16th-27th PNG Photo, Cultural & Tourist Display, NSW Government Information
Office, cnr. Hunter and Elizabeth Streets, Sydney.

16th-27th PNG Book Display, 76 Clarence Street, Sydney.

23rd-27th 11.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m. Showing of PNG Films at the PNG Consulate-
General, 100 Clarence Street, Sydney

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A record 95 attended the AGM. It was heartening to see so many spouses, new members, and a sprinkling of very welcome children - now of course adults. Those from outside the Sydney area included Ken and Rosemary Brown (Central coast); Lionel & Joy Thrift (Queensland); Bill and Anne Carter (Central Coast); Corbett (Kim) & Elaine Kimmorley; Lisle Newby (Bowral); Jim and Bess Rudge (Campbelltown); Syd Smith (Blue Mountains); Ron & Josette Storer (Adelaide).

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MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE RETIRED OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION
OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA HELD AT THE MANDARIN CLUB, 396 PITT ST. SYDNEY
AT 10.30 a.m. on 21 APRIL, 1985
 (34th Meeting)

Meeting opened at 10.45 a.m. - 95 members present.

APOLOGIES: Ron Carne, Len Bailey, Lady Niall, Doris Carpenter, June Kaad,
 Margaret Cockburn, Laurine Cockburn, Bert Speer

Minutes of the 33rd AGM having been published in "Una Voce" it was resolved that they be confirmed.

Proposed L. Clout, Seconded G. Burfoot - Carried.

Business Arising from Minutes:

Mr. Kaad advised that all matters arising from Minutes had been placed on the Agenda.

President's Report

President Seale presented his Report - giving a resume of his PNG service and paying tribute to the Committee who had worked with him during the year.

Motion that Presidents Report be adopted-

Proposed D. Marsh, seconded F. Kaad - carried.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer (Mr Keleny) presented and explained his report and the Financial Statement.

Motion that Treasurer's Report be adopted -

Proposed G. Keleny, seconded L. Williams - carried.

The Treasurer then provided details of membership statistics.

Regarding the Association Incorporation Act: The Act has been passed and publication of Regulations is awaited. This Act will possibly affect various aspects of the Constitution, and the Association will possibly need to take legal advice.

The Treasurer then read list of visitors, and welcomed them on behalf of the Association.

Correspondence

The Hon. Secretary presented correspondence for perusal. He acknowledged the work of Mr. Len Bailey in the preparation of taxation records and read an extract from the Auditor's letter which congratulated the Treasurer on his presentation.

The Secretary reported that the Committee has been active -- meetings had been held regularly and the executive had met almost weekly. Matters dealt with were mostly personal issues raised by members, but occasionally there was something with wider application.

The Committee had maintained contact with the Superannuated Commonwealth Officers' Association -- a useful link with a strong membership. Contact with the Commissioner for Superannuation also had continued and his Office had always been helpful.

Last year the Christmas function was changed from a Sunday to a weekday. This had been moderately well attended, but bad weather on the day kept numbers down. Enquiries had indicated that Members prefer Sunday. The Mandarin Club would make available the room where this present meeting was being held, would also arrange for lunch in the same room if a meeting were to be held first. The management would need a guarantee of 80 people and the charge would be about \$12.00 per person.

The launch of Dame Rachel Cleland's book had been very successful -- about 250 people being present. The Secretary is holding copies of her book, to be sold on commission in favour of the Association.

The Secretary paid tribute to the presentation of the Newsletter and reported that letters continue to express appreciation of the work of the Association and the Newsletter.

Mr Keleny reported that he had researched benefits obtained following amendment of regulations covering widow's pensions, a benefit which the Association had won. A total of 20 widows and one child received improved benefits.

Election of Office Bearers

The election of office bearers was then held. Ballot papers were distributed and scrutineers appointed. Nominations were taken and seconded, and after all procedures had been finalised, the following Committee was formed:

President:	Mr David Marsh
Vice/President:	Mr Doug Parrish
Secretary:	Mr Harry West
Treasurer:	Mr Gabriel Keleny
Editor "Una Voce"	Mr Fred Kaad
Assistant Secretary:	Mrs. Pamela Foley
Committee:	
Mrs Roma Bates	Mrs Christina Grant
Mr Geoff Burfoot	Mr Bert Speer
Mr Les Clout	Dr Stan Wigley

The Secretary acknowledged the sterling work of Bill Seale as President for many years and asked that the Meeting agree to the appointment of Bill Seale as Co-Patron, with Sir Horace Niall. This was carried by acclamation.

Mr Keleny and Mr Clifton-Bassett queried the validity of appointing Patrons as there was no provision for this in the Constitution. Mr Kaad said that on the other hand there was nothing in the Constitution to prevent such action.

Annual Subscriptions

In raising the matter of Annual Subscriptions and said that as reported in the last Newsletter the Committee had discussed the problem of rising costs, including printing and postage, and had decided to recommend to the A.G.M. that the cost of membership be raised.

A motion that as from January 1986 the annual fees for Members shall be \$5.00 and for Associate Members \$3.00 was proposed by Mr Kaad and seconded by Mr W. Johnson.

Carried.

Life Membership

Discussion on Life Membership followed. Mr Kaad mentioned that other clubs had discontinued Life membership as it was not economic. Our Treasurer had done forward costing and from this it appeared at present to be not necessary to take this action, but the Association should not accept further Life Membership applications. Constitutionally the Committee had the power to do this but it was felt it should be a matter for the A.G.M.

A motion that no further applications for Life Membership be accepted was proposed by Mr Kaad, seconded by Mr. L. Williams, and carried.

'Una Voce' Newsletter

Mr Kaad thanked Mr and Mrs Clout and Mrs Foley for their assistance in the preparation and distribution of the Newsletter. He asked for more items from members and stressed that care should be taken to verify information given, and that items published should not constitute an invasion of privacy. He asked for information regarding people in hospital who may need company or assistance.

The President expressed the appreciation of the Association to Mr Kaad for his work on the Newsletter.

Future of the Association

The Secretary advised that because of shortage of time and as this matter needed a great deal of consideration and discussion the item "Future of the Association" had been withdrawn from the Agenda. It would be an item in the next Newsletter.

The President of the Manly PNG Club (Mr Don McIntosh) invited all Association members to attend a Luncheon and Pittwater Cruise to be held on 26 May.

There being no further business the Meeting closed at 12.30 p.m.

RETIREED OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA.

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER 1984.

7.

<u>1983.</u>	<u>ACCUMULATED FUNDS.</u>	
10,680	Balance at 1 January 1984	12,481.79
494	Capital Gain on redemption of bonds	-
-	Adjustment, - Typewriter written back	120.00
<u>1308</u>	Net surplus for the year	<u>1,546.29</u>
<u>\$12,482</u>		<u>\$14,148.08</u>

REPRESENTED BY -

CURRENT ASSETS.

3,656	Commonwealth Savings Bank	3,873.63	
1,586	United Perm. Build. Society	1,708.52	
<u>3,040</u>	State Bank	<u>685.93</u>	
8,282			6,268.08

INVESTMENTS.

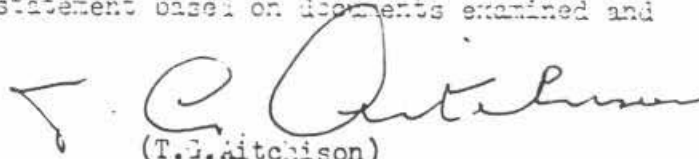
2,000	Pipeline Authority	2,000.00	
2,200	Australian Savings Bonds	2,200.00	
-	State Building Soc. (f.d.)	2,500.00	
<u>-</u>	United Perm. Build. Soc.(f.d.)	<u>1,000.00</u>	
4,200			7,700.00

FIXED ASSETS.

-	Typewriter	120.00	
<u>-</u>	Typewriter	<u>60.00</u>	
			180.00
<u>\$12,482</u>			<u>\$14,148.08</u>

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

21/1/85


(T.G. Aitchison)
Hon. Auditor.

RETIRED OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA.STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE,FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 1984.

<u>1983</u>	<u>RECEIPTS.</u>		
	<u>Subscriptions.</u>		
959	Members	1178.00	
<u>296</u>	Life members	<u>360.00</u>	
1,255			1,538.00
102	Donations		104.00
10	Exchange & postage		0.70
	<u>Interest received.</u>		
268	Pipeline Authority	268.00	
310	Commonwealth Bonds	-	
324	Aust. Savings Bonds	324.50	
129	United Perm. Building Soc.	122.89	
44	State Bank	145.57	
<u>24</u>	Commonwealth Savings Bank	<u>114.45</u>	
1,098			975.41
	<u>Functions receipts.</u>		
-	A.G.M. lunch	810.00	
-	Book launch	954.00	
-	Xmas meeting	<u>373.00</u>	
			<u>2,137.00</u>
<u>\$2,466</u>			<u>\$4,755.11</u>
	<u>PAYMENTS.</u>		
	<u>Newsletter.</u>		
508	Printing	692.00	
332	Postage	303.21	
53	Sundries	35.73	
<u>20</u>	Postal registration	<u>30.00</u>	
913			1,060.94
18	Post Office box		20.00
109	Petty cash		165.00
7	Cheque book & bank charges		12.00
9	Rubber stamp		-
102	Loss on lunch		-
	<u>Functions expenditure.</u>		
-	A.G.M. lunch	840.00	
-	Book launch	844.00	
-	Xmas meeting	<u>266.88</u>	
			<u>1,950.88</u>
1,158			3,208.82
<u>1,308</u>	Surplus for the year trans. to Accumulated Funds		<u>1,546.29</u>
<u>\$2,466</u>			<u>\$4,755.11</u>

ADDRESS BY H.P. SEALE TO THE R.O.A.P.N.G. 34th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 24/4/85

After welcoming retired officers, their wives and friends to the Meeting, Bill spoke briefly of the work of the Association over the period of his presidency and the assistance the Committee had given him. He then went on to say that as this was the last occasion on which he would be the President, he would like to speak about some of his experiences in New Guinea.

"The most distressing experience resulted from the execution of about 130 Australian soldiers. They were hand-tied and bayoneted by the Japanese at Tol, on the south coast of New Britain. Then on a later and different occasion I saw 1,000 American paratroopers dropping out of the skies at Nadzab, in the Markham valley, to be followed by divisions of Australian troops pushing up the Markham and Ramu valleys pursuing our enemies. I later saw examples of American might in Bougainville.

After the war uniforms were exchanged for civvies - B.G.D. and N.G.D. successfully re-developing their mining resources and other subsidiary industries like timber - the very rough army road between Lae and Wau became a highway - Bergstrand and Hohner played important parts in these enterprises.

At the same time, the Central Highlands of New Guinea were coming to life. Hagen and Goroka were to become important centres of primary production, in particular coffee. Industry boomed. Taylor and Downs were the industrious leaders, and the Leahy brothers, having finished exploring, also took to coffee growing - they were greats !

There was a central road running through the Highlands from which subsidiary roads to populated areas were built, mostly by hand. More than 350,000 Highlanders changed their lifestyles in a short period of time, with no political trouble.

It is my belief that without the strenuous and thoughtful endeavours of various Government field staff of all departments P.N.G. would not have seen the successful changes which materialised.

Turning from the Highlands to the islands, I think that what became known as the "Johnson Cult" in New Hanover and New Ireland could have become the most damaging occurrence since the Japanese invasion. This was a cargo cult which grew and grew, secretly, and if the Government had not taken positive and determined action I believe a major uprising would probably have eventuated.

My last years in P.N.G. were spent in Lae - a relief from the cults. Lae which owes so much to Sir Horace Niall - my oldest mentor.

It was fortunate that commerce and industry were to invest so considerably in Lae and the Morobe District at that time. The convenient central geographical position of Lae was another telling factor, while district co-operation was a by-word.

I have deliberately avoided using many names, but so many dedicated officers did so much towards P.N.G. development that naming them all would have been an impossibility.

I feel fortunate I have spent almost all my working life in what I always termed "New Guinea", and I would never have had it otherwise. Finally but certainly not least, any success I may have had and enjoyed would not have been possible without the support of my wife, Heather.

Thank you".

Bill Seale.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S CHAIR

I want to write about the future of the Association - the AGM agenda item which was deferred because of limited time. Our Association is now 34 years old and it has been a very useful asset to its members in consolidating and extending our superannuation moneys, and providing information. However, it would be foolish to become complacent -- to sit back and think our worries are over. In these changing times many traditional precedents are being challenged. Even heads of Commonwealth departments may now be recruited from outside the Public Service. As money becomes tighter, governments look for ways of pruning expenses and although I don't see, at the moment, any challenge to our level of superannuation, there is always a risk. For instance, in NSW the Superannuation scheme has just been drastically changed. It is essential that our Association speaks with one voice and that that voice should be as strong as possible. Can we each resolve to influence at least one potential member to join our Association and so strengthen our voice?

The other thing about the Association's future we need to discuss is whether we continue to have Members and Associate Members or whether we endeavour to widen our ranks and move towards having the one category of membership.

Our Constitution was originally written when there was no reason to think that there would be superannuants and also recipients of "handshakes" - golden or otherwise. But this did happen and one result was to open our Association to include Associate Members. It is now 10 years since Independence, and the youngest of our Members is over 60. It seems logical that as Members grow older then those who are now Associate Members could play a fuller and more meaningful part in our Association.

Put simply, one school of thought maintains that our first and major aim must be the maintenance of benefits for Members at all costs, and therefore we should give no further authority to Associates -- perhaps we should never have included them. The other school argues that the Members are fast growing old and eventually will need the younger Associates to help run the Association. Therefore it would be better to move now and encourage them to take a more active part. This could be done first by raising the number of Associate Members allowed on the Committee from 25% to, say, 50%. There would be no need to change the objectives of our Association. This group includes those who feel that we should also be putting more emphasis on the social and welfare needs of members, and in the longer term we shall need the help of Associate members for this.

I should like to get the reaction of both Members and Associates to these thoughts and this will help guide your Committee on any recommendations it may make on these matters.

David Marsh.

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VALE

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

NEW GUINEA

Dr. Thomas Backhouse
12/5/85
In Sydney. Prewar Medical officer, retiring in 1945. Leaves widow Lorna, Mt. Tomah, N.S.W.

PNG

Miss Marie Egan
29/3/85
Department of Education and headmistress Second Correspondence School, retiring 1965.

Mrs. Ethel Dix
15/4/85
Widow of Bill former Superintendent of Police.

Mrs. Patricia Fisher
4/5/85
Widow of Leonard, former Medical Assistant.

Albert Gloynes
6/5/85
Former technical officer in Forests, retiring 1974. Leaves widow Marie on Bribe Island.

Cyril (Joe) Lynch, O.B.E.
5/5/85
The very likable and hard working legal eagle who for many years was parliamentary draftsman in Moresby. Since retiring in 1975 Joe has been a consultant working in PNG and over most of the Pacific (at one time he was Attorney-General in Kiribati). He is survived by widow Jean and daughter Elizabeth, now also a solicitor.

Ralph Mynard
8/5/85
Former O.I.C. transport Moresby, until retiring 1971. Well remembered by many "Outside" officers for whom he could usually find wheels. Leaves widow June in Southport.

Geoffrey Roscoe
6/6/85
Former Director of Education, retiring in 1962. Well known inter alia for his development of station and village schools. Although 85, until recently Geoff has been librarian at an Anglican Seminary in Brisbane. Leaves widow May at St. Lucia.

Molly Fairfax-Ross
27/6/85
Widow of "Fax" former head of British New Guinea Development Company.

Continued.....

VALE

(continued)

James Robinson
21/6/85

Joining as a P.O. in 1945 Jim was mostly in Papua until late 50s. Went to Goroka later as clerk with Laurie Doolan before returning to Victorian Public Service.

Bill Forgan-Smith
27/6/85

One of PNG's best known pilots, Bill flew prewar with Guinea Airways and postwar with Qantas, Patair & Ansett.

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After a rather frustrating day last week I came home to find a mysterious package had been left for me. It had Australia Post marking, but June said it had been delivered by an unmarked truck, and wondered whether it might be a bomb and suggested calling the police! Finally I got to open it - but only outside on the lawn, just in case! - and received a very pleasant surprise. Instead of a loud explosion it was a magnificent gavel set made of red ebony from Vanimo. Expertly turned, finished and polished by Ralph (Bart) Bartlett (Treasury at Wewak and various other places). It was sent to be used at meetings or, as Bart suggested, to add a little "bilas" to such events.

A very thoughtful and much appreciated gesture, Bart. Thank you very much.

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HAVE YOU HEARD.....

Francis Xavier Ryan - sounds Irish to me ! - has been spending some time in and out of Concord Repatriation Hospital where they've been doing some nasty things to him in the way of major surgery -- but he's bouncing back with his usual optimism. Good luck, F.X. !

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Des and Claire Hill, ex Health at Angoram among other places, are now at Bonnell's Bay on the Central Coast.

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Kitty Fischer has left the delights - and warmth - of Mount Isa.

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Thelma Price who was so well known for her Girl Guide and social work activities in the Moresby area, is living in Figtree Pocket and would also like to hear from friends visiting Brisbane. Sons Michael, Bill and Peter are in Northwood NSW, Darwin, and Brisbane, respectively.

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Jack White - Agriculture didiman in Rabaul, Wewak etc. then marketing officer at Konedobu is presently Australian Trade Commissioner in Madrid. His previous postings have included Saudi Arabia and Fiji as well as Canberra.

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Geoff Masters wants to contact Theo and Betty Jagers. Theo helped build Steamships store on the Moresby foreshore in the 50s and then went to a Canberra brickworks. Can anyone help? Geoff is at 11 Brookes Crescent, Bribie Island, 4507, or tell Theo to ring him on (075) 48-2242.

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Also at Bribie Is. are Cec Weldon, ex BP Property Office and now involved in the Golden Age Centre for older citizens. Lois Baker also helps at the Centre, among other things.

is and Jack Baker (ex DDA) have sold the caravan park - Jack now works on training courses in the Solomons and searches out new fishing spots. These have included some of the rivers near Kimbe (New Britain) which Jack claims have some of the best bass fishing in the world. (Wish I'd known about that when I was there! Ed.) Graham and Louise Hogg parted company with the Bakers when the caravan park was sold and Graham is now in PNG waters cruising on his boat with his son.

Others at Bribie include Malcolm and Elizabeth Gray - Mal was a surveyor with Lands at Alotau and the Highlands. Gus Swinbourne, ex QEA pilot, and his wife are also there, whilst Paul Jones has just moved across to the Island.

Mention of Alotau reminds me of Arch McArthur, who was with the Area Authority there. Arch earlier this year visited Fred Craig (at Samarai at one time), now at Mruwillumbah, and his partner in the Milne Bay area Maurie Hammersley - now at Eumundi, near Nambour.

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John Huon de Navrancourt is in the news again. At the moment he is in Paris (lucky man!) attending the world conference of the International Police Association (hope I've got the title right). He intends to return via the Trans Siberian Railway.

This year Queensland is for the first time giving awards to recognize the significant contribution of individuals to assist newly arrived migrants to settle in that State. John has been one of those chosen and his citation reads " For many years Mr de Navrancourt has taught French and Italian children and adults and has given his time on numerous occasions to assist migrants with settlement problems. He is a volunteer driver for Meals on Wheels in Atherton and continues in an honorary role as Secretary of Alliance Francais d'Atherton. As well, he offers his home as a meeting place and "drop in" centre for migrants.

A different award was recently given to Mrs Bonny Dun by the NSW State Cancer Council. (She is the widow of Gordon Dun, ex Agronomist at Keravat). Her "Valiant Service" award was for her contribution to the Lost Chord Club, of which she has been Secretary for more than 10 years. Its main function is to assist those who have lost their vocal chords as a result of cancer.

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Trevor Bruce has now returned from New Zealand and is Patron of the Tewantin (Sunshine Coast) branch of the R.S.L. He has had a sticky time after a broken leg and other complications suffered in a car accident -- he's particularly cross because it wasn't his fault ! His number is (071) 49-8105. Incidentally, I hear he's 77 this year.

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Older ex-Moresby'ites would remember these DCA people - John Walker (O.I.C. Jackson's airfield postwar) - now lives at Yamba, NSW north coast. Also Mick Eakin, who left DCA to build garage at Konedobu end of Lawes Rd. He has been with Whitticks newsagency (Cairns) but currently in the Mater Hospital, Brisbane, for an operation.

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And I understand that Bill Chester - father of Neville, Ian & Ken, will reach 89 years this month.

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Frank Leibried, one time patrol officer in New Britain went back to work in the Ok Tedi mine area for 3 years arranging small business development by local entrepreneurs. He often saw Kipling Uiari who is now Executive Manager, Public Relations, for the Mine. Many will remember Kipling as the first PNG graduate in psychology at the University of Queensland. Frank is now back in Hobart doing a post-graduate course and supporting himself by some consulting work. His address: P.O. Box 533, Sandy Bay, Tasmania 7005.

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Fred Doerr's son Peter and friend Chris are operating the Sherezade Indian Restaurant at 127 Creek St. Brisbane and 524 Milton Road Toowong, so all you curry buffs take yourselves along to either one. Mention 'Una Voce' and they will give you an extra hot serving and tell you which other PNG customers they have.

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BOOK REVIEW

THE MOON MAN. A biography of Nikolai Miklouho-Maclay.

by E.M. Webster. Melbourne University Press, 1984. \$28 (to ROAPNG Members)

Nikolai Miklouho-Maclay is a legendary figure in New Guinea history - the first scientific observer to live among the people. The area where he worked along Astrolabe Bay, near present-day Madang, is still known as the Maclay or Rai Coast (Rai being paradise in Russian).

Miss Webster has produced a highly readable, yet detailed account of the life, travels and achievements of this talented, unassuming and tenacious man. It is a tribute to her scholarship that such a full picture of this fascinating man has emerged from the fragmented and scattered data that survived him.

He was born in Russia of a noble but impoverished family. His early work was in zoology and marine biology, but later Miklouho-Maclay conceived a grandiose plan to investigate the Western Pacific from New Guinea almost to the Arctic Circle. He intended to carry out meteorological observations and research in anthropology and ethnography. His main object was to find "primitive tribes of people beyond the influence of others who have been raised to a comparatively high level of civilization". So, in 1871 a small Russian warship landed him at Astrolabe Bay, where the sailors reluctantly left him. He had two servants, but no armed retainers nor official support. He was able to establish friendly contact with the people and to move among the villagers along a narrow coastal strip, but his ambition to explore inland was not realized during any of his three visits: 1871-72, 1876-77, and 1883.

Miklouho-Maclay's journeys took him to other parts of New Guinea, Java and Malaya. He also went to Sydney - initially for health reasons - where he was accepted in scientific circles, and found time to marry. His grandsons are well known citizens of Sydney today.

His main concern, however, was for "his people" on the Rai Coast. By the 1880's New Guinea was one of the last areas of the Western Pacific unclaimed by the European powers. Miklouho-Maclay was worried by the interest shown by Australians and various European countries. He entered into an extensive correspondence to try to prevent the annexation of "his people" by foreigners. When his efforts seemed unsuccessful, he produced a "development plan" for the Maclay Coast with himself as absolute ruler over a Russian protectorate (for a coaling station), - a fantastic scheme from someone so concerned with the welfare of the inhabitants and their right to preserve their land. He even went to Russia to promote the plan, but eventually it was rejected by the Tsar.

He died in St. Petersburg in 1888, aged 42, before he was able to fully write up his results. On his deathbed he instructed his wife to burn his papers and diaries, and she dutifully started the task before she was persuaded to stop. One wonders why he should have asked that the evidence of his life's work be destroyed.

It is difficult to make an assessment of Miklouho-Maclay's place in the world of science. He was an indifatigable traveller who did not spare himself, but he was no Darwin or Wallace, whose observations during their travels resulted in significant scientific developments; neither was he a Malinowski who produced detailed anthropological studies on a group of people. Although he was unable to prevent the Maclay Coast becoming part of German New Guinea, his greatest influence on events was probably

achieved through his representations to the British government which in 1884 rather unwillingly declared a protectorate over the southern portion of New Guinea (later renamed Papua), assuring the inhabitants that their lands, life and property would be preserved for them.

Miss Webster's biography fills a long felt need to learn more about the life and achievements of this legendary explorer - most of the publications on him are in Russian. The book is warmly recommended to all interested in pre-contact, pre-colonial New Guinea. The illustrations - attractive drawings by Miklouho-Maclay - provide a further demonstration of the many talents of this exceptional man.

G. P. Keleny.

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Well, that's all for now! As they say everywhere in California - HAVE A NICE DAY!

Gudie Maad

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