



# Una Voce News Letter

RETIRED OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA

P.O. BOX 452, ROSEVILLE NSW 2069

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No. 1, 1990 - March

Dear Member,

On behalf of the Committee I thank all those members who sent Christmas and New Year Greetings and provided comments with respect to the production of Una Voce and the operation of the Association. It is very rewarding to know that so many members are appreciative of our efforts on their behalf.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND LUNCHEON

Our Association's Annual General Meeting and Luncheon will be held on Sunday 8 April, 1990 at the Mandarin Club. Full details about the meeting and luncheon are to be found in the centre pages.

Any of our senior members who would like to attend but now have difficulty because of transport problems, please get in touch with our Secretary, Jo Nitsche or our Assistant Secretary, Pamela Foley, whose telephone numbers are shown above, and they will endeavour to arrange transport, which in most cases will not be difficult.

## MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions for 1990 of \$8.00 became due on 1 January last and for those who have not as yet paid, please send your subscriptions direct to our Treasurer, Bill Johnston, whose address is shown above. The note on the bottom of the last page titled "ARE YOU IN THE RED???" indicates your financial standing.

Because of increased mailing, printing and administration costs, members, whose subscriptions are more than twelve (12) months in arrears, will not in future receive copies of Una Voce until they become financial.

Those members who change their address please notify the Secretary or Treasurer without delay so that you will not miss receiving any issues of Una Voce.

## \*ASSOCIATION'S POSTAL ADDRESS

As from 1 April 1990 The Association's Postal Address will be as shown above in the heading, ie. P.O. BOX 452, ROSEVILLE. N.S.W. 2069.

### VISIT TO THE BLUE MOUNTAINS

We propose making another trip to the Blue Mountains on Monday 14 May 1990. Would those persons interested please contact Doug Parrish (02.416.8966) or Ken Gorringer (047.57.1488). The return trip by train still only costs \$2.00 and most people from outside the mountains travel that way. Irrespective of the weather I can assure people, who have not been as yet, that it is a very pleasant day's outing.

### VISIT TO THE CENTRAL COAST

We were planning a visit to Newcastle but because of the earthquake it has been suggested that as an alternative we try another visit to the Central Coast. Would members interested please contact Jo Nitsche (02.451.2475) or June Antill (043.88.5054)

### CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

The Christmas Luncheon was a great success with some 160 members and friends in attendance. Space, unfortunately, does not permit listing the names of all those who were there.

### HELP REQUIRED

An American researcher, Dr. George Morren, is looking for Australian and Papua New Guinean survivors of the 1944 glider landings at Telefomin. He knows that Mich Leahy, Bob Fraser and Advent Tarosi are dead and that Suni still lives at Olsobip. Does anyone know of any other survivors? If so, please contact Bill Gammage, 1 Hackett Gardens, Turner ACT 2601 - Phone 062.47.7451.

### LAVAI KIDNEY TRANSPLANT APPEAL

A total of K12334.85 was donated to the appeal and we are happy to be able to say that the operation was an outstanding success. Lavai should by now be back in Madang, fit and healthy.

### NEW PNG GOVERNOR GENERAL

The new Governor General of Papua New Guinea is Vincent Eri CMG.

Many members will remember Vincent Eri as the first Consul-General in Sydney from 1974 to 1976 and as High Commissioner to Australia in Canberra from 1976 to 1978.

### COMMENTS RE "VALE" SECTION

The response to my comments in the December, 1989 issue of Una Voce were quite surprising. 32 letters were received, 27 phone calls and between 20 to 30 members spoke to me about it at the Christmas Luncheon.

All, except one person, were in favour of the current format and I was hoping to quote extracts from some of the letters received, but space does not permit, so I will include them in the next issue.

### MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE

This is the largest issue of Una Voce we have ever produced and, regrettably, I have had to defer a number of matters to the next issue.

EULOGY

FOR THE LATE SIR IGNATIUS KILAGE, GOVERNOR GENERAL OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA  
BY SIR WILLIAM PRENTICE  
AT A MEMORIAL SERVICE AT ST. MARY'S CATHEDRAL, SYDNEY ON 5 JANUARY, 1990

Born in 1940 a village boy in the valleys leading to Mt Wilhelm, the highest mountain in Papua New Guinea, some 6 or 7 years after the first European penetration of the Highlands, Ignatius Kilage grew to be a man who humbly achieved greatness. He was selected to attend primary school in the Western Highlands and at Vuvu in East New Britain - where he continued to preliminary studies for the priesthood at Ulapia Chamel College in 1958. He later did a further year's academic study in Queensland before, in 1963, taking up Theology at Madang Seminary from which he graduated and was ordained priest in 1968.

After some years of priestly ministry in the Chimbu during which he served on various boards and Committees, he sought and obtained release from his vows from Pope Paul VI. He took up other duties which included chairmanship of the Public Service Commission.

At Independence he was appointed Chief Ombudsman, and proceeded to build up a strong organisation in that Commission to his own design. His work there - under difficult conditions - gave tremendous satisfaction; but he declined reappointment for a second term.

On suspension of the Simbu Provincial Government, he administered that Province for some 18 months, and re-established stable government. Later he became principal advisor to the Highland-born then Prime Minister Paias Wingti. He contested the 1987 general elections - finishing runner-up for the Regional Chimbu Seat for Parliament.

He was a man of wide interests which included literature - he had published a novel "My mother called me Yaltep" covering the period of first European penetration of the Highlands (it is not, he told me, autobiographical); and he was prominent in the administration of Rugby League in Port Moresby - it being the principal sport of the country.

His equability and firmness of decision were illustrated for me when I was recalled from circuit to give my vote in a commission as to a most important appointment. (In my absence the vote had been tied between two candidates). I offered my opinion, and sketched reasons therefor. The responsible Minister tried to brow-beat me into changing my mind - indulging in a fierce eyeball and shouting confrontation. Present was Ombudsman Ignatius who merely said quietly but firmly - "All right Minister - you're outvoted - next business please".

Another facet of his character - his abundant humour - was revealed when he came to Sydney only a few weeks ago, a very ill man. He was to undergo visits with professors of medicine, one a PNG man one a Sydney man. Speaking on the phone I asked what were his symptoms. He sounded depressed, so jokingly I said, as he detailed them, "It sounds very much like AIDS to me." I could almost see through the phone the teeth flash, his coal black eyes glint with fire as he shouted "You....." followed by an epithet which in Australian speech can carry meanings from intense anger to the greatest affection. Chuckling, I suggested "Your Excellency - that doesn't sound like proper vice-regal language". I fancy he may have picked up such speech patterns in the seminary! We went on an excursion the next day to Manly, and we made our goodbyes - he knew then he was dying.

Ignatius was a man of great personal dignity, ability, firmness, honesty and sincerity. He evoked affection and respect in all who knew him. He was a true and caring friend - he loved God, his family and his country, with a special feeling of course for his own people the Chimbus.

I had stayed with him and his family on the 3 occasions on which I have returned to PNG since my resigning office as Chief Justice, and I shared the patently happy family life there at Boroko.

He leaves with us his wonderful wife Regina and four fine children; the eldest girl now schooling in North Queensland - the youngest about 2. We extend out sympathy to them in the loss of such a devoted husband and father. PNG has lost one of its most distinguished sons; and as he conferred on me the honour of referring to me as his PAPA - so I too have lost a much loved son.

Ignatius Kilage, Knight Grand Cross of Saint Michael and Saint George, Commander of the Order of the British Empire, Knight of St. John of Jerusalem - you have returned to your Maker. We thank HIM for you and we salute you. Perhaps you will now intercede for us.

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#### HOUSE O'MALLEY REUNION

Heather McKeown, who was secretary to James Glen, Director of Public Works in TPNG, from 1956 to 1960, recently retired after 25 years working in Vancouver, Canada, and now visiting her home state of Western Australia (63 Burniston St, Scarborough, WA 6019) writes:

"I was aided and abetted by fellow West Australians Pat (McHenry) Billett, Peg (McLernon) Strickland and Wendy (Brady) Walker in arranging a reunion of most of the House O'Malley (Port Moresby) 'girls' of our era and friends Jean (Lane) Lynch and Marie (O'Brien) O'Shea, both of NSW, at The Little Company Guest House in Leura in the Blue Mountains at the end of February.

"The fun, drama and good fellowship of hostel living and working in Port Moresby in those carefree days was joyously and sentimentally relived by those mentioned and, from SA - Betty Boyce, Mary (White) Guerin and Liz Harvey; Victoria - Carmel (Selleck) Whelan; ACT - Marie (Dawes) Cusack, Helen (Broadby) England and Pat (Flaherty) Ford; NSW - Joan (Murray) Dawes; Margaret (McMullen) Slater; Queensland - Murielle (McGrath) Aherne, Beryl (Thompson of bagpipes fame) Bennett, Anne (McDonald) Diggins, Maureen (Murphy - our first House O'Malley bride) Heubner, Marie (Regan) McSherry and Joan (Redmond) Montgomery. Regrets and good wishes were received from SA - Mary (Reay-Young) Bizzai; ACT - Jo (Wilde) LeMesurier; Queensland - Shirley Devine, Carmel Dowling and Jan (Burns) Rollo; Tasmania - Margaret (Loughlin) Elvey and Mary Owen.

It was most interesting to hear of the diverse paths our lives have taken since we all left TPNG. Talking, laughing and remembering gave us so much pleasure and to see photography and slides of ourselves (there was much pining for those small waists) and friends - male and female - who shared happy times and the many and varied escapades in TPNG made us thankful that we experienced a time when life seemed much less complex than it is today in that beautiful country. Although we sat together in different surroundings, it was as though we were sitting on the verandah lounge of House O'Malley over 30 years ago when the regard we feel for each other was forged well enough to withstand the separation of so many years. Friendship is, indeed, the wine of life."

### HAVE YOU HEARD???

Freddie and June KAAD have returned from their overseas trip which they both thoroughly enjoyed, although June picked up the latest European flu virus and spent the last week or two of their trip home mainly in bed. She is fighting fit again now and so is Freddie having returned home, I believe, fitter than when he left.

Harry WEST, with the mutual co-operation of a host of friends and the availability of the facilities at Eryldene, on Saturday 10 February hosted a party to welcome home Freddie and June. Some 73 guests were in attendance including a number from out of town, amongst whom were: Des and Margaret Clancy from Perth W. A.; Ian Downs from Murwillumbah, far North Coast, N.S.W.; Don and June Antill from the N.S.W. Central Coast; Bill and Friedergarde Tomasetti and Ted Hicks from the Blue Mountains N.S.W.; Bert Speers from Goulburn N.S.W.; and from Canberra, Les and Dulcie Johnston, Paul and Barbara Ryan and Tim and Judy Terrill.

Despite the inclement weather the party was a great success due in a very large measure to the excellent venue and the tremendous help that Harry received from all involved.

Bill and Anne Carter, Ken and Rosemary Brown and Ron Galloway when sending their apologies for not attending the Christmas Luncheon wrote as follows:

"We are "fine" and hope you are too:-

There is nothing the matter with me,  
I'm as healthy as can be.  
I have arthritis in both my knees  
And when I talk, I talk with a wheeze.  
My pulse is weak, and my blood is thin,  
But I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in.

Arch supports I have for my feet,  
Or I wouldn't be able to be on the street.  
Sleep is denied me night after night  
But every morning I find I'm all right.  
My memory is failing, my head is in a spin  
But I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in.

The moral is this as my tale I unfold  
That for you and me who are growing old,  
It's better to say "I'm fine" with a grin,  
Than to let folks know the shape we are in."

Friends of Freda ELLIS will be glad to know that Freda is feeling much better and is back playing bridge.

Heard from Dan and Judy DUGGAN from Alstonville, N.S.W. Dan wrote "I am back from W.A. having finished the job on the Aboriginal Community there in December. I did another short job working as a Co-Ordinator/Trainer setting in operation an Aboriginal Corporation at Glen Innes in N.S.W., I finished that job in July and have now joined the Department of Aboriginal Affairs as a Senior Projects Officer based at Lismore (home area).

My wife, Judy, works as a District Officer with Family and Community Services (N.S.W. State Government) also in Lismore. We have three children, Ann (daughter of Ann Kelly dec'd) Connie and Dan Jnr."

Betty von SCHILL of Beacon Hill, N.S.W., writes "..... daughter, Julie, the youngest, was married last August. She is living on the Central Coast, so she had to transfer from being Personnel Manager for Grace Bros at Broadway to the same position with G.B.s Erina (near Gosford). Margaret, the younger daughter, made me a Grandmother in October for the seventh time!! She has five children and Sue, the eldest, has two. David is still a bachelor - he is into scuba diving as a sport and has had some interesting dives in NG, Milne Bay and recently Truk Lagoon.

I was interested to read of the pilgrimage in 1992 to Milne Bay. My brother, F/Sgt Pilot George Inkster, was killed at Milne Bay on 11 August, 1942. George was one of the Spitfire Pilots (about 8-10 if I remember correctly) that returned with Bluey Truscott from England. He was in 76 Kittyhawk Squadron and Peter Turnbull was the C.O. when he was killed. Hence my interest."

Our old friend Thelma PRICE from Figtree Pocket, Qld., having visited Israel last year apologised for not making the Christmas luncheon but reported that: "There was a great gathering of PNG folk at David Jones for the Bi-annual Morning Tea (third Thursdays in November and May). Many have had 50++ years of contact with an odd great grandchild in tow! Names you would know like McAdam, Cottrell-Dormer, O'Brien and Brazier - widows of whom are happy to come and exchange news and break all dietary rules!"

Harry BRUTNALL of Pialba, Qld., reports that he has been away a lot, doing a bit of sea time to break the monotony of retirement. He spent five months in the Philippines with the idea of settling there but there was too much humbug. He said that life is very good where he is but he gets restless for a change at times.

Had a brief note from Tim SCOTT in Somerset in England and all the best Tim from all your friends from Down Under.

Paul BOLGER from Hamilton Qld. writes: "Regarding the December issue (page 10) "Bribie Island", the Jim Birrell mentioned is Jim junior not Jim senior who married Ela Gofton daughter of "Ma" Stewart.

Page 9 "Whatever Happened To" Hec McKenzie. I was on the Gold Coast PNG boat trip last year or the year before and Hec was on board. I believe he is living on the Gold Coast." Ed. Thanks Paul, Hec has written in giving us his current address.

Part of a letter from Bob TEBBLE of Daisy Hill, Qld., I am sure will interest his many friends from PNG days: "Although I divested myself of the bulk of my public accounting practice a few years ago, I retained a few clients in order to justify holding on to my expensive computer and the equally expensive software necessary to run it. Having work to do and a commitment to others is great therapy. Despite the continuing inroads into my strength made by progressive muscular dystrophy and the fact that I am confined to a wheel chair, I generally enjoy each day. I must admit (willingly and gratefully) that the prime mover in any ability I have to make the best of things is my dear wife Iris. She retains her love for theatre and the arts generally although we seldom go to a show." (Bob, I use Una Voce as part of my excuse to keep my computer but, in addition, I obtain a lot of pleasure from it even though I do not play computer games. Ed.)

I hear that Ian and Marie SKINNER are still not enjoying the best of health and I have been asked by their many ex PNG friends to wish them all the very best for a very speedy recovery.



David MONTGOMERY from Grabben Gullen, NSW, in a letter recently, reported as follows: "Life continues to be busy - Still a 'didiman' and still very much involved in the potato industry with various responsibilities.

Production of certified red potatoes with son Scot and his wife Terri, beef cattle and fat lambs at "Kimbe" Grabben Gullen are our main enterprises.

I am the Executive Director of the Crookwell Potato Association, a strong local grower body and a consultant to and marketing manager for a local Agri-cultural co-operative. We recently purchased a coastal cattle property of 250 acres bordering Coila Lake now called "Bingie Banus".

Met up with John and Joan Gosbell (ex Singaua Lae and ex DASF) and Jack and Norma White, also ex DASF. John is looking for somewhere to put down his roots in Australia. Jack is well entrenched in Canberra (just ask Norma) with Aus-trade after a number of postings and years overseas.

Enjoy Una Voce, so many people mentioned, one or other of us have had the pleasure of working or being associated with."

Bert WESTON from Milsons Point, NSW, told me that it was with some degree of trepidation that he decided to attend our Christmas Luncheon because he doubted that he would know anyone there and he might be like a 'shag on a rock'. Bert's time in PNG was as a private citizen from 1927 until 1941 and then to the end of 1945 in the army. So many of the people he knew as miners in the Morobe District, in the early flying days and amongst the staff of the Mandated Territory Administration are no longer on this planet, either killed by the Japs or by the passage of time.

I think Bert was pleasantly surprised to meet people like Sir Horace Niall, Ruby McGregor, Alice Middleton, Sandy Sinclair, Jess Ross and others at the Luncheon who were in the Territory in 1927 or before. We do hope Bert that we will see you at future functions.

Received a letter from old friends Brian and Jo CORRIGAN who, when commenting on Una Voce and other matters, wrote: "It has a habit of binding us all together and I am sure keeps a lot of friendships in repair. The years of 53, 54 and 55 created many close ties when a lot of us shared common risks and accepted whatever the result; but now most of us are scattered, although Sydney and the Gold Coast seem to shake them out of the trees mainly now, unfortunately, at funerals. A few weeks ago Kay Cole was cremated at Nerang and there was a large crowd there to pay respect. Archbishop Copas conducted the service and among the crowd I noticed Jim Dutton, the Sinclairs, Des Ashton, Kay Timperley, Pat Walters, Royce Webb, Geoff Littler, Tony Trollope, Sir Coleman O'Loughlen and Ian Skinner.

.....At Kay's funeral I had a long chat with John Hayes who was with me at Minj in the early 50's and latterly R.L.O. in the Dept. of Labour. He told me that Barry Fletcher had died - you would remember him, of course, from your time as Head of the Dept. John asked me where he could contact Des Collins - I could not help as I lost contact with Des shortly after he came down in 1974 and lived for a while at Banora Point, NSW. (Barry was not a member and unfortunately I did not know that he had passed on. Ed.)

Gladys MIDDLETON of Dianella, W.A., writes that Stan is still battling on and sends his regards to all his friends.

It was nice to hear from George ANDERSON of Mollymook, NSW, but George, I would appreciate clarification when you say that you disagree with my logic, about what?

\* Malcolm and Gracey WRIGHT of Rochedale, Qld., it was great hearing from you and our best regards. Isn't it a pity that so many of us live so far apart these days!

Bette McLAUGHLIN from Camberwell, Vic., writes: "Tell Doug that the members do read 'Una Voce' from front to back if my ex PNG pals are any indication. Every card I've received to date from that particular group of friends has a note "Saw your piece in the newsletter". (Thanks, Bette, I hope that applies to the majority of our members. Ed.)

It was great to hear from Ted and Rob GLOVER of Bowral, NSW, and also to see them at our Christmas Luncheon. Many of our members will remember Ted as the very first Managing Director post war of the "Papua New Guinea Times Courier" (or whatever it was called originally, as I think it has changed its name two or three times). After the Luncheon Ted wrote to me "Robbie and I certainly enjoyed the PNG Xmas party - why did it take so long to turn up. Great feeling - a few tears when we got home!" (We do hope we will now see you both at our future functions. Ted, I think there are still a lot of ex PNG folk who have not discovered us as yet and I sincerely hope that current members will continue to inform ex PNG folk of our activities. Ed.)

Bob and Nan BUNTING of Paradise Point, Qld., are grandparents again. Tony and Robyn had another boy this month and named him Temujin. Bob says "If like his namesake he starts a conquering movement southwest in the future I'll be with him for sure" and sends his kind regards to all in Sydney.

Neville THOMPSON of Yarralumla, ACT, last November wrote "In a recent visit to Adelaide it was good to catch up with Maria Szent-Ivany (Joe's widow) who had just returned from a visit to Hungary where she witnessed at first hand the change that is sweeping through Eastern Europe."

Ray HARRIS of Mapleton, Qld., also dropped us a note last November, wishing all a Merry Christmas, especially his old friends who would welcome the sight of his Dragon on its final trip to their airstrip at that time of the year. He said that early December he would be putting the pets in the kennels, closing the house and going to the Gold Coast for the annual PNG Club Cocktail Party. Where he said that one does as much grogging and mugging in four or five hours as is done in rest of the year. (Hope the party was a good one. Ed)

Sadie and Alan GOW of Rose Bay, Tas., wrote that they had a wonderful day last year at Les and Margarette Williams when they met up with Barbara Burns after 37 years. They were all at Goroka in the period 49-52.

Jeff MASON of Pt. Vernon, Qld., reports that Jack Colin Lamrock, ex DASF, has not been too good and Jack we sincerely hope taht by now you are fighting fit again. Jeff also sends his kind regards to "Gabe" Keleny.

John LEWIS and his wife, who lived in Parramatta, NSW, in a unit with 39 steps, have moved to Pialba, Qld., because the steps became too much for them. They are very interested in contacting any of our members in the Pialba area and their temporary address is c/- Post Office, Pialba, Qld. 4655.

Dawn FISK of Mordialloc, Vic., commenting on Una Voce says "So many names emerge to rekindle good memories of the past, and happy, sometimes sad, events. Gus Bottrill's name revived the days of 1954/55 - A.S.O.P.A., Kiunga and even "Shorty" Jordan and his passion for guns! Syd Johnston, ex Crown Law, and my former boss, will always remain in my memory as a rather wonderful person."

Ian McMAHON reports that he is leaving the Seychelles and returning, temporarily at least to Australia. He is not sure how long he will stay in Australia but his mother's address in Warwick, Qld., will find him. (Refer list)



It was great to hear from Ron HIATT who is now Port Moresby Manager, Placer Niugini. Many members, ex Highlands and elsewhere, will remember Ron who spent some 25 years as a Kiap in the Highlands, 13 of them at Mt. Hagen, which then had administrative control of Enga, where Placer's Porgera project is now located. After training Papua New Guinean District Officers to take over in the Highlands, Ron stayed in Government service in Port Moresby until recruited by Placer in 1986. Since taking over the Placer Port Moresby office, Ron has presided over a period of fast growth and recruitment. There are fourteen Placer people in the Moresby office today, including the part time presence of the Porgera project manager Vic Botts, who spends much of his time at the minesite, hundreds of kilometres from Moresby, but just a short hop from one of Ron's old stamping grounds in the Southern Highlands. All the best, Ron, from all your friends down here.

Rick GIDDINGS, Magisterial Service, Kundiawa, PNG, reports that he saw Tom Lydon recently and believes that Tom works somewhere in the Western Highlands. Next time he sees Tom he will ask him for his address and advise us of same. (We asked the whereabouts of Tom in the last issue of Una Voce. Ed.)

Nan WATKINS of Surfers Paradise advised that she was fortunate enough to be spending three weeks with American friends in a remote area of the big Island of Hawaii. How about some news, Nan, of your trip?

We had a note from Eileen BARNARD from Nottinghamshire in the UK saying that she enjoyed the Newsletter very much and commented "The best part of my husband's and my life were spent in Wewak and it's lovely to read the news of everyone". Eileen sent her best wishes to all her friends out here.

Maud SINCLAIR from Rothwell, Qld., reports that, in addition to her niece Ann, who goes to university this year to finish her Bachelor of Nursing, she now has a cousin and her husband, who recently came out from South Africa, living nearby, so she does have some visitors.

A brief note from Jack REILLY of Lismore, NSW, and ex Education PNG. Bill Johnston, Horrie Niall, Candy and myself all return your best wishes.

Our old friend Grace HARTLEY of Ormiston, Qld., was very lucky recently when a scrub fire reached within 25 metres of her timber home and greatly upset her 30 bantam chickens and cockerals. Grace has always kept in touch and we are all very grateful that the fire did not cause her any harm. Very best wishes, Grace, from all your friends down here.

Joan COLEMAN, previously of Mapleton, Qld., advises that she has moved to Eltham, Vic. She wrote: "I have moved to be a permanent resident here on the outskirts of Melbourne, having weighed the advantages of being near family and old friends against the Melbourne weather and decided to leave the beautiful Sunshine Coast, not without a little reluctance I must confess.

On my return from a nine month visit to PNG recently to help with final preparation of the Kunimaipa New Testament translation for publication, I stopped over in Popondetta where I began my MCH work 30 years before. I was delighted to see three of my old nurses who trained at Saiho. It was good to see them looking trim and neat in their uniforms and holding down responsible positions in the Pop hospital. We had a great time reminiscing with tears and hugs and wails in true PNG style. All three have married and raised 5, 6 and 9 children. I'll be going up just once more this winter when the printed copies of the book I worked on for eighteen years comes back from Hong Kong. Things have changed a lot since I retired". Joan, it must be a great feeling of fulfilment to have completed such a tremendous work, our sincere congratulations.

NEWS FROM AUSTRALIAN & PNG CORRESPONDENTS

WESTERN AUSTRALIA (Margaret Clancy)

Des and I are very much enjoying a six week visit to the Eastern States. We came to Adelaide on the Indian Pacific and drove to Sydney in our own car which also came with us on the train. We will visit Queensland for a week then back to Sydney, on to Melbourne for a week and then drive home to Perth. It's great to catch up with old friends.

Brian Heagney put on a great New Year's Eve Party in his unit high above the Swan River. Brian and his wife Juliana have two beautiful little children, Patrick aged six and Brenna aged four. A very happy family. Brian would like to know - "Where is Peter Sheekey?" (He will find Peter's address in the membership list. Ed.)

We in WA want to see the VALE pages continue. True it's sad but we want to know. I can't let that comment pass without expressing my own sadness about the deaths of Mary Zweck and Dulcie West - both untimely.

Mrs. Eve Ackerman is a new member of the Association. Eve lives in Perth and was the wife of Dr. John Ackerman. They were in Rabaul from 1946 until 1947 and then in Goroka and Wewak until 1951. Eve is anxious to find the whereabouts of old friends and she and Dame Rachel are going to PNG in April in the hope that Eve can catch up with some of the indigenous people she knew years ago.

Terry Hadlow, formerly a PO in the Western District and ENGA (1972-81) and at Adcol Local Government in Moresby, is now a senior officer in the Civil Aviation Authority in Perth.

Gus Bottrill was in the Northern Territory recently and caught up with former PO (SHD) John Kabisch. John is in the Department of Local Government in Katherine and his boss is Mike Press also a former SHD Kiap. Gus reports that Mike Corcoran, ex Fire Chief in Moresby, is now Mine Host of the Old Colonial Hotel in Geraldton (he has been there for quite a few years now).

Cedric Wyatt, ex PNG, is now a very senior officer in Aboriginal Affairs (State Department) in WA.

I met Mike Hess, Lecturer in History at UPNG from 1979-82, and his wife Liz. Liz is a girl from Lake Murray and was adopted by TAMATAI, a Kiwai policeman, who is now retired near Mendi. Liz is a lawyer and is going to practice in Port Moresby when they return to PNG. Liz and Mike have a brand new son named Alfred.

I hear that Jim Jones, formerly Department of Education PNG, is in Perth and with the Department of Education in WA. Will catch up with Jim when I get back.

NORTHERN TERRITORY (Jim Toner)

Jim has been away on long leave (January and February) in UK/USA but, like the good correspondent he is, he sent me some copy before he left, thanks Jim. Ed.

He wrote this about the VALE section: "Of course you must include decent obituaries, so far as you can obtain the details. I'm afraid that the nature of the organisation is such that there will always be need for such a section.

Bear in mind that it may be the last time that readers will see the names in print of people they knew. To dismiss their lives with a two-line entry is not what most wantoks want."

Among those people who have made a successful transition from PNG to NT are Phil and Mary Lefevre who were well known at Rabaul when Phil was with Crown Law there. He is now Master of the NT Supreme Court while Mary teaches at a high school. The Lefevres were prime movers towards the establishment of a PNG Club in Darwin in the 70's but despite their hard work it did not thrive.

Peter Liddle, who was on Nataff HQ staff at Konedobu for years, arrived in Darwin in 1978 and is now Registrar of the Family Court. Legal eagles may recall his wife, Glenda, who worked for Joe Lynch, the Legislative Draughtsman.

Another Kone warrior who has done well is Bob Magin. He endured Ranaguri Hostel and Newtown dongas when he joined Treasury in 1966 but now, as Managing Director, Corporate Services, of the Northern Territory Power and Water Authority, has a pleasant executive home - with pool, of course - in Darwin.

(Bob says that when he joined the NT Electricity Commission it was known as ELCOM. This was unsurprising since Max Dryer - who was a VIP with PNG ELCOM - had much to do with the establishment. However, when the politicians decided to merge it with the Water Branch, staff from both sides took an extremely dim view. They suggested that the new authority be called Combined Utilities Northern Territory but for some reason this title was never adopted).

#### BRIBIE ISLAND QLD (Geoff Masters)

Theo Jagers (refer Vale re death of wife Betty) is something of an artist and is now travelling Australia in a campervan painting and selling as he goes.

Last year the local people, from the area in Papua where the Kokoda Trail Memorial is located, made a claim for K.80,000 for the piece of land on which the memorial is located.

Towards the end of last year, Alf Clarke, Director of Australian War Graves, and official party, were attacked and beaten whilst inspecting Bomana War Cemetery - makes one wonder how safe the war graves are.

Geoff recently spent a month in New Zealand and has some interesting comments about the country:

"A month in N.Z. (if you have been there previously) is far too long. Had 7 days in each centre - Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch - and found that after 3 days I ran out of places to visit. For intending visitors, I suggest that they go it alone and not on a package arrangement. Get the cheapest return fare and upon arrival check out all the hire car people, plenty of leaflets in airports. Get the cheapest car you can, stay at hotels and not motels where possible, they are cheapest and give far better meals and quicker service.

Everything is very dear in NZ, petrol \$1 per litre and a can of beer is \$3.50. Local LION is \$1.75 a pot but I wouldn't call it a beer, Steinlager and Reineck are about the best of what's about. Found that local Returned Services Clubs gave best value for money for meals and drinks.

Old timers would remember TAA Catalina VH-SBV which, after its retirement, was

towed to Jackson's Airstrip and used as fire drill for the PNG fire crew. Well today it's at Wigram Air Force Base in NZ and has been partially restored. A new tail section has been fitted and during my visit the blisters were being fitted and wings restored. From talks I had, it appears it will be a 3-5 year project costing some \$1 million, but well worth it for a great old plane.

10 February, my wife and I, with Fritz and Hildegard Doerr, attended the wedding of Tracy Rigo Granville Sharp. Tracy was the only daughter of Mavis (deceased) and Ern Sharp. Among the guests, who came from all over Australia, were Lloyd Nolann one of Ern's PO's, Roy and Balha Andrews from Melbourne (ex Alotau), Ern's clerk from Rigo Sub-District Office with his wife and son, Dagia (I think their name is Baboma). Also amongst the guests were Ian Rosser and his mother and others whose names I cannot recall. The wedding was held at Windaroo Country Club between Brisbane and the Gold Coast.

Next door neighbour is Kel Chew, who was prominent in PNG for many years.

Our local Parish Priest, Father Scanlon, who spent some years at Sidea, is something of a painter, so I commissioned him to do a painting of Milne Bay from a photo taken from Camerons Plateau overlooking Sandersons Bay and the result is wonderful. Father held a display of paintings at the end of January and my Milne Bay one was amongst those marked 'sold'. It was the talk of the display and is now on the main wall of the lounge room with the PNG national emblem beneath it. It brings back great memories!

Re proposed PNG get together at Bribie Island, numerous people have phoned but we will have to get at least 100 to make it a worthwhile function, so keep that phone ringing.

Ed. Geoff has suggested that we devote some pages to members who would like to recall their days in PNG and would be happy to start it off. Knowing Geoff, his would probably be a 'magnum opus' and take up at least one whole issue! Nevertheless, I think it quite a good idea and we could perhaps do a special edition if there was enough response. What do members think about the suggestion?

#### BRISBANE QLD (Doug Franklin)

Fred Haynes, former Secretary for Department of Provincial Affairs and ex-President of Overseas Staffing Assistance Association, left the Government in 1987 and took up an appointment as Kennecott Rep. for PNG. More recently, British Petroleum PNG have secured his services as their Rep. for the Hides Gasfield Project, which will provide power for the Porgera Project. Lettie is PNG Manager for Cathay Pacific in Port Moresby.

Bob Cottle, DASF 1948-75, is "pretty good" he says, from his home at Clontarf near Brisbane. He was at Aiyura in 1950 with Jo Nitsche's father and went into Kagua on the first patrol in 1957 with Brian Corrigan. Later Bob was stationed at Rabaul for many years where he remembers with longing that a pawpaw cost 10c.

Following mention of John Summers (Dec. 89 Una Voce) Doug Franklin had a call from Bill Buch, Govt. Trawler Skipper 1955-73, who knew J.S. at Manus. He had lost contact for 15 years. Great what Una Voce can do to reunite old friends.

Kieth De Lacy, ex DASF/DPI Education and Training Section Didiman is the Treasurer for Queensland in the new Wayne Goss led Labour Government. Keith holds the seat of Cairns for the A.L.P. in the Queensland Parliament.

(Ed. There was an interesting snippet about Keith in the Qld. Sun Newspaper on 15 February: "Treasurer Keith De Lacy readily admits he is much better at public speaking than he used to be. Mr. De Lacy likes to boost his confidence by recalling one of his first speeches as a politician. A very nervous Mr. De Lacy once mounted the rostrum to crown the Miss. Tobacco Queen in Cairns. But to the cheers of the crowd Mr. De Lacy declared her "open".)

#### P.N.G. TITBITS

##### Bougainville

Enga Premier, Mr Ned Laina, was in Australia in January as guest of the Commonwealth Government. He said that the Bougainville agreement was drawn up between the mining company and the PNG Government. Local people were not involved and that is where the present trouble started.

He said that in the case of Porgera mine he drew up some proposals where both the landowners and the provincial government were very much involved.

The Enga Government will receive at least 5% equity share and landowners 1% of the mine's production.

Porgera is expected to begin production in September 1990 with an estimated output of 800,000 ounces of gold per year.

##### Port Moresby Fire

The fine former Department of Health building on the corner, at the bottom of Spring Garden Road and Champion Parade, Konedobu, which had been reallocated to Department of Agriculture and Livestock, caught fire on Christmas Eve and burned to the ground. The fire had started in the evening. Thirty five D.A.L. officers lost their offices and more serious, all the office records and files were lost.

##### Beetle Nut

A new Government Order has been promulgated forbidding the chewing of beetle nut in Government Offices.

##### Government Economy Measures

Stringent Special General Orders were introduced last year to offset the effects of losses in revenue from Bougainville Copper. These G.O.s cover the following staffing areas and restrict or forbid new activity: Reclassifications; Retrenchment Payouts; No Reorganisations; Retirements (except for over 60's); Recruitment; Advertisements; Allowances or H.D.A.s. Hours of duty to be checked and enforce sign in/sign out system. No overtime except essential then time off in lieu of overtime pay. No travel allowance. Restricted travel. Officers not working to be sent on six months LWOP. Recreational Leave to be deferred. Leave fares suspended. Contract Officers not essential to be terminated at end of contract. No new consultants. No new computers. No applications for office space.

The Order was signed by W. B. Kanawi O.B.E. Secretary.

### VALE

*"Poignant are all the encounters with death - parents in the fullness of their days, dear friends, great men and women whose images remain vivid and fertile - silent visions. Every one of us has looked into the eye of mortality and endured its wounds."*

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

Miss. Joyce Dorothy OLROYD-HARRIS (13 January 90)

Joyce was born in 1901 and completed her nursing training at Wallsend Mining District Hospital on 23.3.1927. In 1930 she attended a course in Midwifery and Obstetric Nursing at the Women's Hospital (Crown Street) Sydney. She worked at various hospitals until 26.1.1937 when she left Melbourne on board the "Canberra" for New Guinea. Her first position was at Wau where she stayed until 1939. She transferred to Madang on 31.5.1939 as Snr. Sister where she stayed until 7.12.1941 at which time she transferred to Rabaul as Matron. Her job at Rabaul was to last only 6 weeks as she was taken prisoner by the Japanese in January 1942. She was liberated in Japan on 31.8.1945, 3 1/2 years after being captured.

Joyce returned to New Guinea in 1947 and was to continue her work until her forced retirement due to ill health in 1959.

Between 1955 and 1976, Joyce made a number of trips overseas travelling the world. In 1979 she spent 2 weeks in China and her last trip was in 1986 when she was to experience her first helicopter journey at aged 85. It was not to be just an ordinary helicopter ride but a flight to one of the highest glaciers in Alaska.

In between overseas visits Joyce travelled to all parts of Australia from top to bottom and side to side always learning something from each visit.

In 1980 she attended a residual course in effective communication at the University of New England, returning at a later date for a study on the writings of A. J. Tolkien.

She was active in various organisations and in her church. She enjoyed her trips with the C of E Historical Society and her work with the Harbour Lights Guild of the Mission to Seamen. She was Treasurer of our Association from 1965 to 1979 and was a Life Member and Patron of the N.S.W. Ex Prisoners of War Associated Ladies Auxiliary. She supported the Australian Ballet, The Australian Opera and the Elizabethan Trust. Also the National Parks and Wildlife Service, the National Trust and the Australian Geographic Society. Many charities have benefited financially or in kind from her support. Children's charities were a favourite of hers. M.S. Research, National Heart Foundation and Royal Blind Society are just a few of those who received assistance.

In 1987, though in excellent health, she was forced to leave her home of 26 years at Chatswood. She moved to a larger unit in Epping. After a couple of falls during the winter of 1989 she had nursing care at home and it was suggested that she move to a nursing home for the more constant care. She had another serious fall and moved from the Lady Davidson Rehabilitation Hospital to the Anglican Chesalon Nursing home at Beecroft, during the first week of November 1989. Joyce had another bad fall and passed away 13 January, 1990. Her life should be an inspiration to us all, Joyce we Salute you!

Mrs. Rachel BURT (19 February 90)

Mrs. Burt was the widow of Edward McGain Burt, who was a Medical Technician in PNG until he retired in 1964 and passed away in 1967.



Mr. Kenneth Raymond WILLIAMSON (18 November 89)

Ken was born 17 August 1920 and went to PNG as a Patrol Officer 28 July 1946. After serving for some years in the field service he was appointed Commissioner for Local Government, a position he held for many years until his retirement in 1974 to Tweed Heads in NSW.

It was under Ken's competent direction that local government developed and prospered throughout PNG. He was highly regarded by his friends and his staff. Bob Tebble, who worked with Ken for many years, has written as follows: "I can say honestly that of my 20 years in PNG the most fulfilling and enjoyable were those I spent working with Ken. I always found him helpful and appreciative and I can look back with considerable pleasure on my time in the Office of Local Government".

On retiring to Tweed Heads Ken played some bowls, but I understand his main loves were orchids and opera.

He died in Greenslopes Hospital after a long protracted illness and was cremated at Tweed Heads on 23 November 1989. Most of the Gold Coast residents who were ex PNG HQ Local Government staff were at the funeral, Worcester, Hayes and Bridges and local ex Kiaps Webb, Pegg, Hurrell, Bunting, together with Thelma Leabeater who with Tom was a very close friend.

The service was conducted by an old RN Padre, who came from the same place as Ken, Launceston. Ken was in the Navy and served most of his time in corvettes. Ken is survived by his widow Gloria and their daughter and family.

Miss. Cassandra Robyn GEE (26 November 89)

Cassandra was born in Vuna Pope, New Britain, on 19 August, 1972, the oldest child and only daughter of Ken Gee and his wife Robyn (nee Seymour). She spent the first few years of her life in New Guinea and moved with her parents to Montville, Qld. She received her early education at Montville and later at Kilcoy. She excelled at creative writing and was selected to attend a camp for students with similar gifts. She entered Concordia College in 1985 and successfully completing her year 12 in 1989 she had been notified of her acceptance in the University of New England.

She is remembered by fellow students and teachers as an energetic and self-giving happy individual who was both sensitive and creative. She was well liked for her loyalty, laughter and enjoyment of life.

Cassandra died as the result of a traffic accident near her home in Warwick. Her father and younger brother Michael both sustained serious injury at the time. She leaves to mourn her passing, her father Ken, her mother Robyn, her brothers Kenneth, Michael and Christopher and her grandmother, Lorna Binnie (nee Nicholls, wife of Bill Nicholls, PNG postmaster). (Ken Gee was in PNG for 26 years and was with the Lands Department when he left.)

Sister Jan MARRIOTT (nee Balks) (September 89)

Jan served in the Madang Hospital in the sixties and helped to nurse Freddie Kaad when he was involved in the air crash 3 September 1964 in the foothills of the Finisterre Mountains, near Dumpu in the Ramu Valley. Jan also nursed Freddie on the journey to Sydney where he was transferred two weeks after the crash.

Survived by husband Colin and children Louise and Christopher.

Mrs. Phyllis BARRETT (November 89)

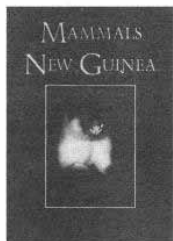
Phyl was the wife of George Barrett who would be remembered as an architect with Comworks. He later became a planter at Popondetta on either Haugata or Serobi Plantation. She is survived by her husband George.

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Members,

I very much regret that I have had to defer some material with respect to "Have you heard", "News from Correspondents" and "Vale". In addition, it has not been possible to include in this issue any "PNG News".

The Membership List and AGM Notice together take up some 20 pages and, even though this is the largest issue of Una Voce we have ever produced, we have had to call a halt at a total of 36 pages.

The material we have deferred, however, will all be included in the next issue in June.

We hope to see many of you at the AGM and Luncheon, but in the meantime, take care and keep in touch.

Best wishes to you all,

*Douglas* Editor.

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