



Una Voce News Letter

RETIRED OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA
P.O. BOX 452, ROSEVILLE NSW 2069

Registered by Australia Post Publication No. NBH 2559

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No. 2, 1992 - June

Dear Member,

This issue of the Newsletter is divided into three parts as follows:

- (1) The Newsletter itself with pages numbered *2*, *3*, *4*, etc.
- (2) AGM Minutes & Financial Report with pages numbered 2, 3, 4, etc.
- (3) Membership Address List with pages numbered I, II, III, IV, etc.

ASSOCIATION'S POSTAL ADDRESS

Members are again reminded that our address above has been our address now for the past two years, but we still receive the occasional letter addressed to our old post office box at Mosman and this considerably delays our receipt of such letters. Our address as shown above is:

R.O.A.P.N.G.
P.O. BOX 452
ROSEVILLE NSW 2069

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Please note in you diary that the 1992 Christmas Luncheon will be held at the Mandarin Club on 6 December 1992.

VISIT TO BLUE MOUNTAINS

It is planned to make another visit to the Blue Mountains on Monday 14 September 1992. Those persons interested in the proposed outing please contact Doug Parrish (02.416.8966), Pamela Foley (02.428.2078) or Ken Gorringer (047.57.1488).

MEMBERS GONE MISSING

The March 1992 Newsletters addressed to the following members were returned and it would be appreciated if any member knowing their current whereabouts would either contact the Secretary or ask the missing member to contact him:

Mr. J. Best, 549 Grose Valley Road, KURRAJONG NSW 2758.
Mrs. D. Loutit, MS895, MACKAY QLD 4710.
Mrs. M. Stewart, PO Box 445, MT ISA QLD 4825.
Mr. N. T. Webster, PO Box 310, KUNUNURRA WA 6743.

AUST BUREAU STATISTICS

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

Released 29/04/92

All Groups	Changes between		Wtd ave 8 Cap Cities	Percentage Changes	
	Dec Qtr 91	Mar Qtr 91		Dec Qtr 91	Mar Qtr 91
	-Mar Qtr 92	-Mar Qtr 92		-Mar Qtr 92	-Mar Qtr 92
Sydney	-0.1%	+1.2%	Food	+0.6%	+1.3%
Melbourne	-0.1%	+2.1%	Clothing	-0.2%	+1.3%
Brisbane	+0.2%	+1.7%	Housing	-2.3%	-4.8%
Adelaide	+0.6%	+2.6%	H'hold Equip	-0.3%	+1.6%
Perth	+0.0%	+0.9%	Transportation	0.0%	+2.9%
Hobart	+0.0%	+2.1%	Tobacco/Alcohol	+0.4%	+4.8%
Darwin	+0.1%	+2.1%	Health & Care	+4.7%	+13.0%
Canberra	+0.3%	+2.6%	Rec. & Education	-0.1%	+1.2%
Weighted Average			All groups	+0.0%	+1.7%
8 Capital Cities	+0.0%	+1.7%			

CPI ADJUSTMENT TO SUPERANNUATION

As will be seen from the above, the increase in the Consumer Price Index for the twelve months from 1 April 1991 to 31 March 1992 was 1.7%. This means that superannuation pensions should increase by that percentage from the first payday in July, i.e. 9 July 1992.

The Office of the Commissioner for Superannuation will endeavour to forward Group Certificates with their notification concerning the pension increase. But, as they are dependent upon another government department to enable them to do this, it is not always possible. Group Certificates will be posted to those concerned as soon as the Office receives them, so please do not pester the Office staff if you do not receive your Group Certificate with your notice re pension increase. Be patient, it has not been overlooked and will arrive in due course, which could very well be some two or three weeks later.

AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS

Released 26/03/92

	Nov 1991	Aug 1991	Nov 1990
ADULTS Full-time Ord-time Earnings			
Males	\$612.20	599.50	589.20
Females	\$514.80	506.40	488.90
Persons	\$578.80	567.70	555.60
ADULTS Full-time Wkly Total Earnings			
Males	\$654.20	637.90	635.80
Females	\$527.40	517.70	501.20
Person	\$610.70	596.80	590.60
ALL EMPLOYEES Wkly Total Earnings			
Males	\$589.70	575.40	578.20
Females	\$393.20	384.10	377.90
Persons	\$501.30	489.30	490.60

Members can compare their own total income from all sources with the above figures, but keep in mind that these figures are before tax and two thirds of the workforce are paid less than average weekly earnings.

HAVE YOU HEARD???

Jeannette and Tom FOX, from Avalon NSW, wrote recently from the NSW Central Coast and the following are some extracts from their letter: "Our son, Mark (Manning), recently acquired a property on the Central Coast in the Port Stephens Shire. His intentions are to establish a wholesale Australian Wildflower Nursery in the suburb "Bob's Farm". So were we are at Mark's farm in Bob's Farm madly potting. It's great fun and very relaxing despite the aching back! We hope to have the big opening in spring, so anyone passing by would be most welcome to drop in - we should be blooming at 3120 Marsh Road, Bob's Farm. It's a lovely spot with the Hunter Valley, Nelson's Bay, Shoal Bay, Morpeth, Stroud and so much more within cooees that we are very tempted to move up.".....

And with respect to *Una Voce* wrote as follows: "I love the new format and have absolutely no complaint - it covers past, present and future with a great blend of nostalgia, general interest, humour and a lovely touch of 'catching up with old friends'."

(I have quoted the last paragraph because it really depicts my intentions since I became Editor and is in keeping with the sentiments expressed in the many other letters I have received in similar vein since the March issue of the Newsletter. Ed.)

Jim GILLMAN of Clontarf Qld, who received a mention in the the March Newsletter, advises me that his son's name is Anthony, not Peter. (Sorry about that, Jim, he got mixed up with 'Peter' Graham. Ed.) When he wrote Jim and his wife Betty were heading for Canberra to visit his daughter Elizabeth and grandson Ben. Elizabeth had recently met up with one of her old school pals, Jenny Ryan (daughter of Paul and Barbara), who also lives in Canberra.

Valerie SHEPPEARD of Redcliffe Qld, who worked in the Madang Hotel in the sixties, wrote asking whether I had lived on Kar Kar Island in the early sixties. No Valma but I lived next to the Hotel in Madang from 1955-1961.

Les AUCHETTL of Earlville Qld recently returned from Andorra where his family are packing up with the intention of moving before the end of the year to Bantry Bay, Ireland, where they now have a house. That is a dramatic change in scenery, Les, and we do hope you enjoy your new abode.

Missed Isobel IRELAND of Meadowbank NSW at both the Christmas and AGM Luncheons as she has always attended such functions in the past. However, just before the AGM she wrote as follows: "I really feel that there must be a pouri pouri on me for these functions, as I had to miss the Christmas 'do' too. Now I am off to Griffith where I am an original, being born in Bagtown there so many years ago. The Historical Society is launching a book, "Pioneers and Settlers" and I have been asked to attend. Our family figures in the book, I'm excited about that but sad about this." Isobel, we did miss you but do hope you enjoyed your trip to Griffith. Hope to see you at the next Christmas get-together.

Florence CHESTER of Palm Beach Qld, after receiving the last issue of the Newsletter, wrote: "I really enjoy the *Una Voce* and hearing about old friends and their doings. Sorry to hear about Dame Rachel's accident - I worked as Sir Donald's Private Secretary from 1964-66 and have fond memories of them both. Hope Dame Rachel soon bounces back."

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HAVE YOU HEARD??? (continued)

Eric (Sutherland) ROSS of Springwood Qld writing recently commented: "The sad note re the Montivideo Maru 50th Anniversary brought to mind the fact that the troops that were rescued by Ivan Champion were from the 2/22nd Battalion were perhaps the only survivors of that Unit. I do not know if it is known that the 2/22nd paid a wonderful tribute to Ivan read at his funeral and I understand that they offered the Battalion Flag to cover the coffin.

I was surprised to hear that Bert Weston was 91 years young. I remember him when I was working for Holden Air Transport Services in Salamaua. He lived on one side of the aerodrome and I lived on the other."

Jim HUXLEY of Maroubra NSW recently wrote me an interesting letter and most of it is worthwhile quoting: "I read with interest the item regarding the 60 men who went south from Rabaul early in 1940 to join the AIF. I have a complete list of the NGVR which served on the mainland, 503 in all. I wonder if any ROAPNG member has a list of the NGVR people who were in Rabaul when the Japanese landed. I believe there were about 60 in number. When I complete my book, working title is "Before, Behind and Inbetween", I propose to commemorate the NGVR with a short story on the unit and a full list of members and serving numbers. If I can get a copy of the Rabaul list this would be great.

In the meantime former DC, Ian Downs, is writing an official account, in book form, of the NGVR.

I have just returned from a week on the Gold Coast. I was the guest of former Lae neighbours Gordon and Thelma Farrelly at Isle of Capri. I was able to visit old friends, Jim and Ela Birrell, Sheila Goodwin, who 'had in' Ira Halliday and Neil Grieve and Kevin and Jean Baker. On the way up I called on Buster Mills at Banora Point, but missed Bessie, who was out shopping.

I also had the pleasure of representing the NGVR at the 2/5th Independent Company's 50 year reunion in Canberra in March. The other NGVR people in attendance were Bob Emery, who drove over from Adelaide, and Fred Still and Alan Dunwoodie who, like me, went down from Sydney. Another to attend was Capt. (Dr.) Hugh Marsden, who, although officially with HQ Kanga Force, was CO NGVR medical detail."

Chris and Louise HARKNESS of North Cremorne NSW recently spent two weeks on Norfolk Island and Chris reports: "It is a small world but we were told to see some people there who had come from PNG. It turned out to be Gus and Glennys Govan from Lae who not only are proprietors of The Trading Post Newsagency there but they also spent 13 years in PNG. Coincidentally they also travelled to Italy with us on the Galileo in 1977 - we celebrated our 15 year anniversary which was almost to the day since we'd sailed!

By the way, we love reading about other expatriates, where they are now and their travels too."

Margot WINTER of Chevron Island QLD with Paul RAASCH went for a five weeks trip to England, Germany and Austria last year and Margot reports: "As Germany is the country of our birth, we were very interested in it's future as one nation. We were not disappointed as we could feel the hope, that in 5-10 years a truly united Germany will have overcome all obstacles. It was so good to hear that. The West gives a very generous helping hand to it's eastern brothers and it is a genuine hand they stretch out. Lots of things have to change, but the will is there to overcome. We wish them all the luck in the World."

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HAVE YOU HEARD??? (continued)

Charles HARRISON of Werrington NSW had a very rough time over the six months prior to April this year, having survived four heart attacks during this period and spent a lot of time in Nepean Hospital Intensive Care Unit. Charles reports that he is now feeling a lot better and we sincerely hope that it will not be long before he is fighting fit again.

Our very best wishes, Charles, for a speedy and complete recovery.

Greg SHEEHAN of Whale Beach NSW left recently for the Carrabean to go sailing and whilst there hopes to meet up with Bob Cruickshank and Bill McNeill.

Greg advises that the Registrar General's Office in Port Moresby has lists of the people lost on the Montivedeo Maru and civilian war deaths in PNG during W.W.II.

Snowy and Val MIDDLETON of Nambour Qld report that they are both in reasonable health and enjoy living on their 1 hectare of dirt a couple of miles outside Nambour, where they have planted a few Macademia trees. The drought hit them this year and unfortunately there is no current crop but otherwise they have no worries.

Thelma AULT of Sale Vic early this year wrote: "I really enjoy reading the news in the magazine as being down here in the southern part of Victoria I never see any old Territory friends or acquaintances. Am unable to get about much without a walking frame as I broke a leg and a hip last year but am coming good."

Thelma, we sincerely hope that you are now back to normal without the frame and our very best wishes for a trouble free future. Let's hope that some of our friends reading this will call in and see you if they are down your way.

Gladys NICHOLAS of Mermaid Waters Qld some time ago wrote: "I hope members will continue to send in articles of their experiences as they make most interesting reading.

I was pleased to read one by E. A. S. Ross (Suthie as we knew him) as he was one of the first people my late husband introduced me to in Port Moresby. He had just come in from outside in 1935.

John LEWIS of Pialba Qld, also some time ago, wrote: "We are well and truly settled up here, in Hervey Bay, away from the "rat" race in Parramatta, quite an easy going life. We are only 4 hours from Brisbane and 5 hours from the Gold Coast, so travelling is no problem.

I am involved with Lions, Probuss, Lodge and RSL Committees, so I don't have much spare time."

John also commented that filling in his "Membership Record Update" brought back a lot of memories and no doubt other members had the same experience. I do wish that those members, who have not as yet sent in their Update Forms, would do so without further delay. Ed.

Shirley HENDRY of Terrigal NSW advises that husband Bert is not enjoying good health, which considerably restricts their activities. We do hope, Shirley, that Bert's health shows a marked improvement in the future and we may see you both at one of our functions.

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HAVE YOU HEARD??? (continued)

Syd SAVILLE of Burpengary Qld is still engaged in very worthwhile work in PNG and in a recent letter reported as follows: "I am Project Director for the Cocoa Quality Improvement Project and visit PNG each quarter. The initial work in producing extension material has been very successful and the mobile extension unit will shortly be deployed to New Ireland and thence at monthly intervals to other cocoa producing Provinces. The research section will commence when new facilities are built at TAVILO plantation. The latest development in the cocoa industry is the PNG Government proposal to establish a Cocoa and Coconut Industry Corporation which will control the marketing, research and extension for the two crops - similar to the Coffee Industry Corporation in which Mick Belfield, Dave Willis and Terry Quinlan are involved.

Heather and I have just returned from a car trip to Sydney and Melbourne for the reunion to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the launching of "Warramungi" - Tribal Class destroyer - a wonderful reunion with services at the Cenotaph and nostalgic visits to HMAS Cerberus and Williamstown dockyard.

On the return journey we met with David Montgomery near Crookwell, who was supervising the grading of sweet potatoes for PNG, and Bert Speer who has settled down not far from David. Bert is very busy with landscaping and work with the Historical Society.

Nesta PEARSON of Mount Lawley Vic during March wrote: "I also went up to Alice Springs (like Olive and Jack Hull - no wonder they did not answer my telephone calls when I arrived in Brisbane) but via Adelaide and Blackstone Ranges Aboriginal Community 450 kms into WA desert from Ayres Rock. I'll send another letter about the trip in a week or two. Saw several ex-PNG friends in that time. Bypassed Sydney so still haven't seen Mary and Bob Pulsford. Nesta, I am still waiting for that letter! Ed.

Madge ORMSBY of Gawler SA is overseas for most of 1992 visiting nursing contacts and friends in Canada, Finland, Sweden, Denmark, Holland and UK. Madge, we all hope you have a great holiday.

Jean COX of Dungog NSW reports that husband John is now well and fit again. Referring to the last issue of the Newsletter she wrote: "The March issue included a number of very interesting features, e.g. the Montevideo Maru piece. John was overseas then but I well remember the trauma associated with the sinking of that ship: the six year wait to learn the truth about what had happened to those "missing" friends and relatives. Douglas Aplin's book, "Rabaul 1942", records that particular period of the Japanese invasion in some detail. Published by 2/22nd Lark Force Association, Melbourne, 1980."

John HUON de NAVRANCOURT of Atherton Qld when nominating his friend Paul Brigg for membership, reported that Paul was Director of the Tablelands Education Centre at Atherton and part-time farmer. He was a teacher at the Lake Murray School in PNG in 1960 and his wife Margaret is teaching at Malanda High School.

John also advised that fourteen representatives from the Lae City authority in PNG were to work with the Cairns City Council last month. The representatives from Cairns closest sister city were to spend a week with their counterparts in Cairns to improve their knowledge in areas of local government. During their stay they were to be billeted by council aldermen, staff and members of the Cairns/Lae sister city sub-committee.

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HAVE YOU HEARD??? (continued)

Peter van HOECKEL of Nambour Qld and wife, Trishia, were leaving for Holland on 1 May for a stay there of 4½ months. From there they were flying to Canada for a 4 week stay before flying home via Honolulu and Auckland. They hope to be back in Brisbane on 15 October. Peter, we all hope that you and Trishia have a wonderful holiday and do not encounter any problems on the way.

Rev. Jack FLENTJE of Sunbury Vic and wife, Masori, have now settled into their new home and ask "If any of our ex-PNG friends are passing through this way, Sunbury is only just north of Tullamarine Airport, we would love to have them call and visit - we do have a spare bedroom still."

They also advise that they have a niece and husband and family, Frank and Adrian Dyall, at present living and working in Port Moresby. Frank working in electronics and visiting various airports throughout PNG.

(Pam Foley sends her kind regards to you both and I would be delighted to receive any details of you experiences in PNG. Ed.)

LAPSED MEMBERSHIPS

As the following memberships lapsed in 1991 and we have not heard from the members concerned for some considerable time, we regret that we have had to delete their names from our mailing list:

ANGELL, MRS E.P.	(Merriwa W.A.)	HURREY, MRS B.	(Mt Gravatt QLD)
AUSTIN, MR J.	(Daisy Hill QLD)	JACKSON, MR. A.K.	(Jimboomba Q)
BARNES, MR D.S.	(Mitchum S.A.)	JACKSON, MRS P.A.	(Maleny Q)
BENSON, MRS P.	(Padbury W.A.)	KLOTZ, MRS W.	(Chatswood NSW)
BEST, Mr J.	(Kurrajong NSW)	KATZMAN, MRS A.L.	(Everton Pk)
BRISSENDEN, MS. T.	(Cronulla, NSW)	LeFEVRE, MR L.	(Mawson ACT)
BROWNE, MR J.F.S.	(Roseville NSW)	LEVY, MR. C.	(Albion Park NSW)
BURTON-BRADLEY, SIR B.	(Port Moresby)	LOUTIT, MRS D.	(Mackay QLD)
CLIFTON, MRS M.	(W.Pennant Hills)	MACKELLAR, MR M.	(Kariong NSW)
COLE, MR T.	(Lindfield NSW)	MAGOWAN, MRS. C.E.	(Darwin N T)
DICKER, MS R.	(Sydney NSW)	MULHOLLAND, MR.R.	(Ballina NSW)
DOUGLAS, MRS J.	(Boroko PNG)	McGRATH, MR W.A.	(Broadbeach Q)
DOYLE, MR D.A.	(Mermaid Beach Q)	MORLEY, MS. H.	(Palm Beach QLD)
DUNN, MR G.	(Paddington NSW)	NYE, MRS J.B.	(Harbord NSW)
ELLIS, MR T.	(Waiuku, N Z)	PETRIDES, MR P.	(Leamy N.T)
FARRELL, MS H.	(East Hills NSW)	PREO, MRS V.	(Thornlands QLD)
GIBSON, MRS M.V.	(Umina Beach NSW)	RIDDELL, MR. R.	(Collaroy NSW)
GRIFFITH, MR I.L.G.	(Chelmer QLD)	ROGERS, MR P.H.D.	(Burleigh Wtrs)
GROVER, MR. R.S.	(Narrabeen NSW)	RUSSELL, DR D.A.	(Kenmore QLD)
HARDING, PROFESSOR T.	(Santa Barbara US)	SHERIDAN, MR R.	(Parramatta NSW)
HENRY, MR. R.S.	(Turrumurra NSW)	STEWART, MR D.J.	(Bateau Bay NSW)
HODGSON, MR C.H.	(Rio Vista QLD)	STEWART, MRS M.	(Mt Isa QLD)
HOILE, MR A.R.	(Forestville NSW)	STITT, MR J.	(Palm Beach QLD)
HOOK, MR D.	(Pullenvale QLD)	SYMONS, MR C.A.	(Mosman NSW)
HOWARD, MR W.P.	(Lane Cove NSW)	TATTERSON, MR P.L.	(Rosedale, VIC)

It would be appreciated if anyone is in contact with any of these members that they inform them of what has happened and ask the member to get in touch with the Secretary or Assistant Secretary.

NEWS FROM CORRESPONDENTS

DOUG FRANKLIN (Brisbane)

Andree Millar recently celebrated her 79th birthday at a party given by Heather and Syd Saville at their Burpengary Queensland home. Russ and Meryl Stephenson ex UPNG, Pam and John Brooks, John Wicks ex Adcol, Jack and Bette Pini ex Comworks, Frank and Mrs Waite and Pam and Doug Franklin sang Happy Birthday. Andree responded with her usual gusto, enjoying every minute.

Doug said going on the special 15 day cruise on the Russian ship Belorussiya from Sydney was like winning a lottery jackpot. The cost for a two berth en suite cabin was little more than the return economy air fare from Brisbane to Moresby.

The cruise which coincided with the 50th anniversary of the Coral Sea Battle in 1942 was both splendid and moving. Anzac Day at sea started with a Dawn Service. The ship slowed, turned due West as the first rays of light came over the Eastern horizon. We assembled on the stern. Then the Last Post, Minutes Silence disturbed only by the sound of the sea, and Reveille, followed by three long blasts on the ship's siren and wreaths into the sea. Off Honiara, at 1100 hrs we circled directly over HMAS Canberra, lying 730 metres below us on the bottom. 85 RAN men lost their lives on that ship in 1942. Jack Anstey, one of the survivors, who lives near Ballina, had the sad duty to cast a wreath in memory of his mates.

But there was a brighter side to the daily routine on board which was meeting and getting to know many distinguished old coasters.

Jack Goad - ex Collector of Customs Rabaul and Lae. He was in Kieta in 1926 as a boy. During the war he joined the N.G. Volunteer Rifles. When the country was occupied by Japanese he became a Coast Watcher. Eventually he and some others escaped to Cairns in a small coastal vessel. After the war he was appointed to the War Damage Commission. Jack had a total of 49 years in PNG. He is very well and lives near Brisbane. He was lucky at Bingo and won \$500 during the cruise in a jackpot.

John Goad - also Customs and his sister Ellen travelled with their Dad on the cruise.

Ian Wood was one of the originals in DASFS. He went to PNG in 1935 as a Cadet Patrol Officer, posted to Lorengau. The then Director of Agriculture George Murray found out that Ian was a Gatton College graduate (1933), and convinced him to change from DDA to DASFS. Clive Green was his OIC, who subsequently lost his life while being sent to Japan as POW on a ship that was sunk. Ian had postings to Keravat and Aiyura in 1937. In 1938 he was posted to Wewak as the first Agricultural Officer with responsibility for the coast up to the Dutch border and up the Sepik as far as Ambunti. At that time there was a gold rush on the Screw River near Maprik. He said that there were over 100 expat miners at one time including Jack Thurston and Mick Dwyer.

A great potential was recognised for the Maprik area, especially for Cocoa and Upland Rice. Ian surveyed and mapped out the Bainyik Agricultural Station. In 1941 he returned to Australia and trained as a Catalina pilot in the RAAF. With his expert local knowledge he was posted back to New Guinea with the RAAF and involved with landing MOSS (Special Service troops) behind enemy lines. On one of the incursions he landed Nip Blood, an ANGAU Police Officer on the Chambri Lakes. Later, Nip was ambushed by the Japs and captured. He escaped and trekked his way to the Highlands, no mean feat, and reached Wabag. He radioed his position, Ian immediately flew to Wabag in his Catalina and dropped food, blankets and essential supplies including a bottle of rum disguised inside a loaf of bread, which landed safely. Nip sent a radio thanking Ian for the nectar!

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Retired Officers' Association of Papua New Guinea

MINUTES OF 41st ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HELD AT THE MANDARIN CLUB, SYDNEY ON 26 APRIL, 1992

Meeting opened 11.06 a.m.

Present:

Alison Marsh, Bill Johnston, Nancy Johnston, Bob Pulsford, Mary Pulsford, Florence Cohen, Bert Weston, Amy Swadling, Ross Swadling, Sandy Sinclair, Stan Mason, Betty Washington, Jess Ross, Madge Bulmer, Freda Ellis, Betty Smith, Frank Smith, Roma Bates, Marie Day, Gabriel Keleny, Lisle Newby, Flora Nitsche, Kevin O'Connor, Bob Blaikie, Corbett Kimmorley, Elaine Kimmorley, Les Williams, Barbara Burns, Christine Harkness, Louise Harkness, Bert Speer, Jim Rudge, Harry West, Pat Hopper, Gordon Linsley, Phyl Linsley, Alex Zweck, Des Clifton-Bassett, Adrian Leyden, Bill Tommasetti, Alan Gow, Stan Wigley, Sir Horace Niall, Lady Una Niall, Hazel Savage, Doug Parrish, Pam Foley, Jo Nitsche, Elma Holmes.

Apologies:

Isobel Ireland, Jim Keegan, John Oberdorf, Bruce & Gladys Digby, Maria Szent-Ivany, Jetti Zigas, Mac Jamieson, Joy Henderson, Maria Haszler, J.J. & Vlasta Janousek, Kitty Fischer, Joan & Ron Carne, Andrew Redei, J. Benson, Neil & Christina Grant, Lloyd & Lorraine Yelland, Kevin & Joan Hain, Irene Schultz, June & Fred Kaad, Peter van Hoeckel, Bill Seale, Vera Holden, Greg Sheehan, Linda Evans, Tom Aitchison, Ruth Plant, Anne & Frank Tuza, Marcia Lightfoot, Bill & Maggie Parkes, John & Christine Downie, Nari Watkins and Syd Saville.

The President welcomed members and their guests, especially those from the country and interstate, also members attending for the first time.

The Minutes of the AGM of April 1991 having been circulated in 'Una Voce' were confirmed on the motion proposed by Mr Keleny, seconded by Mr Williams. Carried.

The President read a letter received from the Consul-General, Mr William Nindim, which conveyed his good wishes to the Association and stated "If there is anything we in Sydney can do to either assist your members in any way or to foster the aims and objectives of your Association, we would be most pleased to do so." He also said that he felt "that goodwill among Australians for Papua New Guinea is real and growing all the time."

Mr. Parrish presented his Report:

"I place on record the excellent relationship we have again enjoyed with the PNG Consul General in Sydney, Mr. William Nindim and his staff.

The staff of the Commissioner for Superannuation in Canberra and in particular Ms. Karen Lenton, who took over early last year from Mrs. Shirley Baldwin, have continued to be most helpful with respect to any queries or problems experienced by member superannuants which have been referred to us. If there are delays attending to super matters I am sure that it is not due to lack of action by the Commissioner's staff, as many matters have to be referred to other Departments, such as Finance or Treasury, and the wheels of the bureaucracy continue to turn very slowly.

Mr. Colin Smith has retired as Secretary of the NSW Branch of SCOA(Superannuated Commonwealth Officers' Association) and, although he was our main contact with that organisation, our Deputy President, Mr. Fred Kaad, has forged new contacts with that organisation. Fred continues to pursue the question of payment of full pension to the surviving spouse for a period after the death of a superannuant but, as reported in the last issue of the Newsletter, so far without success.

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It is again my pleasure to report that during the past year I have continued to have the support of a most co-operative, willing and helpful Committee which, as I reported last year, has changed little during my term of office. We were, however, very saddened late last year by the death of our youngest member, Mr. Tony Pitt.

Mr. Jo Nitsche and Mrs. Pamela Foley, as Secretary and Assistant Secretary respectively, have between them continued to carry out the secretarial and administrative functions of our organisation in a most exemplary manner.

Mrs. Elma Holmes, in her first year as Treasurer, has performed her duties most efficiently and, with the assistance of some other members of the Committee, has worked hard to complete the installation of a completely new set of financial records.

Our Honorary Auditor, Mr. Len Bailey, in addition to continuing to audit our books of account in a most competent manner, has helped with advice concerning the establishment of our new financial records and the preparation and presentation of our Financial Statement and Balance Sheet. I place on record our appreciation of his efforts and thank him for running off copies of the documents you have received to-day.

Mr. Bob Pulsford has again assisted me with the Newsletter by proof reading, condensing articles when necessary and undertaking Book Reviews. Mrs. Pamela Foley again did most of the typing in draft form for the Newsletter, was most helpful generally in its preparation, maintaining and updating our Membership List, producing the mailing labels and with Mrs. Pat Jones preparing the mailing wrappers. All the Committee assist with the wrapping of the Newsletter which is wrapped and posted in the one day. Mrs. Linda Evans, Messrs. Les Williams and Dave Marsh also assist with this latter task.

Harry West, although again Chairperson of our Social Sub-Committee, was not able to devote as much time to this task as previously due to very pressing and urgent family responsibilities, continued to be ably supported by Jo Nitsche, Pamela Foley, Pat Hopper and Tony Pitt, who all did a great job in organising our functions. Our last Christmas Luncheon was the best ever with 194 members and guests in attendance, a great effort.

Mrs. Pat Hopper, Chairperson of our Caring Sub-Committee, with Mrs. Pat Jones, Mrs. Roma Bates and Mr. Frank Smith continued to do an excellent job of contacting members whom they know have been ill, visiting those they have been advised are in hospital and sending greetings etc. to our more senior members to let them know we still think of them.

We have again been most fortunate and honoured in having Sir Horace Niall and Mr. Bill Seale as our Patrons and we very much regret that Bill's health is such that he has been unable to be with us.

Many thanks again to those members who provide me with articles and the information which enables me to produce the Newsletter, in particular our correspondents in the various States and the Northern Territory, Mr. Jim Toner in the latter, Mr. Doug Franklin, Mr. Geoff Masters and Mrs. Isobel Pert in Queensland and Mrs. Margaret Clancy in Western Australia. There is still a great number of members with interesting stories to tell and I sincerely wish that they would put pen to paper with contributions for the Newsletter, particularly as Old Father Time is catching up with many of us.

The Association, over the past two or three years, has to a large extent become the archive for information concerning personnel who served in PNG, not only in the Public Service but also in Private Enterprise, the Missions, in Research and other capacities. To assist in this development we asked members during the year to help us update our membership records and received a good response to this request with 305 members completing and returning the 'Update

(continued page 3)

Forms'. This means, however, that we still have very little information about over 400 of our members, so the Committee may decide to carry out this exercise again this year with those members who did not respond on the last occasion. I strongly urge those members to co-operate if there is another request made.

Which brings me to the question of membership generally and, even though 30 members did not renew their membership subscriptions for 1991 and 6 members entered the 'pearly gates' leaving no spouses to carry on in their place, we enrolled 96 new members. This meant an overall increase in membership of 60 for the year, a very good result with numbers getting very close to the 900 mark. I am also pleased to report that we have now completed both a new manual and also an electronic record of membership.

Members are reminded that the Association, though formed in the first place to look after the interests of retired government officers, has developed into what I believe to be the largest active group of men and women who share the common experience of having lived and worked in PNG. I sincerely wish that members would inform their friends, who are not members, but are ex-residents of PNG or who still live and/or work there, that now the only qualification for membership is that they still live or have lived for a period in PNG, because we continue to receive many queries concerning the qualifications for membership.

The Association, I am pleased to report, is in a strong financial position and although I wish to make some comment with respect to that, the Financial Statement and Balance Sheet, I will defer comment until after the Treasurer has presented her report.

I also have a few observations to make concerning our Constitution but I will leave these until we deal with this item on the Agenda later in the meeting.

Before closing, there are a few other matters which I should touch on briefly, so please bear with me a little longer.

A great amount of time and effort has been expended by Mr. Bob Pulsford and Mr. David Marsh in endeavouring to compile an accurate synopsis of events which transpired during and after the Mt. Lamington eruption. In answer to a request by us in the Newsletter for information, there was a generous response from members and others. Bob and Dave have spent many hours sifting through the information supplied, checking with The Mitchell, The Sydney Law, The National Library and other repositories of information and records concerning the eruption. Nevertheless, there still remains some conflicting information concerning the events which took place on that fateful occasion and I regret that we do not possess the resources to pursue the matter further. All the material which has been collected will be kept by the Association should an appropriate researcher in the future wish to make use of it.

There are two other matters which I will mention very briefly. Firstly, the replacement of the plaque which was erected in memory of Captain Sidney W. Peebles, Robert Kennedy Earl and Keith Royal Kear who were killed in an air crash at Yarramanda Airstrip in the PNG Highlands; and secondly, the winding up of The New Guinea Womens' Association and the very significant contribution made by that Association towards a Community Centre named "Haus Niugini" at the RSL Park at Frankston in Victoria. Full details concerning these matters will be included in either the next September or December issue of the Newsletter.

I apologise for the length of this report but, as it is my last Annual Report to you as President, I felt that there were a number of matters I should touch upon. With the approval of the meeting, I would like to continue

(continued page 4)

as President for a further three months before handing over to my successor, whom I will propose and recommend for your consideration later during the election of office bearers and Committee.

Reiterating what I have said on previous occasions, I have indeed been honoured to be your President for the past six years and I again thank you all for giving me the opportunity to serve you in this capacity. My very special thanks to my wife Candy who has always been most helpful and supportive and extremely tolerant of the time I have spent in carrying out the duties of President and Editor of *Una Voce*. As you are aware, Candy has herself also contributed greatly in the past to the operation and development of the Association and its activities, particularly in the Association's Caring role.

The past year has, unfortunately, been a very trying one for both of us, culminating in the loss of our eldest son, Wayne, in February after a long and debilitating illness. We now feel that the time has come for us to try and relax and take things easy for awhile.

With respect to *Una Voce*, it is hoped that, with a much greater involvement by other members of the Editorial Sub-Committee and, if it is your wish that I do so, I will be able to continue as Editor for a time. It is absolutely essential, however, that a younger and more active member be found to take over this task in the not too distant future.

Thank you all for your patience and the interest you have displayed during the delivery of my report." D. J. Parrish, President.

The Treasurer, Mrs. Holmes, presented the Balance Sheet and Statement of Income and Expenditure for the year ended 31 December 1991. She referred to the Explanatory Notes and explained in more detail some of the issues involved.

The President said that even though the Balance Sheet showed a loss of \$656.51 for the year, this was brought about, as explained by the Treasurer, in making provision for income tax payable for 1991 as well as having included the income tax for last year (1990) as an expenditure for 1991, but, in addition, provision has also been made for depreciation which in previous years has not been taken into account. The operations for the year in effect did not operate at a loss.

The financial statements were then accepted on the motion proposed by Mr. Johnston, seconded by Mr. Sinclair. Carried.

Mrs Holmes asked that it be recorded that Mr Johnston had been of great assistance to her in the process of taking over the duties of Treasurer from him.

The Secretary, Mr Nitsche, advised that all correspondence had been of a routine nature and had been dealt with in the normal way. It was available for perusal if required.

Prior to the Election of Office Bearers, Mr West proposed that, as no new nominations had been received, all positions currently held be confirmed. The Meeting agreed. Mr Parrish then read out the names of all persons occupying the executive positions and those of the Committee, and explained that, with respect to the position of President, Mr. Harry West had been nominated, but would not be available to occupy the position until 1 August 1992. Mr. Parrish said he was prepared to carry on until then if this arrangement was acceptable to the meeting.

On the motion of Mr. Pulsford, seconded by Mrs. Holmes, that the current Office Bearers and Committee be re-elected and Mr Parrish continue to act as President until Mr. West is free to take over 1 August of this year. Carried.

The office bearers for this year are listed on the next page.

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President: Mr Doug Parrish (until 1 August then Mr. Harry West)
 Deputy President: Mr Freddie Kaad
 Secretary: Mr Jo Nitsche
 Assistant Secretary: Mrs Pamela Foley
 Treasurer: Mrs Elma Holmes
 Editor 'Una Voce': Mr Doug Parrish
 Honorary Auditor: Mr Len Bailey
 Committee: Messrs Frank Smith, Harry West, Bill Johnston
 Gordon Linsley and Bob Pulsford; Mesdames
 Roma Bates, Pat Hopper and Pat Jones.
 Patrons: Sir Horace Niall and Mr Bill Seale.

Mr Parrish said that the Constitution needed to be simplified and some sections updated. Attention should be paid to the categories of membership and perhaps given different titles. Government recognition of the aims etc. of the Association is desirable and important. It was proposed that a working party prepare such amendments as are needed for discussion at the 1993 AGM.

Various items of general interest to members were tabled, such as an early photograph of the Kone Football team and a photo of the burnt remains of the old Papua Hotel with the new building on the old Port Moresby Hotel site in the background. Mr Parrish advised that details of various travel packages for visits to PNG were available through RSL Travel, and also that some trips to PNG were being organised by Mr Geoff Masters.

Mrs Mary Pulsford expressed the appreciation of members to Mr Parrish for his period as President of the Association and as Editor of 'Una Voce'.

There being no further business the Meeting closed at 11.49 a.m and members adjourned for lunch.

ASSOCIATION SUB-COMMITTEES

The following is the composition of our various Sub-Committees for the next twelve months:

<u>Social Sub-Committee</u>		<u>Legal & Constitution</u>	
<u>Sub-Committee</u>		<u>Sub-Committee</u>	
Harry West	02.418.8793	Harry West	02.418.8793
Jo Nitsche	02.451.2475	Freddie Kaad	02.969.7217
Pamela Foley	02.428.2078	Bill Johnston	02.529.4974
Pat Hopper	02.953.7061	Pat Jones	02.969.9093
<u>Editorial Sub-Committee</u>		Jo Nitsche	02.451.2475
Doug Parrish	02.416.8966	Gordon Linsley	02.427.5221
Bob Pulsford	02.958.1846	<u>Caring Sub-Committee</u>	
Pat Jones	02.969.9093	Pat Hopper	02.953.7061
Pamela Foley	02.428.2078	Frank Smith	02.809.1767
Elma Holmes	02.958.4996	Roma Bates	02.560.2648
<u>Finance Sub-Committee</u>		Florence Cohen	02.797.8214
Elma Holmes	02.958.4996	Co-opting Isobel Ireland and Marie	
Jo Nitsche	02.451.2475	Day as necessary.	
Pamela Foley	02.428.2078		

RETIRED OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 DECEMBER, 1991

	Notes	1991	1990
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash - Commonwealth Savings Bank		2881.54	1439.33
INVESTMENTS			
Colonial Mutual Funds	(1)	8007.00	8007.00
Police Credit Union Share		10.00	10.00
Police Credit Union		15614.26	14367.17
		23631.26	22384.17
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Computer and Printer		2288.50	2288.50
Less Provision Depreciation	(2)	1688.53	
		599.97	-
Second Computer		1702.00	1702.00
Less Provision Depreciation	(2)	612.72	
		1089.28	
New Printer		638.00	-
		2327.25	3990.50
TOTAL ASSETS		28840.05	27814.00
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Subscriptions in Advance	(3)	13892.87	-
Provision for Income Tax	(4)	729.69	-
TOTAL LIABILITIES		14622.56	-
NET ASSETS		\$14217.49	\$27814.00
MEMBERS FUNDS			
Accumulated Balance B/Forward		27814.00	23300.47
Less Net Loss For Year		(656.51)	4513.53
		27157.49	27814.00
Less Transfers			
- Subscriptions current year	(3)	3176.00	-
- Subscriptions in Advance	(3)	9764.00	-
		12940.00	-
TOTAL MEMBERS FUNDS		\$14217.49	\$27814.00


 E Holmes

Hon. Treasurer

RETIRED OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER, 1991

	Notes	1991	1990
INCOME			
Subscriptions		3434.10	3984.20
Subscriptions in Advance Transferred (3)		3176.00	3371.00
Donations		395.20	274.00
Incidentals: Sale of Books	130.00		
Raffles	150.00		
		280.00	204.40
AGM & Christmas Lunches		5220.00	4860.00
Interest: Commonwealth Bank		57.13	76.87
Colonial Mutual Funds		848.86	813.87
Police Credit Union		1247.09	2617.66
Advertising (Una Voce)		150.00	50.00
		<u>\$14808.38</u>	<u>\$16252.00</u>
		=====	=====
EXPENDITURE			
Una Voce Costs: Printing & Stationery		2984.70	2819.74
Postage incl Reg.Publ'n Fee		1305.08	1209.26
Incidentals: Cost of Books and Postage	130.00		-
Raffle Expenses	42.50		35.00
Condolences	61.60		
		234.10	-
AGM & Christmas Lunches		4939.95	4782.00
Administrative Expenses:			
Bank Charges/FID/GDT		29.87	26.39
Computer Repairs and Maintenance		384.90	378.00
Depreciation of Non-Current Assets (2)		2301.25	-
Duplicate 1951 Memorial Plaque		-	475.00
General Postage		335.92	343.90
General Printing		145.52	-
Petty Cash		11.34	81.50
Photocopying		62.56	-
PO Box Rental		35.00	60.00
Stationery		382.81	473.58
Telephone		331.08	216.06
Tax Paid		1251.12	838.04
Tax Payable (4)		729.69	-
		<u>15464.89</u>	<u>11738.47</u>
Income Shortfall to Accumulated Funds		(656.51)	4513.53
		<u>\$14808.38</u>	<u>\$16252.00</u>
		=====	=====


E Holmes
Hon. Treasurer

RETIRED OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA

EXPLANATORY NOTES ON ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER, 1991

- (1) The management of Hambros Cash Management Trust was taken over by Colonial Mutual Funds Ltd at the end of 1990 and the investment will be shown as Colonial Mutual Funds in future.
- (2) Depreciation: I believe this is the first year there has been provision for depreciation of non-current assets, e.g. computers and printer. The older computer and printer has been devalued by 3 years accumulated depreciation at 36% per annum and is nearing the end of its useful life. The second computer, purchased in 1990, allowed 1 year depreciation at 36%.
- (3) Our membership records have now been reorganised to enable a more accurate calculation of subscriptions paid in advance for the current year and for future years. This has been adjusted via transfers from accumulated funds.

The amount of subscriptions in advance was calculated from membership records which show the years to which subscriptions have been paid in advance by various members, given the value for each year at the present rate of \$8.

- (4) Income tax is payable on our investment income after deducting minor related expenses. The operating results for this year are distorted by the inclusion of the income tax paid in respect of the previous year and our estimated liability for this year.
- (5) Part of accumulated funds will be utilised in the near future to replace existing non-current assets which can no longer be economically maintained. It is essential that a reasonable balance be retained in our accumulated funds to provide for unforeseen contingencies.



E Holmes
Hon. Treasurer

AUDITORS REPORT

In my opinion, the financial statements present fairly the position of the Retired Officers' Association of Papua New Guinea at 31 December, 1991 and the results of its operations for the year then ended in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards.



L W Bailey CPA
Hon. Auditor

NEWS FROM CORRESPONDENTS (continued)

Ian was then sent to the Trobriands for further hazardous rescue work. After one operation he was awarded an immediate Distinguished Flying Cross. He was keen to return to Maprik so left our ship at Madang and flew to Wewak on Air Niugini. Through Ag. Department contacts Doug Franklin was able to get Ian to Maprik where a kiving had been organised by Robert Rop, ex PATI 1975. Not only did the lapuns remember Ian from before the war but they reminded him that he used to go on patrol on a horse called "Jack" ! - which Ian told me he had forgotten. A wonderful story and a hero in anyone's books. After leaving PNG Ian worked in Queensland DPI for many years and was an External Examiner for Gatton. His wife Bunny who he married at Wewak in 1940 died in July 1991. Ian is 77 years, very well and lives in Brisbane.

Dot Loutit Worked in the Health Department Port Moresby as a Dental Nurse in 1946. Later she transferred to private enterprise and worked in Ian Chester and Donald Clouston's Dental Practice Port Moresby until her return to Australia in 1967. Dot is fine and lives in Brisbane.

Peter Wenke In PNG from 1950 to 55 as a Patrol Officer. He was posted at Ambunti and Lae and worked under Brian Heagney and (Sir) Horrie Niall. After his return to Australia he took up a flying career and was a pilot with TAA for 33 years. He was retired when he turned 60 and now lives in Melbourne.

Carl Mayoh Worked as an Assistant Secretary at Government House during the time of J.K. Murray. Then as OIC of Housing Department Administration Messes. He joined DASf and was posted to the Mekeo area. Later he applied for and was successful in winning a Soldier Settler block at Sangara, Popondetta, in 1962. Carl was one of the few who made a success of his cocoa plantation despite the problems of pantorhytes, dieback, caterpillars etc. He left his plantation Bisi in 1962 when it was resumed for the Higaturu Oil Palm Project. He told a story that when on the way to Sogeri in 1960 he was watching the petrol gauge and could see they were going to run out of petrol. On asking the driver if he was aware of this he replied 'Yessir - "E" means Enough and "F" means Finish.'

Graham and Florence Jamieson Graham joined DASf in 1959 after completing a Territories Scholarship to study Agricultural Science at Queensland University. He was posted to Finschhafen and then to Pindiu. In 1960 he went to Keravat where he remained as an Agronomist until 1965. After Long Service leave he joined Queensland DPI where he remained for the rest of his career. Graham was born at Wau and while the ship was at Lae was one of several who joined a charter aircraft organised by an ex U.S. Air Force pilot to fly to Wau. Graham was a boy in Rabaul in 1937 during the volcanic eruption. He said he can remember the harbour a mass of floating coconuts and pumice. He and Florence live in Brisbane.

HELP NEEDED

One of our members, who is involved in research for a history of Rabaul, is urgently in need of a book for which she has been seeking without success. The book is titled "Rabaul Under the Japs" by Gordon Thomas.

The member would be glad to purchase the book, but if anyone who has the book would be prepared to lend, its return will be guaranteed.

Would any member who can help please contact the Assistant Secretary, Mrs. Pamela Foley on 02.428.2078.

ARCHIVING P.N.G. MEMORABILIA

We are all getting older and as we do we progressively are less able to store and thus preserve our valuable documents generated or collected during our life in PNG. Peter Cahill (ex-PNG Department of the Administrator) wrote to *Una Voce* in response to Bob Bunting's words in the March 1992 issue (Page 10): ("It may in fact be pertinent to establish a repository library for literary works on PNG and to call on members to donate books and unpublished articles and stories to be kept for posterity...") and has offered to manage such a project for *Una Voce*.

Peter's credentials are ideal having two post-graduate degrees based on documentary research on PNG material: ("The Chinese in Rabaul 1885-1960", for an M.A. and "The Plantation Industry on the Gazelle Peninsular 1914-1918", for a Ph.D) and has post-graduate qualifications in librarianship. He is also younger than most of us and is only now considering retirement from his present position, so has plenty of energy to apply to this task. He has asked the executive to get legal advice to cover copy-right of the material and to prepare a donation form to ensure that the intention of the donors is protected. He continues; "Donations should be made to the Executive of *Una Voce*⁽¹⁾ which could pass items to me for inclusion in the database. Once this has been done the material should then pass to an academic/research library for safe keeping. The Australian National Library in Canberra would be the logical choice, if donors agreed.

The database would include anything written, e.g. diaries, letters, short stories, poems, patrol reports, correspondence to and from Administration and Commonwealth departments (relative to PNG). Photographs (please, with identification on the back!), maps, charts, sketches would be very valuable also although I'm not quite sure at this stage how these would be copied. Even if people thought the items may not be particularly interesting they could send them in for examination. We would have to be careful that material containing anything offensive/libellous/defamatory to living persons (I have seen a collection in Brisbane which fits quite happily into all three categories and is fascinating reading!) had some sort of access/time restriction imposed before it became freely available for viewing. Perhaps a clause could be included on the donation form which gave the executive discretion to dispose of any unsuitable material as it saw fit if the donor didn't want it returned."

A REQUEST: Quite apart from the above. Peter is currently writing about life in Rabaul in the 1920-1940 period. He would very much appreciate the assistance of any person who could supply him with some information. Can you describe the furniture, ornaments, curtains, colour schemes etc. as used in homes as accurately as possible. "Was the furniture Manilla cane? Were camphorwood chests all the rage along with the Chinese carved furniture popular in Rabaul in the 50's and 60's? Was there much, if any, native furnishings (mats, carvings, Trobriand Isand style occasional tables) or were these not considered appropriate? I'd be grateful if readers could fill me in on the odd details as it is embarrassing to write something that proves to be incorrect."

Dr Peter Cahill (07) 371 4794
7 Wynyard Street
Indooroopilly Qld 4068

Note: ⁽¹⁾ This would probably have to be R.O.A.P.N.G. not *Una Voce*. Ed.

PNG NEWS

Pam and Doug Franklin visited Honiara, Madang, Lae, Port Moresby and Townsville in May 92 on the cruise liner "Belorussiya". Here are some of their impressions:

Madang: As beautiful as ever. The town and countryside absolutely clean due to an on the spot fine system introduced to curb litterbugs. Behind the Coastwatcher's Memorial is a fine new Spanish style two storey hotel looking out to sea. Peter Barter's Madang Resort Hotel now includes several individual waterfront chalets. Peter, incidentally, is standing for the Madang Open seat in the forthcoming national elections due in June '92. He hopes to lend more weight to the tourism industry.

We did a full day tour visiting villages in the hills including Baitabag where a sing sing was in progress. It included our favourite bamboo band. The north coast road to the new Malolo Lodge, opposite Karkar Island, and formerly Plantation Hotel, was as good as any interstate highway in Australia.

Lae: Philip Franklin met us on the wharf. His charming wife Louise put frangipani leis round our necks - we knew we were back in Melanesia. The drive along Milford Haven Rd to town was much the same. The buildings had all had a coat of paint for the recent South Pacific Games and visit by Prince Andrew. The former town airport is still awaiting redevelopment and there were signs that the city roads were short on funding. There is a debate as to who is responsible for Lae roads - Central Government, Provincial Government or the Lae City Authority. This is understandable, with huge semi trailers from the Highlands on the roads. We were told the population of Lae is 80,000 and growing. We visited the War Cemetery and Botanical Gardens, both well kept. The golf course looked excellent.

Samarai: The ship passed through the China Strait and close to Samarai. It looked peaceful and quiet just after lunch. Belorussiya gave a couple of welcome toots. We could see the copra sheds and residential houses but someone said that most of the latter had been vandalised and not many people lived on Samarai now. There didn't appear to be any sign of life. The islands and beaches were beautiful.

Port Moresby: The first impression approaching Moresby from the sea is countless new buildings. High rises in downtown Moresby and blocks of flats and units on the hills. We were met by Max Day, former kiap, D.O.Lands and now Lands Consultant, who took us for a comprehensive city tour. His wife Judith owns a law practice in town.

The Papua Hotel (top pub) site is bare having been cleared by a fire. A huge new building is on the Bottom Pub site. Burns Philp have just put their town store for sale at K4.2 million. Old residents will remember the squeaking punkah in the store before the days of air conditioning. Ela Beach is undergoing redevelopment - the RSL is gone, also in a fire. The drive to Waigani on a four lane highway was busy as ever. The Islander Hotel has a four storey extension. The "pineapple building", once the pride of Government architecture at Waigani has again been condemned as a fire hazard and there are rumours that it may be demolished. The once shining fibre glass window frames are now stained by age and mould. Several large buildings were under construction or newly completed at Waigani.

Gordon Market, which we visited, has been rebuilt. It is clean and excellent. Coming back to town via Boroko we saw the remains of our house at 47 Bisini Parade. It had been consumed by a fire recently. Pam and I were

(continued page #12)*

PNG NEWS (continued)

there for seven years and Peter Ramm before that. We felt sad - it was a good house.

Coming to Konedobu we learned that the proposed tunnel through Burns Peak to connect Spring Garden Rd Konedobu to Hohola and Waigani will now be a cutting. The excavation will go towards filling the harbour to extend the container terminal. RPYC yacht club is to move to a site towards Hanuabada, near the Hubert Murray Stadium. Ranuguri Hostel at Konedobu is no more. Some of us may give a cheer. It was not clear what had happened to it but rascals had helped to wreck the buildings. A concrete pad is all that is left.

In the late afternoon we repaired to Travelodge for a thirst quencher. There we met Fred Haynes, former kiap and now with B.P. (PNG) and Chris Warrilow ex ADC Kagua, Tari etc. Chris is with Minerals and Energy.

We said goodbye to three most memorable days in PNG. It is a mistake to believe that the country is not fairly and squarely on the right track of progress and development. The improvements in the eight years since we went finish are positive and exciting. A great credit to Papua New Guineans. Sure there are problems but they have to be taken in the right context and not the negative wrong one as we are led to believe most of the time. A last note - when we changed our money for Kina we were given a fine new K50 bank note on which was Sir Michael Somare's portrait. We were told locals call the note "Fifty Michaels".

Honiara: During the day visit Doug found seven of his Popondetta Agricultural College graduates waiting for him on the wharf. It was a great reunion after 17 years. BSIP used to send their Ag. students to PNG for training.

"TURNING OF THE TIDE"

DEFENCE OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Pilgrimage to Commemorate the 50th Anniversary 1992
Organised by RSL Travel, NSW

There are two tours as follows:

Official Pilgrimage Departure 1 - 31 October-7 November 1992.

Official Pilgrimage Departure 2 - 2 November-8 November 1992.

Each tour will include a significant pilgrimage to Owers Corner, the start of the Kokoda Track for the Australian forces to dedicate a memorial to the Australian and Papua New Guineans who took part in the New Guinea Campaign. Enjoy local hospitality at Sogeri before journeying to Bomana War Cemetery for a sunset Remembrance Service incorporating the beating of the retreat.

On both tours those participating will also have the options of visiting the following areas: Milne Bay; Popondetta, Buna and Sanananda; Kokoda via Popondetta; Kokoda Track; and Wau (Bulolo).

For full details, including brochure, contact:

NSW, QLD, WA

RSL Travel

Level 7

580 George Street

SYDNEY NSW 2000

Phone: (02) 261 5450

Fax: (02) 261 4420

Toll Free: 008 22 1611

VIC

RSL Travel

324 Belmore Road

BALWYN EAST VIC 3129

Phone: (03) 857 4555

Fax: (03) 816 3216

SA

RSL Travel

1st Floor

29 King William Street

ADELAIDE SA 5000

Phone: (08) 857 4555

Fax: (08) 816 3216

VALE

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.

Mr. Jack Chelmsford REILLY (22 May 92, aged 82 years)

Jack was with the PNG Department of Education and arrived in PNG in June 1950 to be posted to Misima Island, Milne Bay Province. He moved to Dregerhafen, Morobe Province in 1952, then Hagara, National Capital Province for a brief period in 1959, prior to being appointed foundation Headmaster of Port Moresby High School.

In 1964 Jack returned to Australia and taught at Nudgee College, Brisbane, before gaining a position under the Colombo Plan in Sabah, Malaysia. After his return to Australia in 1968 he resumed teaching at Woodlawn College, Lismore, a school where he taught before leaving for PNG.

Sir Michael and Lady Veronica Somare paid Jack the honour of attending the funeral in Lismore.

Jack is survived by his wife Joy, children John, Jim, Peter and Margaret together with 10 grandchildren and one great grandson.

(I had the honour of knowing Jack when he was at Dregerhafen and found him to be a very fine teacher, excellent school principal, a real gentleman and a sincere friend. It was indeed a privilege for Candy and I to have known Jack and his wife, Joy, and we were saddened when we received word of Jack's passing. Ed.)

Mr. Edgar (Ted) SHELTON (14 May 92, aged 84 years)

Ted commenced his service in May 1946 with the then Provisional Administration as a Pathology and Xray Technician in the Public Health Department in Rabaul following Army Service with a Casualty Clearing Station in Bougainville. He spent many years in Rabaul and time also at the Goroka and Madang hospitals.

He served the Department and the communities, Papua New Guinean, Asean and European alike, faithfully and with distinction until his retirement. His technical ability and advice from wide readings earned him merited appreciation in medical spheres; and his humanity and sound common sense the fond respect of friends in many walks of life.

Of Ted, Arthur Williams writes: "Ted was Pathology Technician at Nonga Hospital when I first made his acquaintance in the 1960's. His dry sense of humour did much to lessen - for me at least - the normal tensions and frictions among our diverse hospital staff and brightened many a dull day. He and I kept up a sporadic correspondence in which we detailed our woes and troubles in a light vein and commented on many topics with many anecdotes. I shall miss the uplift in spirits that came with that familiar envelope with 'a letter from Ted'."

(The foregoing was compiled with the assistance of Arthur Hill, Arthur Williams and Reg Collins. Ed.)

Mrs. Winifred (Freddie) O'DELL (April 92)

Freddie resided in Port Moresby for many years with her husband John who worked in the PNG Treasury. She was well known for her involvement in productions by the Moresby Musical and Dramatic Society. After their retirement from PNG, Freddie became Senior English Mistress at Abbotsleigh Girls' School, Wahroonga, Sydney. Both she and John were former POWs in Changi during W.W.II. She is survived by husband, John, who turned 84 on 6 June 92, and son, John.

Mrs. Iris Elizabeth BURCHETT (30 March 92, aged 76 years)

Iris and Ted Burchett were married by ADO Ludlow Downing at Salamaua in 1936. The newly weds flew to Wau the same day and then on to the Upper Watut Goldfields the following day where Ted was running a sawmill. They moved to Wau later to another mill.

Ted served as a Medasst in ANGAU for duration of W.W.II and Iris had to go to Australia to wait out the war. Ted joined the PNG Public Health Department after the war and, whilst they were at Tari, Iris was a Jack of all trades, weather, radio, Post Office and typist for ADO. She received a special mention from the Administrator for her work at radio when a Gibbes Sepik Airways plane crashed at Koroba in August, 1947. Also served as Postmistress at Angoram and later radio operator and Postmistress at Bereina.

Iris was instrumental in having deep freeze installed at Goroka and Minj to keep perishable food from spoiling if it had to be left overnight due to bad weather. She earned herself quite a reputation for "stirring" on matters concerning the welfare of families when it came to the delivery of essential goods for them. She is survived by her husband Ted.

Mrs. Pat EDWARDS (15 April 02)

From 1956 to 1975 Pat was a resident of Port Moresby, where she worked in the Commonwealth Bank, a stockbroker's office and the Taxation Office, and had a large circle of friends. After retiring to the Gold Coast, she was an enthusiastic worker in the community, having been Chairman of the Victoria League, President of the Ionians' 83 Club, President of the Zodiac Luncheon Club and an organiser of the Gold Coast PNG Club's Mahjong meetings. Survived by husband, Alec.

Mrs. Margery SMART (March 92)

A funeral service was held for Margery at Port Macquarie on 11 March and Canon Stuart came from Byron Bay to officiate. Margery is survived by husband Percy, one-time Clerk of the House of Assembly, daughter Janet and three grandchildren. She and Percy were among those who endured the terrible experience of the evacuation from Burma following the Japanese invasion in W.W.II.

Mr. Angus Roderick SAVAGE (27 March 92, aged 79 years)

Angus joined the PNG Department of Agriculture, Stock and Fisheries 19 December 1947 as a Livestock Officer and left PNG 8 December 1972. He is survived by wife, Dorothy Jeanette. (No further information available.)

Mr. Kenneth Clarence FLORENTINE (19 April 92, aged 79 years)

Ken joined the PNG Department of Posts and Telegraphs 8 May 1953 and left 25 September 1970. He is survived by wife, Enid Alice. (No further information was available.)

Dr. Anatoly SIKO (April 92, aged 78 years)

Dr. Siko joined the PNG Public Health Department as a District Medical Officer 25 March 1952 and left 2 July 1968. He is survived by his wife, Eileen Elizabeth. (No further information was available)

Mrs. Jean BELL (16 April 92, aged 73 years)

Jean was born in NSW and with husband Eric and a young family - Trevan was then about 9 and Lee about 3, she came to Papua New Guinea in 1951. She found herself managing a store on Kwiara Plantation in Milne Bay Province, and rapidly learned about culture shock and what being busy really meant.

It was here that her love for Papua New Guinea began; the love that grew into citizenship and into total commitment to the country.

Tragedy touched her in 1960 when husband Eric died. A major strength and support for Jean over this period of loss was friend of the family Brian Bell, and in the fullness of time this friendship blossomed into love, marriage, and the wonderful relationship that has endured until death - and I know will continue to endure in Brian's heart.

In 1977 Brian was appointed Honorary Consul Sweden, and later was appointed to Norway as well. Jean enthusiastically undertook her support role in the diplomatic scene and the wives of many newly appointed diplomats to Papua New Guinea found their settling-in period all the easier for Jean's readily offered hand of friendship.

As the Norwegian Ambassador remarked just last week while honouring Brian - "Behind every great man there is a great lady" - and Jean was the great lady in Brian's life. Always immensely proud of his successes and always in active support in both his diplomatic and his business life.

Jean was a committed citizen of Papua New Guinea and will be particularly remembered by many for her work for various worthy causes in Papua New Guinea - Red Cross, YWCA, PNG Cancer Society, the recent Jaws of Life Appeal, Friends of the Library and many others over the years. Her energy seemed boundless.

Her capacity to touch people's hearts and to influence them for the good spread to many people in her adopted country.

In many corners of the world there are people mourning Jean today - a nurse in Peru - an opera star in Melbourne - an artist in Switzerland - a trawler master at sea off Bundaberg - a Chinese doctor from Beijing, (now studying in the USA) identify but a few, of the many who know that they are the better for their lives having been touched by hers.

Jean is survived by her husband Brian and children, Trevan and Lee.

(The above consists of extracts taken from the Eulogy delivered by Jack Baker at Service held at St. Martin's Church, Boroko, 23 April 1992. Ed.)

Mrs. Joyce VIDGEN (June 91)

Joyce was the wife of the late Frank Vidgen who was the Director of the Commonwealth Department of Works in Port Moresby at one time. She is survived by daughters, Rosamund and Andrea and a number of grandchildren. (No further information was available.)

Mrs. Maud SINCLAIR (8 March 92)

Maud was the widow of the late Dr. Bruce Sinclair who was a government officer in PNG both pre and post war. Although very advanced in years, Maud was a person of great courage and, even though she fell and fractured four lumbar vertebrae in 1988 and then suffered a stroke which left her without speech and unable to write, her indomitable will and great perseverance enabled her to overcome these afflictions and she learned to read and write again. After receiving a letter from Maud, I wrote and recorded this in the September 1989 issue of the Newsletter and again in the March 1990 issue when I received another letter from her. She was a great lady and is survived by a niece Anne O'Donnell.

Mr. William Andrew (Peter) LALOR (28 March 92, aged 71 years)

After service in the Army, Peter joined the then Provisional Administration of PNG as a Patrol Officer in October 1946 and was posted to the Milne Bay District. He was in Samarai when a power line came down and, whilst he was rescuing another person, stepped on the live wire and had his heel badly burnt. This necessitated long treatment in Melbourne where he also finished a law course and met and married his first wife, Mary.

On return to PNG he joined the Crown Law Department and was assigned to several special projects. In 1960 he was appointed the first Public Solicitor in PNG. Over the years he was very active in the affairs of the Public Service Association, particularly in negotiations with Canberra concerning the status and serving conditions of expatriate officers when self-government was introduced into PNG.

In 1965, whilst on duty as Commissioner for the Girl Guides, Peter's wife, Mary, died in a plane accident. He was greatly affected by this tragedy so in 1967 friends arranged for him to go to Canberra, where he spent six months as Associate Professor of Law at the Australian National University. It was there he met Lynette (Netti) Peterson and they were married in 1968.

Peter was highly respected by both practising and academic lawyers in Australia as well as PNG. He had a strong social conscience reminiscent of his namesake (possibly forebear) at the Eureka Stockade. Although some individuals or groups may have disagreed with some of his actions as PNG Public Solicitor none ever doubted his integrity. He felt that conciliation was far more preferable to riots and saw the court system as a way of taking the heat out of some social issues. A tribute to Peter and his work is the Foundation now being set up in his memory.

He is survived by his widow Lynette and his son Michael.

Mr. Leslie Philip BLIAUX (12 May 92, aged 74 years)

During W.W.II Phil joined Royal Corps of Signals and reached the rank of Major. Served in Greece as member of Special Operations Executive. Parachuted twice behind enemy lines to re-organise communications between G.H.Q. Middle East Forces and the Greek Resistance. Served in India and Egypt. Was awarded M.B.E. for gallant and distinguished service in the field.

Phil gained a Bachelor of Science degree in Geo-Physics and, as a Geophysicist, did extensive work with Oil Search and British Petroleum in the 1960s, and was held in high regard by them. Later took up residence at his coffee plantation, 'Koibuga', in the Western Highlands and maintained an agency for technical equipment, though frequently returning to the oil companies for periods of consultancy.

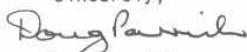
In 1978 he married Joan Tomkin who went to PNG from England.

Ill-health caused him to retire in 1982 to Bagara in Queensland. Well known and respected, his friends in Mount Hagen will hold a ceremony in his honour. He is survived by his wife, Joan, at Bagara.

Included in "Have You Heard" are items held over from the March 1992 issue and a comprehensive article on Australian Citizenship has been held over to the September 1992 issue because of shortage of space.

Take care and look after yourselves.

Sincerely,



Doug Parrish
Editor