



Una Voce News Letter

RETIRED OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA
P.O. BOX 452, ROSEVILLE NSW 2069
Print Post Approved PP224987/00025

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No. 3, 1993 - September

Dear Member,

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

- (1) The Newsletter itself with pages numbered *2*, *3*, *4*, etc.
- (2) AGM Minutes etc. with pages numbered 2, 3, 4, etc.

This has been done to enable members to lift out the AGM Minutes etc. and file them separately, if they so desire.

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

It is suggested that the following be prominently displayed in your diary and you firm up your arrangements now, so that you and your ex-PNG friends are able to attend our

**1993 Christmas Luncheon on Sunday
5 December 1993 at the Mandarin Club
corner Pitt & Goulburn Streets Sydney**

The cost will still be \$20.00 per head, which has not changed for the past five years, and includes a banquet style meal. A large Council Car Park is only 100 metres away where charges are very reasonable, and the Club is not far from Town Hall, Central and Museum Railway Stations.

Full details will be included in the next issue of *Una Voce* which you will receive mid-November.

VISIT TO BLUE MOUNTAINS

It is planned to make a visit to the mountains on Monday, 18 October 1993. These are most enjoyable outings, so come and bring your friends and treat your lungs to a good dose of fresh mountain air, it does them the world of good. Lunch will be at the Grandview Hotel, Wentworth Falls.

For those with Senior Cards the fare by rail is still \$2.00 return and the train leaves Central Station at 9.02 am. However, check with the Railways the week before to ascertain whether there has been a change due to track work, The Railways information telephone number is 131500 irrespective from where you call.

Those interested please contact Pamela Foley (02) 428 2078, Harry West (02) 4188793 or Ken Gorringer (047) 57 1488.

MEMBERS HONOURED

Our hearty congratulations to the following members who received awards in the 1993 Queen's Birthday Honours List:

Mr. James Patrick SINCLAIR O.B.E. for service to literature and Papua New Guinea.

Mr. Richard James GIDDINGS M.B.E. for outstanding service to Papua New Guinea as a Magistrate.

We are extremely proud of both of you who have dedicated a large part of your lives to Papua New Guinea.

MEMBER GONE MISSING

Mrs. E. McAdam
2/37 Montpelier Street
CLAYFIELD QLD 4011

June issue of the Newsletter was returned and it would be appreciated if anyone knowing her current whereabouts would contact the Secretary.

LAPSED MEMBERSHIPS

The following is the text of a letter I received recently from one of our members, Mrs Valmai Anderson of Southport Qld: "Thanks to Doug Franklin I have discovered that I am unfinancial. He rang the other day and we had a great chat which is surprising as we had no knowledge of each other until that phone call. It must be a "gift" from N.G. days. Anyway we chatted about mutual New Guinea friends and then I was gently told that the call was a "reminder call" that my membership was about to lapse."

This is what we had hoped would happen with respect to the majority of people whose memberships had lapsed.

Because many of our members, like me, are getting on in years, we tend to need reminding about such things, I know that I do, and we had hoped that other members would do what Doug Franklin did. That is, remind their friends and acquaintances on the lapsed membership list who lived in their vicinity that their subs were overdue.

Doug Franklin contacted some 15 members all told in Brisbane or on the Gold Coast, many of these he had never met and a number of these have subsequently forwarded their subs.

Great work, Doug, and come on, what about some other members helping our Association in the way that Doug Franklin did.

The Annual Membership Subscription is still only \$8.00, due and payable in advance on the 1st January each year.

Many of our members now pay two or three years in advance to ensure that they are always financial.

One of our members has suggested the re-introduction of Life Memberships but we have been down that road and very few organisations now make such a provision. It is very difficult to project costs in the future, particularly when a period of very high cost of living increases occur as Australia has experienced in the past.

Evidence, many people in the past who thought they had made adequate provision for their retirement and in recent years found that their super or pension is now most inadequate to enable them to live in the manner to which they were accustomed.

Next year in the March issue of the Newsletter we will endeavour to remind members individually whose subscriptions are overdue.

HAVE YOU HEARD???

Jetti ZIGAS late last year advised that she was off to Holland and recently we received a card from her as follows: "It was great to receive *Una Voce*, the 2nd one since I arrived here. It does give such a nice link with the old "old times and good friends". Thank you! I am enjoying West Europe with its old cities and villages; beautiful scenery and the change of seasons. I had forgotten how dainty spring is not only the blossoms but the little ducklings ect. in the numerous canals throughout Holland, especially in the towns too. Great also to catch up with friends and relatives, some of whom I had not seen in more than 30 years. Now grandparents then teenagers." Jetti, your good wishes are reciprocated by all your friends down here.

Lynn CLARK of Southport Qld has not been well and recently has had two visits to hospital. He is back home again now and Lynn we wish you a very speedy and full recovery from your illness.

June KAAD of Mosman NSW has also spent some time in hospital for hip reconstruction work and is now back home. Our very best wishes June for a rapid return to normal use of the recalcitrant limb.

Lou SEARLE Of Moreton Creek NSW, however, must take the prize for body reconstruction work. I believe he has now had both hips, both shoulders and recently a knee done over. Lou is well but somewhat hampered in tending his orchids and rhododendrons for which he is known worldwide with at least one variety named after him.

I spent a few hours with Lou recently reminiscing, a most enjoyable interlude. Our best wishes for a very quick recovery from the knee op.

Dawn LEVY of Laurieton NSW was a most charming and entertaining host when we spent two days with her in her beautiful home last month. She is well and very much involved in local community affairs. There is no doubt that Dawn selected a most glorious spot to live when she chose Laurieton. Dawn, we have fond memories of our visit.

Pauline and Ian GRUNDY of Carseldine Qld were off to Sumatra, Indonesia, in July as Ian, an ex-Forrester from PNG, has taken up a contract to replant forest in the north of the island. As Pauline comments "never too old for PNG expats" and I heartily agree with her.

(I have been to Aceh when the company I was with built the large liquified natural gas plant there. It is a most interesting place with a unique history and I would very much appreciate your impressions, Ian or Pauline, when you have been there for awhile. Ed.)

Carl MAYOH of Hemmant Qld has been doing a great deal of travelling this year, firstly to Ballarat for five weeks, then Thursday Island where he attended the 50th Anniversary of the formation of the Torres Straits Infinity Battalion in 1943. Then to Longreach Qld to visit the "Hall of Fame" again. His book "The Best of Mick Mayoh", a book of Australian verse and poems by his father, which he published in 1989, is in the "Hall of Fame".

(Carl, you sure get around, but could you tell me where I can obtain a copy of the book? Best wishes, Ed.)

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HAVE YOU HEARD??? (continued)

Maria SZENT-IVANY of Athelstone Vic in a note with her subs commented: "I do enjoy reading *Una Voce*, it brings back beautiful memories of a beautiful life in a magnificent country."

(Thank you, Maria, your comment gives me great heart and makes one feel that he is making a worthwhile contribution to people who have very fond memories of their time in PNG during "the good time"! Ed.)

Jane BELFIELD of Narrawong Victoria has been recuperating recently from a hip replacement operation, firstly, with Joy Norton at Lismore NSW, a former PNG resident "long taim bipor" and then with June Fielding at Tingalpa Qld.

She was then returning to her home in Vic and hoping to obtain another six months work in Rabaul.

John HUON de NAVRANCOURT of Atherton Qld has advised that Jack McCarthy, a long time resident of PNG, has now retired to the Cairns area.

Jack spent some forty years in PNG, for many years a journalist on the South Pacific Post and also as an author, having written books about the country.

His daughter is married to Mr. Albert Karo, PNG Minister for Works in the Cabinet of Mr. Paius Wingti. During July this year Jack joined his daughter and her husband who celebrated their 25th Wedding Anniversary at Port Douglas. Present also was Mr. Paius Wingti who was celebrating the anniversary of his first year as PNG Prime Minister.

When in Cairns John also made contact with Dr. Quentin Reilly, who spent several years with PHD at various centres in PNG. Dr. Reilly's wife is from Manus and they have three children.

Olive and Jack HULL of Margate Qld are off again on another trip with their caravan and they hope to be away until next year.

(How about some details of your trip while you are away. Last time I hoped I would receive some news but did not hear anything from you after you took off. How about it? Ed.)

Ken and Margaret EDMANSON, whom we have been trying to contact for some considerable time, we finally tracked down at Johns River on the NSW mid-north coast. Ex-Madangites will remember Ken as the Manager of the Commonwealth Bank in Madang in the 50's and he went on from there to much bigger and better things in the Bank but has been retired for some time.

They have converted a lovely old church into a very pleasant and comfortable home without in any way destroying the building's ambience. We very much enjoyed calling on them both going up the coast and coming back again.

Les CLOUT of Toowong Qld I regret to advise is in hospital very ill. Les for many years did most of the work associated with the printing and mailing of *Una Voce* ably assisted by his wife, Doreen. He is a very dear friend having served on our Committee for many years and we are terribly sorry to hear that he is so ill.

Doreen, please convey to Les the very best wishes from all his friends down here, particularly those who served with him on Committee.

Elizabeth SOWERBY of Burleigh Heads Qld will reach the grand old age of 90 next year and still lives in her own home near the Koala Park at Burleigh. She regularly receives visits from Bob Cole, Archbishop Copas and numerous other friends from all over Australia when they visit the Gold Coast. Elizabeth, we very much enjoyed our visit and the cuppa with you last month and hope that it will not be so long before we see you again.

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HAVE YOU HEARD??? (continued)

Bob COLE, for his age, is one of the most energetic and dedicated persons it is my pleasure to know. The maintenance of his very large block of land on the bank of the Nerang River in such an immaculate manner plus large house and swimming pool by himself must be no easy task. In addition, he keeps in touch with some twenty odd Legacy widows plus children, visits most of them regularly and does some of their taxation, goes shopping and enjoys the occasional game of golf. In his spare time fills in gaps in New Guinea history and compiles detailed indexes for the many books about PNG which have been published without an index. He also brews his own very good ale. Bob, I don't know how you do it! It was great catching up with you again and ver much appreciated our recent visit.

His Grace, Archbishop Virgil COPAS, who has retired to Surfers Paradise on the Qld Gold Coast, is well again after a spell of ill health.

We don't know about this retirement business, however, as he still regularly celebrates Mass at Coolangatta and spends many hours visiting hospitals and nursing homes in his area. He also visits elderly and sick people in their own homes.

We were indeed honoured last month to spend a few hours with him reminiscing and discussing PNG, where he spent some forty years, the people we knew there together, and other matters of mutual interest. It was truly a wonderful experience.

I have known His Grace since the late 1940's when, as a Priest stationed at Vunapope, he played cricket with the Kokopo cricket team and was one of our best bowlers. Our main oponents were the Rabaul team whose Captain in those days was Charlie Bates, and the rivalry between the two sides created a lot of local interest in both towns.

If I remember correctly, he also performed his first marriage ceremony in PNG when he married Mick and Pamela Foley at Vunapope and the reception was held in the ADO's house which I occupied at the time.

Peter VAN HOECKEL of Nambour, Qld, recently reported: "We had a lovely time overseas in 1992 - Holland, Canada, Honolulu, 5½ months in all - and we hope to visit Holland again next year for a prolonged period, mainly to celebrate my 80th birthday there with the family.

Health is the important factor and so far I consider myself fortunate for age. It's all in the mind they say and I believe this is true to a great extent. A positive attitude is certainly important. Of course still lovely, very fit and caring Truusje (Trish) (I won't mention her age, but she's a few years my junior) - whom many will know from her time with Buntings Goroka - plays an important role in the way we enjoy our happy life together. We commemorated our 40th anniversary in 1992.

During our 4½ months stay in Holland we visited Halla and Willy Nesteroff in the Hague several times. Halla was with PWD in Goroka, Madang and Wewak and later with Trade & Industry (Cooperatives). Halla is a fit 78 years of age (79 in the meantime) and he still rolls his own 'coffin nails' ('VanNelle' black shag tobacco). He seems to thrive on it.

Willy was with Education in Madang, Port Moresby and Rabaul. She, too, is a reasonably fit ??? years (never mind, women get younger every year after 50), and, again, she too still enjoys 'tailor mades' and is surviving whatever we are told is terribly bad for us. Must be the polluted air in the Hague; smoking makes no difference! They live comfortably in a nicely situated flat and enjoy life as well as they may. The latest we heard is that they are both well."

(Freddie Kaad returns your good wishes. Ed.)

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HAVE YOU HEARD??? (continued)

Barry BOND of Labrador, Qld, recently reported: "As a carry on from what began after the Christmas Luncheon of 1990, my heart problems stayed with me, and came to a head recently when I was in a pretty bad way, with angina attacks becoming too common. Not just that, but one's physical condition deteriorates. Finally, I could barely walk to the front gate, and would be out of breath. My specialist here referred me to a consultant in Brisbane, who immediately scheduled an angiogram, which showed severe blockages, so I was promptly "done" with a by-pass op. and haven't looked back since. I feel 20 years younger [or 17 or 18 anyway] and now walk briskly for an hour every morning and at least that every afternoon, and I no longer take any medication whatsoever!

To celebrate my miracle recovery, I am going back in time, taking Jean with me, to where I lived until 1939 as a youngster, Perth W.A. A very old friend from those days, when Jean telephoned her to say I had come through the operation well, said we should celebrate by coming over to visit them, since we had been promising to for years. We had to wait about a month to get a booking on the "Indian Pacific" train, which was very heavily booked. I didn't realise it only ran once a week, and then they brought the Port Augusta one right through to commence a second service, beginning on the 4th October, and we are on that one. Apart from seeing old friends [and sadly, many old school friends have "passed on"] we are doing a 15 day coach tour, which covers a lot. Jean has never been to W.A. so showing her will give me added pleasure.

We will miss out on the "Back to the Wahgi" reunion at Nerang on Sunday the 23rd October, being organised by Norm Camps, ex Hagen [075 781 622]. I was looking forward to that.

I note that CPI adjustment figure is 1.2%. Has anyone ever commented to you that the method of arriving at that figure seems woefully outmoded? That figure for today's economic conditions is totally unrealistic, don't you agree? I know we are a minority group, but is a request for a review feasible? Keating agrees to the "Accord Mark III or what have you, to please his friends. What about their former friends, now superannuated? Worth a try? "

Michael DUFFY of Zillmere Qld is a new member and a warm welcome to the fold. He advises that he and wife Pat will be visiting Sydney for the Rugby League Grand Final and hopes to catch up with old acquaintances. On the way they will be meeting up with the Gold Coast PNG Club before travelling on along the coast where they hope to meet some of the people from the Rugby League days in PNG. There are quite a few of these between Brisbane and Sydney who also make the annual pilgrimage for the Grand Final, where they meet up with Dr. Jim Jacobi and others from PNG. Over the years the numbers have varied but they say that a great time is generally assured.

HELP WANTED

Jim Sinclair is writing a book on the coffee industry in PNG and he would very much appreciate any ex-DASF or other personnel, who think that they might have something to contribute, getting in touch with him. The book will be more on the people connected with the industry rather than a dry collection of facts and statistics. Jim can be contacted as follows:

James Sinclair
5 Yoomba Crescent
ALEXANDRA HEADLAND QLD 4572
Tel. (074) 43 6597

NEWS FROM CORRESPONDENTS

Jim TONER (Northern Territory)

Otto ALDER has enlivened his retirement by undertaking an enquiry for the N.T. Government into the financing of the Darwin and Alice Springs Turf Clubs. Being a former mandarin himself he must have known that this is what Sir Humphrey Appleby would have described as "courageous". His report is now attracting pithy comment from local racing identities.

Tom VIGUS has been back to PNG where the papers are full of tales of woe about "destruction of the forests". He says that his research indicates that the lowland rainforests there are much more resilient than greenies like to admit (which, Tom adds, is just as well as neither the government nor the industry is actively managing the resource after logging).

Tom is leaving the N.T. Conservation Commission for an appointment with the Kandrian-Gloucester Integrated Development Project so will be resigning as secretary of the Darwin branch of the Australia-PNG Society.

Michael GREY, mentioned in the June edition, is also engaged by the Project to develop that isolated and unloved corner of New Britain. On a recent flight from Sydney to Moresby he mentioned Gumine in the Chimbu district to a fellow passenger whereupon from the seat in front up popped Mr Pople. Graeme was, of course, klap there before representing Gumine in the House of Assembly for at least two terms. He is now a public relations person at Porgera. Those early parliaments at Tuaguba Hill seated some "characters" one of them Keith Tetley, passed away this year.

Another of the "can't stay away" brigade is Colin CAMPBELL. He is now senior civilian at Bialla working in the oil palm industry, having been at one time DDC Kimbe. Those who knew him at West New Britain, Eastern Highlands or East Sepik stations will be pleased to learn that he looks forward to becoming a father for the first time in November.

More news from the Highlands! A Rugby League referee was shot dead by Police at Kundiawa in April. Whilst it has been suggested from time to time that most of that fraternity deserve such a fate, the unfortunate whistler was merely trying to halt a fight between youths only twenty metres from the Police Station. An awful warning to would-be do-gooders?

Geoff MASTERS

Lunched with Roy and Daira ANDREWS at their home at Chirnside Park Vic. a while back and Roy invited Ross SUTTON and wife Maureen. Hadn't seen Ross since I left Alotau where I was a PO at the time. Ross is now Manager of Parks and Gardens, Knox City, just out of Melbourne (some blokes get all the good jobs!). Had a great time talking of ex-Alotau people, dead and living, it was a nice day. Ross and Maureen were about to leave on a three months trip north, so look out all of those who remember them, as I have given Ross a list of old timers to call on.

"Masters Ben Hur Nadzab Productions" has gone out of business. We finished up getting a 25-pounder donated by the War Museum at Bandiana only to have the Minister for Defence step in and stop the export - on the basis that it was only one of two left in Australia - not correct as there are two more outside Nyal West showgrounds, property of Swan Hill R.S.L. who also won't part with them - so Morobe won't get its gun.

On top of that and due to funding cut-backs the parachute battalion is unable to fund the proposed jump - and to finish it off the R.A.A.F. have advised that we will not go on date set down (Sept 2 - 6) but will not give us a date of uplift so at today's date its all up in the air.

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NEWS FROM CORRESPONDENTS (continued)

It's the same for the Milne Bay Memorial Plaques - its now 12 months since the R.A.A.F. promised to uplift these and it's a real embarrassment for the sculptor and caster - the 3 plaques still sit in the foundry awaiting word of movement. I am hopeful that the Caribou Squadron in Townsville will come to our aid for they are still flying into PNG once a fortnight. Every assistance in the world from the bottom rung but once it reaches Glenbrook and/or Canberra it gets blocked - all the excuses in the world.

WAHGI REUNION

Norm Camps, ex-Mt. Hagen for many years, is organising a Wahgi Reunion in the "Paradise Country" Garden Room at Nerang Qld on Saturday, 23 October 1993 at a cost of \$35.00 per head.

For those out of town people who are interested in attending accommodation is available at reasonable rates at local motels.

People interested please contact Norm before 24 September if possible. His address is:

N. J. Camps
3 Fyfes Road
GILSTON QLD 4211
Tel. (075) 78 1662

HELP WANTED

"On 17 May 1942 a Japanese Zero was damaged when ground straffing at Moresby. It was unable to climb the mountains on return to Lae and subsequently crash landed at some 7,500 feet near the headwaters of St. Joseph's River near Woi tape.

The pilot, Tsutomu Ito, wandered the area for about a week, spent some time at a village called Popopo, before being captured by a local Patrol Officer. Ito was brought into Port Moresby via Ioma and became a POW at Cowra. He is still alive in Japan today.

Does any reader know the name of the Woi tape Patrol Officer at the time or have any other details? It would greatly assist a chapter in my latest book. Many thanks." The writer is another of our members and his particulars are as follows:

Bob Piper
7 Brazel Street
HIGGINS ACT 2615

In locating Jim Meehan ex-PNG teacher, information to:

Kevin Lock
342 Canning Highway
BICTON WA 6157

"MASTA PISIN" - THE BIRD MAN OF NEW GUINEA

FRED SHAW MAYER M.B.E. 1899 - 1989

That Fred Shaw Mayer died at Nambour, Queensland on 1 September 1989, 25 days short of his 90th birthday, was noted in the December 1989 *Una Voce*. A great Naturalist and Aviculturist Fred was a true 'Quite Achiever' in his chosen field - collector of living birds and other animals for Zoos and private collections and of specimens for Museum reference collections. Fred made his first collecting expedition to New Guinea in 1922, unfortunately no trace of that collection can be found in the literature and consequently neither where it was made nor its contents are known.

In his professional work Fred Mayer used his given name Shaw to avoid confusion with both the German ornithologist A.B. Mayer, who published extensively on New Guinea birds between 1874 and 1895, and the American Ernst Mayr, who was in the field in New Guinea at much the same time as Fred's early N.G. collecting expeditions. Fred pronounced his surname 'Mair' but he was known throughout New Guinea and scientific circles as Mr Shaw 'Mire'. After his retirement to Nambour he reverted to being Fred Mayer. He was known to the New Guinea highlanders as 'Masta Pisin' - the 'Bird Man' in neo-melanesian pidgin.

New Guinea biological literature records the following Shaw Mayer collecting localities: Arfak Mountains, Irian Jaya (1928), Southeast Halmahera, Moluccas (1929), Gebroeders Range, Weyland Mts, Irian Jaya (1930), Wandammen Mountains, Irian Jaya (1930), Sattleberg, Huon Peninsula (1931), Kratke Range, PNG (1932), Mount Maybole, (south slopes), Fergusson Island, PNG (1932), Purari-Ramu Divide, (southeast Bismarck Mountains), PNG (1940), Mount Simpson, southeast PNG (1940), Hagen Range, PNG (1946/47, 1950/51), and in 1952, Mount Wilhelm, PNG (1949 and 1950), Kubor Mountains, (Minj River), PNG (1950), Mt Giluwe and Lamende Range, PNG (1951).

In 1953 Fred took over as Manager of Sir Edward Hallstrom's aviaries at Nondugl in the Wahgi Valley of the Western Highlands Province. The aviaries had been established in 1948 in conjunction with a sheep breeding station, then later as a joint project with the Administration of the Australian Territories of Papua and New Guinea. Captain Neptune (Nep) Blood, himself a competent naturalist and collector, was the first manager of the joint facility. In 1953 Hallstrom handed over the sheep breeding operation to the Administration but retained the aviaries.

Fred continued to collect widely using Nondugl as a base, primarily seeking live birds for establishment in captivity. Nondugl was used by Hallstrom as a staging post, with most of the established stock going to Taronga Zoo (Sir Edward was Chairman of the Taronga Park Trust). The Victoria Goura Pigeons at Taronga are the survivors of about 50 birds collected by Fred in the Ramu Valley, north of Nondugl, during this period. The very successful White-bibbed Ground-doves at Taronga were also collected by Fred, either from Yule Island or the mainland opposite. Regrettably, few of Fred's Nondugl-based activities have been reported in the literature. His last New Guinea field collecting trip was from Lae to Kabwum in the Cromwell Mountains of the Huon Peninsula in January-February 1970. On this trip, sponsored by US naturalist photographer Crawford H. Greenewalt, Fred obtained a number of the locally endemic birds of paradise and the Spangled Honeyeater for the Baiyer River Sanctuary.

Fred's most spectacular discovery was the Bird of Paradise *Astrapia mayeri*, the last bird of paradise to be described for science, and about which he learned from page 106 of Jack Hides's *PAPUAN WONDERLAND*. Hides wrote:

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"MASTA PISIN" - THE BIRD MAN OF NEW GUINEA (continued)

"As I stood in the branches of this tree gazing at the rock and heather-covered summit of the peaks in front of me, I noticed pairs of an interesting species of paradise birds flitting through the moss-covered branches of the trees around me. The males had two long ivory-white feathers as a tail with which they made flicking noises as they trailed the plumes after them through the air. I did not know the species, so for the information of our ornithological department, I instructed one of the police to shoot a male bird, remove the tail feathers, and carefully pack them away."

Fred was quick to follow up this lead but without success. Jim O'Malley who accompanied Hides on that patrol remembered the feathers but was not able to find them, he did however give Fred a quite good description of the bird. In August 1938 Fred was given by a missionary the two central tail feathers, three other tail and two wing feathers of that elusive species, he sent these to the British Museum from Singapore in December 1938, only 28 days later from those few feathers the Museum's bird curator Mr C.R. Stonor accurately described the new bird to a meeting of the British Ornithologists' Club. Appropriately, Stonor concluded his description -

"in view of the trouble he has taken to establish its existence, and as a slight recognition of the efforts he had made during the past few years to add to our knowledge of the family as a whole, it is a pleasure to name this most striking new bird after its discoverer, *Astrapia mayeri*, Shaw Mayer's Bird of Paradise."

Today that species is also known as the Ribbontail Bird of Paradise. As well as the bird of paradise there is a Muruk (Cassowary) subspecies, a tree-kangaroo, six mice, a ring-tailed possum and an antechinus (a small insect eating marsupial) that carry Fred's name. In addition to those named for him are many other species first brought to the attention of science by Fred. These include the spectacular striped possums *Dactylopsila megalura*, from the Weyland Mountains, *D. tatei* from Fergusson Island, and the diminutive striped bandicoot *Microperoryctes papuensis* from the southeast mountains of Papua.

Fred relied on local hunters bringing specimens to him. He delighted in recounting how he released surplus tree-mice back into the forest on one of his collecting expeditions to Dutch New Guinea. The local people brought in many more specimens of a delightful little tree-mouse that carried its 8 to 10 cm long tail straight up in the air like a flag pole. He couldn't just take them out to the nearby bush and let them go, because the locals who followed him everywhere, wouldn't understand what he was doing after they had gone to so much trouble to bring the little critters to him. The one place they didn't follow him was down to the pit latrine - so that's where he let them go at night.

Fred noticed that when young birds of paradise weren't doing well the mother fed them certain kinds of spiders. He then sought out the same spiders when young he was hand-rearing seemed off-colour. He was an expert on hand-rearing young birds, concentrating on birds of paradise. He would cut a small stick to the shape and size of the mother bird's beak, and use it to pick up a pea-sized piece of food, inducing a gaping response from the nestling by touching the container or moving his hand over the bird. Without doubt, the most photographed and filmed bird of paradise was the male *Paradisaea raggiana salvadorii*, hand-reared by Fred at Nondugl in 1959, later housed for many years at the Baiyer River Sanctuary and, while still in prime condition, was killed by a python at the age of 25 years. This bird which became known as 'Fred Raggiana', responded to Fred's bobbing finger by going into a display routine in front of visiting dignitaries and natural history photographers.

With great skill and taste he extended the gardens commenced by Nep

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"MASTA PISIN" - THE BIRD MAN OF NEW GUINEA (continued)

Blood at Nondugl. There were three large ponds, one below the other, the lowest with a small island. With one pinioned female he soon had New Guinea's only endemic waterfowl, the far from common Salvatori's Duck coming in from the wild to feed on all ponds and one pair breeding regularly on the island. The Nondugl Bird of Paradise Sanctuary, as it became known, was soon the top Papua New Guinea showplace for visiting dignitaries; Prime Ministers, Ambassadors etc., and an essential stop-over for prominent international ornithologists.

In 1966 when Hallstrom decided to sell his remaining Nondugl interests he offered part of his private collection of Birds of Paradise to the Government. This led to the establishment of 'The Hallstrom Park Bird of Paradise Sanctuary' at Baiyer River under the control of a Trust. The Trust employed Fred to establish and manage the Baiyer River Sanctuary. Fred was not displeased with the change of employer, he always treated Sir Edward with respect but there was no real rapport between them. Their relationship was not at all like his past relationships with Lord Walter Rothschild, the world famous ornithologist and aviculturist, Frenchman Jean Delacour, whose internationally famous aviaries were decimated in both World Wars by the German invasions, or the other rich and famous aviculturists for whom he had collected. Fred was too human a person to easily digest without criticism an irrevocable order from Sir Edward to take a brooding female rare Blue Bird of Paradise off the nest with a fertile egg to immediately fill a request from an overseas zoo - (that species has still never been bred in captivity!). Or to accept without adverse comment Hallstrom's denial of responsibility for payment of prearranged and known purchases when the purchase receipts were lost in stolen luggage.

He moved Sir Edward's gift birds to temporary aviaries in March 1967. After setting up Baiyer River, late in 1967, Fred's health began to fail and he was obliged to seek treatment in Australia. He returned less than a year later and suggested to the Trust that they arrange with the Government for Graeme George to manage the sanctuary. In August 1969 the Sanctuary was officially opened by Sir Edward. Fred retired at that time, but stayed on for several months to lend a hand and to pass on to Graeme more of his wealth of practical knowledge.

Probably during the first half of 1969 he moved to Lae where he stayed with his sick friend Dick Tebb. After Dick died Fred stayed on in Lae for a period. He kept an eye out for young tree-kangaroos and cuscuses brought into the Lae Market and sent several up to Baiyer River. Descendants of Matschie's Tree-kangaroo obtained by Fred during this period, are now well established as a captive breeding population in United States zoos.

He had invested in stocks and shares over the years and bought a house in National Park Road, Nambour, after returning to Australia. Here he enjoyed the company of occasional visits by his admired good friend 'God' and by his other good friends and acquaintances from PNG. He kept exotic finches and again demonstrated his gift of rapport with wild creatures, at one stage having a wild Eastern Whipbird, a very shy species, often come right into the house! Doubtless for this it would have been rewarded with tasty mealworms. He moved into the Sundale Retirement Village nearby after having a blackout. The Village management built him two quite large aviaries in the grounds. He kept some pheasants and foreign finches in them, establishing his mealworm cultures and a small workshop under the units nearby.

Fred was a very generous person. Appropriately, soon after self-government, in December 1973 he presented the sibling Nation with two very valuable original paintings, the splendid Birds of Paradise, *Astrapia splendidissima*, and the Lowland Sicklebill Bird of Paradise, *Drepanornis*

(continued next page)

"MASTA PISIN" - THE BIRD MAN OF NEW GUINEA (continued)

bruijnii, by the renowned bird artist J.G. Keulemans. Fred bought them at the auction in London about 1930 of the originals painted by Keulemans to illustrate R. Bowdler Sharpe's classic *Monograph of the Paradiseidae or Birds of Paradise and Ptilonorhynchidae or Bower Birds*, published in 1891. He progressively gave away much of his collection of natural history books to friends who visited him over his years in Sundale Retirement Village, at Nambour.

Frederick William Shaw Mayer was honoured by the Queen in 1972 with the award of Member, of the Order of the British Empire, for his work in establishing the Nondugl and Baiyer River Sanctuaries and the breeding of birds of paradise. He was made the first Honorary Life Member of the Papua New Guinea Bird Society.

Fred never married, he is survived by his sister Miss Janet Mayer, of Sydney.

(The foregoing is a modified and edited version of Fred Shaw Mayer's obituary by Graeme George and Bill Peckover published in the Royal Australasian Ornithologists' Union journal EMU, in December, 1992).

KOKOPO

by Ken Humphreys

I've been conducting research on German New Guinea and was intrigued by Kokopo's first name: Herbertshohe. Translated it means Herbert's Hill or Height.

Herbert was Bismarck's second child, born in December 1840. He became Deputy Secretary of State in 1885, then Secretary in 1886. He wasn't a pleasant chap, being described as an arrogant, coarse drunk: a typical Patrol Officer!

Three scenarios have been suggested for the naming of Herberts Hill, which I think may be the hill of about 600 metres north of the site of the German hotel (pictured in THE OFFICIAL HISTORY OF AUSTRALIA IN THE WAR OF 1914-18 Vol X "The Australians at Rabaul.") -

- a) Dr. Otto Finsch (place name Finschhafen) arrived Mioko on September 26, 1884. He explored the coasts and may have named Herbertshohe.
- b) Then on January 3, 1885, Count von Asten (F.T.Goedicke) was commissioned by the then German Consul in Sydney to proceed to New Guinea as assistant to the Imperial Commissioner for New Britain, von Oetzten. They sailed north with the Deutsche Handels-und Plantagen Gesellschaft manager. Bismarck was head of the Neu Guinea Kompagnie and the principal shareholder in DHPG; thus an important link to be considered when mapping New Guinea. The ALBATROSS visited the Gazelle Peninsula and the Duke of York group. Von Oetzten selected Kerewara for a future for a future capital.
- c) Stephan von Kotze, a nephew of Bismarck, was a surveyor with the Kompagnie in the late 1880s. He may have named Herbertshohe for his cousin.

I tend to favour von Oetzten naming the site. Has any member better information?

One other question - what is the origin of the place name "Rabaul" : Tolai or another source? Anyone who can help please contact:

Ken Humphreys
P O Box 291
CALOUNDRA QLD 4551

"AUSTRALIAN WOMEN IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA"

(Reply by author Dr Chilla Bulbeck, to Review by Dr Peter Cahill,
June 1993 issue of "Una Voce")

"I have hesitated in replying to this review, much of which reveals Dr Cahill's misunderstanding of my purposes in writing the book. However, as I am grateful for the generosity of the women whom I interviewed, I would like to make some comments. I want to emphasise that I had no intention of 'mocking' the dress codes of white women in PNG; nor was I 'incensed' by the lining of labour. Nor do I have a 'fashionable arrogance' that tribal mores should have been adjusted; indeed I was making the point that, given the impact of colonisation on the indigenous people, white women participated in extending access to the new power bases to indigenous women (a point which Dr Cahill insists elsewhere I should have discussed). I had hoped to avoid an anachronistic account of race and gender relations in the Territory by being sensitive to the contexts of the time. I have possibly achieved this more than Dr Cahill accepts, given that Martha Macintyre in her review of my book in the Australian attacks me for failing to explore the racism of white women. Macintyre's review, cited favourably by Dr Cahill, demonstrates that reviewers reveal their own values as much as they discuss the values of the author.

I would like to thank Dr Cahill for his attentive reading of my book for its errors of fact. They may be in excess of the usual number of errors for a project of this size; I do not know. However, I suspect there are fewer errors than Dr Cahill implies as he feels obliged to note very minor corrections such as The Courier Mail, or that Malakuna should 'more properly' be Malaguna. The paragraph referred to on p.91 says 'In Port Moresby in 1928 only 14% of the total female population were described [in the census] as 'breadwinners'. I am reporting a census description, not my own belief. The point I take from this is exactly the point that Dr Cahill claims I fail to make: that white women were active in economic pursuits. I consistently identified personnel by their later honour when mentioning them: Sir Paul Hasluck and Alice Wedega MBE, and believe this is as acceptable as failing to do so.

As to some of Dr Cahill's errors of fact: 'Ma' Stewart is mentioned in my book, all the women I interviewed are now living in Australia and in this sense could be described as 'Australian' (I accept that European had more currency in PNG but it has a different meaning in Australia); in my final chapter I do discuss the 'universal language' between women in childcare and husband management.

Clearly Dr Cahill was extremely annoyed by my book, whether because of the number of factual errors or because I am 'a prolific authoress, (sic) albeit in a specific field' (I assume that the field to which Dr Cahill alludes is women's studies). As a result, he has failed to understand the intent of my work, and I wish to take this opportunity to assure the women I interviewed, and who may have read his review, that I had absolutely no intention of denigrating them. As Martha Macintyre says in another review of my book: 'her sympathy for so many of the women whose lives she describes shines through' (Editions June 1993).

I look forward to reading, under Dr Cahill's name, the book he believes should have been written."

500lb BOAR PIG IN A CESSNA 206

by Doug Franklin

In the remote areas of PNG many of us could not have survived without the incredible work carried out by light aircraft. Single engine planes brought us our mail, freezer and a variety of stores and supplies, as well as taking us to and from meetings, on leave etc. They also did any other odd jobs of the moment.

During my time as a didiman⁽¹⁾ at Kagua 1968-69, Albert Bagley was the Provincial Education Superintendent. He was well known for he flew round in his own Piper Cherokee aircraft. At Erave he had a Vocational Centre which had a piggery and one very large Berkshire boar named Joe. The pig had been there for many years and was related to all the sows. So there were only two options - one, give him the chop, or two, transfer him by air to the Mendi Vocational Centre for a new life. The latter was chosen and as I was the Ag. Officer for the area, John Wallis, my boss, had no hesitation in delegating the job to me!

First I arranged to inspect the boar so walked to Erave, a six hour trek which included crossing a kanda bridge thirty feet above the raging Erave river. Joe's measurements were taken and he was one of the biggest pigs I have ever seen. He was six feet from nose to tail; stood three feet tall and was eighteen inches wide. I estimated his weight to be 500 lbs. He had big tusks and was a formidable animal.

The next thing was to find a suitable aircraft. Morrie Lean at TALAIR Mendi had a double door Cessna 206 which was used to freight long crates, corrugated iron etc. Just the plane. The door height was enough to take a crate to be specially made at Erave for Joe.

A month later and the big day had come. Brian Moore, the Regional Vet. at Goroka had given me the sedative Largactil and instructions -- Give Joe the shoot one hour before take-off and get it right. Too much and he won't wake up; too little and he won't be properly sedated. The charter plane was booked through Mal Burrows at Govt. Stores Mendi to be at Erave at 12 noon.

Early that morning I went to the Vocational Centre piggery to help with getting Joe into the excellent crate, made with a vertical sliding door at one end. The door to the pig pen was opened and the open crate lined up. But Joe knew something was on. No way was he going to go out of his comfortable home into this wooden box. I thought 'this is going to take some coaxing' so went to a nearby trade store and bought a tin of bully beef, opening it with the provided key. Joe thought this smells good. So a neat trail of pieces of corn beef was laid from where he stood to the inside end of the crate. In five minutes he was in and the door was slammed down to shouts of 'Em Nau, Em Nau'!

Next, a line of strong men lifted the crate with Joe in it on to the waiting Ferguson tractor trailer for the journey to the air strip. There the crate was unloaded and put under a shade tree at the loading bay. So far so good.

Noon soon came, with ears tuned for the sound of the plane from Mendi. The time ticked away and before long it was 12.30 pm. I started to get worried. We all knew what it was like waiting for a Govt. charter to come. Then it was 1.00 pm. How long would this sedative be effective?

At last, at 1.30 pm a shout went up. 'Balus i kam.' After landing there was no time to waste. With yells of 'Apim, Apim' the sleeping Joe was carried to the open doors of the aircraft.

But more trouble. The crate was two inches too tall for the door and would not fit in. So the heavy load was put down in the shade under the plane's wing. I called "Kandaman, yu kam, kwiktai. Katim antap na rausim tupela insis olsem bokis i save go insait balus."

With Joe not moving, the carpenter sawed off the top of the crate. Then two inches off each upright before hammering the lid on again. The minutes

(continued next page)

500LB BOAR PIG IN A CESSNA 206 (continued)

seemed like hours and the noise deafening. Would Joe wake up?

This time the crate fitted in well and moments later the engine was running and the pilot calling "Madang, this is Golf Kilo Tango, Erave to Mendi, over." As we taxied bumpily to the end of the strip, Madang D.C.A. came back "Golf Kilo Tango roger; Clear Mendi." Then full power and take off for the twenty minute flight. I looked at my watch, it was 2.30 pm.

We were approaching the Mendi circuit when suddenly there was a great lurch. "What was that?" gasped the pilot, who was not at all keen from the outset. "He's coming round" I called out above the engine noise. I could see Mendi township in the distance. The pilot replied "Have you got a revolver?" I said "We'd better get down quick" -- and we did!

By the time Joe was unloaded he was on his feet in the crate, chomping angrily with white froth dripping from his jaws. Albert Bagley was there with his workers waiting. I didn't hang around to see what happened, the palms of my hands were still wet. It was straight to Mendi Valley Club with the pilot for a sedative of another kind.

It would be interesting to know if the job constituted any sort of record for a Cessna 206. But it was all in a day's work in PNG.

Note: (1) Agricultural officer.

TREK BACK

Friday 15 October to Sunday 24 October 1993.

OPERATION TREK BACK is our name for the 50th anniversary of the build-up of troops in Far North Queensland in those dark days of 1943.

This is an invite to all of you who served and trained in this area during the period 1943/46 from whichever unit, to come back and visit this place so full of memories for you.

Some of you trained here, saw service in the Islands, returned for further training and saw service again. Some recuperated here from wounds and sickness and will remember those marvellous nurses. Some were attached to this region for the duration. Many of you have never been back.

TREK BACK is Far North Queensland's way of remembering your service to our Nation, but above all TREK BACK is for you. Thus it is a great honour to be involved in inviting back the old warriors and their families to relive the past.

No longer are the baggy uniforms with the battered slouch hats to be seen. The sound of prop driven fighters and bombers has gone. The blackouts, air raid shelters and ration cards are forgotten, but the camp sites are still there and many an old stone fireplace still stands erect as evidence of your presence many years ago.

It is now part of our proud history that you, both men and women from all walks of life, confronted adversity head on. You clearly demonstrated your love of country, mateship, humour, sense of purpose and unselfishness. Indeed there is much our modern and complex society could learn from your example. Clearly yours is a proud history and will continue to be cherished by Australians yet to be born. Won't you TREK BACK to the scenes of your past and be with us just once more? To march again, ride the troop trains, visit the camp sites and sing the old songs. In the years to come our children will pass on the story to their children's children. To teach them who you were and why you were there, and say with pride "I saw the legends, all together again as one on TREK BACK way back in 1993."

(The above are extracts from TREK BACK NEWS BULLETIN - July 1993. For further information contact TREK BACK HOTLINE - Free Call 008 636 637).

A DAY IN MILNE BAY

by Phyl Cox

The base for my stay last year in Papua New Guinea was Port Moresby but I covered thousands of miles by day journeys.

On this day I was up at dawn, transported to Jackson's Airport, boarded a 2 engine 20 seater aircraft and landed at Alotau airport in time for morning tea. At Alotau airport we were welcomed by Mr Smeeton, a member of the Abel family of Kwato Mission fame, a nephew of Sir Cecil Abel. Mr Smeeton lives on Alotau where he has business interests.

When he heard I had lived in Samarai in 1948-49 he identified himself to me, then I realised he was Phoebe Smeeton's son and he would have been eight or nine years old at that time.

I bought a post-card that day showing four local scenes. One was of a wooden boat being built and captioned "Built on Kwato Island near Samarai where wooden boats have been constructed for nearly one hundred years". Surely this must be a record for an industry in Papua New Guinea!

Beside me at the moment I have a copy of The Eastern Star Newspaper; each of our group were offered a copy as a souvenir. An article states that the paper is celebrating its first birthday September 1992; also copies of photographs featured can be obtained from the paper's headquarters.

From the paper I learned that Mr Tim Neville, son of the late Ron Neville, is a member of Parliament being Minister for Forests and Tourism and he is also the Regional Member for Milne Bay Province.

Later we travelled by mini-bus along a road beside the bay passing through Ladave, Gilli Gilli and Waga Waga, areas where Australian troops had camped. We reached a point where we were in sight of the entrance to the harbour. Except for the wharf close to the point where we were standing we were surrounded with bush and lots of mature trees. There were some coconut trees but the latter were so sparse that I could not say that I saw one coconut plantation in the Milne Bay area. We saw one or two outrigger canoes on the Bay. We returned to the Masurina for an ample cold lunch, with plenty of tropical fruits.

Afterwards we visited the Turnbull memorials which I understand are sited on part of the former Turnbull airstrip. There are three memorials in a small park setting. One a cairn with the crest of the R.A.A.F. defined on a metal tablet. On the top of this monument are two blades of an aeroplane propeller.

The second memorial is a large rock about 3 feet tall with a chipped out recess in which has been placed a plate with the inscription "In memory of..". Behind this rock and in tall Kunai grass I noticed part of a wrecked plane, could have been a fighter type and beyond it tall banana bushes.

The third is a concrete monument about 10 feet tall on a concrete base. There are 3 metal plaques on this monument and our Returned Service Group Leaders placed 2 more plaques approximately 10"x12" on each side at the base of the monument. Whilst there a short memorial service was held and the address given by an ex R.A.A.F. member of our party, Mr Irvine Richards. These two new tablets were left with Government Representatives at Alotau who will make arrangements to secure them to the large memorial in their designated positions.

We rounded off the day at a village where the local Kwato mission group served us afternoon tea. It was served in a large shed which was the shelter at the sports ground. Just as well there was shelter as just as our mini bus arrived there, so too did the tropical afternoon "down-pour" and we ended up with damp feet.

Some of the troops which fought in that area were the 7th and 18th Australian Infantry Brigades.

MEMORIES OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA

by Gladys Nicholas

Having read with great interest, and enjoyment, articles written by former residents I feel, as a pre-war resident, I would like to make a contribution as there are not many of us left to record incidents that may be of interest. Of special interest were the experiences of young wives joining their husbands on outstations. They were real pioneers. I experienced a few problems when I arrived in Port Moresby in 1935.

My contribution mainly concerns the Government Printing Office and the part it played in establishing and printing a newspaper for the allied forces in New Guinea.

A brochure produced for the Official Opening of the new Printing Office at Konedobu in July 1953 gives the history of the office from its beginning in 1888. I have enclosed a copy of this for your records.⁽¹⁾ My husband, Bill, was appointed Government Printer in May, 1953.

I will commence with the evacuation of women and children in December 1941. It was believed Japanese reconnaissance planes had been flying over Moresby in December 1941, also, a Japanese "Merchant" vessel called into Port and it was equipped with the most sophisticated Radar equipment. It was decided to evacuate all women and children to Australia.

At this time, I was Secretary to Mr. R.D.Bertie, an old-time resident and local Solicitor. An evacuation Committee was formed with him as Chief Warden. The town was divided into three areas and Wardens appointed to supervise each area. Caches of food were taken to the Sogeri District in the event of having to move residents out of town.

A Coast Guard was formed and our men took turns at patrolling the beach at night. We were advised to sleep with a gown and a pair of shoes beside our bed.

The RAAF established a Catalina Flying Boat Base in Moresby Harbour. One night a plane, with a full load of bombs, crashed into the hills opposite Moresby. There was a tremendous explosion with the flash coming right across the harbour to the town. All nine crew members were killed. The violence of the explosion shook all our houses and our men came running back thinking the town was being bombed. We thought the war had reached us. It was a sad sight seeing the Funeral Cortege travelling out to the Cemetery at Konedobu.

The S.S. "Katoomba" arrived with troops bound for Rabaul. The "Nellore" was in New Guinea waters and this was recalled and the troops transferred to it. The "Katoomba" was held in Port for the evacuation.

There were 1400 passengers crammed on board, some sleeping on deck, in the lounge, and wherever they could lie down. Needless to say there were not enough life jackets for everyone but, fortunately, we did not need them. One woman was in hospital awaiting the birth of her first child and was brought on board just before we sailed. Her little son was born the next day. The "Katoomba" zig-zagged through the reefs in the Coral Sea and it was a relief to see the Australian coastline.

We were only allowed to take one suitcase each on board and, because my daughter was under five, I had to send one case down to the hold. The reason being that some of us had to sleep on the floor of the cabin and the space was needed for that. I kept the case with the clothes in as the smaller one held our tooth brushes, paste, soap etc. It took us 11 days to reach Sydney and I had to clean my teeth with salt (from the dining table) and a hankie. When we reached Brisbane we were told of the fall of Singapore.

We were only given two day's notice to leave and I asked Mr Bertie if I could have the last day off to make my own preparations but he said he couldn't spare me. We were rushed with people dashing in to make their Wills

and one lady even brought in a sewing machine for him to mind until the war was over. I had to be on board at 8 a.m. the next morning.

The "Katoomba" waited at the wharf all day in the hope that more residents from outstations and New Guinea would be able to arrive before we sailed. The weather wasn't good for flying and we had to leave about 6 p.m. We were the lucky ones to be able to leave with so little discomfort.

The day we left became an unofficial holiday in town and I don't think anyone did any work that day. Our men waved goodbye to us with towels from their verandahs and none of us knew if we would ever see each other again. On arrival in Sydney we were met by government officials who offered accommodation and temporary financial help to those requiring it.

Immediately after we left, Martial Law was declared and all men under 45 were required to report to the Army C.O. and Bill became Private Nicholas in ANGAU. He later transferred to the A.I.F.

Early 1942 saw the commencement of bombing raids on the town. In between raids Bill went down to the Printing Office and collected what he could in the way of type, ink, paper etc. Bill Groves, formerly Director of Education had asked Bill if he could print a news sheet for the troops. Eventually they were able to get an old Printing Press transported to their base. About this time, our house received three direct hits and was wiped out.

While Bill was collecting material from the office he met a soldier who thought he was looting and the soldier told him "there are some good books over there in that house". It happened to be Mr. Bertie's old home -- Mr Bertie had to leave rather hurriedly because he wrote a rather scathing article in the local paper, "The Papuan Courier", criticising the way the Army was conducting the war and he was given some friendly advice to leave quickly - or else. I saw him later in Sydney and he told me what he had written.

Bill was able to locate and recruit some former members of the Printing Office staff as they lived mainly in Hanuabada and Elevala and the News Sheet became official.

As the Allied troops poured into New Guinea, Reg Leonard, Chief of the Brisbane "Daily Telegraph", was sent to New Guinea as Editor and Bill was appointed O.I.C. New Guinea Printing and Press Unit and the armed forces paper "Guinea Gold" was published. The Printing Machine was a hand feed one and, as the staff had been greatly increased by this time, three to four men stood by all day feeding the machine. It is said they were eventually producing 50,000 copies daily with a comic supplement on Sunday. There was an Australian and an American edition.

Bill told me that during the battles of the Coral Sea and Milne Bay orders were given twice to destroy all documents. He and Sam Carey, a geologist employed by A.P.C. at the outbreak of war, volunteered to blow up the old Moresby Power House if, and when, they sighted the Japanese Fleet coming around Paga Point. Things were touch and go at this stage.

As the war moved further North the Unit was moved to Lae and the old Printing Press went with it. Copies of "Guinea Gold" were flown to forward areas.

Bill remained in the Territory for the whole of the duration of the war and was the only officer from the Printing Office to do so. In 1943, he became very ill with scrub typhus for which there was no known cure. He spent three months in an Army Hospital and his weight went down to six stone. There were periods when he had mental lapses and his eyesight was badly affected. He was so ill when he was admitted the soldiers in his ward all put in two shillings and had a guessing sweep on how long he would last. He tricked them all by surviving and won the money!

From hospital, he was taken to Sydney on the Hospital Ship "Manunda" which was the first one to leave after the sinking of the "Centaur". It was

thought the sinking of this ship was a "pay back" for the sinking of the "Montevideo Maru" which was carrying prisoners of war and sick soldiers back to Japan.

On arrival in Sydney he was taken to Concord Military Hospital, treated for some time and was eventually given a month's leave. When he was put on the "Manunda" the medical tag attached to him said "This man must never be returned to New Guinea". However, he was ordered to return to New Guinea as Major Leonard said he needed Bill back there to run the Unit. This was the first leave he had been given since war commenced.

At the conclusion of the war the Army wanted to ship the Printing Press to Canberra for the Museum. Bill put up a very strong argument saying it belonged to the Government in Moresby and he won his point. He was able to have the machine returned to the old office in Douglas Street to be used on resumption of work there. This old press is now in the War Memorial in Canberra where it rightly belongs. Bill had also managed to save some copies of pre-war Government Gazettes and was able to hand them over to the Administration when it resumed.

In January 1956, Bill was instrumental in getting the Administration to agree to an Apprenticeship Training Scheme for the local employees who came mainly from Hanuabada and Elevala, also to them being granted a long service pension. Some of these men had already had five years training in the Printing Office. They were good and loyal employees.

Following the R.O.A. request for material for establishment of a Data Base, were he alive, I feel sure Bill would like the History of the Printing Office and "Guinea Gold" to be recorded.

Our grandson, Neil McInnes, born in Lae, is a Flight Engineer with the R.A.A.F. 38 Caribou Squadron and, occasionally, they are sent to the Territory to patrol the border. A lot of water has flown under the bridge since Bill's arrival there as a young man in 1929. I have sent a copy of his steamer ticket⁽¹⁾ on the S.S. "Morinda" and the late Capt. Bill Wilding was an officer on this vessel.

You may be aware D.C. John Murphy has been instrumental in establishing a N.G. Section in the Queensland University at St. Lucia and I have sent material for inclusion there. This is the first time I have told the story of "Guinea Gold".

Also, Mr Robert Langdon, who in 1983 was Executive Officer of the Pacific Manuscripts Bureau in Canberra, was collecting information on the Territory. I have sent him a very lengthy article for his records. If you have any interested members living in Canberra there would be a lot of information in the Bureau which, I feel sure, would be available to them.

I have just finished writing memoirs for the Royal Papua Yacht Club.
(⁽¹⁾) To be sent to Dr. Peter Cahill. Ed.)

HELP WANTED

Peter Cahill would appreciate getting in touch with anyone having eyewitness accounts and photographs of Rabaul in the period from the Australian re-occupation (late 1945) to 1955. He is particularly interested in anything to do with the Japanese forces kept there awaiting trial and the Indians and mainland Chinese waiting to be sent back home.

He believes this is a very sparsely recorded part of Rabaul history and would like to do something about it. Peter's address:

Dr P Cahill
7 Wynyard Street
INDOOROOPILLY QLD 4068
Tel. (07) 371 4794

LONELY VIGIL

by Bob Piper

The story of FltLt. Leigh Vial and his six months continuous service as a coastwatcher, above Salamaua in New Guinea, during 1942 is now a legend. Earlier, as an Assistant District Officer with the civil administration at Rabaul he assisted Australians, including members of 24 Squadron, to escape the town when the Japanese invaded.

Enlisted into the RAAF at Townsville in late January 1942 as a PltOff, Leigh Vial returned to New Guinea specifically to be a coastwatcher above Salamaua, an area where he and his family had worked and lived in pre-war years.

On his return to Port Moresby from his coast watching duties, Leigh was awarded a Distinguished Service Cross by the Americans. There was no recognition, unfortunately, at the time from the RAAF.

Vial tragically lost his life on 30 April 1943 when guiding an American B-24 Liberator carrying supplies to a remote Australian Army reconnaissance group in the Highlands of New Guinea, near the present day Goroka. All on board the bomber lost their lives when it crashed short of the drop zone.

However, Leigh Grant Vial's story starts much earlier than this, as a well educated young cadet patrol officer in New Guinea in 1933. He went seeking adventure and a career there after graduating from Melbourne and Sydney Universities, with a degree in anthropology at the latter. His early days were spent in the Morobe District, around Lae and Salamaua, in an area which would be so vital in concealing him from the enemy in later years. Vial loved the country and people. To him it became home.

In 1936 he wrote... *"It's a long time since I left - nearly a year now - but the time has passed very rapidly for me. I've been patrolling steadily for the last five months in my own district. Theoretically I'm stationed at Buki, but all told I've only been there about four weeks."*

On 15 August 1938 Vial made the first ascent of Mt Wilhelm (15,400 feet) the second highest peak in New Guinea. To calculate the height he boiled water on the peak, recorded the temperature with a thermometer, a calculation then gave him the altitude. At the summit he noted mist and snow lying in sheltered spots. Vial climbed the mountain again in June 1939, this time accompanied by a geologist, L.C.Noakes, investigating evidence of glaciation.

When war broke out with Japan in late 1941 Vial was an Assistant District Officer stationed at Rabaul. While his family and many other civilians were evacuated by ship Leigh remained behind to help the military and remaining civil service in the town. The day before the Japanese invasion of Rabaul Vial led a large group of army and RAAF personnel in escape to Sum Sum, on the other side of the island, from where unarmed Empire flying boats ferried them to safety.

With his wife Marjorie and two children, who had also earlier lived at Salamaua, safely back in Australia Leigh enlisted into the RAAF at Townsville. Eric Feldt in his book *The Coast Watchers* recounts:

"Vial quietly insisted that he should be given a coast watching assignment. With his youth, ability and knowledge of the country he was an ideal coastwatcher. It was expected that the enemy would occupy Salamaua before long, and operate aircraft from there and from Lae against defenceless Port Moresby. The Air Intelligence Officer (SQNLDR J. Welwood DFC) was as anxious to get Vial to Salamaua as I was. In two days Vial was commissioned as a pilot officer and within a week we had supplied him with teleradio, codes and food."

Leigh took a portable radio and a large supply of trading items for the natives which included a big bag of New Guinea shillings. He also carried

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LONELY VIGIL (continued)

with him a series of grid maps of the whole Lae-Salamaua area so that he could exactly describe the location of targets and shipping. An RAAF Hudson flew him in before Salamaua fell. A diary was kept and the following are just two extracts from it:

25/2/42 - Arrived O.P. area.

10/4/42 - Seaplane left Salamaua, went Lae about 6.30. Ship 1,000 tons thought merchant vessel into Lae at 0735 (Reported).

Careful watch all day - weather good. Cars seen to and from 'drome and to and from assumed enemy H.Q.

An extract from 32 Squadron's diary records a supply drop from one of their Hudsons on 19 April 1942... "A16-153. Photographic reconnaissance Madang - Wewak and drop supplies to P/O Vial".

The Japanese were not long in monitoring Leigh's transmissions and seeing the results in the bombing of Lae, Salamaua and coastal shipping, as well as the timely interception of their aircraft heading for Moresby. A small enemy float plane was sent to comb the ridges and machine gun his area, backed up by ground parties, and on 24 June 1942 Vial was forced to move his post and equipment. Twice he escaped by remaining motionless in the fork of a tree infested with stinging green ants, which a Japanese patrol passed below. But such was his skill and jungle craft that he was not caught and the local people never gave him away.

His mother wrote afterwards of some of the privations that Leigh suffered because of the damp and poor food during his lonely vigil:

"The worst time was when he had a very bad case of tinea - the irritation was intense both on his face, eyes and body. He had to keep his arms straight out at right angles as he lay in his shelter, to control himself from scratching. Then he could only crawl out and put his shaving mirror on the ground in front of him to see the sky and so send his report on the weather. Each week there was a telephone message to his wife in Melbourne (from SQNLDR J. Welwood DFC) "your husband is well and sends his love."

Some six months survival in the difficult climatic conditions, combined with a poor diet, began to have their effect and Leigh began suffering occasional bouts of blindness caused by lack of vitamins. On 10 August 1942 he was replaced by Lieutenant F.H.Moy of ANGAU (Australia New Guinea Administrative Unit). Leigh then set out by foot for Wau, in the hinterland, from where he was airlifted to Moresby.

The Air Intelligence Officer, 9 Operational Group RAAF subsequently reported: It is desired to draw attention to the fact that during the period of six months in which Vial was at his post he transmitted as many as nine signals a day giving valuable information of enemy dispositions, and not on any single occasion did he neglect to get his messages through, and thus showed a total disregard for his own safety.

However it was the Americans who were quick to recognise and award Leigh recognition for his work. On 12 September 1942 General Eichelberger, at a formal parade at which all available troops were gathered in a hollow square, presented the modest coastwatcher with their Distinguished Service Cross. The citation, which was not released at the time for security reasons, read in part... "his reports enabled us repeatedly to disperse our aircraft and send aloft fighters for successful interception. They also enabled a striking force to sink several enemy ships and to harass enemy operations."

Vial, on his return, produced an excellent booklet on jungle survival for allied aircrews, was then promoted to FLTLT and placed in charge of the Port Moresby section of the Far East Liaison Office (FEL0). This organisation's work was psychological warfare, which often involved the dropping of propaganda leaflets from the air.

In April 1943 a special reconnaissance party (codenamed Ladybird) led
(continued next page)

LONELY VIGIL (continued)

by Lt. G. Greathead, a pre-war patrol officer, radioed for a supply drop in the Bena Bena (Goroka) area of the highlands of New Guinea. Assigned to the task was an American B-24 Liberator, "CZECHEM", from the 90th Bomb Group, then based at Jackson's Strip near Port Moresby. On the 16th of the month CZECHEM, with a crew of eleven and Leigh Vial as observer, departed for the Bena Bena area. For reasons still unclear today the Liberator crashed sixteen air miles south of the drop zone and all on board lost their lives.

There is, however, more to the Vial story. Serving with Leigh in pre-war New Guinea as a patrol officer was Gerald (Gerry) Keogh of Maitland NSW. They had been on the Yuat Patrol together in 1934 and remained firm friends over the years and into the war. Gerry was to leave the civil service in New Guinea, and become a mine manager, enlisting in the RAAF on 13 July 1942 to also become an Intelligence Officer at Port Moresby.

Exactly four months after Leigh Vial was killed Gerry Keogh lost his life under almost identical circumstances. A pre-dawn take off from Jackson's Strip (Port Moresby) in an American B-24 Liberator of the 90th Bomb Group, with an American crew of eleven and Gerry as the RAAF observer. In a slow climb to the north the bomber struck the top of a 2,000 foot plateau above the aerodrome and all on board were killed.

On 30 April 1993, fifty years after his death, the RAAF remembered Leigh Vial. An oil impression painting, by the late Frank Harding, was presented to Mrs Marjorie Vial and her family at the RAAF Museum, Point Cook. In a very moving ceremony GPCAPT Dave Stevens, OC Williams, made the presentation of the painting, which depicted Leigh overlooking Salamaua from his 1942 hilltop hideout. Also present for the occasion were Leigh Vial's two daughters, Lindy from Melbourne and Jill from New Zealand, as well as son Andrew from Sydney. Andrew, a well known television director and producer, plans to make a film on his father's life, both as a patrol officer and coastwatcher.

THANKS FOR 55 YEARS

by Bert Weston

The death in 1983 of Dr Bruce Sinclair, formerly a medical officer with the pre-war Territory of New Guinea Administration, deprived me of a valued friend of 55 years standing, and in addition a man to whose expertise as a surgeon and master of improvisation I can attribute my continued presence on this planet since 1928.

That year found me in Salamaua, that primitive New Guinea coastal village which was the port of entry for the Edie Creek goldfields 40 miles and a week's walk inland.

It possessed a rudimentary medical station presided over by medical assistant Vic Horsley, one of the band of willing but unqualified "lik-lik doktors" who did their best for the ailing Europeans and locals in areas where no qualified medico was stationed, which meant most of New Guinea.

In September 1928, the inter-island Burns Philp steamer *Mirani* called at Salamaua and from it disembarked the tall lean figure of Dr Bruce Sinclair, very new to the tropics and apart from Dr Ian Dickson, the New Guinea Goldfields native labor physician at Wau, the first and only Administration doctor in the huge Morobe District on the New Guinea mainland.

With limited experience of tropical ailments, he stepped into a situation where a pitiful stream of men were reaching Salamaua on foot, by schooner or carried in litters and suffering from all forms of malaria, blackwater fever, scrub typhus, amoebic dysentery, tropical ulcers, yaws, skin infections and plain malnutrition. Equally pitiful little processions were headed for the original beach cemetery every few days. With penicillin,

sulpha, antibiotics and other wonder drugs yet to evolve, the doctor carried on with quinine, aspirin, iodine and hard work. His only chance for another opinion lay in the six-weekly visit of the Burns Philp passenger ship from Australia with its ship's doctor.

Three days after his arrival in Salamaua I contracted acute appendicitis. By mid-afternoon Dr Sinclair decided that surgery was imperative and told me that in the lack of most instruments, operating theatre, sterilising facilities and lighting he would do his best.

While I sat on the verandah of his small two-roomed timber residence watching several New Guineans swabbing down the walls of his bedroom with disinfectant he busied himself with boiling some sheets in a bucket, scrubbing down a kitchen table, sharpening several rusty old scalpels and cutting up and sterilising a catgut fishing line for sutures. Finally, the four helpers were sent to the beach to scrub up with wet sand and sea water.

By nightfall all was ready and action commenced with the four helpers at each corner of the table holding aloft kerosene lamps. The local barman was recruited as being the most suitable man to administer an anaesthetic and he did a stupefying job. Straight chloroform was used because of the risk of using ether in the presence of naked lights.

Suffice to say all went well. I left the "hospital" a week later in good shape thanks to luck in timing and the skill of the doctor in surgery and resourcefulness in a difficult situation.

R.O.A. & P.N.G. HISTORY PROGRAM

In the March, 1993 *Una Voce*, an article by W. Tomasetti discussed ways in which ex-PNG-ers forming the membership of ROA could be encouraged to write texts based on their personal experience as first hand contributions to PNG history and how this could be co-ordinated. We are really keen for this program to go ahead speedily with as many contributions as possible.

Contributions to the Program could be made by one of four methods:

- (1) Write one's own story oneself.
- (2) Write a draft and seek editorial co-operation.
- (3) Work with an oral historian placing one's story on tape. The National Library has oral history facilities and Paul Ryan can assist those who prefer this method.
- (4) Make one's papers available for others to work on. Peter Cahill in Brisbane has offered to receive, register and co-ordinate your material thus making it available for future research workers. Once it has been registered it can be copied and returned to you if you so desire.

As well as pieces which illustrate the flavour of life in PNG, there is also a need for an examination of writer's personal experiences of administrative processes. A series of high quality small focus texts on the practise of administration both generalist and specialist, which could subsequently be formed into a wider ranging work, would be a significant contribution to the record of PNG history. As an example of such a text, Bill Tomasetti has begun writing up the story of his attempts in the Eastern Highlands District in 1957-58, to adjust land alienation policy and procedures so that they provide a framework on which to handle emergent land problems in a dependable way. Bill has found this method helpful, firstly by identifying a suitable topic and secondly in recognising material relevant to the case and thus making the task more manageable.

Dr Peter Cahill's address is 7 Wynyard Street, INDOORoopilly, QLD 4068. You may phone him on (07) 371 4794.

MALARIA⁽¹⁾

One of the cardinal discoveries in the war against Malaria was made not by the great scientists of Europe, but by a British army surgeon based in India. Scientists and doctors of the 19th century in harmony with the thinking of the previous two thousand years, assumed that people caught the disease by breathing foul swamp air. The word malaria comes from the Italian mala (bad) aria (air).

Dr Ronald Ross believed the disease to be passed from person to person by mosquitoes. Even after it was known that malaria involved parasites in the human blood stream research continued to look for clues in the air of swampland. Meanwhile Ross searched the stomachs of mosquitoes. Considering the primitive lab equipment he had to work with, looking to the stomachs of mosquitoes was not an easy thing to do. At last on 16 August 1897 Ross discovered in the stomach walls of anopheles mosquitoes, spherical organisms that had grown in size overnight. Malaria parasites!

Malaria infects 270 million people each year and kills up to two million. It is particularly brutal to pregnant women and children. It attacks visitors to the tropics. Each year some 10,000 "imported" cases of malaria are reported in Europe by returning travellers. It is present in at least 105 countries.

After the second world war, when much had been learned about malaria infecting soldiers in tropical jungle areas, there was hope that with the two pronged use of anti malarial prophylactics, atebine, paludrine, chloroquin etc. and the mass spraying of DDT, that it would be possible to eradicate malaria completely. Over a billion dollars was expended world wide.

But this was not to be. By 1969 generations of mosquitoes had survived and become resistant to insecticides and to anti malarial drugs. Indeed in many countries the use of DDT became banned because of its effect on the environment.

During the Vietnamese war, casualties caused by resistant strains of malaria had become so serious that doctors were reverting to the use of quinine and getting better results. (In 1970 the Tari area of the Southern Highlands of PNG was all geared up to plant Cinchona, the bark of which produces quinine, but the project was abandoned due to cost factors).

While the prospect of total victory seems remote, the battle against malaria continues. At an international conference on malaria at Brazzaville, Congo, in October 1991, W.H.O. representatives called for a departure from the "ambient fatalism" and recommended a new global mobilisation to control malaria. The conference was told, there is no "magic bullet" for malaria. We must fight it on many fronts. Three of which have received much publicity.

Vaccines. Scientists have been working for years in search of a vaccine against malaria. Occasionally the media report breakthroughs. But W.H.O. advises against "the delusion of an anti malaria vaccine in the near future". One of the problems in developing a vaccine is that the malarial parasite has been remarkably successful in eluding the efforts of the human immune system to destroy it.

Drugs. Growing resistance to existing drugs has widened the search for new medicines. W.H.O. is promoting the ancient Chinese herb extract qinghaosu from the plant *Artemisia annua*. A new natural medicine from it called Arteether has been produced and is undergoing trials.

Bed nets. Still effective is this two thousand year old protection. The best results have been obtained from African villages where the mosquito nets have been dipped in an insecticide such as permethrin (presumed to be pyrethrum based).

(¹) Summary by Doug Franklin of an article in "Awake" journal of May 1993.)

WHAT SHOULD MY NEXT OF KIN DO?

This is a question we are sometimes called upon to answer and the following is offered as a guide which it is hoped will be of assistance to our members.

In the first instance it is important to have properly executed Will(s) prepared. This can be a simple document where it is intended for the property to pass to a surviving partner. Where it is proposed to make several bequests, then the document becomes more complicated. If a simple Will is all that is desired a "Will Form" can be purchased from most stationery stores; where a more complicated document is required it would be desirable to consult a solicitor.

In either case the following points should be adhered to otherwise the Will could be challenged and become void:-

- (a) when the body of the Will is completed it should be ruled off so that no additions can be made after it has been signed.
- (b) it must be signed and dated by the testator in the presence of two independent witnesses who must also sign the Will at the same time and while all parties are present. The witnesses should include their address when signing and all parties must sign with the same pen or biro using black ink.
- (c) the testator and both witnesses should sign at the foot of each page.
- (d) the witnesses must not be either an executor or beneficiary under the Will.

Having completed the Will it should be stored in a safe place, for example, with a solicitor or a bank. The next step should be the listing of all assets and liabilities, showing the whereabouts of all relevant papers and documents. This record should also state where the Will(s) are kept. (A loose leaf binder, purchased at any chain store for about \$3 is ideal for this purpose.) The type of information to be included in this register would be:

ASSETS:

Bank Accounts: The title of each account, its number, and bank and location of the branch and particulars of signatories.

Building Societies: The title of each account, its number, the name of the Society and particulars of the signatories.

Private Loans: Brief details of all private loans, in addition the location of all loan documents should be shown.

Shares and Debentures: Full details of all share and debenture holdings including the number and location of the share or debenture certificates.

Real Estate: Particulars of all real estate owned together with details of the location and the title deeds.

Annuities, Assurances, Mortality Fund Payments, Friendly Society or other similar Benefits: Full details (such as name and address of Secretary, Society etc; particulars of policy numbers; etc) should be shown for each item.

Valuables (including jewellery): Details of works of art, jewellery and any other valuables should be given in full.

Motor Vehicles: Give full particulars of name, model, engine number etc. of all motor vehicles and similar items.

Other Assets: Show full particulars of any items not shown above.

LIABILITIES:

Loans: Give full particulars of any loans you have received.

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WHAT SHOULD MY NEXT OF KIN DO? (continued)

Mortgages: Where a loan is held on mortgage give details of the mortgage.

Hire Purchase: Give full particulars of each agreement.

Any other Liabilities: Give full details of any other liabilities not shown above.

In preparing the above information it is suggested that a separate page be used for each item, particularly in the case of the readily disposable items such as shares, debentures, cars, etc. If this is done it is a simple matter to transfer 'dead' pages from the 'live' section of the register. The 'dead' sheets should be retained. These sheets can also be adapted to form a record of all dividends and interest received during the year, thus saving time when preparing the tax returns each year.

OTHER ITEMS

Superannuation: Each July every superannuant receives advice from the Commissioner for Superannuation showing details of the amount of superannuation payable for the forthcoming year. Shown on this advice is a number which should be recorded for future reference. This number is your Superannuation Reference Number and should always be quoted when contacting the Commissioner's office. If married, a note should be made whether a copy of the marriage certificate has been lodged with the Commissioner for Superannuation.

Dept. of Social Services or Veterans' Affairs Pensions: If in receipt of a pension from either of these Departments full details should be shown on a separate page.

If these records are kept up to date it becomes an easy matter for the next of kin, in the case of a bereavement, to set the estate procedures into motion and by doing so the granting of probate is speeded up. This register could be given to the family solicitor, who would then have the bulk of the information available for his requirements.

The next of kin should promptly inform the Commissioner for Superannuation (PO Box 22 Belconnen, ACT 2616) of the death of a superannuant so that steps can be taken to revise the superannuation payable to the surviving spouse. In this regard our experience has been delays in adjusting the payments have been because the next of kin has been slow in supplying to the Commissioner the information needed by him to make the adjustment.

The Commissioner's office will forward a copy of the claim form to be completed by the spouse. The form is headed "Application for Spouse's Benefit on Death of a Pensioner" S372. On completion the form should be returned to the Commissioner for Superannuation with the following attachments:

- (a) a photocopy of the marriage certificate, and
- (b) a photocopy of the death certificate.

Note: Do not delay the return of Form S372 if a copy of the death certificate is not immediately available. In such cases forward (as an interim measure) a certified copy of the death and funeral notices. When the death certificate is available the photocopy can then be forwarded to the Commissioner.

After the date of death any cheques received in the name of the deceased should be returned and an application made to the Commissioner for the broken period (that is the period from the date of the last payment to the date of death).

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WHAT SHOULD MY NEXT OF KIN DO? (continued)

If in receipt of an age/service pension a separate notification of the death should be forwarded to either the Department of Social Security or the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Finally, it would be of assistance to this Association if we could be informed of the passing of any member as we may be able to give some guidance and help during this distressing period.

We would suggest, if you have found the foregoing of any assistance that you file it with your papers for future reference.

(The foregoing is an amended version of a document issued some time ago by SCOA to its members. Since then SCOA, with the assistance of the Department of Veteran Affairs, has prepared a folder which aims to encourage members and their families to keep all their personal papers up to date and in a safe place known to families and friends. We have prepared a similar folder which contains a copy of all the documents necessary to enable our members to do this. These folders, which are designated "Personal Papers Update", are now available from the Secretary. I suggest you place your orders with him. Ed.)

RETIREMENT VILLAGES - WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

What questions should be asked about a retirement village before a decision is made to move in?

- i) How much will it cost to live in the village?
- ii) How are the weekly charges?
- iii) What will they provide?
- iv) Can I afford it?
- v) How is the refund of capital calculated?
- vi) How is it to be repaid?
- vii) What will happen if I enter into a village and I don't like it and want to get out again?
- viii) What security is there for repayment of money?
- ix) Is there a deferred maintenance charge?
- x) If so, what is the cost?
- xi) What sort of title or lease will I get?
- xii) What will happen if I am unable to look after myself?
- xiii) Does the village provide unit, hostel and nursing home care?
- xiv) What sort of services are available, such as medical services, spiritual services and recreational services?
- xv) Who attends to the maintenance of items?
- xvi) What restrictions are placed on my activities, for example, can I have a pet, can I play my stereo, can I rent out my unit, can I leave my unit vacant for any length of time, can I conduct a business from my unit, what would happen to my wife or husband if I were to die?

All these questions should be considered very carefully. Professional, independent advice is essential for someone thinking of entering a retirement village.

Is my decision to enter a village legally protected?

Until recently there was not any New South Wales legislation to protect residents of retirement villages, but now, as far as resident funded retirement villages are concerned, there is a Code of Practice and the Retirement Villages Act. This has been developed by the New South Wales Government. The Retirement Villages Code of Practice is to assist residents and management of the villages by setting out what is considered to be good practice in the promotion, sale and operation of retirement villages.

KOKODA 1942 RECALL

by Phyl Cox

Late in the afternoon on Monday 2 November 1992 our tour group assembled at the Bomana War Cemetery for a 50th Anniversary Pilgrimage Commemorative Service. The Australian High Commissioner, Mr. W. Taylor accompanied by his wife, attended the Service; also present was an officer of the Australian Defence Forces.

The Service was conducted by Lieut. Andy Grimes of Salvation Army assisted by Rev. G. Blyton, one of our Tour Group.

The tranquility of the setting and the siting of this Cemetery has always impressed me. It is extremely well cared for. A Wreath Laying ceremony took place followed by Last Post and Ode of Remembrance, ending with Australian National Song and Papua New Guinea National Song.

At the conclusion of the Service we walked out of the Cemetery and turned right to a spot a few yards away from the start of the Cemetery wall. Here another Ceremony took place when the Australian High Commissioner gave a short address then unveiled the monument given by Dr. R. Bastiaan and his family.

Dr. Ross Bastiaan a Collins Street, Melbourne, dental specialist, has been an active participant in the 75th Anniversary at Gallipoli and in many of the 50th Anniversary commemorations of World War II events. He has prepared large bronze plaques which have been carefully placed at the commemoration sites and other places of military significance to explain to all who are interested the significance in military history of the place where they stand. Providing these plaques has been at great cost in time and money to himself and his family.

Dr. Bastiaan decided to sculpt a large relief map of the Owen Stanley Range showing Port Moresby to Gona. This central relief map was surrounded with text in English about the battles of the 1942 period. In the upper left-hand corner, a full casualty table for both Allied forces, including the Papua New Guinean carriers, and for the Japanese forces was created. The upper right-hand corner carried text specific to the location of each bronze work.

The bronze works were located near Bomana War Cemetery, Port Moresby, at Sogeri (adjacent to the Australian War Memorial) and Popondetta, with a location still to be decided in Port Moresby. Each of these plaques measured one metre by one metre and weighed about 85 kilograms. They were attached at Sogeri and Bomana on 2 1/2 tonne concrete blocks. The fourth bronze work was placed at Kokoda (on the Australian National War Memorial).

The plaques are certainly a work of art and a worthy tribute to all who took part in those campaigns.

VALE

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

Mr. John Currer COX (2 August 93, aged 80 years).

John first went to New Guinea in 1936. He followed his two older sisters to Rabaul where Thyrsa ("Tick") was nursing at Namanula and Jean Mary, also a nurse and the first to work at Salamaua in 1930, was on her second visit to Rabaul.

These were the days not too far removed from the devastating experience of the two volcanic eruptions in 1937 in Rabaul. John once said that the night Vulcan blacked out the town was one of the eeriest he had spent. He was one of those the Chief Judge "Monte" Phillips (later Sir Beaumont) co-opted to help with security in some of the more vulnerable areas. A letter from the Commonwealth Government subsequently commended John and the other young men who carried out similar duties that night.

At this time John was working for a group of business men who operated a cinema and held agencies for wireless and electrical equipment. He decided to return to Melbourne, his home town, and complete a course in Maths, radio and wireless technology. World War II curtailed this and he joined the rush to enlist in 1939. Drafted to a Signals Unit he spent his 6 1/2 years' service in various sections of Signals' organisations - in the Middle East, Africa, Greek/Crete and South Pacific theatres, achieving the rank of Major. In 1947 he returned to the Territory to work with the Department of Education: first in the Visual Aids Section and later, the Technical Division.

In 1962 he transferred to the Department of Labour and became the Executive Officer of the Apprenticeship Board, with an opportunity to further develop the infant Apprenticeship Scheme. It was here that he obtained a great sense of personal pleasure and general satisfaction. When he retired in 1968 the number of tradesmen qualified as a result of the Scheme had risen from 106 to 452. In addition, about 1,000 prospective tradesmen were at that time in training. John felt it a great compliment when on his retirement, a number of apprentices approached the Board with donations in appreciation of his work. It was agreed that these would represent the foundation of a fund to provide a prize each year to a top apprentice. The prize to become the John Cox Prize.

On hearing of John's death, the present Secretary for Labour and Employment, Mr Aphmerledy K. Joel OBE said in a letter of sympathy to John's family that "the Award remains to this day a prestigious award for the promotion of trade skills".

John lived out his retirement running a few beef cattle, growing vegetables and playing bowls at farms in Mossvale and later Byabarra west of Wauchope - and also enjoying the company of his children and grandchildren who were frequent visitors.

He is survived by wife, Jean, daughter Loris, son Ross and four grandchildren.

Joseph Horace (Frog) EVANS (21 May 93, aged 84 years)

Captain Evans, who was known by all his friends and acquaintances as "Frog", served in PNG as Harbour Master from 25 November 1957 to 11 January 1964. He spent his later years in Western Samoa where he was very well known throughout the island. (More details next issue of the Newsletter.)

Mr. Christopher John COHEN (January 93, aged 41 years)

Chris' early years with his brother Peter, and later with Jeffrey too, were lived in what was, from all accounts, a virtually idyllic setting at his parents' plantation in Rabaul. He was a happy and enthusiastic youngster and showed early signs of a trait which was to become a hallmark of his life, namely, concerted focus on and commitment to projects which he undertook. For example, how many junior Boy Scouts, other than Chris and Peter Cohen, would take their scouting involvement so earnestly as to erect a bamboo flagpole at the bottom of the garden, and require the family and house staff to turn out each morning for a flag raising ceremony.

More importantly, Chris had the good fortune to be born to and raised by two wonderfully gifted and caring parents. His father Bill, who had been a coastwatcher behind enemy lines during the war, was probably the most well-known and prominent sportsman in PNG, and indeed the main sport stand in Queen Elizabeth Park at Rabaul is named in his memory. Chris was always extremely proud of the fact that both his father and his grandfather, Bert Cohen, had represented Victoria in cricket. This example, clearly enough, instilled in Chris a deep and enduring love and respect for sport.

His mother Florence, must also, I am sure, have set a tremendous example for Chris to follow. Her own depth of character and commitment, evidenced by the many civil decorations awarded to her and her twenty year tenure as Commissioner of Girl Guides, was reflected in a son who knew how to face adversity and not cower.

Florence was also Chris' correspondence school teacher - on the mornings she could catch him before he headed off across the bay, that is. What a culture shock then for Chris to be sent to Waverley College in Sydney for his secondary schooling as a boarder.

The rigours of boarding school life were tempered by his involvement in sport, at which he excelled, and in music, in which he displayed early entre-preneurial flair.

With school behind him, Chris returned to Rabaul, and in 1969 went to work for Vulcan Concrete Constructions. He enjoyed work and music and sport and life, and in 1971, Chris and wife, Julie, were blessed with the gift of a beautiful baby girl called Bernadette. In 1971, Chris accepted a position with Readymix, which saw him promoted through postings in Sydney, Canberra (where the family literally hand-built their own home) and finally Brisbane. In the meantime, another little gift arrived, and Chris, being a scientist, observed that this one was of a slightly different shape, and proudly named him Christopher.

Between 1979 and 1982, Chris managed Queensland Aggregates, and was responsible for the tendering, establishment and completion of extensive quarrying activities throughout Queensland and North New South Wales.

In 1982, he established Christopher Cohen & Assoc., a firm of consulting geological engineers which had recognised expertise in the fields of quarrying, open cut mining and mine contracting.

To Chris and his second wife, Jennifer, a son, Ben, arrived in 1985, a two legged dynamo with a shock of blond hair whom his father loved dearly.

Chris Cohen continued to achieve in all areas of his life. His contribution to Rugby refereeing in Queensland during the 1980s cannot be underestimated, particularly during the years when he was responsible for the appointment and allocation of referees to fixtures. It's a job which requires finesse and insight. In recognition of his contribution to the sport, the Queensland Rugby Referees' Association awarded Chris in 1987 the McNamee Award, the Association's highest accolade.

(continued next page)

Chris was possessed of one of the finest and keenest minds it's been my privilege to encounter. He held qualifications from the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology and the Canberra College of Advanced Education, and had been undertaking post-graduate research. He was the author of numerous scientific articles and studies. He was a Fellow of the Institute of Engineering Associates, a Fellow of the Institute of Directors, and Associate of the Australian Institute of Science Technology and, particularly prestigious, was a Fellow of the Institute of Quarrying of London. Chris was instrumental in the establishment and formation of the Queensland Branch of the Institute of Quarrying, and served on it's committee for many years. He was also inordinately proud of the fact that he was one of the only people in Queensland to hold an unrestricted shot firer's licence.

Was Chris a dreamer? Of course he was. But the difference between him and most of us was that, with a faith almost as simple and uncomplicated as a child, he believed in his own ability to make those dreams come true - and in many cases he did.

(Condensed from Eulogy delivered by Martin Daubney at the funeral service for Christopher at St. Rita's Catholic Church, Victoria Point, 20 January 93.)

Mrs. Marjorie **MANSFIELD** (nee Allen) (11 July 93, aged 64 years)

Marj was the daughter of Jack and Ruby Allen who for many years owned Gilalum Plantation in the Kokopo Sub-District. She spent the greater part of her life in the Kokopo area except for the period at school in Australia and during W.W.II.

One of the first single girls to return to Rabaul after the war, she was probably the youngest amongst a team of working girls in Rabaul at that time, many who had been in the Australian Army Medical Women's Service at the Army Hospital at Nonga.

She first worked as Secretary to Charlie Bates (then District Officer New Britain District) and much later at the Kokopo Sub-District Office. Sometime during this period Marj married Lionel, who had established a garage and engineering workshop in the Kokopo area where they remained for many years.

Lionel and Marj eventually retired to the Queensland Gold Coast and Ruby Allen lived with them for many years prior to her death.

It is ironic that Marj, having nursed Lionel through a troublesome period between 1987 and 1990 during which time he underwent two operations for throat cancer, in a letter to Pam Foley, commented: "He has learnt to talk again and is doing very well so God willing he will be with us for a long time yet."

Her wish has been granted but, after a short illness, Marj is regrettably no longer with us and her passing is sadly mourned by many of our members who were her friends.

Marj is survived by her husband, Lionel, sons John, Robert and Chris and sister Joan.

Mrs. Eileen Elizabeth **WYNNE** (12 August 93, aged 88 years)

Widow of Stephen Powart who was a Line Inspector with the PNG Department of Posts and Telegraphs prior to his death in 1960. She later married again but no further details are available.

Mr. Christopher Joseph SAUNDERS (5 May 93, aged 88 years)

Senior Health Inspector with the PNG Public Health Department from
6 April 1948 to 15 December 1965.

Is survived by widow Raphael but no further details are available.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

MR. P.R. COOTE	ROSEBANK ROAD	ROSEBANK	NSW 2480
Mr. M.V. DUFFY	9 CRESFIELD ST.	ZILLMERE	QLD 4034
MR. L. GILLIES	P.O. BOX 45	GOROKA	P N G
MR. M.R. GREY	2 PARKVIEW ROAD	FAIRLIGHT	NSW 2094
MR. J. HAYES	15 RAPANEA ST.	ALGESTER	QLD 4115
MR. H. HOLMAN	62 DARTFORD RD.	THORNLEIGH	NSW 2120
DR. C. MOORE	HISTORY DEPT., UNIVERSITY OF QLD	BRISBANE	QLD 4072
DR. D.A. RUSSELL	22 IJONG ST.	KENMORE	QLD 4069
MR. B. SHARP	23 WILKINSON ST.	FLYNN	ACT 2615
MRS.B.L. WOOD	15 BLAXLAND ST.	FRENCHS FOREST	NSW 2086
MR. F.D. MACLEAN	10 DALKEITH ST.	CHERMSIDE	QLD 4032
MR. J.P. SWANSTON	11 PIMPALA ST.	WURTULLA	QLD 4575

CHANGES OF ADDRESS:

MRS.M. BALDWIN	UNIT 102 CENTAUR HOUSE		
	21 WEST TERRACE	CALOUNDRA	QLD 4551
MR. W.R. BARTLETT	P.O. BOX 400, SMITHFIELD	CAIRNS	QLD 4878
MRS.J. BELFIELD	"HAUS TAMBARAN" c/- POST OFFICE	NARRAWONG	VIC 3285
MRS.E. CHAMPION	14 TRUSSEL PLACE	KAMBAH	ACT 2902
MRS.P.E. COX	P.O. BOX 5292	WAGGA WAGGA	NSW 2650
MR. P.G. CROWE	32 HARDING ST.	KALANGUR	QLD 4503
DR. D.P. DROVER	14/22 PEEL ST.	KIRRIBILLI	NSW 2064
THE VEN. DILLON	P.O. BOX 108	COBARGO	NSW 2550
MR. G.J. GODWIN	45 WRIGHT ST.	WULGURU	QLD 4811
MR. I.D. GRUNDY	PT INDONUSA INDRAPURI, FORESTRY PROJECT		
	BANDA ACEH, SUMATRA	INDONESIA	
MR. R.I. HORNER	C/- D. HORNER, 5/48 GLEN RD.	TOOWONG	QLD 4066
MR. T.S. JONES	4 GALOOLA DRIVE	NELSON BAY	NSW 2315
MR. J.F. MOODY	70 LANATA CRESC. BANKSIA VILLAGE, FOREST LAKE	DOOLANDELLA	QLD 4077
MR. M.B. PEARNS	P.O. BOX 1	ISLE OF CAPRI	QLD 4217
MR. R.A. WEBB	49/37 ST. KEVIN'S AVE.	BENOWA	QLD 4217

Correction:

MRS. L. MARTIN	12 AURORA COURT	WARNERS BAY	NSW 2282
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This issue is again larger than usual but most of the outstanding articles have been included and the remainder will be in the December issue of the Newsletter.

My very good wishes to you all and take care.

*Doug Parrish*  
Doug Parrish  
Editor

Printed by LINDFIELD PRINTING & STATIONERY, 372 PACIFIC HIGHWAY, LINDFIELD.