



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. 1, 1994 - March

Dear Member,

A big thank you from the President and Committee to all those members who sent Christmas and New Year Greetings. Special thanks to the Brisbane PNG Ladies Group, care Gwen O'Brien, who always remember us at Christmas when they have their own get-together.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND LUNCHEON

OUR ASSOCIATION'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
AND LUNCHEON
WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY 24 APRIL 1994
AT THE MANDARIN CLUB

Full details about the meeting and luncheon are to be found in the centre pages.

Senior or incapacitated members, who would like to attend but would have difficulty because of transport problems, please contact our Secretary, Mr. Joe Nitsche, or our Assistant Secretary, Mrs. Pamela Foley, whose telephone numbers are shown above and they will endeavour to arrange transport.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Members are reminded that the 1994 annual subscription (\$8) became due and payable on 1 January 1994, unless, of course, you paid in advance.

Members can check their financial standing, by examining the address label on the envelope from this issue of *Una Voce*. At the bottom right hand corner of the address label is the year to which you have paid subscription/s, i.e., 1993, 1995, 2000, 2010 etc. If, on the label, the year shown is 1993, you were only financial until 31 December 1993.

So that there will be no misunderstanding this year, those members who are currently unfinancial will receive a separate reminder in this issue and we would appreciate you forwarding your 1994 subscription without delay.

Any member, who continues to be unfinancial as at 31 May 1994, will not receive the June 1994 issue of the Newsletter containing the Membership List nor any further issues of the Newsletter until subscriptions are paid.

NEW GUINEA VOLUNTEER RIFLES - ANGAU ASSOCIATION - ANZAC DAY MARCH

This Association marches every Anzac Day in Sydney and after the march they have a reunion, Annual Meeting and Luncheon at the RSL War Memorial Club, Kensington, NSW. Some members cannot march so they join the marchers at Kensington. Wives and other family members are invited to the luncheon and this enables wives to meet at least once each year.

The march and reunion this year will be on Monday 25 April.

Anyone requiring details should contact Adrian Leyden on 02.477.3795.

VISIT TO THE MOUNTAINS

A mountain trip is planned for Monday 9th May with lunch at the Grandview Hotel, Wentworth Falls.

These are very pleasant and most enjoyable outings so come along and bring your friends!

The fare by train for those with Seniors Cards is \$2.00 from anywhere in Sydney.

Those interested please contact Pamela Foley (02) 428 2078, Harry West (02) 418 8793 or Ken Gorringer (047) 57 1488.

1993 CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

This was the best luncheon we have had with some 235 members and their guests in attendance including the PNG Consul-General Mr. William Nindim and his wife, Anna, also the Consul Mrs. Perpetua Haiveta, whom we were delighted to have with us.

It was a great occasion with people from the country and interstate and quite a number whom we had not seen for some time. Many were the friendships which were renewed and the reminiscences shared. These get-togethers seem to get better each year so make sure that you do not miss the next one!

PAPUA NEW GUINEA RUGBY LEAGUE REUNION

Monster Papua New Guinea Reunion on 20th May, 1994, to celebrate the 45th Anniversary of Rugby League in PNG and the 20th Anniversary of the formation of the Papua New Guinea Rugby Football League (July 28, 1974)

All ex-players, officials, supporters, wives, girl friends and any ex-PNG residents are invited to participate in this memorable occasion.

Venue: "Sea World" Time: 7,00 pm - 2.00 am.

Cost will include dinner, a display of Sea World's International Ski Team, a chance to win a lucky door prize of a return trip for two to PNG, other valuable lucky door prizes and entertainment.

A full itinerary, costs of the dinner and optional events commencing on the 18th May through to the 23rd May, together with information on package deals from all cities and tariffs for various styles of accommodation available is obtainable from Mary Dimnick, 13 McCulloch Ave, Margate, Qld 4019 Tel (07) 284 5611, or Bill Nicholson, 14 Kinloch Ave, Benowa Qld 4217, Tel. (075) 97 3966.

MEMBER GONE MISSING

H. J. (Hec) McKenzie
17 Marine Parade
CARDWELL QLD 4816

The last two Newsletters have been returned and it would be appreciated if anyone knowing his current whereabouts would contact the Secretary.

THE ASSOCIATION'S ARCHIVAL DATA BASE

This continues to grow and so far contributions have been received from the following:

Mr. Wally Doe of Dalmeny, NSW.
 Mrs. K. A. Dixon of Banora Point, Qld.
 Mr. T. Dwyer of Aroona, Qld.
 The Estate of Sister E. M. (Gillie) Gilbert.
 Mr. Frank Haviland of Bayview, NSW.
 Mr. Maxwell R. Hayes of Doncaster, Victoria..
 Mr. Frank Hoeter of Hervey Bay, Qld.
 Miss. Isobel Ireland of Meadowbank, NSW.
 Mr. C. W. Kimmorley of Mount Riverview, NSW.
 Mr. Des Large of Caloundra, Qld.
 Miss. Betty Moorhead of Caboolture, Qld.
 Mrs. Gladys Nicholas of Mermaid Waters, Qld.
 Mr. Max Orken of Sunnybank Hills, Qld.
 Mr. Doug Parrish of Pymble, NSW.
 Mr. Tom Read of Wagga Wagga, NSW.
 Mr. James Ross of Paradise Waters, Qld.
 Mr. Frank Wilson of Dee Why, NSW.

Some of these contributions have been quite substantial and it is unfortunate that space does not permit an individual listing of the items contributed.

Those members who would like further information covering this project please contact Dr. Peter Cahill, (07) 371 4794.

Members who are still trying to make up their minds as to what they should do with their collections, stop begging the question and get cracking!

EX-KIAPS STILL IN PNG

The following are some we missed in the last issue of the Newsletter:

Frank Liebfried: Unesco, Port Moresby.
 Kevin Murphy: Rothmans, Port Moresby.
 Trevor Downs: Vanimo.
 Barry Black, Cape Rodney.
 Fred Haynes: Corporate Manager, British Petroleum, Port Moresby
 Marty Boss.

PNG HONOURS

Sir Brian Bell is congratulated on the award of his Knighthood. Brian has devoted many years of his life to public affairs and charities in PNG, and to the training and development of Papua New Guineans for managerial roles.

Congratulations to Mr Fred J. Haynes, former kiap and Secretary to the Department of Decentralisation, who was awarded the M.B.E. in the United Kingdom New Year's Honours List. Fred is currently Manager for British Petroleum Corporate Affairs in Papua New Guinea based in Port Moresby. His duties take him to B.P Ltd H.Q. in London.

TOM COLE

There were two reasons adventurer and author Tom Cole ended up in Australia. He didn't get on with his father, and hated the English weather.

"I looked at brochures about Canada and New Zealand and they looked too cold," he said. "Australia looked good, and Queensland sounded like the warmest State, so I got on a boat and asked them to put me off at Brisbane."

That was in 1923.

Aged 89 last month, he was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the Australia Day honours.

Mr Cole, of Lindfield, has written books about his experiences as a stockman, drover, buffalo hunter, telegraph linesman, station owner, New Guinea coffee planter and crocodile hunter. His award recognises his service to community history - in which he has played a fascinating role.

His many friends and admirers are not surprised by the award, and believe his contributions are important to the history of Australia.

The fact that he didn't start writing until he was 80 they see as a feat in itself. His first book, *Spears and Smoke Signals*, was a collection of short stories which "only had a quick run". He has since expanded it with *Crocodiles and Other Characters*.

In 1988 he wrote *Hell West and Crooked*, an autobiography that has sold more than 100,000 copies. *The Last Paradise*, about life in New Guinea, came out in 1990. It was followed in 1992 by *Riding the Wildman Plains*, his letters and diaries between 1923 and 1943.

"My mother kept all the letters I'd written to her which were returned to me after she died," he said.

(Extract from "the Northern Herald" 27 January 1994 article titled "Australia Day Gongs for Kamahl & Cole.")

Tom, the President and Committee extend to you congratulations on behalf of the Association.

"SNOWY" MIDDLETON

We have a very big apology to make to an old member, P. V. "SNOWY" Middleton of Nambour Qld, because he was awarded the The Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in last year's New Year's Day Honours List. We missed it and no one drew it to our attention.

Snowys' award was "For service to veterans and to the community". It was an honour well deserved as he had forty years association with the RSL in Australia and Papua New Guinea, during which time he was an Executive Member of the Nambour RSL 1970-72, Treasurer 1973-76, President 1977-78 and Secretary from 1979 till now. He has been a member of the Sunshine Coast Advisory Council and active in a number of other community organisations.

Belated, but nevertheless very sincere, congratulations from the President and Committee on behalf of the Association.

HAVE YOU HEARD???

A letter from Rita and Vin SMITH in Port Moresby brought seasonal greetings and the news that Vin has recovered well from his second bout of glandular fever during 1993, and went on to say - "We are both kept busy in different ways in Port Moresby. Vin still happy with his interesting role in the excitement of growth in the mining industry. He also had another look at Lihir Island off Kavieng, which will start up Stage 1 of construction in 1994. He enjoyed staying with old mate, Frank FAULKNER, ex Madang. He also had an overseas trip to Singapore with five of his colleagues to attend the Pan Asian Mining Conference. Vin stayed with Helen and Bob BRAITHWAITE (ex Air Niugini, now with Singapore Airlines) for two days whilst he was there."

"I keep myself busy, now that I am not working, by playing Bridge and Ma Jong; attending CWA activities which includes "gentle" aerobics for those of us who have notched up a few years; follow the horses and the local PNG racing scene at Bomana; frequent the Aviat Club on occasions; (It still has in excess of 2,600 members!); visit the Galley Restaurant for PNG Orchid Society meetings, and other activities."

"I am still persevering with orchid growing, Vandas and Moresby Gold Dendrobiums are lovely plus the odd hybrid. Moresby is so dry and has been so for months! For those who remember Moresby or PNG, the level of water in the Sirinumu dam is at a record low, and does not have enough capacity to generate electricity full time - we go onto turbines from Moitaka, hence frequent power cuts and many times no water! We cope!"

"We are staying here for Christmas this year - going over to Loloata Island for two nights in Bootless Bay with another couple - most of our other friends will be away or on leave for Christmas."

(We have recently received news that Vin and Rita will be returning to Australia for good but as yet no confirmation of this. Ed.)

Paul JONES, of Chapman ACT, in a note recently said "while not retired, I very much enjoy *Una Voce* and especially appreciated "A Pirate's Treasure" in the December issue, having served in both Western and Milne Bay Districts.

I was recruited by Harry West in 1963, and remember Fred Kaad from the ASOPA Local Government Course in 1969. We came to Canberra in 1974, and I am now a Superintendent with the Australian Federal Police - which has a growing involvement and interest in PNG, and the whole SW Pacific region.

We keep in touch with Dave Wren, who is getting on in years, and living in Queanbeyan, NSW. Dave unfortunately lost a leg through illness a year or so ago, but remains very interested in people and events".

Helen COX reported: "It was good to read the Rob O'Regan story - we are still in touch from the Rabaul days when I was secretary to Norris Pratt, then Crown Solicitor, with whom I am also still in touch....."

By the way I recently had a note from Jack and Olive Hull. As you know they are again going round Australia and wrote from Mararauka Thermal Pool where they are staying, but Jack is not too well and they were heading for Darwin to see a doctor and if there was nothing drastically wrong (Olive's words) they will stay in Darwin until March when they will head west.

There are a number of ex NG folk around here - among them Bob Anderson ex Gov. Stores who is not too well at present."

Bruce WESTON of Milsons Point NSW last month celebrated his 93rd birthday and also received a new pacemaker, the old one having served him for some seventeen years. His comment "I reckon I will now have another seventeen to go!" (Bert, we sincerely hope so, our congratulations and very best wishes for the future. Keep up the good work. Ed.)

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HAVE YOU HEARD??? (continued)

Messages of congratulation to Flora NITSCHKE of Balgowlah NSW came from far and wide on the occasion of her 90th birthday this month.

At a party arranged by her son Joe and her daughter and son-in-law, Gisela and Terry DEVINE, some 45 relatives and friends, some who had travelled from Germany for the occasion, gathered to help her celebrate.

Among those present were former PNG residents, Aub and Ancie SCHINDLER, Mike and Jennie HAWLEY, Harry WEST, Pam FOLEY, Ian and Helen REARDON, Ora SMYTHE, Brian NICOLIA, Cliff HOLLAND, Sister Wendy FLANNERY, Maurice WILSON, Pam BROOKS and Lesley BARRIE.

Charles HARRISON of Werrington County NSW, who for many years was with the Department of Labour in PNG serving at Port Moresby, Mount Hagen, Kokopo and Rabaul as Labour Inspector, and then as Regional Labour Officer for the Highlands. He retired in 1974, returned to Australia and settled at Werrington NSW.

He kept very good health until 1979 when he suffered a heart attack followed by another while in hospital. He later had heart surgery in Westmead Hospital but had a few more heart attacks which he survived and is now getting along quite well - though slowed down!

Charles and wife, Joan, celebrated their 50th Wedding anniversary last December, when a surprise dinner was organised at the Log Cabin Motel at Penrith. Some 50 guests, including relatives, attended. Their children Charles, Raymond and Elizabeth, now all married with their own children and grandchildren, attended along with Joan's brothers and sisters and their children. It was a great day.

Charles eldest son, Charles, was also in service in PNG with the Department of Labour and the Housing Commission. Raymond, second son, served with the Department of Civil Aviation in Port Moresby. He returned to Australia in 1975 and continued service with Civil Aviation. He resigned that post and is now with Mines at Dysart, N.Q. His daughter Elizabeth also served in the PNG working for TAA.

Charles wife Joan also worked for the PNG Administration, first at Mt. Hagen in Government Stores and then in the Police Department catering section at Madang and at Port Moresby. Joan wishes to be remembered to Max Orken. Max - she says thank you for your blood donation when she was in the Goroka Hospital. Max will surely remember the day and time when he was urgently called from the Goroka Club to give blood which saved Joan. Max, I think, said "Be sure the blood alcohol level is below .05". And while we are on the subject of Max Orken - Max a friend of yours, Tommy Wills Marr and his wife Vera now living at Alexandria Hills near Brisbane remembers you. Tommy was Captain of a BP's ship and previously RN. Tommy married Vera Tancred, a first cousin of Charles Snr.

Joan McLACHLAN of East Ivanhoe Vic. sent these family snippets:

Sue-Anne, born in Samarai, is now a physician in training, specialising in oncology. She is working and studying in Toronto.

Andrew, born in Samarai and a Duntroon graduate, is a Captain in the Army and currently in Israel with United Nations.

Colin, born in Port Moresby, is completing his PhD in "94 in Behavioural Science.

A trip to Israel and Toronto on the drawing board for Joan in July on Long Service Leave from Marcellin College where she teaches.

As Joan says: "It's all a long way from Misima Island where I lived for four years when the children were born, '62-'66!"

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HAVE YOU HEARD??? (continued)

Kit HYDE of Caloundra, Qld, recently wrote: "Being lapun and time is running out (I'm 85) its time I put my thoughts on paper, after years of reading and enjoying *Una Voce*, and express my congratulations and thanks to all who have contributed to its publication. A name, surname or place name brings memories flooding, Bert Weston's article about Salamaua reminded me of my first trip in a plane. It was Les Holden's "Canberra" and after coming through the gap in the mountain to descend to the drome, Mr Delatour, who was then manager of N.G. Goldfields, stood up to point out something. I pulled him down pronto, he wasn't overbalancing the plane with me in it! That was about 1933, later I stood beside Kevin Parer with his (Moth) I think it was, when he said "she's running a bit rough, but I think we'll get there," and no worries.

My late husband, Bob, was in the Territory from 1922, my period was 1928-1942 and covered Rabaul, Wau, Madang and Wewak."

Mrs. Dorothy GRAY of Wahroonga NSW, after joining the Association last year, received the following letter from Alan Hooper of Mooloolaba, whose wife, Lyle is a member:

"A short para in *Una Voce* introducing you as a new member was typical of so many earlier issues, unexpected news of wartime acquaintances.

I have many fond memories of visits to Mirigeda SDA Mission prior to the Papuan Campaign. I felt very much at home with Ken and all SDA members. Sister Kathy Joubert put the Frame baby beside me in my European Hospital bed with the forceps still clamped to the cord, after which I fed and nursed her. As proof I have a photo. Capt Bill Hawley caught me powdering her bottom and went into paroxysms of laughter every time he repeated the story, and that was often. The month was December, the year 1940.

Earlier in August in the dead of night I had made a medical emergency call from the Mission; next day Maynard Lock brought the truck laden with produce and students (including diminutive Karo) to our observation post for a picnic. It was the beginning of firm friendships; a truckload of us 15 Bn chaps subsequently returned as wedding guests - Maynard and I rowed out to the reef to dynamite fish; we caught sufficient there and beyond the Tahira jetty for the wedding feast - delayed while a hurried search revealed the bride had hidden herself under Lois's bed - later we sang around the piano till 10 p.m.; our truck broke down on the Rigo Road and Lt Bill McKell led the first three footsore hikers into camp around dawn. Subsequent to my marriage in June 1943 I dined in Townsville with the Locks. Lois posted a wedding gift to my bride - *Love & Marriage* - but it was another long year before we first read it together (despite using the Rhythm method recommended none of our five boys was musically inclined).

My 144,000 word manuscript, *The Love, War and Letters of Q52, 1940-45*, which is now in the hands of a publisher, dwells on these SDA relationships and of the trip on the MV DIARI, Ela Beach-Mirigeda-Fairfax Harbour (before farewelling the Lock Snrs aboard the SS MACDHUI). As I had transferred to the PIB and later to ANGAU, the ms is a detailed history of the former to 1943 and the only history of ANGAU's ubiquitous and multipurpose role 1943-45. I have many photos to add interest to my autobiography; sadly none of Mirigeda....

I am saddened by the news Ken is no longer with us; Maynard, too, shared the fate of my closest personal servant, Samuel Ungega, at beautiful Higaturu, which I had known so well during Maj. Elliott-Smith's time there, Madi sinabada! Some time following Nancy's death eighteen years ago I had the good fortune to marry an ex-patriate PNG widow, Lyle, and, with retirement we have led a life full of richness. Together we nurture many Papuan and Territorian friendships."

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HAVE YOU HEARD??? (continued)

Snowy MIDDLETON of Nambour Qld recently reported: "Both Val and I are reasonably busy living on the hobby farm, just a couple of miles outside Nambour, where we have some Mango trees and Macadamia Nuts. I would hate to have to rely on them to earn a living but at least they are good reason to keep up the daily exercise.

This last year has had a highlight or two for us, and we've been kept fully occupied. In the beginning I managed to have my eightieth birthday, which coincided with the New Year's Honours award to me of the O.A.M. (1) so we had a celebration party in the local RSL Club and our two girls Mary and Helen made sure that everything went along very smoothly. There were quite a few ex-PNGers also present.

Anzac Day is always busy in Nambour, and as I'm Secretary of the Sub-Branch we've all had plenty to do. This is my last year in that capacity (16 years is enough) and will bow out this month.

Last month I was in the Haus Sik for a few days getting over a slight stroke, everything O.K. now although it has slowed me up quite a lot."

(1) Please refer page 4. Ed.)

Alex ZWECK of Henty NSW, late last year, commenting on the article "Blow the Canteen" in the December 1993 issue wrote: "I have a query regarding Geoff Baskett and the extract from his autobiography.....

I saw Milne Bay I think September 1943 when our mob - 9 Div - assembled there and boarded various types of landing craft for the invasion of Lae. As far as I know the nearest Japs then were around Lae - that is just in passing. However, at that time alcohol of all kinds including beer was a prohibited import as far as the troops were concerned. That would also have been the case at the time Mr Baskett is reporting, which must have been before I saw the place. So where did the beer in the canteen come from?

I remember catching up with my brother at Milne Bay - had not seen him for almost 3 years. He and his mates introduced me to their brand of jungle juice at the time I was not greatly taken with it. I also recall later on in the campaign - well past Lae - one of our chaps received a birthday parcel, a loaf of bread, concealed in the loaf was a bottle of wine. The lucky recipient and his mates - I was one - went into the bush and promptly disposed of the wine.

Anyhow, I would be interested to hear from Mr Baskett about the mystery of the beer at Milne Bay.

(I have contacted Geoff Baskett and he assures me that at the time he was in Milne Bay, there was a ration of beer for the troops and spitits available to commissioned rank, but only through the canteen. Ed.)

Mary BALDWIN of Caloundra recently wrote: "Felt very sad to read of Ann Anderson's death, as I met her when she came to Moresby to work as a secretary for B.N.G. Development Co. (later B.N.G. Trading Co.). She and Stan had 3 children, the eldest was Margaret, and then twin boys George and John. They were in Tom Monaghan's (Teacher) favourite class of 6 boys, as follows:

John and George Anderson

Ian Chester (Youngest son of Bill Chester)

Ken Baldwin (our eldest)

Gilbert Rogerson (son of Percy Rogerson)

Eric Stuart Russell (son of Harry)

With all good wishes to members of *Una Voce* for 1994. Derry and wife Pat, together with their son and family, are coming to Caloundra for Christmas, which makes 4 generations of Baldwins. Ken and family are also here."

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HAVE YOU HEARD??? (continued)

"Max ORKEN, of Sunnybank Hills Qld, was tickled pink to read that South Australia's Coopers Brewery had launched a beer in Queensland (DBD Friday).

After returning to Australia from the Middle East with the 2nd/11th Field Regiment in 1942, Max was billeted not far from the Coopers Brewery at Leabrook, an Adelaide suburb. Lucky for Max, the regiments's quartermaster, Eric Williamson, now in his 90s, was Coopers company secretary in civilian life.

"Subsequently, we were given unlimited supplies of Coopers beer, which is a magnificent drop," says Max. He reckons many Queenslanders were billeted there and the brewer was generous with all the Diggers.

Max plans to buy some Coopers lickety split."

(From Brisbane "Courier Mail" 14/2/94 by courtesy of Brian Corrigan and we believe it refers to our "Max". Ed.)

Kevin WHITE of Jomtien Thailand reports: "Last December say me in conferences in Indonesia and China but back here at Jomtien for a quiet Christmas; this year it will be a "White" Christmas as I will be joining brother Chris and wife Pat for their 50th wedding anniversary on 23rd December at Gordonvale in the far north Queensland. I missed the wedding as I was awaiting a troopship to take me to Bougainville, it all seems light years away, yet was so recent. While in the Cairns area I will be able to check up on some work of vegetative reproduction rain forest species that I commenced back in 1955-57. This will form part of one of the two consultancies already arranged for 1994. Time does fly indeed.

Had a month or so in May in Nepal for the Asian Development Bank; checking on the application of a largish forestry sector loan; all well. The following month returned there to present the lead paper to Winrock's symposium on Dalbergia sissoo at home town Hitauda. Was able to take time to go to the old Sagarnath project and do some useful sissoo field work; my house is kept as a guest house so was able to sleep in my old room again very happily. I also stayed at the Avocado Motel in Hitauda, so was able to spend time with my many friends and the orchids which Sharma Sahib grows so nicely.

Did a short Teak consultancy in India in August and was able to go both to Kanpur (India) and Peshawar (Pakistan) and follow up leads in the Sissoo consultancy scheduled for Feb 1994. Was lucky enough to take part in the October Eucalyptus meeting here in Bangkok; and Chinese brother Bai Jaiyu came over for this meeting.

In all a busy year, but not without a great deal of satisfaction in it. Next year is shaping up to be somewhat similar, but I am thinking of retiring to become a cherry farmer - my new year resolution and the 1994 (?) project."

Roma BATES of Dulwich Hill NSW recently informed me (however she was away at the time): "I could have filled you in on Ina Meares in the last Vale. Ina, Gladys Forsyth and I were great friends, prewar of course.

I called on Gladys last Friday in Brisbane. She turns 97 next month (April), is sharp as a tack and, despite a bad fall and serious illness, she still gets around (albeit with a stick) and her fabulous sense of humour is undimmed. A Grand Old Lady whose friendship I cherish."

Florence CHESTER of Palm Beach Qld was kept very busy last December with her daughter Suzanne's wedding. She had son Allan and his wife and family home for Christmas but was sorry that son Bill, who is in Bundaberg could not make it.

Florence, your good wishes are reciprocated from all your friends down here.

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HAVE YOU HEARD??? (continued)

Jean McCARTHY of Mount Eliza Vic. had a long spell in hospital last year from mid-August to mid-November when she underwent a major operation. Jean, we are very sorry we did not know about it and sincerely hope that you are now fully recovered and fighting fit again. Very best wishes from all your many friends up here.

Our Patron, Sir Horace MIALI, I regret to report has spent some time in the Mona Vale Hospital and is not very well. It is anticipated that he will be moving to Lady Davidson Hospital when a bed becomes available.

Get well cards etc. it is suggested should be sent to his home address at Palm Beach NSW.

Isobel PERT of Noosa Heads writes: "Noosa is becoming overcrowded. Met Michelle Fayle yesterday, daughter of ex-Kiap Bob and Heather Fayle. Julie Pert has joined the regular army at Kapooka, near Wagga Wagga NSW, as a qualified psychologist having completed her Masters at Hobart University, apparently quite a culture shock.

Saw Wayne Heathcote some months back.

I will be busy picking up rubbish on "Clean Up Australia Day" next month as have been the local co-ordinator here for years with local council. Believe it or not, I get quite a buzz out of it and feel I am doing something useful.

Rand Di Leong in Madang and she tells me that the 2 or 3 waterside blocks of BP's next to the Hotel are for sale for K450,000 each. Town houses to be built, so you good folk out there looking for an investment?"

Bernie PORTER of Gordon Park Qld reports that he spent a week with Ken Hanrahan and observed "Some one has to look after ex-Kiaps." Also advises that "another PNG bloke to our Wednesday Irish Club drinks, Paul Quinlivan".

Bernie the tone of the company is definitely improving. Keep up the good work.

Derek BELL, previously of Prahran Vic. and now of Indooroopilly Qld reports: "20 former RPNGC (Royal Papua and New Guinea Constabulary) officers held a Christmas lunch at the Irish Club in Brisbane on 15 December. It went down very well with the prospect of another in winter. Among the "regulars" seen at the Club were Sir Col O'Loughlin and Max Orken. These two seem to get younger every year, I suspect they are on a course of Royal Jelly (or Guinness!)"

Bert NICHOLS of Mt. Coolumb Qld, thanking us for supplying the "Personal Papers Update", said; "They are a great asset and very much appreciated."

Bert, we heard about your illness and sincerely hope you are OK again. Our very best wishes for the future.

Del and Tony NORMOYLE of Hammersly WA advised that they were off to the UK for a year or so and were very excited at the prospect.

Del, your very good wishes are reciprocated and we sincerely hope that you both have a tremendous holiday.

Jim GILLMAN of Clontarf Qld reports: "Betty and I attended funeral service of Archbishop Copas who was a childhood friend of Betty. Also at the funeral we met Barrie Baxter and his wife, Alex Edwards and had a long talk with Bishop Des Moore....."

Son, Anthony, returns to PNG in a few weeks to fly helicopters in the Mt Hagen area."

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HAVE YOU HEARD??? (continued)

Royce WEBB of Benowa Qld reports that he is playing golf with Eric Flower and sees Bobby Bunting and Bob Cole fairly frequently. Royce, your good wishes are reciprocated.

Dr. Colin De'ATH of Bangkoknoi in Thailand was indeed a 'voice from the past' when he wrote to us recently. It is many many years since I heard of Colin and it was nice to catch up with him again. The following are extracts from his letter: "I know/knew many of the people you write about and it sort of gets through to me when I read of even my contemporaries passing on and the trials and tribulations of others with long illnesses and so on, Bob Mellor sends me periodic copies of the newsletter.

My own life has been very eventful since leaving PNG. I've lived in the Philippines, USA, Korea and Canada and worked for the UN, various governments and universities. Currently, I do consulting work with the Aga Khan Foundation and the New International School of Thailand, which I helped to set up.

Two things triggered my interest in your excellent publication and in your Association i.e.:

- I was going through some of my publications looking for something else when I found the enclosed, quickly written article done at the request of my former students at Kangwon National University....Would it suit *Una Voce's* needs. (It most certainly would and is included elsewhere in this issue. Ed.)

- When I was last in PNG for any period of time, I wrote a monograph about Manus titled "Touching the People: Socio-historical Impact of a Changing Resource Base". I wondered if any of your members, especially those with Manus experience, would be at all interested in editing it and having it published. I must warn you that it is not altogether favourable to outsiders who have historically cornered resources there, e.g., fish, forests and land. Perhaps a Manusian could critique it... I got very ill on the visits and didn't have the will to follow up with its publication..... If any of my former PNG friends come this way ask them to visit."

(Come on members what about taking up Colin's offer? I will be writing to Colin soon, so if anyone is interested please contact me in the next couple of weeks. Ed.)

Sally May PANG of Yorkey's Knob Qld recently became a member of the Association and when she made her application to join she wrote: "I and Pang's (New Guinea Club) youngest sister and I worked in the Finance Department from 1957 to 1975. I know you Mr. Parrish from Kokopo days, you might not remember me, but Mr. West will, he was D.C. in Rabaul."

Sally, we both remember you and a very big welcome as a member of the Association.

Frank LIEBFRIED and wife, Sushila, advise that they are on the move again and taking a 6 months plus backpacking holiday to Tassie, NZ, USA, Europe and Africa. Frank writes: "Sushila and self have again enjoed our past 5½ years in PNG and maybe we will find ourselves back there end of 1994, if someone will have us.... Will try to go through Sydney to catch up with you all."

Frank, if we don't see you when you start off perhaps we will see you on your way back. We wish you and Sushila a great holiday, it should be extremely interesting because you are sure going to get around.

Trefor ELLIS of Mount Eden NZ makes an interesting comment about Mt. Kare Goldmine: "The news about the extent-quantity of gold at Porgera-Mt. Kare is fascinating. I have a 1948 Box Brownie shot of Joe Searson working his Porgera sluice box for gold. If only one could have guessed the 1990-93 outcome of it all."

NEWS FROM CORRESPONDENTS

Jim Toner (Northern Territory).

My maiden visit to the Lapun⁽¹⁾ Lunch before Christmas proved most entertaining. The Mandarin Club, Sydney, took on the ambience of "Cheers", Boston i.e. a place where everybody knows your name - or sufficient, at least, to give that pleasant impression. The capacious restaurant was abuzz with chat and bonhomie for four hours and the organising Committee must feel well rewarded for their efforts.

Max Allwood, at my table and recently retired after a decade of lawyering for Brisbane City Council, was completing the trifecta having attended the Independence Day bash at Brisbane and the Wahgi Reunion at Nerang. Based on the extensive attendance at the latter the former klap could only assume that the river in question now flowed from Mendi to Lae.

A pilgrimage to Middle Head where the ASOPA huts are still in use for training purposes by AIDAB revealed nostalgic photography. Representative groups from the past adorn the walls of the mess. Senior kiaps like Harry West, juniors such as Chris Warrillow, and the distinctly more lovely features of schoolie Margaret McKenna (now Dwyer) were readily identified. An ASOPA cricket team included Brian "Stumpy" Corrigan and the late Ron Neville. But the most interesting jolt to the memory was a clutch of doctors c.1951. There were Zigas, Petrauskas and Ivinskis. What would TPNG have done without those Baltic medicine-men plus Enders, Haszler and Saave so fortunately found unacceptable for the Australian mainland?

Back in the NT, Duncan Dean who went to PNG in 1967 and served five years as a P.O. in the Southern Highlands and nine in Milne Bay has been working with ATSIC. However he was recently transferred to Canberra where, alas, 'Kiaps Korner' in the basement bar of the Lakeside Hotel no longer functions on a Friday evening.

This month forty years ago Des Clancy was leading a 90 days patrol down the Strickland River subsequently described as one of the most difficult carried out in PNG and an exceptional exploratory feat. Or so wrote Alan Roberts who knew a bit about such things. But Des was a spritely 31 years old in 1954. I am reliably informed from Perth that he golfs every morning and bowls each afternoon. H'mm. "Waitress, I'll have some of what he is having."

(1) Whilst there may have been quite a few of us "oldies" present there was also a considerable number of younger generations. Ed.)

Doug Franklin (Brisbane)

PNG - Australia Aid Forum.

A top level conference attended by 400 Delegates from Papua New Guinea, Canberra Government Departments and Australian Corporate business was held at the Brisbane Crest Hotel on 29-30 November 1993.

The AIDAB Forum (Australian International Development Assistance Bureau) was convened to discuss bilateral relations with specific regard to Australia aid commitment to PNG between now and the turn of the century. The Hon. Gordon Bilney MP, Minister for Development Cooperation and Pacific Island Affairs, opened the meeting with Mr Philip Flood A.O., Director General of AIDAB, in the chair.

Mr Bilney said that in the eighteen years since Independence PNG had
(continued next page)

NEWS FROM CORRESPONDENTS (continued)

made significant progress in building a nation. It has held fast to the principles of parliamentary democracy, social justice and free speech established in its constitution. Australia is PNG's largest trading partner and source of investment. Two way trade in 1992/93 reached \$2.1 billion.

Reflecting the significance of the relationship between our two countries, no other country provides as large a share of its development assistance to a single country. Last year, as in the previous three years, this share amounted to just over \$330 million.

This Untied Budget Support has been seen by many to keep Australia's involvement to PNG's internal affairs to a minimum and our respect for the country's independence.

Mr Bilney went on to describe and summarise economic considerations which have guided policies over the years since Independence, and the need to examine what may be done in the future. The relationship between our two countries has matured and PNG's needs have changed. Senator Evans has said our Development Cooperation programme to PNG is "An investment in a mature relationship in the twenty first century. PNG has such potential, and Australia's interests are so substantial, that getting the relationship right at this early stage in its evolution must be one of our highest priorities."

In rising to the challenges of the future PNG faces some major constraints. These include shortage of skilled personnel; poor infrastructure, which is compounded by mountainous rugged terrain; law and order problems and a rapidly growing, widely dispersed population.

The task before us is to jointly determine the best way - that is the most effective and efficient way that Australia's assistance can be used to address the constraints to sustainable development in PNG. It has been recognised for some time that Untied Budget support is no longer the best way of addressing these constraints. PNG increasingly has the means to support its own budget. Thus the theme of this Forum is "A Developing Partnership".

In place of Budget Support a comprehensive multi sectoral programme of assistance is being developed. It has been agreed that the Australian programme will focus on six sectors - Health, Education, Infrastructure, Renewable Resources (Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Environment), The Private Sector and Law and Order.

In the immediate future more than seven hundred Papua New Guineans will receive some form of education or training in Australia each year.

Mr Bilney went on to spell out in detail how Australia will continue to give assistance to PNG. The amount of aid will not decrease. It will gradually change from Untied Budget Support to Tied Aid in the Sectoral Areas outlined above. The changeover is planned to be completed by the year 2001. It will continue to be a partnership with PNG indicating the priorities throughout.

Following Mr Bilney during the two day Forum were speakers from PNG including Sir Julius Chan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance and Planning, the Hon John Ninkare, Minister for Village Services and Provincial Affairs, who stressed that aid programmes must be directed to the grass roots people of PNG, Mr Gereia Aopi M.B.E., Secretary for Finance and Planning, Dr Naomi Tuloha, Commissioner for Higher Education and Ms Aivu Tauvasa, Managing Director of the PNG Investment Authority.

There were a number of Australian speakers including Mr Philip Flood, Director General of AIDAB, Dr Ron May, Research School of Pacific Studies, A.N.U., Professor Frank Jarrett, University of Adelaide, Mr Rowan Callick, Australian Financial Review, and others.

The formal dinner was addressed by the Hon David Hamill, Queensland Minister for Transport and Minister assisting the Premier on Economic Trade and Development.

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NEWS FROM CORRESPONDENTS (continued)

In summary, the Forum was a timely and outstanding success, bringing together key leaders from both countries for a down to earth discussion, paving the way for future cooperation and partnership.

(Conference papers forwarded to *Una Voce* office for record or reference.)

Among people Doug conversed with at the Forum were Sir Julius Chan and Messrs, Brown Bai, formerly Secretary for Primary Industry Konedobu and now Permanent Secretary, Prime Minister's Department, Brian Deutrom, ex Goroka Teachers' College, Ric Caven, ex Vudal Agricultural College, Bob Densley ex DASF Konedobu, John Humphrey ex DASF Vet. Kila Kila, Michael Hunt ex DASF, now with AIDAB, Angus Hutton, ex DASF Garaina, Tim Kepui DAL Konedobu, Mrs Colleen Neville ex Mendi, Mr and Mrs S.P. Saville and Ms Aivu Tauvasa, Investment Promotion Authority.

Geoff Masters (Bribie Island)

Just back from N.Z. (South Is.) not a lot of news but a letter from Alotau tells of devastation caused by Cyclone Rewa in Rossel Is. and Sudest. Bishop Des Moore sailed on 'Morning Star' to take out supplies after cyclone hit and they got caught when it turned around - luckily the Bishop made it to Sudest in safe anchorage so rode it out. Not so lucky were 6 adults and 4 children in a small boat named 'GIVEN' who sailed from Sudest to Rossel and were never seen again. Wreckage of boat was found some days after the cyclone. Churches at Rossel, Minowa, nearly destroyed - village houses flattened.

Re NZ - members might be interested in how to do it - at present there are some cheap air fares (United). We managed a \$325 fare with one night's accommodation at top Auckland hotel - then hired a cheap car \$35 a day (there are cheaper ones). Motel accommodation not cheap, \$70/\$80 per night but good cabin accommodation and caravans are available from \$40/\$60 - most resorts such as Queenstown - Te Anau - Rotorua etc. are usually booked out so it's wise to book ahead if possible. Big business in Bungi Jumping at \$130 a time. Trip across Cook Strait Wellington-Picton is interesting - nice boats but expensive \$80 return p.p. plus \$120 for car each way. 3 hr trip - recommend booking in advance as we had to wait for three ships before we got on one, arriving at Picton at midnight - not good without booked accommodation - managed to get into a hotel.

Accommodation at both Fox and Franz Joseph Glaciers booked out - had to travel 50 kms for a bed. Don't miss chopper flight up to glaciers - \$90 trip up Gondola at Queenstown, Bungi Jump - trip on last steamship Earnshaw on Lake Wakatipu - trip on Milford Sound, preferably on the new sailing boat who offer an overnight trip at \$113 which includes bed, breakfast and dinner - possible to do 3 weeks for a little over \$1300.

HELP WANTED

Thelma Cox (Leabeater) would like to obtain a copy of the ABC book by Hank Nelson, "Taim Bilong Masta," for her daughter and if any member has a spare copy she would very much appreciate it. Her address:

Mrs. Thelma Cox
39 Fitzwilliam Street
CARRARA QLD 4211

RETURN TO RABAUL

by Pat Hopper

Paul, my son, who was born in Rabaul, planned a holiday there from 31 January 1993 to take his wife, Debby, and family and show them his old home, school, plantation etc. I was invited to join the "expedition" but declined until 29 December, when I had second-thoughts. Why not go? It had been 1986 when I finally left Rabaul. In two days I was able to get a booking to Rabaul, get a PNG visa and some travellers cheques, and just for some fun, I decided to give the kids a surprise and not tell them I was coming. I did tell Alexandra, Paul's 7 year old daughter. She kept the secret splendidly, so well in fact, that after carefully avoiding Paul, Debby, Alex, Horatia and Robyn (nanny) we all boarded QF95 without seeing each other. I told the flight director the secret and after taking off, he took Paul and Debby two glasses of French champagne. They were totally mystified until I strolled down the cabin. Their faces!

We arrived in Port Moresby in searing heat and a two hour wait for the plane to Rabaul. The airport so shabby and hot, only the overseas lounge with any degree of coolness and comfort. Still masses of nationals around the airport. Our Fokker F28 to Rabaul was very clean with very efficient cabin crew. The snack served was most appropriate - juice, glad wrapped ham roll and coffee. Both the Captain and Co-Pilot were Australian.

Our arrival in Rabaul was spectacular as usual with a grand view of Matupit as we circled. Warwick and Jan Clarke and family were on the same holiday and already in Rabaul so they were all there to meet us with glorious leis of coloured Rabaul frangipanni. There is a delightful little lounge at Rabaul airport run by the Hamamas Hotel and we were ushered into the air conditioned room with carpet, chairs, tea and coffee to wait for our luggage. The Hamamas courtesy bus took us to the Hotel, the old Ascot in Mango Avenue. The quick drive in the failing daylight gave an impression of lush tropical greenness with frangipanni and white and coral muscienda trees in full flower. The drive along Mango Avenue gives the impression that Rabaul needs a good coat of paint.

The Hamamas Hotel is run by Joyce and Gerry McGrade, formerly of Vulcan Concrete Industries, Rabaul. Joyce's parents were William and Rebecca Christie of Malaria Control. On the same site as the old Ascot, twice burnt down, the hotel is a spacious two storey building with gardens and pool. The air conditioned rooms, en-suite, had a big desk, tea/coffee, TV with a house program as well as Australian. Little luxuries like a bowl of yellow and pink Ixora, magazines, chocolates and fresh milk! Heather McGrade (daughter) is in charge of food and beverages with the help of two chefs. Susie (McGrade) Alexander (daughter) and her husband Bruce, also live and work in the Hotel. While we were there, Eileen McGrade, (daughter) and her husband Michael Behan (ex Rabaul pharmacy) were holidaying there with family of Rebecca and Sam. All the McGrades were so hospitable and made us feel so welcome, as did Richard Williams (ex Travelodge Port Moresby and Rabaul, and now manager of Hamamas). It was not easy for them with a party of 6 adults and 6 children including Baby Horatia, seven months. Delly and Lola and the other girls on the staff were great too.

Our arrival on New Year's Eve meant we walked into a marvellous party at the Hamamas. It had a Hogmanay theme and the bistro was bedecked with balloons and much tartan. Gerry has formed a national band from among his staff and has taught them to play the bag pipes. Joyce, Gerry and the band lined up to greet the guests who each received a drum roll. Gerry was splendid in his traditional Scottish gear - full kilt, velvet coat and silver buckled shoes. Joyce in white skirt and tartan shirt. The supper included

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RETURN TO RABAU (continued)

two suckling pigs on the spit. One dish was the traditional haggis with the ingredients flown in from Sydney. As supper was served, Gerry stabbed the haggis with his dagger.

Seen at the party - Michael and Laurel Mayberry (ex Touche Ross and now Ernst & Young), Chris Avenell (Airlink), David Low (ex Kerevat Station) Rod Marsland (Airlink), Michael and Jane Lee (daughter of Helen and Richard Dyer), Emma and Penny Henderson (daughter of Max and Christine).

We had Sunday lunch at Kulau Lodge, that beach front restaurant about 5 miles from Rabaul. There are motel units on the beach and paddle boats in the water. The place, owned by Peter Legatt was packed.

Rabaul's Mango Avenue has changed a lot - Burns Philp and Carpenters have closed down and Steamships burnt down. So many trade stores, a lot with take away food bars. The Chinese shops have become trade stores with lap laps and T shirts with Rabaul motifs. Anderson Foodland in Malaguna Road is a huge air conditioned concern with all kinds of imported goods. Some old names still there - Ross Engineering, Clarke Chemist, Warner Shand and Associates. There is a new post office between the pharmacy and Pings Arcade.

The houses in Rabaul are nearly all behind high wire security fences, dome electronically controlled. Most need paint and the gardens are non existent. No doubt because the days of using your garden as a cool oasis in the evenings have long gone. We looked through the fence at our house in Wanliss Street, and saw two neglected bougainvilleas in those large white cement pots adorned with grapes which the Catholic Mission churned out in large numbers years ago.

The Uniting Church was a hive of activity on Sunday, services in Pidgin, Motu, English and Kuana going all day. The church originally built with one side totally open to encourage worshippers is now behind security fences. It was beautifully maintained and filled with huge bowls of fresh flowers. The lectern and altar linen was immaculate. embroidered in typical Tolai style. The service started with the minister strumming his electric guitar and everyone clapping and singing. Two stewards conducted everyone to their seats and collected the offering. The pidgin hymn books contained many names of the English translators - Chambers, Cox, Fellman, Danks, Sharpe.

There is now a depot for all the buses that used to roam Rabaul. They all stop and leave from behind the Hamamas Hotel. Some still have the same names - A Bus Co. Pila Pila, Tolai, Joy.

The New Guinea Club is a sad old colonial shell. It was burnt out last year although the residential wing is still intact. The double entrance with its colourful red marble paving is still impressive. The garden area with the haus winds is still maintained although enclosed behind a solid brick wall.

Across the road, the Japanese Bunker is still open as a museum. Originally the headquarters of General Yamamoto during the war it is filled with Japanese relics - maps, photos, bottles etc.

A pleasant surprise at Kokopo where we found the East New Britain Historical Centre. Two large two storied buildings house a number of items. One room is full of war relics and other colonial artefacts going back to German times. A room of natural resources and a room for the remnants of the Rabaul Art Society. Among the Art was a large portrait of Alan Mann (Chief Justice), a duk duk painted by Annie Kuster and a landscape by Ron Duncan. Also hanging was a shield given by the Rabaul Memorial Church Floral Society, as the prize in their annual garden competition for the best kept company area. The centre has a full time custodian and is set in large grounds filled with guns, cannons, jeeps, etc. There is also a small zoo with maruks and tree kangaroos. On the site of the old school, it was extremely well run.

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RETURN TO RABAU (continued)

Afterwards, we had a drink at the Ralum Club which is still going. The golf course was in great shape and must be one of the most beautiful in the world.

Just up the road was Ted Whitaker's back packers hostel where bed and breakfast costs K7.50.

Torodok called to see us one night. He is from Matupit and son of Wesley who used to go to the Hopper farm at Taree when Alex was a boy with the missionary cousins, the Booths. He came with a bus load of Matupits and some of his 14 children, including one Alex. An interpreter during the war, he has just been on a goodwill mission to Japan. He told us there was to be a big ceremony this year on 28th August (20 yrs). Torodog (as India called him) still has the same leg ulcer of 30 years!

On our last day, Paul hired a cabin cruiser the "Manta" from Frank Butler and with the Clarkes and Chris Avenell we went to the Pigeon Islands. Still beautiful with white sand and blue/green crystal clear water. There is a full time manager there and huts with tables and benches and a BBQ and even a toilet. We had a fabulous lunch with banana leaves and frangipanni on the table and fresh lobster tails on the BBQ. The kids found clam shells and we put all the salads in them. As we came back to Rabaul Paul put the Seekers "The Carnival is Over" on and we threw the frangipanni overboard.

A holiday in Rabaul is not cheap. The Kina is worth more than the American Dollar! The market was great value and all so fresh, but I paid K5.80 for a Sydney Morning Herald!

Last but not least, I am still listed in the Papua New Guinea phone book!

HELP WANTED

I am a post graduate student at Curtin University of Technology (W.A.). I am writing to your organisation to request assistance in the collection of material for my Master's research.

My research entails constructing a profile and analysis of Australian settlement of agricultural land in post war Papua New Guinea, and the lengths to which the Territory Administration went to either encourage or discourage such settlement. I am specifically concerned with examining those settlers who owned (leased) and operated their own plantations in the post war period.

I am hoping that your association may be able and willing to assist me in contacting returned officers and settlers who might consider being interviewed by me. I am also particularly interested in speaking to those that grew cocoa and coffee in the post war period. Professor Hank Nelson, from the Australian National University, suggested that a gentleman by the name of Ably Mint could be of assistance and I would appreciate details of his current address.

I intend to travel to the eastern seaboard for research purposes in December 1993 and September 1994, and hope that I will be able to conduct interviews then. Any assistance you may be able to offer, by way of contact addresses so that I can make the necessary preparations and arrangements would be greatly appreciated.

Wendy Timms
55 Sussex St
East Victoria Park WA 6101

MRS. ELIZABETH SOWERBY

Revered Matron at 90

One of Australia's most distinguished nurses, who served in Darwin during World War 2 and later in Papua New Guinea where she became revered, celebrated her 90th birthday on February 18. Many friends gathered to celebrate her birthday and toast her 90 years, including former residents of New Guinea and the Northern Territory.

Asked about her special memories - moments she has cherished, Mrs Sowerby had no hesitation in putting her dinner with Prince Philip aboard the yacht Britannia when berthed at Madang, as her best memory. She loved the colour and excitement of the occasion. Then there was the naming of the Elizabeth Sowerby Orchid Gardens in Madang.

Her memories are crystal clear of the trauma of the Japanese bombing raids on Darwin, the moving of the military hospital, patients, staff and equipment to the north bank of the Adelaide River, 70km south of Darwin. The Japanese bombs that followed them and another move, this time to a 16km diversion to the south bank of the same river. Mrs Sowerby recalls that on occasions the Japanese Zeros flew so low she could see the glasses the pilots were wearing.

Life under canvas for all the hospital personnel and the war wounded was hard - they all lived with heat, dust, flies and snakes. Those who have memories of Elizabeth Sowerby during those Darwin years speak of her devotion and dedication to her patients.

The 50th anniversary of the start of Japanese air raids on Darwin which began raining death and destruction on the Territory from 19 February 1942 was an emotional time for the former nursing sister. Ill-health prevented her from attending the 50th memorial service in Darwin, but her heart was with those survivors and the families of those who died.

During the war Mrs Sowerby (then Sr. Kiernan) held the rank of Captain in the Australian Army Nursing Service. After the war ended she joined the Department of Health in Papua New Guinea and was posted to Port Moresby. Later she was appointed matron of the Madang hospital. It was built of bamboo and it had limited facilities. Under her guidance a new hospital was built, and she pioneered an outstanding Infant Welfare Service to the villages around Madang. Always her main concern was the welfare of mothers and babies, particularly women on outstations who had no contact with doctor or nurse. It was her dream to have a cottage in Madang for the mothers who had to come to Madang for a birth or with sick children. When the C.W.A was formed in Madang she saw this dream become a reality during the years of her Presidency. In recognition of her dedicated service the C.W.A gave her life membership.

Mrs Sowerby, whose late husband, Roy, taught at the Madang Technical School, was known far and wide throughout PNG for her skills as a gardener and for her wonderful orchids.

Among the guests at the party were: Margaret Duncan, Hilda & John Watson, Nan Briggs, Gwen Collins & daughter Helen, Thelma Burston, Fay & Col Wheatley, Joanne Willis, Olga Blood, Shirley O'Brien, Therese Bird, Louie & Margaret Chegg, Chris & John Downie, Nan Watkins, Anne & Ozzie Banks, Mavis Nicholas, David Houghton, Jim O'Brien, Peter Best, Roma Bates, David Bates.

In addition to the above there were many neighbours at the afternoon tea party. Lots of people from round about called in on the morning of her birthday and again the next day, those who could not attend sent flowers etc. and the lounge room looked like a flower shop. June Maynard and Bob Cole were amongst those who called. Also there were congratulatory letters from the local Council, M.P.s, Premier Goss, Prime Minister Keating and others.

(This item was compiled from extracts from the Tweed Heads "Daily News" sent by Brian Corrigan and a lot of assistance from Roma Bates.)

Australian Women in Papua New Guinea

Comment by Ann McCosker

The opening sentence in Chilla Bulbeck's book *Australian Women in Papua New Guinea* - sub-titled *Colonial Passages 1920-1960* - is "Although a few white women have been born in Papua New Guinea, and indeed spent all or most of their lives there, the great majority lived in the Territory for only a few years." She continues, "For most expatriate women, Papua New Guinea was a passage in their lives, a brief moment,....."

Perhaps these two quotations are not contradictory. I think, however, they arise from very different mental and spiritual perceptions. Because of my birth in New Guinea and subsequent life, I know of many women - too many to be dismissed as lightly as Chilla Bulbeck does - whose lives were, and sometimes still are, profoundly affected by New Guinea. This is true regardless of whether they were born there or not, or lived there for a very long time or not.

Some women, of course, were not affected by the Islands but these were as tourists compared to the many women to whom New Guinea was physically or emotionally home for five, fifteen, thirty years or more. What made Bulbeck decide to emphasise those women to whom New Guinea meant little thus, in effect, ignoring the many to whom New Guinea meant so much? Are not the latter the women she should have chosen as her source of information on Australian women in Papua New Guinea? Perhaps, then, her opening sentences would have been less misleading.

As it is, Bulbeck seems to have failed to take into account the inner reality active in all humans. Intense involvement in a particular situation can have a greater and longer lasting influence on a person than years of humdrum living.

My mother, Marjorie McCosker, found her life dominated by the Islands from the moment they first touched her in 1927, and they were the main cause of her death at a relatively early age in 1957. Other members of her family were also affected, through her, by New Guinea. Women who have not lived in the Islands since World War II still have New Guinea Club meetings, a bond existing between them of amazing depth.

The New Guinea Islanders were not a servile people of no spirit or character. There was far more interaction between the races than Bulbeck seems to realise or accept, even though she writes, "For all, it meant an abiding interest in a close neighbour." Nor does she seem to value the fact that a land can have the power to influence people, not only while they live there, but long after they have left it, although she writes, "Annie Deland will always remember 'that strange morning and evening light.'"

It seems, too, that she has not interviewed any women of my generation born in New Guinea. According to her 'Biographical Notes' she has talked to only two elderly ladies who were in PNG before World War II. Women of my generation are living in Brisbane and other capital cities of Australia and there are several ladies in Brisbane, for example, who were in the Islands well before World War II.

If "In contrast with official histories the gender axis is central to this book," how then can Bulbeck be so confused about the founder woman of New Guinea? Any serious student of New Guinea surely knows that Queen Emma was never called Parkinson. It was her sister's married name. How can an academic claiming to be writing about the colonial women of New Guinea - and thus assuming the mantle of an expert on the subject - not get the name of the woman founder of New Britain and thus New Guinea correct? Even all the male historians knew about Emma.

The determination to see the world from a 'woman's axis' can and does lead to many errors.

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Australian Women in Papua New Guinea (continued)

"Women accepted the Independence of Papua New Guinea as inevitable and fair, men saw it as a defeat." Bulbeck's next sentence, part of a quotation from an unfinished thesis, is almost the same as one given in another of her papers - "The consensus among the women of this group was that they could see long before the men that it was time to go."

I shall now discuss some of the inaccurate statements - and omissions - Bulbeck makes regarding World War II. She touches on the trauma of evacuation for the Australian women and their children but she gives misleading and/or one-sided material. For instance, "The administration's plans were to send the civilian population bush during this period." In fact, the Administration suggested all women and children leave the Islands. The McCoskers of Matala Plantation left soon after this advice was given. They were not aware of Japanese behaviour in China.

The Administration never intended storing food in the bush for the civilians, as Bulbeck suggests. There was not even such a plan for the army.

Bulbeck mentions the arrival of the women and children in Australia and then, except for a couple of extracts, leaves it at that. Does she not think it important to discuss the life of those Australian women of New Guinea as they struggled to cope in Australia during the war? She ignores them as did the Government of that time.

In the chapter 'War, a Watershed in Race Relations?', Bulbeck seems to have little background knowledge of New Guinea. I give just a few examples. "Australian B4s 'ran away' in defeat". Most were killed long before they ran anywhere. Some left, promising the Islanders they would return, which they did. Others like Father Harris were tortured to death, rather than betray white soldiers or leave their flock. A few Old Timers hid in the bush for some months before joining up with the intelligence parties. And some brave men, such as the coast watcher C.L. Page, remained until they were murdered by the Japanese - without giving away information during captivity.

Bulbeck does correctly state that the Americans gave no recognition to their Papuan 'Joes' after the war. She does not say, however, that they were also ungrateful to the men and women of the Islands, particularly New Britain, who saved American airmen. It was men like Stan McCosker - an Old Timer - who, without success, fought the American government for years as they tried to make them recognise the loyalty and courage of New Guinea men like Rombin. Eventually, in 1948, the Australian government rewarded these New Guineans with medals.

As a bridge between comments on World War II and on life before and after the war, I shall ask a question. Why does Bulbeck not explore any of the tragic consequences for the Australian women caused by the death of so many of the men of Rabaul? She writes, "Records of women's experiences in Papua New Guinea are largely absent from the official narrative" yet she herself has almost entirely ignored their suffering.

It is not possible to understand post-war New Guinea unless one understands what happened in January 1942. Does she not think that was as important a factor in post-war New Guinea as any intervention of American troops? So many women lost husbands, brothers, sons. And the women of my generation lost their fathers.

I shall now consider a few of the misleading or inaccurate and/or contradictory statements which I have taken at random from various chapters of *Australian Women in Papua New Guinea*.

Bulbeck quotes Doris Groves as writing, "before the Second World War very few white residents knew much about native village life." I seem to have had great luck in my parents and their friends. Stan and Marjorie McCosker
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Australian Women in Papua New Guinea (continued)

were both writing articles about native life on the Witus in the early 1930s. Walford King had managed to obtain a long description in the 1920s of the 1878 eruption in Rabaul from Tomaran, an old man from Matupi. Noel Barry, my sister's godfather, translated into English Richard Parkinson's book, *Dreissig Jahre in der Sudsee* ('Thirty Years in the South Seas'), a task that included checking the various statements made by Parkinson regarding the native peoples.

Like everywhere else in the world, some people were interested in their fellow men and women, others not.

Take another statement she makes - "Thus white society in New Guinea developed a code against manual labour, work fit 'only for blacks'. However, earlier, Daphne Brigland is quoted as saying, "If you are a plantation manager you are everything."

Is Bulbeck suggesting that Daphne Brigland was talking only about post-war New Guinea and that life on a plantation was not like this pre-war - that planters did none of the work Daphne Brigland describes. If they did not, then who did the work? Stan McCosker always worked manually on his plantations. However, Bulbeck then says that the people pre-war worked beside their employees on the plantations.

What is the point of this roundabout tale? People living on the land always do more manual work, either on their own or with employees, than those in a town for no other reason than there is much more manual work to be done. However, in New Guinea as elsewhere pre-war, European men frequently worked on their cars, both in town and on the plantations; cars in that environment needed a great deal of maintenance, especially pre-war!

One can only wonder why Bulbeck bothered to interview even a few Old Timers or read any original documents after reading the statement, "Although the accounts gathered in this book do not tell tales of economic exploitation or physical violence, such exchanges clearly marred much of colonial life." How does the student cope with such statements? Only someone like myself, an historian, with a personal knowledge of colonial New Guinea, can distinguish fact from fiction. Yet, I presume this book is to be considered a reliable source of information on colonial New Guinea.

I give two more examples of confused and misleading statements. First, she quotes Pat Murray as saying, "every blasted bob, or 99.9% that the plantation community got, went back into the country, and we were exploiting the country, according to them" (the government officials).

Then Bulbeck says, "They (the plantation community) were the only group that neither collected taxes nor expected gifts from Papua New Guineans. Any lack of reciprocity in their relationship was hidden beneath the surface equality of cash or rations payments for services rendered. But even this relationship was rendered in terms of a gift to the labourers. What does this last sentence mean?

The last two chapters particularly are, to me, full of theorising fantasy and contradictions. In her 'Introduction' she writes, "Chapter 7 argues that there was a circumscribed place for everyone....Because white men were located at the top of the hierarchy, they can be said to have a 'position.'" How can one base theories on this idea and then write "These contradictory responses reveal the complexities of a society where hierarchies are volcanic rather than sedimentary. Race and class and sex are not separable structures deployed with the symmetrical precision of a layer cake." Which is it to be?

So much of the chapter "Matters of Sex" is anecdotal. Surely Bulbeck knows, as nearly everyone knows, that people everywhere are always likely to lie about their sexual life and thoughts. Again, is she not just proving that we are all individuals?

(continued next page)

Australian Women in Papua New Guinea (continued)

I find it very difficult to take seriously the section in Chapter 8 headed "White Women - the Ruin of Male Empire?", the last section of the book. She justifies and/or refutes arguments that are academically inspired instead of being based on reality. Sir David Lean's comment, for example, that she quotes, "It's a well-known saying that the women lost us the Empire. It's true" only shows that Sir David, amongst others, had no idea of 'realpolitik'.

Again in Chapter 8, Bulbeck says she is exploring "the relations between white women and indigenous women in colonial settings" as well as "the debate concerning white women's role in the 'ruin of Empire'." Why then does she not analyse the impact birth in the Islands had for, at least, some white women?

(Extracts from an Introduction by Ann McCosker titled "AT BIRTH I HEARD THE DRUMS - Comment on *Australian Women in Papua New Guinea* by Chilla Bulbeck" to a work by N. G. Waits - Three articles on New Guinea - published by Matala Publishing Co. London. 1993. Ed.)

BUNA MEMORIAL

by Marion Cichocki

In the last issue of "*Una Voce Newsletter*" on page 10, I was reading with interest the "BUNA MEMORIAL" letter by Mr P.D. Hope in which he writes that a recent trip to Papua New Guinea failed to find "a single mention, anywhere, of the members of the 18th Australian Infantry Brigade."

I enclose a photo which I took in 1957 at GIROPA beach showing my wife standing at the Commemoration Tablet on which it is possible to read the following inscription:

18th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE
AT THIS AREA THE 18TH BRIGADE WITH OTHER
AUSTRALIAN AND AMERICAN TROOPS UNDER ITS
COMMAND ENGAGED IN HEAVY CONTINUOUS
FIGHTING WITH JAPANESE BETWEEN 19TH DECEMBER
AND 3RD JANUARY 1943.
IN THE VICINITY OF THIS NOTICE THE 2ND/9TH
BATTALION PENETRATED THE ENEMY DEFENCES ON
19TH DECEMBER 1942 AND AFTER VERY HEAVY
FIGHTING CAPTURED CAPE ENDAIADERE.

I remember that we travelled from Popondetta using existing "jeep track" which could only be used by 4 wheel drive vehicles in dry season, and even then with difficulty, as many deep creek crossings had to be passed including part of a swampy area. Anybody travelling there should rather go by boat, choosing access by sea. The Commemoration Tablet was about 100 metres from a smoke-house on the edge of a copra plantation.

If the Tablet is no longer there, then it must have been removed by vandals and is hidden somewhere in the area. Probably it could be recovered and re-installed with the assistance of the Provincial Government of the Northern Province, as the young generation of Papua New Guinea is conscious of the fact that the 2nd World War was not only part of history of Australia, but also part of history of Papua New Guinea.

(I have the photograph and the inscription on the plaque is easy to read and if anyone is interested I can send them a photocopy. Ed.)

SNAKE ROAD

by Lance Taylor

Published by Sogeri National High School Expressive Arts Department 1993
 Printed at Post Printing, Port Moresby
 ISBN 9980-9997-3-X

Lance Taylor was a teacher in the Expressive Arts Department at Sogeri National High School from 1979 to 1992, the last 7 years of which he was the Subject Department Head.

In the early 80s Lance Taylor set about to research The History of the Sogeri School from its inception in 1944. The establishment of the school was on the site of the Eworogo 113 Convalescent Depot when the Depot was no longer needed after the end of the Kokoda Trail battles in 1943. Lance worked with the students of the Sogeri M.H.S. History Club who sent out questionnaires and letters to ex-students and ex-teachers. Lance not only put in a lot of his own recreational time on this project but he would purposely travel to places, on leave, in order to build up the research such as visits to ex-Headmasters for interviews, visits to the archives of the War Memorial in Canberra and to various States to meet up with past ex-Sogeri personnel both war-time and post war-time.

The content of SNAKE ROAD was intended to be the first chapter of the History of Sogeri but the material was so extensive and so interesting that this "first" chapter turned into a book of 350 pages including just on 200 photographs. Presently Lance Taylor is completing The History of the School which is planned for a launch this year - the 50th Anniversary of the commencement of Sogeri Education Centre.

SNAKE ROAD is a very readable and descriptive account of the people and places on the Sogeri Plateau from 9 Mile to the Musgrave River. After reading SNAKE ROAD - if you know the area it will bring back feelings of nostalgia - if you haven't been there you would be able to picture in your mind the fascinating environment and be motivated to visit.

All war personnel who were involved in the Kokoda Track battles would remember the mule track up to Hombrom's Bluff and later as the SNAKE ROAD was built up through Rouna. All the Education, Plantation, Elcom and Police personnel and Koitaki Club visitors who have travelled the dusty narrow SNAKE ROAD with their provisions from Port Moresby will recall the hair-raising steep descent down into the Laloki Valley. Chapter 9 of SNAKE ROAD includes a brief History of Sogeri Education Centre which for half of its 50 years has been a Senior High School for selected High School students. The author has blended all of these feelings with a mix of the life style of the traditional land owners - the Koiari's.

The book was published as a short run and is a collector's item and will be a valuable text for students of the future working towards research projects. The original flyer for the book invited people to send in further information, after reading SNAKE ROAD, to be included in the reprint. The response has already been tremendous and Lance Taylor now has enough new material for a sequel on the same topic as well as the prospect of producing the History of the School this year.

SNAKE ROAD can be purchased from:

The Highway Gallery

14 The Highway

Mt. WAVERLEY 3149

Phone: 03 807 7261

The cost of the book is \$40.00 plus \$8.00 for postage and packing and cheques should be in Australian Dollars payable to The Highway Gallery.

(Prepared by Marjorie Walker, Subject Department Head, Expressive Arts Department, Sogeri National High School 1972 to 1985.)

SPECIAL NOTICE

The Forty-third Annual General Meeting
of the Retired Officers' Association of Papua New Guinea
will be held on **SUNDAY 24th APRIL 1994, at 11.00 a.m.**

at the MANDARIN CLUB
Oriental Room, 4th Floor

Corner of Goulburn and Pitt Streets, Sydney

Agenda:

1. Members present, and apologies;
2. Confirmation of Minutes of the 42nd AGM;
(as circulated in September 1993 'Una Voce')
3. Business arising from the Minutes;
4. President's Report;
5. Treasurer's Report and Financial Statement;
6. Correspondence;
7. Sub-Committee reports;
8. Election of Executive Committee:
President, Vice-President, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer,
Asst. Secretary, Editor 'Una Voce', 5 Committee persons, Hon. Auditor.

Note:

Accompanying this notice is a Nomination Form for the election of Office Bearer and it would be appreciated if nominations (signed by the nominee, proposer and seconder) could be forwarded to: R.O.A.P.N.G. PO Box 452 Roseville 2069, or handed to Pamela Foley or Elma Holmes prior to the commencement of the Meeting. NO nominations will be accepted during the Meeting.

10. Any other business.

Members, Associate Members, their families and friends are all welcome - but **PLEASE** let us know you are coming by completing the booking form provided and returning it, with cheque, to R.O.A.P.N.G. PO BOX 452 ROSEVILLE NSW 2069 as soon as possible so that we may arrange seating and keep the Club advised of numbers. Cancellations advised to Elma Holmes (on (02) 958 4996) or Pamela Foley (on (02) 428 2078) by Friday 22nd April will secure full refund, otherwise there will be no refund because the Association will have given the Club final numbers and will have to pay for those who have not advised of their inability to attend.

The cost for the luncheon following the Meeting will be **\$20.00 per person**, but this will **NOT** include liquor or soft drinks.

Parking is available at the Goulburn St. parking station (cnr Goulburn and Elizabeth Sts.) for \$6.00 between 9 a.m. and 11 p.m. The parking station is only 100 metres from the Club.

Any of our elder members who would come if they had transport supplied please contact our Secretary, Jo Nitsche (on [02] 451 2475), who will endeavour to arrange for them to be picked up and returned home after the luncheon.

FORM OF PROXY

I.....(please PRINT name) being a financial member of the Retired officers' Association of Papua New Guinea, hereby appoint:

*.....to vote on my behalf at the Annual General Meeting to be held on Sunday 24th April, 1994 or at any subsequent adjournment thereof.

(Signed)..... (Witness).....

*NOTE: You can nominate the Chairman, President or any financial Member that you know will be attending the Meeting.

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NOMINATION FORM FOR OFFICE BEARERS, 1994 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
(See notice of Meeting, Agenda Item 8 for details, etc)

I,.....(being a Financial Member) hereby nominate:

.....for the office of.....

I,.....(a Financial Member) second this nomination.

I,.....(a Financial Member) accept this nomination.

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING LUNCHEON BOOKING

I.....(Please PRINT Christian and Surname) will attend the luncheon following the AGM, and will be accompanied by -

.....
Please print full name (For name card)

If possible I/we would like to be seated with.....

.....

The enclosed cheque/money order includes: My luncheon payment \$20.00...

► My luncheon guest(s) " \$.....

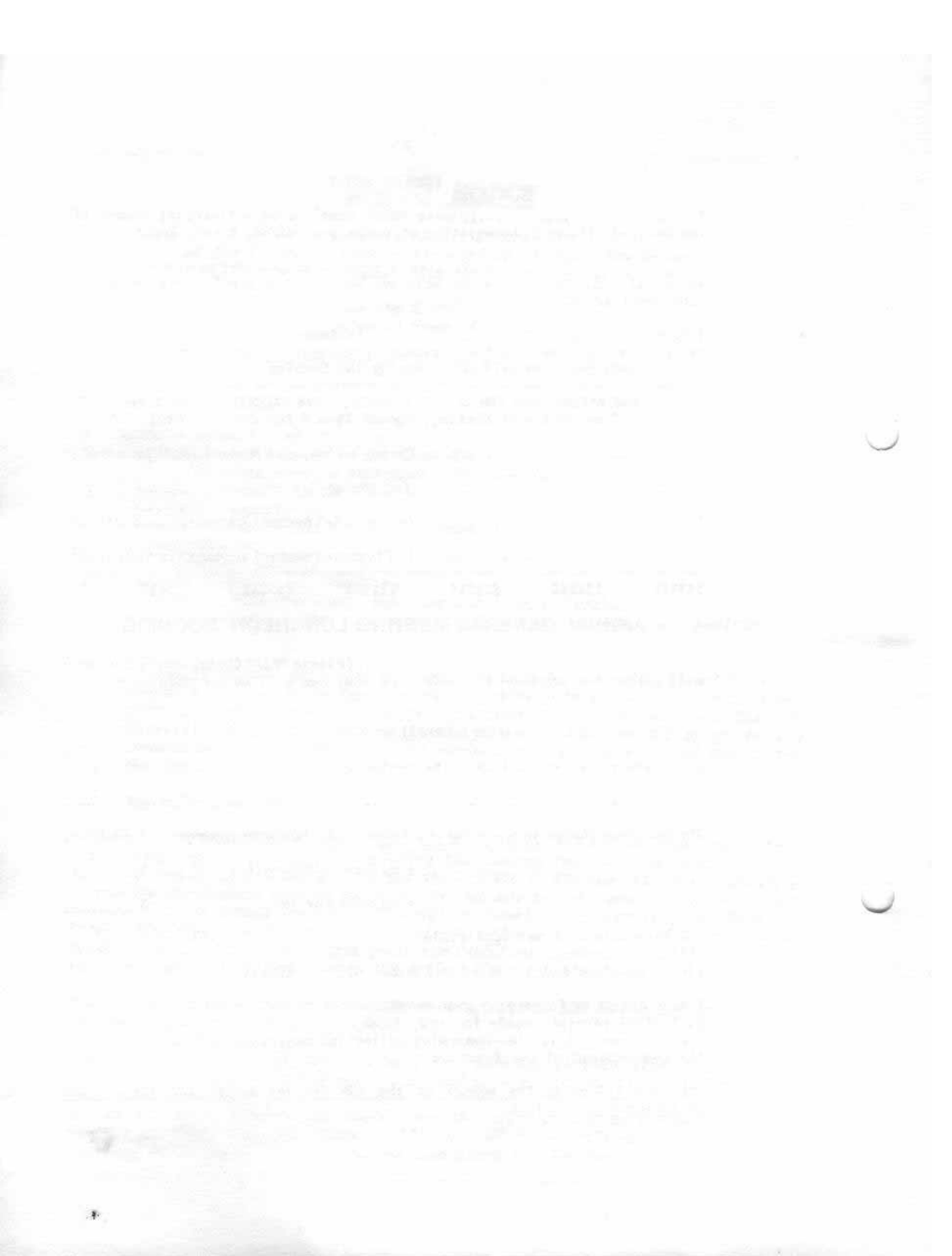
► My subs for 19..... " \$.....

► Please delete if not applicable. **TOTAL** \$.....

Please post to: R O A P N G P O BOX 452 ROSEVILLE NSW 2069

Please assist by forwarding your cheques ahead of the day, as this will enable us to have receipts ready for you, thus avoiding much delay for members at arrival time. It is time-consuming collecting monies and writing receipts at the commencement of the function.

See note following the Agenda of the AGM Special Notice for information regarding cancellations.



THE AUSTRALIAN FLAG

by Ken Humphreys

When the Prime Minister suggested a modernisation of the current flag, I started researching the matter as some arguments in favour of the status quo were based on assumptions; evident in the poem published in the December 1993 *Una Voce*. A few points should be taken on board when rationally discussing the status of the flag.

Firstly, the rules of the design competition stipulated that the Union Jack must be incorporated. Some members will be surprised to learn, as I was, that the Union Jack was in the American colonies' flag and was replaced by stars to become the Stars and Stripes in 1777. It has been pointed out that if Britain quit Northern Ireland, the St. Patrick's Cross will have to be removed from the Union Jack. Similarly, if the Scottish nationalists have their way, the Cross of St. Andrew will go.

When the Great War broke out, the British requested New Zealand to occupy German Samoa, and Australia to take German New Guinea, Yap, and Nauru with the object of silencing the Telefunken wireless stations. As it turned out, the Japanese beat us to Yap, but were prepared to let us occupy it. Unfortunately when the civil population heard that news they rioted in Tokyo, and Australia was told by Churchill not to advance above the Equator. Now it should be realised, and the concept is difficult to accept in this day and age, that the Samoa, New Guinea, and Nauru occupations were British Military Occupations undertaken by New Zealand and Australia. There were no British troops in the Pacific, the last having left Sydney in 1870.

Accordingly, the British flag flew in Apia and Rabaul. The Australian flag never flew in Rabaul until after 1927 by my reckoning. The official war historian for New Guinea, S.S. Mackenzie, had the Union Jack flying there in 1927, and Dr. Brandes noted the Union Jack flying at Ambunti on p317 of the September 1929 National Geographic. The civil administration took over in 1921 so one would assume they flew Australian flags. Photographic evidence is needed as anecdotal evidence is unreliable, simply because until WW2 the Union Jack and the Australian flag were both treated as the flag of Australia.

Interestingly, the Samoa, New Guinea and Nauru occupations cost London nothing. Mandated New Guinea was left with £27,500 of debts incurred by the occupying force, the Australian Naval & Military Expeditionary Force. The Samoa situation paralleled New Guinea and it is worthwhile to quote New Zealand Prime Minister Massey, who in January 1915 stated -

"An impression appears to be abroad that we control Samoan affairs.

Samoa is under Imperial control. Colonel Logan (the Administrator) is an Imperial Officer. Instructions are conveyed to me through the Governor (General). The New Zealand Government has really no control over Samoan affairs whatever."

Readers of *Taim Bilong Masta* will note that Hank Nelson continually refers to the Australian flag flying in New Guinea during the occupation. That is incorrect. On page 27 of his work we see the White Ensign flying at Friedrich Wilhelmshafen (later Madang). That was natural as the ANMEF was a mix of Army and Navy. Mackenzie in Chapter 7 of the Official History illustrates the Union Jack being hoisted at Kieta by troops off the MEKLONG in December 1914. It should be recorded that the RAN came under British control on August 10, 1914, as did the First AIF as soon as the troopships for England (disembarked Egypt) steamed out of Australian territorial waters in November. Prior to August 1914 the Commonwealth Military Forces were subject to the Australian Defence Act. However on August 5 they became, within and without the Commonwealth, subject to the provisions of the British Army Act and of the King's Regulations made under that act.

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THE AUSTRALIAN FLAG (continued)

As regards Gallipoli, I can guarantee that the Australian flag never flew on that Peninsula, nor did the AIF fly it in Egypt or on Lemnos in 1915. The Anzacs fought under the Union Jack. In any event it would have been madness to fly any flag on Gallipoli as doing so would have suggested to the Turks that here was an important target. The Red Cross flags flew as the Turks respected those sites. It will surprise members to know that the Australian PM was not advised of the April 25 landings until May!

With the Desert Campaign and the battles in France, the question of the use of the Australian flag is still open. General Monash recorded that the Australian flag was hoisted over Harbonnières, so towards 1918 that flag appears to have been used in France. Photographic evidence has the Australian flag first flying in London during the Victory March of 1919. But surely from 1916 it flew at the AIF HQ in Horseferry Road and at our High Commission. We can only rely on photographs now.

In the poem G. Falconer referred to the Vietnam conflict. It will interest all to know that during that war, the RAN was flying the usual White Ensign while British Merchant ships, flying the Red Ensign, were bringing war supplies to Hanoi. Also present in the South China Sea were RN warships protecting their merchant marine, but also flying the White Ensign. Thus the British government instructed Australia to find a new flag for the RAN. This we dutifully did, producing the Australian version of the White Ensign - a white flag showing the Union Jack with the Southern Cross in blue: seen on the 90 cent postage stamp issued in January 1991.

Finally, PNG historians know that in April 1846, Lt. Yule of HMS BRAMBLE, claimed possession of that part of the coast from the Fly River to Yule Island. When his party landed on the beach they found the Union Jack had been left on the ship. Not a problem: Yule pencilled the flag on a leaf from his notebook and attached it to a tree. The sailors then gave three very low cheers, lest too much noise should attract any villagers nearby. To no avail, as an armed party approached. Yule's party escaped by the skin of their teeth. Of course, if they had been massacred, no doubt naval retaliation would have meant that New Guinea would have been claimed well before Cdr. Erskine did the deed in 1884.

HELP WANTED:

I have been able to obtain a loan of a copy of a Patrol Report by R.G. Speedie, actg. A.R.M., whose objects were to:-

- (1) Afford police protection to Mr. F. Mahony, prospector.
- (2) Explore and map certain areas.

The Patrol was of 92 days duration from 28 April 1932 to 23 July 1932.

I am involved in the completion of the story of the late Elizabeth Mahoney, who was known as the Queen of Sudest, and Frank Mahony was her son. I am wondering if there are any other Patrol Reports involving Frank which I might be able to obtain. Also there is some confusion as to the death of Frank. I have a newspaper report of 25 January 1933 reporting his death whilst prospecting for gold in the upper reaches of the Lakekamu, but it gives no details. Perhaps someone might be able to furnish me with some information or advise me where I might obtain some.

Any advice that you can give me in this matter would be much appreciated

Vivian F. May
43 Southern Cross Way
Allambie NSW 2100
Tel. (02) 90 3217

CONJURING HISTORY

by Peter Ryan

Film Australia's "Colonists for a Day"

Is Australia the only country in the world which goes out it its way to make it own citizens feel bad about themselves? Where else would taxpayers fund an official body to hijack one of the most honourable chapters of its national history, and twist it into the appearance of something ineffectual and shabby?

The hour-long film "Colonists for a Day", shown in prime time on ABC television last November, did just that. Worse, the film was made, at God knows what cost, by Film Australia Pty Ltd. This body's official literature states that it is "wholly owned by the Federal Government". Thus, first, the taxpayer financed the creation of a libellous audio-visual lie; next, the taxpayer met the bill for the organisation which spread the untruth across every television screen that was tuned to it. A country which actually pays to have its own self-respect subverted is a country which has gone mad.

The blurb sheet accompanying "Colonists for a Day" claims that it "examines the true story of Australia's only attempt at colonisation". What in fact it presents is a travesty so gross that someone who is well-informed about Papua New Guinea history finds himself lost in a nightmare of distorted perceptions - trapped in a triangle bounded by the one-eyed, the cross-eyed, and the blind. The very title misleads; three generations is hardly "for a day". The film's historical research and understanding are all of a standard which would hardly earn pass marks for a school child. The first short sentence of the blurb prefigures the level of accuracy we find throughout: "For seventy years (1906-1975) Papua New Guinea was a protectorate of the Australian Government": fifteen words of concentrated error.

As a matter of recorded history, no part of present-day PNG was ever an Australian protectorate. (Papua was a protectorate of the United Kingdom from 1884 to 1888). The north-eastern quarter of the island remained German until 1914. Papua was administered as a wholly distinct territory of Australia from 1906 to 1945, while ex-German New Guinea had a completely separate government administered by Australia under a Mandate from the League of Nations.

These matters are not mere technical hair-splittings. The substantial difference in philosophy, methods, resources and ethos between Papua on the one hand and Mandated New Guinea on the other have left deep and enduring legacies. For example, even today (apart from English) PNG has two official languages: Pidgin-English (Tok Pisin), inherited from the Mandate; Hiri Motu, inherited from Papa. The sensitivities of Papuans remain an important factor in national policies, as they feel themselves being edged increasingly on to the margins. Of this the film tells us nothing.

The blurb goes on: The prime objective of the Administration was to impose 'pax Australiana' - a western economic structure and the British system of law - on the indigenous people....(Australia had) no colonial philosophy [and our efforts were] marked by a mixture of benevolence, incompetence and inexperience."

The still shots selected for the blurb sheet stress oppression. One shows five diminutive, wretched-looking natives wearing the white man's steel handcuffs and not much else. They are guarded by a policeman with rifle and fixed bayonet. We are not told that they are Kukukuku tribesmen, nomadic cannibals of near-feral ferocity, denizens of the remoter mountain forests of Morobe Province. Their mere approach used to cause terror among the more settled gardening populations of the region. The picture may suggest colonial oppression to the uninitiated, but assuredly it would have produced a deep

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CONJURING HISTORY (*continued*)

sigh of relief from the Kukukuku's native neighbours: they could sleep safely that night, without risk of skills crushed by the fearsome carved stone clubs of the Kukukuku.

Early in the film we are told that the PNG people have lived there for 40,000 years, the clear inference being that the present inhabitants trace their occupation back all that time. To be sure, a great deal remains to be elucidated about the fascinating pre-history of PNG, but this much seems to be certain: human of *some kind* lived there forty millennia ago, but they were not the ancestors of today's tribes who, by different routes and at different times, arrived much later, and who quite possibly established themselves by conquest. The people of today have (for example) simply no idea who made the mysterious stone pestles and mortars that survive from great antiquity. Such an opening to the film inspires little confidence in what is to follow.

Notions of what life in New Guinea might have been before the white man may fill our latter-day Rousseaus with romantic yearning. Reality, alas, was harsher. The people lived brief lives, full of disease and danger. The daily blackmail of sorcery hung over all of them, and in many parts they kept their heads only until a neighbour hacked it off to hang as a trophy in the long house. Feuding and payback murder perpetuated themselves through interminable cycles from antiquity into eternity. Desirable patches of extra garden land were acquired by wiping out any clan which occupied it at the moment; this was genocide, with the additional indignity of being eaten. The vigorous Tolai people near Rabaul routinely enslaved the milder Baining villagers, as prelude to eating them later, when appetite grew sharper.

PNG was ruled by the club, the axe, the arrow and the sorcerer's spell. Even if life had been peaceful, the labour of gaining daily subsistence from gardening without steel tools was desperately hard. (An anthropologist has estimated that the white man's steel axe makes gardening in PNG seven times easier.)

Achieved though it was partly through the agency of the rifle, only an irredeemable romantic could deny that government by the kiaps represented an improvement, as understood in terms of ordinary commonsense.

In the Sepik, a very few exemplary hangings (performed at the site of the crime, after due process and trial in the Supreme Court) saved the heads of thousands of potential later victims. Kiap justice produced one of the most law-respecting yet easy-going countries in the world.

Was this Australian intervention an "insensitive", arrogant and racist interference in the lifetime habits of noble savages? In the eyes of our moral relativists, it undoubtedly was all of those things. Should we not consult also, however, the opinions of all those mothers and babies of the Fly and Sepik Rivers who nowadays are allowed to keep their heads on their shoulders? Should we not ask the view of the Bainings, no longer compelled to provide takeaway meals for hungry Tolais? Neither the facts nor the subtleties of such questions appear even to cross the minds of the makers of "Colonists for a Day".

For anyone who is prepared to sit down and read it, history establishes that, from the outset, Australian policy towards New Guinea stressed the ultimate primacy of indigenous interests. Those Australians who for the last fifty years have been concerned with the country will give their living testimony to that truth. From the Mandate that followed the First World War, "trusteeship" was the explicit central policy theme.

In the performance of its trusteeship, Australia could have done a great deal more, and could have done it a great deal better. Of what government policy anywhere is that not true? Informed criticism of Australia's role in

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CONJURING HISTORY (continued)

PNG is very much in order. But this film depicts us as sordid exploiters, and to support its bias it simply ignores, distorts or suppresses the overwhelming weight of evidence which any year twelve student could find in the public library.

In Papua, Sir Hubert Murray, as Australian Lieutenant-Governor, ruled for the thirty-two years between 1908 and 1940. He was the longest-serving proconsul in the entire British Empire, consulted around the world for his unrivalled practical experience in colonial administration. His intellect and his pungent power of expression were formidable. (It ran in the family - his half-brother was the famous classical scholar Gilbert Murray.) The passionate orientation of his policy was the promotion of the interests of the indigenous Papuans; their grief at the passing of "Judge" Murray was deeply moving.

Murray's highly readable Annual Reports and his several books set his objectives in print for contemporary public scrutiny and for historical evaluation. The makers of this film, as they stress their theme of "exploitation", might care to note that Murray suffered lifelong vilification from planters and business interests because he would not allow Papua and Papuans to be made an object of other people's greed.

For the twelve years 1951-1963, Paul Hasluck was Federal Minister for Territories, responsible from Canberra for the governance of the now united Papua and New Guinea. He too brought an uncommonly sharp mind to his task, and a forceful character for getting things done. His standing in the Menzies cabinet lifted PNG affairs to a new level of serious consideration, with a commensurate enhancement of funding to levels hitherto unimaginable.

Hasluck's splendid and scholarly book *A Time for Building* is a detailed account of both colonial theory and practical administrative achievement. A country half-known and one-third explored at the start of his regime was, by the end of it, fully under control, and quite explicitly being steered towards eventual independence. Like Murray, Hasluck suffered vituperation for his "pro-kanaka" policy. Business interests organised a segment of Liberal parliamentarians to seek Hasluck's removal from the territories portfolio - a move which Menzies rejected.

In the wartime years that fell between Murray and Hasluck, the Australian Army Directorate of Research and Civil Affairs gave a remarkable lead in governmental policy towards PNG. It was in DORCA, under its eccentric director, the mysterious Colonel "Alf" Conlon, that PNG independence came to be discussed as a practical matter for which planning should begin now. Its senior members included anthropologists and colonial experts of world standing - Camilla Wedgewood, Ian Hogbin, Lucy Mair - and its mind was instinctively liberal and resolutely progressive: PNG was primarily for its indigenous inhabitants. DORCA too was bitterly attacked by would-be exploiters.

Now there are many remarkable things about this film, "Colonists for a Day", but the most remarkable of all is that it manages to run for nearly an hour without (that I recall) any discussion whatever of any of these three great formative influences - whether for good or ill - upon what happened to PNG under Australian rule. This is an achievement of some stature, even if evaluated only for perversity. It ranks with (say) a description of the Biblical account of the creation and fall, without reference to Adam, Eve or the serpent. It claims to be history ("the true story of Australia's only attempt at colonisation"), and proceeds by the method of ignoring the main body of evidence.

A large slice of the narrative is carried by footage of surviving kiaps - retired District Commissioners of many years PNG service. This has the effect of lending credibility to the film's message - we can watch the main agents of Australian rule convicting themselves.

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CONJURING HISTORY (*continued*)

I knew nearly all these men in the old days, and must say it was a pleasure to see them with all their marbles, and looking so fit. They speak of their experiences, and with every word they tell the honest and fascinating truth - as far as it goes. Whether they intended to support the overall outcome of the film I greatly doubt. I know that not one of them ever regarded himself as an agent of repressive exploitation. The only one to whom I have spoken since the film went to air was gravely concerned at its essential falsity, and at the editorial treatment which his total filmed footage had received. His participation had been secured on an understanding that the deeply complex story of Australia in PNG would be presented with depth and impartial discernment over several hours. He was appalled to find it all shoehorned into a single deceptive hour.

To list all the errors and misleading half-truths of this film would be a dreary catalogue, but some examples are necessary:

The training given to young kiaps is brushed offhandedly aside as some "rudimentary anthropology and administration". In fact, the Australian School of Pacific Administration at Mosman, NSW, which grew out of the wartime Army School of Civil Affairs, gave a two-year course of great breadth and intellectual rigour, by an academic staff with outstanding qualifications.

In one shot, prisoners are shown confined by neck chains, and the impression is given that they were yanked along like reluctant dogs on leashes. I must say that I have never seen a neck chain in my life, and a kiap of a lifetime's experience told me that "he thought they might have been used briefly in the Goilala area, many years ago". In other words, viewers were allowed to see something quite exceptional as being a regular occurrence.

Much is made of the white man's coffee crops in the highlands, with the impression created that this new and profitable activity is to be maintained as an expatriate preserve. We are even told about and shown natives stealing plants so that they could break into coffee growing for themselves. The truth is that the administration went to enormous (and successful) lengths to promote indigenous coffee growing, with considerable expenditure on the distribution of seedling trees and agricultural extension services.

I do not remember in the film any mention of other significant ventures to provide people of small capital but plentiful labour with enterprises which would preserve indigenous smallholder independence. The growing of pyrethrum daisies for insect spray manufacture is only one example of dozens.

There are many references to the supposed alienation of indigenous lands, with suggestions almost that white settlers could seize agricultural land more or less as they pleased. In German times, before 1914, significant quantities of the best land had been taken for plantations in the eastern part of New Britain island. But in seventy years of Australian rule there was practically no permanent alienation at all of land to white private holders.

The film shows riotous scenes, with the well-known demagogue Oscar Tammur demanding the resumption of land and the withdrawal of Australian government. A viewer might easily conclude that the whole country was about to burst into revolutionary flames. In fact, the excitement existed only in the Gazelle Peninsula, and it was promoted by the Mataungan Association, which had very unattractive racist undertones. That is to say, the same sentiments expressed by whites would have drawn the instant fire of our chattering anti-racists.

There are shots of the new Legislative Council in session. Many people say (and I am one of them) that Australia should have begun earlier and proceeded faster in the introduction of representative and responsible institutions. But it was a difficult problem, in particular because of the need to see that an educated elite did not simply lose sight of the far more

(*continued next page*)

CONJURING HISTORY (continued)

numerous remote villagers. But the Legislative Council was a highly significant forward step towards the creation of an indigenous government. The film sneers at it as being under the Administrator's control. To have had it otherwise would have been, at that stage, in the highest degree irresponsible.

One sense of this film's "flavour" is the prominence given to Dr. H.V. Evatt, whose talking head takes us into the confidences extended to him by President Truman and Prime Minister Attlee. Another is the appearance of Gough Whitlam, presented as a liberator removing the "stigma" of colonialism. No hint of today's problems which Whitlam's disastrous scuttle from responsibility were to produce. Yet another is the appearance of Mr Khrushchev, denouncing Australia at the United Nations. *Khrushchev?* Enough said?

This film is a perfect example of what Geoffrey Blainey calls "black armband history" - the negative and gloomy view. It is also an example of the increasingly practised "pea-and-thimble" history, which has led some of its practitioners to fortune and to international fame. This sort of history does not let us see the evidence as a whole, for us to make a cool and measured inspection. We get a tiny glimpse of a snippet, as the con man lifts a thimble for an instant, and quickly switches positions. We are manipulated by a trick into accepting whatever it is that conjurer-historian desires us to believe.

I have often puzzled why it is that many of today's so-called scholars would want to subvert a country's reasonable and proper pride in itself. This film's attempt to bad-mouth our accomplishments in PNG is a particularly unhappy example of the genre. Our colonial period, taken as a whole and conceding some blemishes, ought to be an uplifting example to later generations. Our record there includes the last great land explorations the world will see. The intrepid patrol of Karius and Champion from the south up the terrible limestone gorges and mountains to the centre; the great trek of James Lindsay Taylor and John Black westward through the central highlands - these were prodigies. For difficulty, dedication and sheer integrity of character, the work of these men on land compares with the exploits of Columbus and Captain Cook at sea. They were heroes, but this film does not mention their names.

I conclude that this modern sourness must derive from envy. There was once a great adventure, and today's chatterers had no part in it. They spent their time - all too many of them - getting a third-rate university education which fostered nothing much beyond their own well-justified discontent with themselves. They seem to feel that anything which shines should quickly have its brightness dimmed; then they won't look so shabby by comparison.

But why do the rest of us, as taxpayers, continue to fund Film Australia and the ABC, so that they may propagate a dispiriting national lie?

(This article is from "Quadrant" Jan/Feb 1994 and reproduced with the permission of the author. Peter Ryan is the general editor of *The Encyclopaedia of Papua and New Guinea*. His most recent book, *Black Bonanza* (Hyland House), deals with PNG's troubled goldfield at Mt Kare.)

HELP WANTED

Jim Hoile, formerly of Finschhafen PNG, is seeking information concerning the current address of Beryl Mossman and her three sons, also formerly of Finschhafen and later Kavieng.

Jim can be contacted as follows:

A. R. W. Hoile
16 Vines Avenue
FORESTVILLE NSW 2087

50 YEARS OF SOGERI

1944-1994

SERVICES CLUB - LAKE RESORT

YARRAWONGA/MULWALA

MAY 28/29 1994

As there are many ex-Sogeri people living throughout Australasia, all with a great attachment to the Sogeri Plateau and its notable School it was considered that this year would be an appropriate occasion to celebrate 50 years of history.

The Conference Facilities at the Services Club - Lake Resort at Mulwala (twin town with Yarrawonga on the Murray) has been booked for 28/29 May 1994.

The weekend of the Reunion is not overly organised which will provide the greatest opportunity to meet people and reminisce over meals, cups of tea or an ale.

All enquiries to: Ms. M. Walker, 31 Josephine Avenue, Mount Waverley, Victoria 3149 Telephone (03) 803 9071.

MADANG REUNION - BRIBIE ISLAND 14.11.93

by Isobel Pert

The Madang Reunion on Bribie Island was another great day and it seems to improve each year. Very pleasant weather, dull and overcast. All the regulars were there and among new faces were Clarry, Scotty, Gary and Maureen McEwen; Don and Marie Kingsley now living at the Gold Coast; Sigmund and Trudy Diczbalis; Jo and Richard Murray (was Jo Rasmussen); Ken and Merle Wiggins; Shirley and Jim O'Brien; Sharyn and John Rogers from Madang Butchery in the 70s, with two teenage children, absolute clones of Mum and Dad; Claudette and Catherine Monaghan; Merv and Pam Lobb with their two small girls; Tony and Ann-Marie Brennan and son, ex Namasu; and Sandra and Tino Babao who have been missing for a couple of years.

Lovely to see Elaine and Cliff Southwell; Aileen James and sister, Pat Benstead with Don along, now living at Glasshouse Mountains; Aileen and Patty will be remembered as daughters of Jessie and Blue McNamara 50s Madang; and as you may imagine there was quite a bit of remembering with Les Ingle, Celie and Don Mortiss, Joan and Vic Smith, Hec Longmore and yours truly. Aileen has some really excellent old photos of Madang original football teams, DCA Balls etc. which really should be copied if only for the original's children.

A nice big contingent of Chinese folk including Basie and Magdaline Seeto, Augie Chegg, Roger Chan, John Lam, John and Jean Mal, Katherine Chan, Rose and Alfred Lee.

Elaine (nee Cusack) and Mike Carvosso actually held back their departure for Moresby to attend our "do", Mike still working in PNG - two teenage girls at school in Brisbane and Tim in the Air Force at Perth. Don and Joy Gaffney proudly showing their latest family wedding which included all seven children.

We do not send out any invitations. In fact the less trouble we go to the better it is. Keep the second Sunday of November 1994 free and reminisce with old "wan toks".

BOOK REVIEWS & BOOK NEWS

"THE EARLY EUROPEAN SETTLERS OF THE SOLOMON ISLANDS"

Privately published by Graeme Golden: 4 Bourke Street, MENTONE 3194

466pp: hard cover A4: 150 photographs: 13 maps: indexed: limited edition of 200 copies: ISBN 0 646 11912 5.

Cost inc P&P: Within Australia \$69: Surface to PNG \$80: Airmail to PNG \$84.

Book Review by Ken Humphreys:

This is a great reference book. A labour of love that should be in every serious library. It is a history of most BSI Europeans and students of the Pacific should thank the author for his many years of dogged research. The work spans the centuries from 1568 to 1930 with some extension to WW2. It is a census of BSI life richly flavoured with the spice we know so well. The book contains 150 biographical sketches from 1870 to 1930. Readers can relax with this book and let the charms, dangers, and oddities of tropical island life wash over them. The people and events will never come again. That era is gone. But thankfully the gossip of life in the BSI has now been cemented in history. The author's profession is that of a stipendiary magistrate, so the biographies are not sanitised.

The Missions, the traders, the plantation owners (132), the beach-combers, the remittance men, the recruiters, the blackbirders, the mariners, and the government officers are dealt with. We know who were the alcoholics, the saints, the failures and the successes.

There are connections with PNG. Two BSI personalities that I came across, and I haven't read every biography, were plantation manager Hugh Scott who was beheaded at Rabaul, and Syd (Pansy) Elder who was a small ships master in PNG and the BSI. Elder is believed to have died in PNG sometime in the 1960's. Scott's divorced wife Clara died at Vunapope hospital in 1973.

Looking at the photographs of BSI Europeans, one must take the opportunity to stress the importance of fully describing photographs by writing on the reverse. So often are hoards of early photographs found in estates, and no one is left to describe the people and sites depicted. The photos go on the tip or to the flea market. Surely even the greatest scoundrel deserves to be remembered. Are all your PNG photos fully described?

Finally for a reference of this calibre, any price is a bargain: thoroughly recommended. After all it only costs as much as two bottles of Chivas Regal and they can disappear in one session!

HELP WANTED

Ms Sue Keays, who has recently joined our Association, has written to us with the following request:

"I am a doctoral mature-age student in the History Department of the University of Queensland, and am researching various aspects of women's lives during the pre-Pacific War years. If members could help me with any information about women living and working on the goldfields in this period (or in fact with any information at all), I would be very grateful indeed."

Sue Keays
4 Pilin Place
CHAPEL HILL QLD 4069

HELP WANTED

I am researching and writing a Ph.D thesis on the history of tourism in Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. I am most interested in contacting people who may have been involved in tourism enterprises of any sort, who may have some tourism-related memorabilia or who may have some stories concerning tourist behaviour etc. I would like to locate objects like postcards, old BP menus, snapshots etc. which could be used to illustrate the book which will follow from the thesis. Any assistance would be suitably acknowledged.

Would it be possible for you to put a request of this sort in your next news letter, please. My address -

Ngaire Douglas
P O Box 229
ALSTONVILLE NSW 2477
Phone/Fax 066 280083

I am currently writing a history of Tolai cocoa production on the Gazelle Peninsula, with particular emphasis on the Tolai Cocoa Project, for a Post Graduate degree at Monash University. To complete this project I am trying to contact as many Australian Administration staff as possible who were involved with the cocoa industry in general and the Tolai Cocoa Project specifically. I am hoping that you may be able to mention my project in your news letter "*Una Voce*" and so facilitate communication with some relevant people.

Peter Kean
36 Dorcas St
STH MELBOURNE VIC 3205
Ph. (03) 690 7989
Fax (03) 565 2993

Bob Laybutt has been trying to trace a former resident of Port Moresby who lived there in the 70's and held an exhibition of paintings in 1972 in Port Moresby. She signed her paintings SISCA and may have gone to Spain shortly afterwards.

He would be very grateful if any member could throw some light on her current whereabouts and can be contacted as follows:

P. R. Laybutt
25 Swordfish Court
PALM BEACH QLD 4221

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. Herbert Edlington (Lynn) CLARK (23 December 93 aged 69 years)

Lynn's first association with PNG was in 1944 with a Radar Unit at Merauke and Tana Merah. On discharge in August 1945 he went to Lae with War Disposals. He joined the Field Service in Lae and was posted to Madang. Married Margaret in April 1947 and they were posted to Mumeng and Lae. In 1950 he was posted to Rigo and then Biaru, Misima, Baniara and Port Moresby. After a stint with Ivan Champion in Land Titles Commission he worked in Moresby District Office then Taipini and Abau, where he established one of the earliest Local Government Councils.

Later back in Moresby he was in charge of Cadet Patrol Officer training. Then to Kiunga and again back to Moresby on magisterial duties. After this he was ADO at Tufi. On retirement he and Margaret took up a Trade Store on the Arona coast and finally settled at Broadbeach in 1973.

He was actively engaged with Legacy and RSL and in recent years did valuable research, inter alia, into the origins of the Papuan Constabulary, Montevideo Maru, Herbert Kienzle and Ivan Champion.

Lynn was a meticulous officer and his research work will be valuable to future researchers. His well attended funeral was made up of school, army, PNG friends, and relatives. He is survived by his wife Margaret. *Bamahuta Turagu.*

Mrs. Doris May (Dot) LOUITIT (27 November 93, aged 79 years)

Dot was born in Victoria in 1914 and went to Port Moresby with her husband Lindsay in 1946. She worked firstly as a Dental Nurse and later as a dental mechanic with Don Clouston and Ian Chester. Lindsay worked as a plumber with the Department of Public Works and when he retired in 1968-9 he and Dot returned to Australia and lived at Currumbin on the Gold Coast until Lindsay's untimely death in 1976. Dot then moved to "The Leap" just north of Mackay to be with her brothers and sisters who lived in the Mackay district. In 1989 Dot bought a unit in Sunnybank Brisbane, where she resided until her death. Dot enjoyed life and in the last two or three years she travelled extensively along the eastern seaboard of Australia and to the Solomon Islands and PNG in 1992. She will be sorely missed by her many friends, who enjoyed her keen sense of humour and her ready wit.

Dot is survived by her older sister Peg Fell and her brother Ray Oliver, both of Mackay, and by many in-laws.

Mrs. Rita MacGREGOR (24 December 93, aged 62 years).

Rita Wood joined the PNG Education Department in 1957 and during an introductory course at ASOPA met Jock Macgregor who was attending the Long Course for Patrol Officers. They married at Taurama in the following year but sadly he predeceased her (1965). Rita taught at several stations, concluding as Principal of Kavari Girls Tech., Moresby until departing in 1967.

She was principal of schools in Wellington, Bulawayo and Perth before moving to the N.T. in 1980. For the past nine years, Rita, BA Hons (London), MEd (Deakin), FACE, had been a highly respected headmistress in Darwin. She succumbed to a heart attack whilst visiting her mother in London, and leaves two adult children, William and Catriana.

Mr. Arthur HILL (21 September 93, aged 82 years)

Arthur was an old-fashioned gentleman, ever thoughtful of the needs of others, always there to offer a friendly hand and he was happiest helping others.

He was a learned man, a great reader and thinker, always seeking more knowledge and always interested in the mechanics of everything, be it a simple piece of equipment or the latest space technology.

Arthur Hill had many physical difficulties to overcome during his lifetime. He was handicapped from the effects of Polio, which he contracted at the age of nine. It was during his enforced, slow recovery that he became interested in books and more books. One book, the story of a young cripple, impressed him so much he was able at 82 years to quote these lines which gave him so much support throughout his life - 'Your legs may be crippled but your brain isn't, so damn it, use it!'

And use it he did, winning a scholarship to the Perth Modern School. His first choice was Medicine, but this could not be, so he chose Pharmacy. After completing his studies he sailed to England, where he spent the next two years.

These were happy years for Arthur and he became an ardent Anglophile. He was still writing letters in 1993 to friends he made during his English experience. Along the way he completed a Podiatry Course.

With the rumblings of war on the Continent, Arthur returned to Australia. The AIF would not accept him, so he volunteered for the CMF where he was eventually posted to Hollywood Military Hospital. It was here he was to meet AAMWS Gwendoline Bishop who was later to become his wife.

Arthur was posted to Rabaul and became a Mr. when his army service ended. Gwennie arrived in PNG and they were married in a little thatched church in Rabaul in 1948. One friend described their life as being 'one long honeymoon'.

Later Arthur was posted to Port Moresby where he became Supt. of Pharmaceutical Services. He could stretch his 'Budget' to the utmost. Expatriates and Nationals all had great admiration for him.

After retiring in 1965, Arthur and Gwen settled in Kenmore. In 1982 Arthur's beloved Gwennie passed away. He continued to live in their home until 1989, when after a serious illness he retired to Sinnamon Village, Jindalee. He was happy there. He spent much time researching family histories and wrote an Autobiography and a Biography.

In his research he made many friends both in Australia and overseas. Arthur joined Centenary Toastmasters and enjoyed the warm friendship of its many members. His quick mind, ready wit and vast knowledge brought much pleasure to the members and himself.

We are saddened by his passing - this gentle man who brought so much joy and friendship into so many lives.

(There was a brief report about Arthur in the December 1993 Newsletter and the above item was provided by Norm and Pat Webster of Ingham Qld. Ed.)

Mr Maurie WELLS, M.B.E. (15 August 93, aged 63 years)

Maurie served in the RAAF during WW II and was a former Executive Director PNG Employers' Federation 1970-1987. He is survived by his wife Dawn and sons Paul and Steve and their families.

Mrs. Vera HARRISON (3 February 94)

Widow of Robert McNaught Harrison (dec'd) formerly a Communications Officer with the PNG Department of Posts and Telegraphs.

(No further details known)

Mrs. Anne CARTER (24 January 94, aged 66 years)

Anne was educated at Fort Street Girls High, Sydney University and then successfully completed Pharmacist Registration Examinations. She was first employed as a Pharmacist in Sydney and, later on, managed pharmacies in Tasmania, NSW country towns and eventually in Port Moresby.

She enjoyed outdoor activity, was an active member of the Sydney Bushwalkers' Club and played social tennis and golf. She added snow skiing to her activities after meeting up with Bill Carter.

In 1951 Anne married Bill Carter who, at that time, was PNG Department's Divisional Engineer based at Parkes, NSW. When Bill got the job as Director, PNG Posts and Telegraphs Department, she accompanied him to Port Moresby in 1954. Later in the 50's she brought into the world a daughter, Beverley and three sons, Andrew, Stuart and Bruce. All born in Moresby.

In her youth Anne had been a Girl Guide and later on a Girl Guide Leader in Sydney and then in Parkes NSW. In Port Moresby she continued her interest in the Girl Guides Movement as a member of the PNG National Executive Committee.

When her husband, Bill, was invited to become Chief Commissioner of PNG Scouts, Anne not only retained her Guide's interest, but was most active in helping the PNG Scout Association in its fund raising activity. Parallel with this, Anne also undertook active voluntary work for Port Moresby Red Cross.

Anne had developed a wonderful rapport with the women and men of Elavala (Ela Vala) village next door to Hanuabada. Her Lakatoi Enterprise venture provided tourists with an opportunity to have direct contact with village people and also an opportunity for the Ela Vala women to enhance their income by selling their art and craft objects to tourists.

Despite all this extra-curriculum activity, Anne was a "no fuss" home loving woman and wonderful mother.

Bill, Anne and family departed PNG for good in 1975, living at Balmain East while their children completed tertiary education etc. and then moved to their weekenders on the NSW Central Coast at Chittaway Point.

Anne is survived by her husband, Bill, and four children named above.

Mrs. Mabel Maud RAHALEY (nee Sibley) (17 December 93, aged 82 years)

Widow of former PNG Police Inspector, Leonard Keith Rahaley (dec'd).
(No further details known)

Mrs. Elfrida Beatrice LEA (17 January 94)

Widow of Frank Bernard Lea (dec'd) formerly a Technician with the PNG Department of Posts and Telegraphs. (No further details known)

Mrs. Verona Joyce MACINNIS (20 January 94)

Widow of Douglas Evan Macinnis (dec'd) formerly Director of PNG Department of Lands, Surveys and Mines. (No further details known)

Mrs. Jeanie BRYANT (4 February 94)

Widow of Stanley George Bryant (dec'd) formerly Chief Draftsman with the PNG Department of Lands, Surveys and Mines. (No further details known)

Mrs. Ina Beatrice BARNES (5 May 93, aged 93 years)

Widow of former PNG Public Servant, Claude William Barnes (dec'd).
(No further details known)

Mrs. VERA NEWTON FOLDI (nee Kershaw) (1 January 1994, aged 87 years)

Vera was born at Chatswood NSW, the fifth of six children and had she lived seven more days she would have been 88 years old.

She was educated at Chatswood Church of England Girls' School and in 1924 commenced training as a nurse at the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney. Having completed four years nurse training she did a six month obstetric course at the Royal Hospital for Women, Paddington. She was very proud that she graduated from both with distinction.

Vera arrived in Port Moresby, Papua, in February 1933 on board the M V Macdhui. The first man that Vera met on the wharf at Port Moresby was John Rollo Foldi. It was an on-again off-again romance with John stationed at Kikori in the Gulf of Papua and Vera nursing at Samarai Island at the eastern tip of mainland Papua. John and Vera eventually married at St. John's Church, Port Moresby, on 3 April, 1936.

After a year's honeymoon John returned to Kikori and Vera joined him in November 1937 with the first of their two sons, Peter. Ian was born in Sydney during leave on 14 April 1940.

Vera was evacuated from Kikori with her two boys on Christmas Day 1942. Kikori to Port Moresby by small ship, Port Moresby to Cairns by Stinson Aircraft, and Cairns to Sydney by train. It must have been a dreadful journey during war years. It was made even worse with Ian coming down with pneumonia and malaria in Brisbane. The medicos in Brisbane would not treat Ian for malaria so Vera took him by train to Sydney and had him admitted to the Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children at Camperdown. John remained in Papua with ANGAU (the Australia New Guinea Administrative Unit).

Vera returned to Port Moresby alone in 1946. The family was reunited at Daru in 1947 when Peter and Ian came home on holidays from boarding school.

Following John's postings the family moved across Papua to Samarai and Port Moresby and eventually on to Rabaul in 1955.

Because of the infant and maternal welfare work that Vera had done in Hanuabada Village during John's posting to Port Moresby, Vera was asked by the Assistant Administrator, Dr John Gunther, to take charge of the Infant and Maternal Welfare Unit at Oro Bay for three months following the eruption of Mt Lamington in the early 1950s.

John retired from service in Papua New Guinea in 1965 after ten years as District Commissioner, Rabaul. Between them John and Vera totalled more than 65 years in Papua New Guinea. They retired to Avalon, NSW, where John died on 23 December 1971.

Vera continued the restless lifestyle of Papua New Guinea. After Avalon she moved to Canberra, then on to Pambula, back to Canberra, the to Kianga (Narooma) then to Gosford and finally Canberra.

Vera is survived by her son Peter and his wife June and their children, Bruce, Robert and Louise. Ian was killed in a plane crash near Merimbula on 19 February 1976. His widow Maureen, and children Anne, David and Michael are living in Melbourne. She is also survived by her sisters, Adrienne aged 89 years and Isobel aged 85 years.

Too little recognition has been given to the Australian women who suffered hardship and deprivation supporting their men in the early days of the Australian administration of PNG. At Kikori from 1937 to 1942 Vera was raising a young family, maintaining a morse code radio link with Port Moresby when John was on patrol, and providing medical help to those in need who included Gordon Marshall of Ogamobu Plantation, Charles Karius and the Rev. B.T. Butcher from Aird Hills to name a few. Not to mention the support given to John over 25 years in helping new arrivals, particularly young Patrol Officers and/or their new wives, find their feet, as well as the customary accommodating and entertaining of colleagues and dignitaries either passing through or visiting Papua New Guinea. (Details provided by Peter Foldi)

Mr. Glen Athol Craig (Jim) RUDGE (5 January 94, aged 76 years)

"Jim" Rudge was born on 30 October 1917 in South Brisbane and late in 1921 he was taken to Fiji where his parents were missionaries. He remained there with them until late in 1934. His education in those formative years was at the Boys' Grammar School, Suva. Later he spent several years in Western Australia training to be a missionary and then to the Sydney Sanatorium and Hospital at Wahroonga, N.S.W. where he took a special course for Male Nurses preparing to go to the mission fields of the Pacific area. At the completion of training he worked at St. George District Hospital as a part trained Male Nurse and then volunteered into the Australian Army and served in the Australian New Guinea Administrative Unit as a Medical Assistant until demobilised following the end of the War. After a short period back at the St. George District Hospital he returned to Papua New Guinea where he remained until his retirement in 1971. Following retirement he was called back to Papua New Guinea to serve for a few months as Chairman of the Promotions Appeal Committee.

From 1943 to 1958 Jim served as a Medical Assistant with the PNG Department of Public Health in Papua at Kikori, Popondetta, Daru, Gaima, Kikori, Rigo, Kairuku and Abau, and then at Sohano in Bougainville. From 1958 he served as Administrative Officer in a re-organised Division of Medical Training within the Department. During 1964 he transferred to the Department of Information and Extension Services (DIES). While in DIES he worked with many Government Departments in the development of teaching aids to assist in the implementation of the changes necessary for PNG to achieve political and economic independence. In conjunction with other departmental specialists from Departments such as Agriculture, Forests, District Administration and Health, aids such as films, filmstrips, flashcards, flipcharts, posters and booklets were developed. Development and introduction of intensive courses in 'Extension Method' for Expatriate and national field staff were also undertaken. These courses had originally been introduced by Mr. R. Carlaw and Mr. Colin De'Ath. Both these men have now achieved fame in wider fields in other parts of the world.

His final effort with DIES was the re-writing and development of a field book for Extension Workers called *Working With People*. About seventy per cent of the book was new material written by him. *Working With People* had been originally compiled by a Mr T. Thompson, at that time Assistant Director, Community Development (Social Services) of the Dept. of District Administration. Mr Thompson's book was based on 'A Guide to Community Development', written by Dr Douglas Ensimer, an American adviser to the community development programme in India.

According to Mr R. Pape the then Principal Publications Officer of the Department of Information and Extension Services, the book published in March 1972 was an instant success with over 3000 copies sold to Administration Departments, Missions and private concerns engaged in advancing knowledge in Papua New Guinea. His name does not appear anywhere in the book, such was Departmental Policy.

Mr Edward Wegman, Head of the International Book Year unit, wrote to the Director of DIES on June 14, 1972 in the following terms -

"Let me thank you for your letter of 28 March and the impressive booklet 'Working With People' which you have produced. This is precisely the kind of publication that UNESCO hoped would be produced as a result of International Book Year even though the fact that it was produced in 1972 is merely a happy coincidence.

I am passing along a copy of the booklet to our Office of Public Information so that it can be shared with our periodicals for possible review."

Jim is survived by his wife, Bess, and four children.

Mr Mervyn Wallace (Wal) FISHWICK (15 December '93)

Wal Fishwick served in the Army in New Guinea during the war. On discharge he worked as an Accountant for Guinea Air Traders in Lae until 1949 when he set up his own business as the first Chartered Accountant in the Territory.

He moved to Rabaul the next year and remained there for the next 22 years. Wal soon established a reputation for thoroughness in all his professional work, and his advice was sought by many.

On retiring to the Gold Coast he became the Foundation Secretary of the Gold Coast PNG Club. Serving a total of 11 years on the Committee, he became President in 1988 for two years. He was mainly responsible for providing efficient computer data for financial and "Garamut" records.

Wal is survived by his wife May, his daughter Wendy and grandchildren Nicola and Kerry.

Mr. James (Jim) Taylor GEMMELL (10 December 93)

Jim died at the Gold Coast Hospital after an operation. He went to PNG as a Cadet Patrol Officer, working firstly in the Western District and then at other postings. He later became a Valuer in the Department of Lands, Surveys and Mines, rising to First Asst. Secretary when he retired in 1979.

As a Consultant he spent time in the Solomon Islands, Thailand and the Philippines. Jim is survived by wife Patricia, daughter Lynette and son James.

Dr John CRAWFORD (13 January 94, aged 67 years)

John Crawford, a miner's son from Melbourne, trained at Melbourne University and, immediately after becoming A Fellow of the Royal Australian College of Surgeons, spent three years at Goroka and Lae in PNG in the 50's.

Bert Speers writes: "I first knew John and his young wife, Nancy, when he came to Lae to do surgery at the old Native Hospital at Malahang. It was great to meet up with him again at Goulburn when I came back here in retirement - we had numerous incidence recall sessions of the floods of the Busu River and the lack of equipment and facilities at Lae - but strangely we did the work and it was young Australians like John who 'paved the way.'"

John then served for a time in Tasmania before moving to Goulburn in 1962.

Long-time colleague in Goulburn, Dr. Tom Lyttle said of John: "He brought with him a wide range of skills and virtually pioneered specialist surgical services in the city. He was a quiet man, a gentle man who carried out his practice with great skill and dedication. He would help colleagues, friends or strangers. Nothing was too much trouble - you only had to ask for his help and it was given without any thought to personal inconvenience."

Dr. Crawford's son Douglas remembered his father as a gentle man who did not need worldly possessions. "He once wrote 'our greatest possessions were those which we gave away'," Douglas said. "His spirit will stay in our hearts always."

"He wanted us to remember him the way he was before his illness. Dad was a very quietly spoken man with a wealth of knowledge - not only about medicine but philosophy and the workings of the human mind. His knowledge of philosophy gave him an inner peace as his illness progressed."

Dr. Crawford is survived by his wife, Nancy, eight children and ten grandchildren

(Compiled with the assistance of Bert Speers)

Fr. Kevin TWOMEY MSC (23 August 93, aged 77 years)

Fr Twomey spent many years in PNG, first going there in 1944. His missionary work took him to Sideia, Basilaki, Milne Bay, Nimowa and the Trobriand Islands in Eastern Papua, Chanel College and Malaguna in East New Britain and Tabwiroa College in Kiribati. He spent seventeen years in Nimowa at the Catholic Parish there.

Father Twomey went to work in the Northern Territory in 1983. He spent about a year in the Darwin Parish of Nightcliff. From there he spent four further years in the Pacific and at Chanel College, Ulapia. During 1988-89 he lived in semi-retirement at St. John's College in Darwin while helping with the chaplaincy work among the students of this large Catholic Secondary School.

His final years before his death were lived at the Darwin Cathedral Presbytery. His final pastoral duty was celebrating the regular Sunday Mass at the local RAAF Base.

His continuing esteem as a pastor was shown at the celebration of his Golden Jubilee of priesthood on July 25, a month before his death. Present at that celebration was a nun who had worked with him at Nimowa over many years and current parishioners from the Darwin RAAF Base.

Father Kevin died after a quite brief hospitalisation due to a heart condition. He was ready to meet his maker having been blessed with the chance to give thanks for 50 years of priestly ministry. To the end of his life his great love was PNG and it's people. He spoke with pride that in 50 years of priestly ministry he had not married one white Australian. He saw his calling as beyond Australia.

Mr. Clive SANDERSON (21 January 93, aged 64 years)

Clive Sanderson was raised in Temora NSW. Matriculated at age 15, decided against doing Law and joined the Commonwealth Bank. He went to Madang with the Bank in 1951 and in 1953 became a partner in Modilon Motors and Madang Air Charters with Wally Ferguson and Dave Robertson. Madang Air Charters became Madang Air Services in 1954 and Clive became sole owner in 1959, then local Ansett-MAL manager when M.A.S. was sold to MAL in 1960.

He departed PNG in November 1963, worked with Ansett in Melbourne, then raised stud cattle at Table Top and later at Bandianna, retiring to Mollymook.

He is survived by his wife Betty, daughter Jillian Foster and sons Douglas and Jeffrey.

Mr Bruce (Curlie) DAFF (7 September 93)

Bruce worked for the PNG Admin. in Port Moresby, Rabaul and Madang from the early 50s to the mid 70s. During the war he served in the Navy on mine sweepers. He was a keen member of the Clayton RSL, where his father was a foundation member. He retired from Moresby to Clayton, Melbourne and enjoyed his leisure time at the races, going to the A.F.L. and playing snooker at the RSL. Bruce is survived by brother, Ian.

Mrs Kathryn FRAME (10 October 93, aged 38 years)

Died in a motor car accident after attending her mother's birthday party at Coolum. Her 13 year old son was also badly hurt in the accident. Kathryn was the daughter of Frank and Phyllis Allingham.

Survived by husband Dennis, sons Damien (13) and Gavin (17).

Mrs. Nancy Veitch BIRD (19 October 93, aged 89 years)

Widow of William Henry Bird, PNG Public Servant. (No details known)

Mr. Geoffrey Lancelot Pitt VIZARD (20 December 93, aged 64 years)

Cadet Patrol Officer Vizard was just 20 when he arrived at Kerema in PNG in 1949. Accompanying Patrol Officer Ken Chester on the first post-WW2 patrol to the fierce Kukukuku in the mountains; assisting Patrol Officer Ken Brown on magisterial duties and census taking among the coastal Elema; and having Jim O'Malley, Jack Hides' offside on the legendary 1935 Purari-Strickland Patrol, as district officer was Boys' Own Paper stuff. And then there was being a member of the crew, skippered by the famous Ivan Champion, which brought the Elema co-operatives' ship "Toaripi" from its builders at Bundaberg. No wonder that Lance regarded his four years among the people of the Gulf District and his fellow Australians there as a wonderful experience.

In 1953, he returned to Melbourne, his home town, and commenced a successful commercial career. In the following year he married June, a nurse. Of their four children, Stephen (b.1956), Andrew (b.1958), Jennifer (b.1961) and Fiona (b.1963), the eldest, who strongly resembles Lance, is prominent in Australian TV circles.

Lance bravely faced the incurable cancer which caused his untimely death. The eulogy, written by his children and delivered by Andrew, highlighted Lance's great love for his family, his exceptional ability to make friends, and his generosity. Andrew also mentioned Lance's narrow escape from death in 1950.

This is how it happened: On a December day of that year Lance and the late Ken Chester were swimming off Siviri village, below Kerema government station, when the Lahara [northwesterly] suddenly came up. Ken managed to reach the beach but Lance was dragged out to sea. Village Constable Ata reported it to the District Office and Sgt Sevese of the Royal Papuan Constabulary and several prisoners set out. Among them was Oavelare Ivei, a man from Koaru, a village in the Kaipi area east of Kerema. By that time the lahara waves had taken Lance a long way out. Oavelare who, like many Koaru men was a strong swimmer, took a board with him. After battling huge waves for more than one hour, he reached Lance, who grabbed the board, enabling Oavelare to bring him safely ashore.

Lance certainly made the very best use of the forty-fours years granted him from then on. We are the better for having known him.

(Kindly provided by Harry Jackman)

Mr Ronald DINSMORE (21 October 93)

Died at the Gold Coast after a long illness. Ron was in PNG from 1953 to 1986. He went to PNG as a surveyor for Comworks, later starting his own business. Ron was responsible for training Nationals to become surveyors and was the first in this field to do so.

Survived by his wife Elva, and children Allan, Kevin, Susan and Vicky.

Mrs. Patricia BORN (7 September 93)

Pat went to PNG in 1948 to join her husband Rolf (deceased 1974) who was with the Department of District Administration. From then until 1973 they lived at many outstations including Kerema, Tufi, Goroka, Kundiawa, Kainantu and Manus Is (Lorengau). It was only by a hairsbreadth that they missed the Mt. Lamington eruption as they had decided to take leave early and were flying out when the eruption occurred. Pat worked with Posts and Telegraphs and the Department of Education and was also involved with the Country Women's Association and Golf Clubs. On retiring to the Gold Coast, Pat was Asst. Secretary of the Gold Coast PNG Club in its early days.

She is survived by her son Anthony of Byron Bay NSW.

Mr. Ivor Vaughan MANTON (5 February 94, aged 89 years).

Ivor Manton, late of Mt Hagen Warawau Tea Plantation, passed away on the Gold Coast. A successful businessman in Melbourne he was part owner of the family department store Manton and Sons which was second only to Myers. Mantons was sold to G.J. Coles in 1955 for £2,250,000. Ivor was an innovator throughout his life and is credited with introducing Father's Day into the Australian retailing industry.

He had a close association with the land and pastoral industry. He established a Romney Marsh sheep stud at Monegeeta north of Melbourne which was one of the best in the country. In 1963, when he was 58, he went to Papua New Guinea to set up the country's first tea plantation in the Wahgi Valley near Mt Hagen. It was to be a model and no expense was spared to ensure the finest tea was produced. He played a leading part in the establishment of the small holder blocks scheme whereby local farmers would be able to sell their tea to the nucleus estate plantation factory. This principle was to follow at other tea estates in the Highlands and at other major plantation developments, including oil palm at Hoskins and Popondetta.

He had a total commitment to financial or social concerns and was equally at home conversing with Governors and Prime Ministers or the man mowing the grass. He was always approachable and believed that if you are determined enough you can do anything. He took the Duke of Edinburgh to the Baiyer River Sanctuary, which he assisted to set up. He loved animals and birds. At home he was an accomplished pianist though he could not read music. He had a great sense of humour. He said no good person is ever unsuccessful.

A large gathering attended his cremation service on the Gold Coast, Eulogies were given by his son William, granddaughter Melanie and by Peter Howard, his Supervisor at Mt. Hagen.

Among those Doug Franklin knew were David Manton, formerly of the Department of Agriculture Hoskins and Moresby, Ian Rutledge, formerly of John Forster Bookshop Mt. Hagen and Andy Flower, former kiap of Wabag.

Mrs Vivienne J. McEVOY (13 December 93)

Vivienne went to PNG in 1953 as a Receptionist for Burns Philp, but being a Steno/Sec/Bookkeeper she was able to work in many different establishments viz. Comworks, Harvey Trinder (Insurance Brokers), Amalgamated Electronics (Bill Nicholson (Nicko) Proprietor), Bill Johns, Ernie Kriewaldt and "La Petite" Boutique (Lexy Burns, Proprietress) and eventually running the latter establishment on her own behalf.

In 1974 Viv returned to Australia, living in Brisbane and once again, going into the "Rag Trade" owning a couple of Boutiques in Brisbane suburbs. In 1980 Viv and husband Mike came to the Gold Coast and took up the challenge of managing a block of high-rise units, which they did for six years.

Ten years ago Viv joined the Committee of the Gold Coast PNG Club and brought a good deal of good sense and wit to the meetings. She was soon persuaded to become Editor of the "Garamut", a job she performed with increasing skill aided by a course of creative writing - but more so by her natural good humour and imagination.

Vivienne is survived by husband Michael, son Sean, daughter-in-law Sandra, grandchildren Anna and Ryan, son Kerry and her brother Brian McGarry and family.

Sir Buri KIDU (30 January 94, aged 49 years)

The first Papua New Guinea Chief Justice, Sir Buri Kidu was appointed Chief Justice in 1980 for an initial three year term. He was the youngest Chief Justice in the world to reach this high office at the age of 35, having succeeded Sir William Prentice. In 1983 he was reappointed for a further ten year term and retired from his position last year, after twenty three years public service.

He was born at Vairaram near Pari Village on the outskirts of Port Moresby. He attended various primary schools before going on to Iarowari Intermediate High School in 1959. From there he won a scholarship to Toowoomba High School in Queensland, graduating from Grade 12 in 1965. He was the first Papua New Guinea student at the school to be made School Captain and a Senior School Prefect.

He then entered Queensland University where he obtained his Law Degree in 1970. He married Carol, who was then a teacher, while in his fourth year of law studies. In the 1970s Lady Carol Kidu was a teacher at Port Moresby International High School, Boroko, where she was held in high esteem by staff and students.

Sir Buri first worked as a Legal Officer with the Law Department in Port Moresby before becoming the first PNG Crown Prosecutor. He was transferred to Rabaul in November 1972 to take charge of the Crown Prosecutor's Office. He returned to Port Moresby and became the first Crown Solicitor (now State Solicitor) at Independence in 1975.

He was Secretary for Justice and Principal Legal Adviser to the National Executive Council in 1979 and became Secretary to the Prime Minister's Department in August of that year. He was awarded a doctorate by the UPNG in 1991. He held appointments of Chancellor of UPNG, Chancellor of the Anglican Church, Chairman of the Legal Training Institute, Member of the Ombudsman Appointment Committee, Member of the Judicial Services Commission, Patron of the Port Moresby Rehabilitation Centre Inc. and President of UPNG Foundation.

Prime Minister Paias Wingti expressed his sympathy in a letter of condolence to Lady Carol. He said Sir Buri was one of PNG's outstanding civil servants, who held a reputation of being an authority on the country's constitution and judicial system. He was always impartial and recognised as an eminent example of his high profession.

He leaves his wife and six children.

Sir Tei ABAL (15 March 94, aged 60 years)

A leading figure in PNG's fight for independence, Sir Tei Abal, has died. He died at his home at Keas village, Wabag in the Enga Province. He had been ill for a long time, since a stroke in 1981 which left his speech and mobility impaired.

Originally an aid post orderly, he first entered national politics in 1964 as Member for Wabag in the then House of Assembly. He held that seat in Parliament until the 1982 general election when he lost to Albert Kipalan (now Sir Albert).

Sir Tei co-founded the United Party and was Opposition Leader when Sir Michael Somare's Pangu Pati and partners formed the first government at Independence. He was Public Utilities Minister under Sir Michael in 1978 and 1979.

He is survived by his wife, Lady Abal, three sons, three daughters and 12 grandchildren.

Mrs. Amy Marion THEODORE (December 93)

Marion, recently of Bulimba Qld, spent time with her husband, Cyril, in Madang PNG where for some time she operated the telephone exchange. Isobert Pert remembers her: "A nice lady, I can see her sitting at the old exchange under the shuttered wooden window like yesterday, pushing in and pulling out plugs." I also remember her, she was a well-known and popular person in Madang.

Survived by husband Cyril, son Peter, daughter-in-law Sue and grandchildren Cheryl and Bradley.

Mr. Edward (Ted) BUCHANAN (10 January 94)

Ted was a well-known identity at Madang PNG for many years when he worked as a painter for Comworks, then Public Works and later as a painting contractor.

(No further information available)

Sir Reginald Smithers (2 January 94, aged 90 years)

Sir Reginald was a Judge of Supreme Court of ACT and Northern Territory, 1984-86; judge of the Federal Court, 1977-86; chancellor of La Trobe University, 1972-80; judge of the Australian Industrial Court, 1965-86; judge of the Supreme Court, Papua New Guinea, 1962-64.

It was an unusual career in that, unlike most judges. Smithers did not serve on a single court but on a variety. First there were the supreme courts of Papua New Guinea, the Northern Territory and the ACT, later the Industrial Court and finally the Federal Court and Administrative Appeals Tribunal.

Smithers was born in Echuca Victoria and his family came to Melbourne when he was five. He went to Melbourne Grammar and went to work in the Titles Office of the Victorian Public Service, where he began studying law part-time.

Admitted to the Bar in 1929, his career was interrupted by World War II; he became a Squadron Leader and served in New Guinea and the Philippines. After the war ended he continued as a junior barrister until he took silk in 1951, which was about the time I came to know him really well. No client ever had a more hard-working or faithful advocate. Smithers also had a brilliant way with juries; he continually obtained substantial verdicts for plaintiffs when the odds seemed to be stacked against them.

Smithers stature as a judge was in part a reflection of his qualities as a person. Blessed with great wisdom, tremendous warmth and sincere friendship, he was also, for want of a better term, what I call an enlivener. When he joined a dull conversation, he would transform it in no time to spirited discussion. As often as not he would do this by venturing some fairly challenging remark about an affair of the day.

When he retired from the Federal Court at the age of 85 many people said that not only were his powers not diminishing, but he was at the height of them. It was typical of him that soon after retiring, he started work as a legal consultant to the Melbourne firm Dunhills, revelling in the contact with lawyers barely half his age.

(Extracts from an obituary by Xavier Connor "The Australian" 25/1/94.)

Mrs. Mary Caroline STRACHAN (21 March 94, aged 77 years)

Mary was living at Killara NSW when she died but spent many years in PNG at Lae.

(Full details next issue of the Newsletter)

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

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I very much regret that I have had to defer a number of articles to later issues.

Doug Parrish

Doug Parrish
Editor

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