



# Una Voce News Letter

RETIRED OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA

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No. 2, 1996 - June

Dear Member,

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

- The Newsletter itself with pages numbered \*2\*, \*3\*, \*4\*, etc totalling 24 pages.
- The Membership Address List with pages numbered 2, 3, 4 etc totalling 20 pages (actually the last 2 1/2 pages contain Newsletter items), and
- The Minutes of the Special General Meeting and the 1996 AGM together with the Financial Statement with pages numbered (2), (3), (4) etc totalling 8 pages.

We hope this will assist you if you wish to retain sections for future reference.

## CPI ADJUSTMENT TO SUPERANNUATION

The increase in the Consumer Price Index for the twelve months ending 31 March 1996 was 3.7%. Superannuation pensions should increase by that percentage from the first pay period in July, ie 4 July. ComSuper advises that the letters notifying individuals of the change to their superannuation are going out on time in early July. Group Certificates will be posted as soon as ComSuper receives them from the Department that issues them.

## VISIT TO THE MOUNTAINS - ADVANCE NOTICE

This year the trip to the mountains will be on Thursday 3 October. Members wishing to go by train are advised to catch the 9.02am train from Central Station which arrives at Wentworth Falls at 10.51am. Lunch will be at the Grandview Hotel, Wentworth Falls.

## CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Please note in your diary that the Christmas Luncheon will be held on Sunday 1 December. (This function is always held on the first Sunday of December)

## BOOK FOUND AT AGM

A book entitled *Noon to Nightfall* was left behind after the AGM in April. Would the owner please contact the Secretary regarding its return.

## DISCLAIMER

*Una Voce* is produced for the information of members of the Retired Officers' Association of Papua New Guinea. It is written with care, in good faith, and from sources believed to be accurate. However, readers should not act, nor refrain from acting, solely on the basis of information in *Una Voce* about financial, taxation or any other matter.

Having regard for their own particular circumstances, readers should consult the relevant authorities or other advisers with expertise in the particular field. Neither ROAPNG nor the editor accepts any responsibility for actions taken by readers.

Also, the views expressed by any of the authors of articles included in *Una Voce* are not necessarily those of the editor or the ROAPNG.

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## FROM THE EDITOR

Doug Parrish, our editor for so long, should be holding his head very high indeed, as the secretary has received innumerable letters congratulating him on a job well done. Some of the comments are printed in *Have You Heard*, but these are only the tip of the iceberg. Fortunately Doug is still on the Committee and on the Editorial Sub-committee. We wish you all the very best, Doug, in your 'retirement', and good luck with those family projects. Most of all, we hope you and Candy manage to do lots of things you didn't have time to do before.

Doug has been of tremendous help to me in this my first issue as editor. Without his constant support it would have been a very daunting task indeed.

Now a message from our secretary, Joe Nitsche. Firstly would members please send all mail to our PO Box No, addressed to the secretary - he will record it and forward it to committee members as necessary. (Please do not send mail for other members C/- our Post Office Box - this only makes extra work.) Secondly, Joe would prefer you didn't use staples on letters, cheques etc. - your items will be safe if sent without staples.

One last request - if any members have personal stories which might interest other members, please let us have them, and please encourage any reluctant writers you know (especially the older ones) to do the same.

Very best wishes, Marie Bassett.

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## APOLOGY

A big apology to Jim McKinnon and his family from ex-Editor, Doug Parrish, who recorded in the Vale section of the last issue of *Una Voce* that Jim had died.

This information we had received in the newsletter from another PNG organisation and unfortunately I did not have time to check it properly, as was my custom.

I am pleased to report that Jim is alive and well! Mea culpa, Jim, sincerely, Doug Parrish.

## HAVE YOU HEARD???

**Gerald NEWTON**, previously of Buddina Qld informed us that he and his wife, Mary, are returning to North Queensland after approximately 50 years away. His wife is from Townsville and he originally went to Cairns from Victoria in 1929.

From **Mary PEDERSEN** of Roseville NSW: 'This is being written in the air over Europe. I'm off to a pharmacy conference in Italy after meeting my first grandchild born in Guy's Hospital London in January. After the conference I'm joining up with Jenny and Noel Van den Berg to visit St Petersburg and Moscow. Noel was pharmacist at BMS Moresby in the 60's while Jenny was at Steamships. Later Noel went up to Hagen when medical stores were opened there....Enjoy receiving *Una Voce* even if every issue contains news of the death of more old friends but then the memories are so happy - last issue's news of Nell Clark's death brought back many memories of my early married life in Madang - Nell and Ben and so many evenings having a drink with Iver and I before heading back to the mission.'

**Jean CAREY** of Wangaratta Vic writes, 'I do spend much time in my garden, also do the garden at the church....I keep busy. It is wonderful having Viv and family close by, Nicky 10 yrs and Roan 7 yrs, delightful children. "Grandma can we have a sleep over?" And I enjoy the time just with them. (Son) Rob and Susie both work long hours in the pubs. They are talking about wedding in October....I am so lucky to have them near me.'

**Mr Eric SUTHERLAND ROSS** of Springwood Qld apologised for overlooking his membership renewal: 'I would not like to be deprived of the *Una Voce* especially the list of members. I always note that there are not many B4 Papuans among the members.... You may be interested to hear that my sister, **Elsie Champion**, has been very ill in the Woden Valley Hospital, Canberra, and has just returned home after two operations for cancer of the lungs. She is as well as can be expected. Both operations were performed in the one week.'

From **Darcy PAVLICH** of Glenhaven NSW: 'We have been in the process of retiring and moving to Queensland... We have now bought a home in Sorrento on the Gold Coast, and are no longer homeless waifs. I am looking forward to meeting up with some of the many ex PNG friends who live here in Qld.' Darcy expressed appreciation to Harry West, Doug and Candy Parrish, Pat Hopper and other members of the committee who 'helped weave the fabric of friendship and care that enfolds us as members'.

**David MONTGOMERY** of Grabben Gullen NSW would like to place on record how much he has appreciated the editorial efforts of Doug Parrish. He added, 'The enormous amount of detail and the communication link provided by *Una Voce* is a credit to all of the Executive.'

**Brian ASH** of Henderson, Auckland NZ, advised that he had received a very newsy letter from **Ken Gorringer** recently and said that Ken seemed to be enjoying life in Canberra.

## HAVE YOU HEARD??? *Continued*

**Bob LAYBUTT** from Mossman Qld writes, 'We let our post box lapse at the end of the month as we have been dragged kicking and screaming into the twentieth century with the provision of a daily mail delivery service. We survived the Big Wet without incident - well over fifty inches in a week, forty-eight of them in as many hours. Thank you again for all the time and effort you put in to keep us in touch.'

**George GOUGH** of Rochdale Qld is beginning to recover after his second bout with cancer, and apologised for not sending more news.

**Jim and Bet GILLMAN** also report not being well lately, but wished to thank Doug 'for the wonderful work he has done with the magazine'.

**Robert BLAIKIE** of Mount Gravatt Qld advised he retired from his position at Griffith University in February but still remains on at the University as Head of one of the Residential Colleges. Robert returned from a trip to Korea the day before the ROA Christmas Luncheon so was unable to attend.

**Florence CHESTER** of Palm Beach Qld has a second great-grandson born in December '95; apart from family, Florence is involved in work for Legacy.

**David MOORHOUSE** of Forster NSW writes, 'I am enjoying immensely my retirement in Forster - gardening, fishing, bird-recording, climate and beauty. There's always a bed or three for old mates passing through.'

**Bill WEISE** of Broadbeach Waters Qld has not been well since January, and has spent some time in hospital.

From **Dawn FISK** of Mordialloc Vic: 'May I express my enthusiasm on reading the March edition of *Una Voce*: a real 'bumper' edition! I spread it out over two days, and relished every page. The members' contributions mention many familiar names, and memories kept coming back.... I must also express my thanks for the item on 'Use of the Annual Membership List'. I had hesitated to express my feelings to the President on the use of the list for political purposes, but now feel my action correct following your comments.'

**John LEWIS** of Pialba Qld thought the March Newsletter was 'fantastic', and that Doug Parrish and his helpers deserved a medal. He went on to say, 'I loved my 20 years up there with Kriewaldts, Administrator's Dept, DIES, District Administration, Police Dept, PNGVR and Reserve Police. Anybody up at Hervey Bay, phone, and I will meet and escort around.'

**Isobel PERT** of Noosa Heads reports, 'I see a lot of Janet & Maurice Whish-Wilson (surveyors, Mt Hagen). Delightful couple, live at North Arm. Also Allan and Win Boag who recently moved into a retirement village at Palmwoods. Julie Pert (daughter) transferred this year to Seymour Puckapunyal and opened up a new army psychology unit there. Allan (son) at Weipa. Loved Roma Bates' 'trip' writings. Sad to read of Johnno Johnston's death, but again what a wonderful way to go in such a glorious

## HAVE YOU HEARD??? *Continued*

place. I think in earlier years Johnno and Edna would have taken the prize as the best dressed couple in Madang. Claude King died in September last year. He was in ill health for so long but always cheerful'

**Donald RAMSAY** of Woollahra NSW advises he has been named the new Patron of the Brigade of Guards Association in NSW and described it as 'a great honour for me'. Donald is still beavering away for recognition of the fighting exploits of the WWII battalions of the Pacific Islands Regiments (PIR), ie the Papuan Infantry Battalion (PIB) (1) and the New Guinea Infantry Battalions (NGIB) (4). He states in a media release prior to Anzac Day, that, unlike the Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels, 'They are seldom mentioned in Anzac Day features and yet these soldiers played an outstanding role throughout the New Guinea Campaign. Their valuable work especially as scouts operating in their own territory was critical in finding and destroying the Japanese infantry in the dense jungle, for they could smell the enemy long before the Australians. As far as is known the PIR's ratio of kills against a seasoned and determined opposition was assessed as 38 to 1; far ahead of any other Allied infantry records from WWII including the Gurkhas... It is not too late for us to honour these fine old soldiers of PNG still alive who fought for their country and Australia more than fifty years ago, not just as stretcher bearers carrying Australian wounded but as fighting men of renown.'

**Dame Rachel CLELAND** was guest columnist in West Australia's *Sunday Times* of 7 April 1996. Dame Rachel spoke of her lifetime lived close to politics. (Sir Donald was the first federal director of the Liberal Party before becoming Administrator of Papua New Guinea.) Dame Rachel remembered 'the despair and political muddle in the 1930s Depression and the efforts to cope and bring about change. So difficult, when States each had different parties with different names and policies. Some were pre-Federation.' Of the time immediately after WWII she said, 'I was often in Canberra during those first years when there was quite a different atmosphere and relationship between the parties than there is today. There was more dignity in Parliament and more honesty. ... Voters of both sides had more trust in their politicians and respect for the other side. Old Parliament House itself meant that both press and public were in closer touch with politicians as everyone moved through Kings Hall's corridors. It was interesting and fun but they were different days without the need for tight security.'

**Tony DUNNE** of Buladelah Qld has been overseas for several months visiting the Middle East, Turkey, Holland and the UK - he returned home in early May.

**Bob HORNER**, ex MAL, Ansett/MAL, TAA and Air Vanuatu has returned to Australia and is working with Qantas in Perth.

This item re **Bobby GIBBES** is reprinted from the *Sydney Morning Herald's* 'Column 8' of 11-5-96: 'A convivial lunch was held at State Parliament this week for the 80th birthday on May 6 of a World War II ace - Wing-Commander Bobby Gibbes, DSO, DFC and Bar. Flying Tomahawks and Kittyhawks in the Middle East, he had 10 'kills', two shared, five probables and 16 damaged. After a postwar career of flying in PNG, growing coffee and building hotels, he lives at Collaroy - but not in retirement.

Recently he'd noticed he was hitting golf balls out of sight - his own sight. So on

## HAVE YOU HEARD??? *Continued*

Thursday he had a new lens implanted 'in his starboard eye', and on Monday will get one 'in his port eye'. Then he'll front up for the renewal of his pilot's licence. He has a home-built twin-engined CriCri 3.5-metre long plane on a trailer in his garage that he's flown at air shows, and when he passes his tests, he'll be flying it again. Soon, he'll be publishing his autobiography, *You Only Live Once*.

1996 is a big year for the Gibbes family. Jim Toner, our NT correspondent, writes, 'I believe that if they haven't had a big knees-up already, Jean and Bobby Gibbes will celebrate their Golden Wedding anniversary this year, having married in Darwin in 1946. The town would have been a right shambles then.'

**Frank and Betty SMITH** visited **Ruby McGregor** early in May at Woodlands Retirement Village, Cherrybrook. Ruby, a resident of Madang from 1927-1961 (except for war years), in her hundredth year, is well, looks great and retains a sense of humour.

**Ian and Pauline GRUNDY** (ex Forests), due back in Queensland after a period in Sumatra, report that they are heading into 'wind down' mode. Retirement and settling back into the OZ lifestyle are ahead of them. Pauline has recently been to the UK and Europe, and in the weeks before departure will be exploring more of Northern Sumatra with family members.

**Lady Una NIALI** has recently been named Patron of the Palm Beach RSL Club. Una said that Horrie had been a Life Member of the Club and was Patron for a good many years.

**Ray THURECHT** writes, 'Bet (Whitten) and I would love to hear from any ex *Wantoks* who happen to visit Moresby where we have the most Magnificent View of the Coral Sea from our home at 3-Mile Hill.'

Ray provided the following snippets of local history. 'On reading the *PNG Revisited* by Roma Bates, I was expecting to hear how everyone caught up with 'Len Smith' ie THE Len Smith of POM Jewellery fame.

Len probably supplied the majority of engagement and wedding rings of most of the ex Port Moresby residents and he now lives ... you guessed it ... on Samarai, and has done for many years.

He would have been a mere 50 feet from where you walked, next door to the ex Steamies' now Pool's Trade Store, referred to in the article.

He most assuredly would have been viewing all and sundry on the ship through the huge, ex Japanese Navy Gunnery binoculars that stand just inside his house.

Len is very much a hermit, hardly ever moving from the house environs, but usually opening his jewellery store on the street side of the house whenever a tourist ship arrives. (He still sells only bits and pieces of jewellery from his old shop in Moresby including some very nice natural Samarai pearls.)

I last visited Samarai some ten years ago, while sailing from Rabaul to Samarai with Tony and Bob Cruikshank, on their way to Sydney in their yacht *Quest*. The store at that time was still owned by Steamships and we introduced ourselves to the Manager. He had been on Samarai for five years! and had never ever met Len! who lived NEXT DQOR. We immediately took him over to meet Len and were just in time to see Len having his evening port with his gecko, George. Len had manufactured a thimble sized



## HAVE YOU HEARD??? Continued

golden chalice which he filled with port every evening for George. George drank this with great gusto but when a re-fill was not offered he knocked the chalice over.

Also present was Tony Galloway who lives on Doini Island, the next island east of Samarai. Tony is also considered a hermit having lived on the island since he had a pacemaker installed yonks ago. I think he spends his time walking (at least five miles a day) and making home brew.

Tony, for those who don't remember him, came up to work with Bert Stubbs in the late 50's and joined John Wild as his supervising carpenter until the heart problem caused his early retirement. Tony at least does a buying trip to Moresby once a year in his yacht *Vert Galante* - like the Hiri canoes he comes up on the last of the South Easterlies and returns on the first of the North Westerlies.'

**Peter McGOLDRICK** of Alstonville NSW writes: My wife Mel and I both look forward so very much to receiving the *Una Voce* Newsletter. In our view this latest edition (March, 1996) was one of the best yet.... I was sorry to read that Editor Doug Parrish is 'hanging up the gloves'. He has done a wonderful job and I would appreciate it if you would kindly pass on my congratulations and thanks to him.

**Elizabeth SOWERBY** is now living in the De Paul Villa Nursing Home, Edmund Rice Drive, Ashmore (Northern Gold Coast) after spending some time in hospital over the last few months. In February she enjoyed her 92nd birthday party in Tweed Heads Hospital and took calls from friends and old army mates. She is now in better health, but unfortunately her memory is fading and latterly she has become quite confused.

**Merle BOWMAN** of Markeri Street, Mermaid Waters, writes: Since I lost Clive in 1982, I have bought and renovated, and sold, four different homes, with this one my last I hope. I have enjoyed the work very much, it has filled my life and kept me busy.

**John and Chris DOWNIE** are in the wilds of North Queensland. The day after our AGM they headed home to the Gold Coast to pack their caravan and set off. They travelled in convoy with friends from Burleigh Heads en route to Cairns. Chris takes part in the *Volunteers for Isolated Students Education Programme* or VISE. While in Cairns Chris had to attend lectures at the Mini School from 9am to 3pm. The school lasts a week. Mothers attend also, with the children going into their own classes daily; the younger ones are collected by their parents after school, while the older ones go into camp full-time with teachers, and a couple of parents (to help prepare meals etc). Chris said, 'I'm whacked!! I'm too old for this stuff!...I've come to the conclusion that all this new age stuff is really old age stuff, dressed up in fancy words that make it more difficult for the mothers/home tutors to understand.' John, by the way, became an instant hit at social functions, with his new 'children' hanging from his wrists.

Chris had some very interesting comments to make on home-tutoring by mothers. She said that those in the 25-30 age group managed to fit in only the bare minimum (of lessons) and their kids got further and further behind and didn't want to extend themselves whereas the older women were dedicated to getting everything done because they realised the importance of a good education. Chris and John will be at Goshen Station, Mt Garnet Qld, for two months from late May and then at Sugarbag Station, also in the Mt Garnet area, until 30 August. (Our secretary has contact details.) Chris explains that in North

Queensland people's needs for VISE are different from those in other areas: 'Mustering time means VISE and kids at the house and everyone else gone. New births mean a hired housekeeper and a VISE for the kids. The rainy season controls VISE in and out to properties...'

Elliot NIEMINEN of Highfields Qld writes, 'My wife has completed 20 years as bursar of Martin Lusher Primary School in Toowoomba. Mavis would best be remembered as the secretary to District Commissioners Bob Cole and Ted Hicks in Wewak during the 60s and as secretariat to the Housing Commission during the early to mid 70s. Our daughter Kay, born Goroka, is married and is a music teacher at Allora and Killarney schools near Warwick. For myself I am retired but active in Masonic circles ... I thoroughly enjoy getting the *Una Voce* newsletter. Thank you for the efforts you all put in in its publication.'

A new member, **Max WRIGHT** of Mt Mee QLD, reminisces, 'From the days on the Wau Labu Road 1949-on, up to Blue Point on the Edie Creek Rd with the old Firm of 'Works & Housing', then to logging in 'Trans Busu lease' Lae - Warangoi Valley, Lat Bay and Hoskins New Britain to finish up in 1983 ... we are still fortunate to be able to keep in touch with and visit friends of long standing from those happy days.'

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## NIKOLAI MIKLOUHO-MACLAY ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

Nikolai Miklouho-Maclay is revered in Russia where every schoolchild learns of this remarkable man. In Australia he is known by only a few, yet he made a considerable contribution to scientific knowledge in our area, and was one of the first campaigners for the rights of indigenous people in Australia and in the Pacific generally.

Here are some more events celebrating his life which may interest Sydney residents - most are free, but please check with Wendy Paton - tel/fax 02 449 2741.

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| Wed 26 June | 5pm, Talk by Paul Brunton, Curator of Manuscripts at State Library, then <i>The Centenary</i> film by J Fitzgerald & refreshments. Members \$10, non members \$15; for bookings & information ring 230 1500 (24 hours) |
| June        | Display at PNG Consulate, 100 Clarence St, Sydney  |
| Sun 7 July  | 2-4pm, Talk by Noel Gash for U3A at Nelson Heather Senior Citizens Centre, 4 Jacksons Rd, Warriewood. Refreshments.  |
| Wed 17 July | 2-4pm, Reception at Macleay Museum, Univ of Sydney - exhibition to be opened by the Ambassador of the Russian Federation, Mr A Losyukov. All welcome, bookings essential.  |
| " "         | 6-8pm, Reception and book launch at Elizabeth Bay House of new translation of the diaries of Miklouho-Maclay by Mr B Wongar  |
| Thurs 18 "  | 6-8pm, Meet the author of the new translation of the diaries, B Wongar, at The Writers Centre, Rozelle Grounds, Balmain Rd, Rozelle  |
| Sun 4 Aug   | from 10.30am, Picnic and Historical Walk at Watsons Bay, organised by the Woollahra History and Heritage Society   |
| Tues 6 & 13 | Aug 10.30-12.30: <i>In Search of a Remarkable Man, Nikolai Miklouho-Maclay</i> Royal Historical Society and the WEA. Bookings & info - WEA   |



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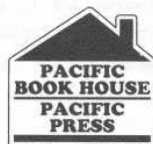
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## NEWS FROM CORRESPONDENTS

Jim Toner (Northern Territory)

In April, twenty-five years ago, **Bill BARCLAY** played Best Man (having loaned his garden as venue) for **Michael GREY's** wedding in Moresby. The pair, both former Nataff and Co-ops field staff, were united briefly in Sydney at Christmas. Bill, who patrolled in Tari/Koroba in the '50s before going to the Registry, went finish to Auckland where he pioneered the growth of orchids for overseas markets. He also developed and patented (although achieving recognition from the US Patents Office was a real struggle) a 'life support' system for cut flowers which affords him income. However Bill had crossed the Tasman in his capacity as National Director of the NZ Institute of Personnel Management. Mike spent two weeks in PNG during May in support of an AIDAB enquiry into the local courts system and was enthusiastic about Madang coastal scenery but little else.

I visited **Bruce and Viv HANNAN** in their camp at Tinaroo Falls for some reminiscences about Mendi and Hagen where Bruce worked with PWD and the local council respectively for 15 years. Viv recounted how at the age of 16 in Sydney she had met this curly-haired Casanova, whereupon her family had promptly despatched her to Darwin on a one-way ticket. It being 1949 she had flown by Sandringham with an overnight stay in Townsville. Viv obtained work at the Star Cinema (on the screen and in the sky - no roof). It took her nine months to save her fare back to Sydney where she was reunited with Mr Hannan. He is still curly and the father of her six children, so I guess True Love does win through.

Misnaming **Mrs HANLEY** in the last issue occasioned me an expensive visit to the florist. Sorry, Eileen. 'Chardonnay every day, rots brain cells away'.

**Doug FRANKLIN** (Brisbane)

**Keith De LACY**, formerly DASF and DPI Mendi, Mt Hagen, Popondetta and Konedobu and until recently Queensland State Treasurer in the Goss Government is still a Member of Parliament for Cairns. He decided to take a back bench seat in the Opposition after many years of demanding work in the high profile position. As he has said he now has more time, he is fulfilling one of his long time ambitions to write a novel about his life experiences. It takes in the early part of his life as a miner in North Queensland before he went to PNG. With Keith's sparkling sense of humour it is sure to be a good story.

**Kevin BYRNES**, who was born in Wau and is the former Lord Mayor of Cairns, has been appointed Director of the PNG Tourist Authority.

Doug apologised for the less-than-usual amount of news from Brisbane. He has been kept busy repairing or replacing fences after the 'almost unprecedented wet' - 28 inches of rain in six days at the beginning of May. Doug has also had his sister and her husband, not seen for many years, out from England to stay.

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**HELP WANTED:** Does anyone know the whereabouts of Jill and Dick Gilbert who were in Port Moresby in 1962-63? Jill (nee Gordon) worked with the PSC at Konedobu until her marriage, and Dick with the Dept of Lands, Surveys & Mines. In 1963 they left for Sydney where Dick worked for a time with the Rural Bank. Peter Chandler would love to make contact with them - his address is: Mill Field, Bookers Lane, Earnley, Chichester, West Sussex PO20 7JD, UK. Ph. (01243) 511037, Fax (01243) 511236

## A LOCAL VIEW

by Meg Taylor\*

I often wish that time could have stood still, and that the Papua New Guinea of my childhood could be the highlands valley in which I now live.

The forces of change arrived with 'contact'. My father entered the highlands on the first contact patrol. In his later years, when law and order became a continuing problem, when hospitals and schools were not properly funded by government and when tribal fighting resumed, he often said 'perhaps we should never have come'.

The reality is, explorers did come, as did administrators and missionaries and settlers, and much has come to pass.

Now we are independent, and much of the anxiety we face as a nation is of our own doing, and so too we must put matters right.

The most demoralising issue for Papua New Guinea since its independence 20 years ago is the countrywide decline in the delivery of the essential community services of health and education. In remote parts the people have given up, in urban centres and rural communities closer to towns a malaise has set in.

Allegations of corruption in political and bureaucratic leadership are common. Politicians generally come home much richer after their first term in parliament. Slush funds that are supposed to be used for village development projects rarely arrive. Yet at election time, money is flaunted to buy votes, and clan loyalties redeliver to parliament 'he' who can bring prestige and goods for the clan.

The government agenda is set by political masters. Politicians and bureaucrats no longer plan and set the agenda for developing this young nation for the benefit of all. Parliament House is far removed from the realities of people in rural areas, and governments at national and provincial levels have missed the whole point of why we put them there; and we ask where does the revenue from mining, oil and forestry projects go?

Much of it goes on salaries to run 19 provincial governments and one enormous and declining national bureaucracy. National government salaries cost K27 million (around \$A27 million) each fortnight. Slush funds for members of Parliament add up to K54.5 million per year. And of course there are the nation's debts to repay. With Australian aid now becoming 'tied aid', there will be less money available for the government to distribute basic services.

When people in rural areas see that little money is going to trickle to them, they will not let any opportunity pass to bring infrastructure development and social services to their area, whether it be via mining, petroleum or forestry projects. In provinces without major resource projects, people hope that something will be discovered so they too can receive the benefits.

The development agenda for the national government is to attract foreign investors who will operate within Papua New Guinean laws and build infrastructure in remote locations. The government has virtually relinquished its own responsibilities of governance to project developers. Resource extraction companies will play the dubious role of developer and governor, a role that companies in PNG do not wish to have.

A further complication arises in the mining and petroleum sector where the State acquires equity in major resource projects. Equity is paid for by monies that could be better spent improving educational and health services. The situation is further complicated by the fact that the State relinquishes its role as the independent arbiter and regulator in matters relating to a project.

It is the aspiration of every Papua New Guinean to assume a better standard of living: access to health services, schools, cash income and employment. Our people are not much different from people in communities anywhere else in the world.

There is a perception that village and rural people in PNG are naive and manipulated by foreign companies. In my experience not much misses the practised and skilled Melanesian negotiator. Life here is one continuous political process where one negotiates relationships and alliances every day. Taking on a major investor is none too difficult for warriors without wars. The more worrying factor is the circumvention of negotiations by local politicians for their own benefit.

There are those both within and outside PNG who enter the development debate on the side of sustainable human development and environmental protection. But what alternatives do we bring to villagers? We bring goodwill, ideas, commitment, small-scale conservation efforts, but we do not bring schools, hospitals and a cash income.

### Where do we go from here?

Our priority must be for the government to deliver basic services. It is as simple as that. Everything else falls into place when one has access to health and educational services. Communities are strengthened. People have the tools to make decisions for themselves. As matters stand, nobody is satisfied, people, government nor the investor.

**\*Meg Taylor** is a former PNG ambassador to the USA and daughter of J L Taylor, kiap, explorer and coffee planter.

*Reprinted with kind permission of the editor of 'Habitat', magazine of the Australian Conservation Foundation.*

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### AUSTRALIAN AID TO PNG

*The following information, published in the 'Post Courier' of 5-6-96, was kindly provided by Doug Franklin, our Brisbane correspondent:*

The Finance Secretary of the National Government in Port Moresby has recently said that 70% of the national budget is being spent on Salaries and Administration costs. He added that the Public Service output is insufficient.

Peter Barter, who is the Regional Member and Governor of Madang Province under the new provincial arrangements has been appointed by Prime Minister Sir Julius Chan to the post of Minister for Provincial Government and Local Affairs in the National Government. His task is to sort out the funding problems between National and Provincial Government.

The top Australian Aid to PNG is now for Education and Training. In the current financial year, allocations are as follows:

Tertiary Scholarships	A\$ 9.2million
Secondary Scholarships	A\$ 9.7m
Primary Schools	A\$ 9.9m
Provincial High Schools Upgrading	A\$ 3.1m
Teacher Training costs	<u>A\$ 1.3m</u>
Total	<u>A\$33.2 million</u>

Next highest, Transport and Communications		
Upgrading and resealing roads		A\$17.0m
Specific roads	62km Southern H'lands Hwy	A\$ 2.5m
	30km Enga road	A\$ 1.5m
	Lae City roads	A\$ 1.5m
Upgrade Maritime College, Madang		A\$ 1.5m
Civil Aviation Security & Fire Fighting Assistance		A\$ 2.5m
NBC Broadcasting Equipment		<u>A\$ 1.5m</u>
	Total	<u>A\$28.0 million</u>
Other Aid Funding		
Law and Justice		A\$ 12.7m
Renewable Resources (includes Agriculture)		A\$ 16.2m
Bougainville		A\$ 1.7m
Gazelle Restoration		A\$ 3.4m
Private Sector		<u>A\$ 2.0m</u>
	Total	<u>A\$ 36.0 million</u>

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### SYDNEY GROUP HELPS HOSPITAL IN VUNAPOPE

Some readers will remember the article in our June 1995 issue telling how a group of ex-Rabaulites in Sydney wanted to make a donation in the wake of the Rabaul eruption. The main hospital at Nonga had been destroyed and Vunapope was the only one operating. However because Vunapope was a Mission hospital, the East New Britain Provincial Government was reluctant to fund it. The Sydney group discovered that Vunapope Hospital desperately needed umbilical cord clamps. They got to work and in no time at all the cords, supplied free of charge by Alpha Healthcare Ltd., arrived at the hospital. The following item from Pat Hopper tells how the group, now known as 'The Rabaul Relief Fund', provided further assistance:

Alpha Healthcare Ltd. offered the Fund a large amount of medical equipment from St Margaret's Hospital at Darlinghurst. However the equipment which included an urgently needed ultrasound filled a large shipping container and would have cost \$5,000 to send to Rabaul. One of the Fund's members is Mr Eric Storm (100 years old!) who is the Trustee of the Estate of F P Archer. Mr Archer, a resident of Bougainville and Rabaul, left money to be used for charities, and Mr Storm stepped in with the money to pay the freight. The container left Sydney on the *Papuan Chief* and was due in Rabaul in May 1996. Apart from the ultrasound machine, the container included three incubators, a wheelchair, eight baby cots, a trolley, five sets of scales, three suction pumps, a sink, three washing machines and two dryers, plus a large assortment of beds, shelves, tables, lockers, cupboards, filing cabinets and metal frames.

*Our congratulations to all involved.*

(Postscript: The container arrived safely and its contents were much appreciated. The Health Secretary of the hospital at Vunapope said 'Nothing will be unused....Equipment and supplies are hard to come by and expensive.')

# MI LAIK MEK PEPA\*

by Bert Weston

The matter of indentured native labour would have featured practically nil in the experience of post-war non-indigenous residents in Papua New Guinea whereas pre-war and among the B-4s, the gold miners, plantation managers, storekeepers, domestic households and employers of native labour in general it was a way of life, a means of exercising control over native employees and accepted by them.

The modus operandi was for a licensed recruiter - and some made a living from it, others had a limited licence to recruit solely for themselves - to obtain an order from a mining company, plantation owner or a native labour agent in a township and move out coastwise or inland with a team of about ten carriers and a skilled recruiting boss-boy, about one month's essential foodstuff and a supply of trade goods such as beads, machetes, lap-lap cloth, jews harps and mouth organs, together with a supply of silver coinage. It was good thinking to visit villages just ahead of a kiap on tax collecting rounds when young men with no money would be willing recruits in order to escape the Administration tax gatherer.

On reaching a likely village it was customary to settle down in the 'House Kiap', the small hut provided for use of visiting Administration patrol officers, then give the luluai (head man) a handful of shillings and sit back while your team spread the story of the wonders of life 'outside' and what a fine man their 'masta' was. This would be in a 'kanaka' community where most had never made paper before. Usually in coastal villages many would have worked for 'mastas' previously and after a spell were anxious to repeat the performance and were willing recruits.

After a few days the luluai would usually bring along a handful of young men who were at once given about ten shillings hand money which they regarded as binding. The recruiter then moved on to other villages where the same procedure took place until he eventually retraced his steps, picking up his recruits en route and heading back home.

My own experience of this was mainly up the Markham Valley and the mountains beyond, it was a tough experience, trudging from place to place, climbing steep mountains, often wet, cold and covered in leeches and short of food. It was on the return down the valley to Lae that there could be problems. As the recruits got further and further from home many would have second thoughts and at night would disappear unless steps were taken to prevent this.

My first introduction to this was on my first march up the valley when I halted for the night at a small oasis named Sassiag just east of the Leron River. Here I was joined by a young miner heading for the coast with a bunch of raw recruits for his mining operations. His name was Arthur Murcutt whose son is now a well known Sydney architect. After the evening meal he placed the new recruits under guard in one of the houses and they were kept there until next morning when they were released and in the light of day were willing to move on. This practice was highly illegal and was known as 'pulling boys'.

On arrival at Lae there would be great excitement as most would not have seen the sea before and would hasten to quench their thirst with a swig of same, to their great dismay.

Transported across the eighteen miles of Huon Gulf to Salamaua their first visit would be to one of the stores where each would be given a blanket, enamel bowl and a spoon and then taken to the native labour clerk where they would be signed on to their future employer by making an inked thumb print on a contract form, three years service for raw kanakas and shorter periods for those who had been indentured before.



Of course there were casuals who had been on contract to various 'mastas' earlier who preferred to 'work moon' and were free to come and go as they liked; I always had some of these in my work force who stayed with me for years.

On completion of perhaps a three year contract the process would be reversed. Taken before the native labour clerk each would receive his deferred pay which would be about £6 for general labourers and £10 for a boss boy or a cook boy.

Scouts from local Chinese trade stores would be hovering in the background and would hurry the cashed up victims to their stores, give them a sumptuous meal of bully beef and rice prior to the big selling spree subsequent to which the customer would head for his home village carrying a small 'bokis' containing bush knives, lap-laps, beads, talcum powder, a torch (useless when the batteries expired) and other oddments as presents for his family.

Under that indenture system there was admittedly a degree of exploitation but, on the other hand, raw recruits were brought in half starved and suffering from various ailments to a life where they were well fed, given medical treatment when needed, taught how to work and experience civilisation minus present day grog and lawlessness.

\* *I would like to make a contract*

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## PNG PROMOTION AT THE SYDNEY ROYAL EASTER SHOW, 1966

by Joe Nitsche

This year a Papua New Guinea village was created, through the Royal Easter Show Society. The old Rothman Pavilion was used and sections thereof were used by Goroka Coffee, Air Niugini, PNG Tourist Board and other businesses selling PNG artefacts and by the Sydney PNG Towards 2000 Committee. Outside, a large area was fenced off to make room for a stage where the Raun Raun Theatre Group from Goroka danced at regular intervals. In addition there were areas for face painting which was very popular, and making of bilums. The village atmosphere was great. Show visitors could not miss it, with the noise from all the kundus and dancers.

The Sydney PNG Towards 2000 Committee took on the task of providing lunches and dinners for the 30 dancers and officials from PNG. In addition hundreds of meals of PNG traditional food were sold to the general public. Sweet potato, taro, tapioca, kumul (greens), rice, pork and chicken were cooked in various ways to make it very tasty. It was a big task as none of us had any experience in purchasing, preparing and cooking the huge amounts that were required at regular intervals.

Dr Dolly Guise was our chief cook and Consul Perpetua Haiveta our purchasing officer, and her daughters became the food servers. Of course there were other cooks including Margaret Neeson, Ruth Choulai, Rita Henry, Patricia Chikalli and many many other helpers, too many to name. We also had a lot of support from the Sydney PNG Consulate General staff members. It meant a lot of work from the early hours of the morning to late at night for 12 days.

We did not make any money, but we certainly promoted Papua New Guinea. Your secretary, Joe Nitsche, peeled, cleaned and chopped enough kau kau, taro and greens to do him for the rest of his life, but had a good supporter in Joyce Robertson ex Unggai (near Goroka). The sweet potato was purchased from the PNG Cairns community.

A couple of weeks later the Consul General, Kila Karo, provided a 'thank you party' at his home for all the workers.

Soft cover!      80p pages!      Full colour!

**PUMICE AND ASH**  
**An Account of the 1994 Rabaul volcanic Eruptions**

Written by Sue Lauer, high school teacher at Rabaul International School (1990-1994), with assistance from Nicholas Lauer, senior surveyor at the Rabaul Volcano Observatory (1989-1995).

Excellent collection of photographs including the first minutes of the eruptions and satellite images, plus factual details, newspaper reports, location maps and diagrams and much more.

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**MANKI MASTAS OF MADANG**

by Chips Mackellar

In my halcyon single days in the early 1960's I lived together with two other single Kiaps in bachelor quarters in Madang.

Since we all had to go off separately on patrol from time to time, each of us had his own domestic servant, known then by their Pidgin calling as *manki mastas*. When in Madang they shared the somewhat less luxurious servants quarters at the rear of our house.

When not patrolling through the jungled hinterland, we led a carefree social life in Madang, passing our off duty hours alternately in the Madang Club, the Madang Hotel, or the Madang Golf Club, sometimes at all three premises during the course of the same day. Due to our preoccupation with this hectic social swirl, the management of our quarters was left to the tender mercies of our *manki mastas*. We gave them money to buy food and other household necessities for us, and so long as we always had clean ironed clothes to wear, and something to eat whenever we returned home, there was little social contact between them and us. Although the *manki mastas* were good bush cooks, their culinary skills lacked imagination when in Madang, and of course they received little inspiration from us.

When on town duty we would come home briefly to the house every day for lunch, and although we never expected cordon bleu presentations from our uninspired cooks, we did start to get sick of sausages every lunch time. We admonished the cooks to vary the menu, but all we ever got was devon sausage instead, and we soon got sick of that too. One day, we suggested steak, but the cooks ruined it, and they seemed to have no idea of

cooking or buying anything else for lunch, other than sausages.

One day, we held a council of despair in the District Office. The heated menu discussion attracted the attention of District Officer Doug Parrish, whose office adjoined ours. Just for a change, Doug suggested, why not serve the sausages cold, with salad? This brilliant idea was immediately accepted by us, but implementing it, was quite another matter.

Next morning, before we went off to the office, I gave the cooks their instructions. "Serve the sausages cold," I said. They looked at me in disbelief. "Do you mean raw?" they asked.

"Not raw," I said, "Cooked, but cold."

"Kiaps always eat their sausages hot" I was told. Obviously I was not getting through to them. "OK," I said, "Listen carefully. Cook the sausages, put them in the fridge, and when we come home for lunch, take them out of the fridge and serve them."

This instruction for serving cold sausages, was as clear as a bell, or so I thought. All morning we looked forward to a luncheon of cold sausages.

But as we walked in the door for lunch, we were greeted by the smell and sound of hot sausages sizzling on the stove. There then followed a flurry of activity in the kitchen as the cooks strove to comply with today's instructions.

Quick as a flash, they whipped the sausages off the stove, put them in the fridge momentarily, then served them from the fridge, piping hot...

Down the road from us was the single girls' quarters, and of course we spent a lot of our time there. As eligible girls were in short supply in Madang in those days, these girls lived a social life which was even far more hectic than our own. As a result, their social contact with their house servants was even less frequent than ours, and the misunderstandings were, as a result, correspondingly far more frequent.

One night there was a big presentation at the Madang Golf Club, Doug Parrish presiding. In addition to the trophies presented by the golf club, there were prizes donated by a local planter. These prizes consisted of live ducks, the pride and joy of the planter's poultry run. One of the girls won a duck. It went "Quack quack" when she brought it back to our table, and then promptly deposited a liquid message on her dress. "Take it back to the house and change your dress" one of the other girls suggested. I took both girl and duck to the girls' quarters.

"House Cook!" the girl shrieked, when she entered the building. She then left me holding the duck while she went inside and changed. When she emerged wearing a clean dress, a bleary eyed domestic entered from the kitchen. "Take this duck," the girl said to him quickly, "pluck it, clean it, and put it in the refrigerator." And we returned to the Golf Club.

Some hours later, when the Golf Club party was winding down, I took the girl back to her home again, and went inside with her for a night cap. As she opened the fridge to fetch me a beer, she let out a shriek of anguish. There in the fridge staring at her in misery was the very clean, very naked, very cold plucked duck, very much alive. She had forgotten to tell the cook to kill it...

*There are two more of these stories which will be in a later issue because of shortage of space in this one, but Chips concludes with the comment:* In all these instances I am reminded of Caroline Jones' definition of a communication breakdown: It is the difference between what is meant and what is said; and what is heard and what is understood. There was no point in blaming the cooks, since the onus of getting the message across was, of course, our own. We had no one to blame but ourselves.

## BOOK NEWS AND REVIEWS

**PUMICE AND ASH** - Account of the 1994 Rabaul Volcanic Eruptions, by Sue Lauer, printed in Australia by Quality Plus Printers Pty Ltd, Ballina, NSW.

Review by Joe Nitsche

This publication is a meticulous day-to-day account by the author Sue Lauer about what happened when the volcanoes erupted on 19 September 1994. It is presented as a journal, on glossy A4 paper with numerous engrossing colour plates. The author had an advantage in that her husband Nick and co-author, worked as the Senior Vulcanological Surveyor at the Rabaul Volcano Observatory, and was able to obtain the finer details of seismographs etc, thus there is some use of technical jargon and precise recordings. The hire of helicopters by the Rabaul Volcano Observatory produced some wonderful photographs, right from the beginning of the eruptions. People who lived in Rabaul town and its surrounds will appreciate the presentation of the account, as the author has an intimate knowledge of the district.

Sue Lauer had lived with her husband Nick and two children on top of Observatory Hill Road since July 1989, except for four days at Kulau Lodge during the eruptions and two weeks in Australia to settle the children into school. She then returned to Rabaul and stayed there until 29 November 1994 when she and her husband returned to Australia.

It is a story which covers the hours and days of distress for so many people caught up in the tragedy. She tells us how she left the observatory in her car with her two children and others, taking the barest essentials, heading to Kulau Lodge, trying to get petrol and seeing all these hundreds of people carrying an assortment of possessions, heading out of town. She covers details such as the movement of aircraft from Rabaul airport at night, the Nonga Hospital evacuations, road conditions, the ransacking of homes and stores, and later revisiting Rabaul and trying to reach stores like Andersons and other major stores in an attempt to gather food and essential supplies for the care centres.

Later she tells us how she undertakes to drive to Kokopo through the back roads to Vunakanau, Burma and Vunadidir roads, and what she saw, eventually finding a space to sleep at Vunapope. She discovers that friends and colleagues were safe. Sitting on a blanket at night, she watches the spectacular fireworks display of the volcanoes.

Sue Lauer was a teacher at the Rabaul International School and she includes a large section about the various schools on the peninsula. However she includes too many details pertaining to staff, students from her school and of her various friends, which is really of no interest to readers who may not have lived in Rabaul for many years.

As I said earlier, there are some terrific colour plates, over 80 examples, which show the first Tavurvur eruption, the first minutes of Vulcan's eruption, the coastal boat *Pera* inching its way through the pumice, the altered shape of Vulcan, Rabaul airport a week after the eruptions, the Beehives in Rabaul Harbour illustrating different phases of the eruption, the shell of the New Guinea Club and many, many more.

There is a distressing photo of Rabaul town taken from a helicopter in the second week of the eruption. It is an important photo and one can easily work out where the different landmarks of the town are, but I would have preferred to see more photos of Rabaul town, covering the whole area, to give readers a better view and understanding of the devastation, as many of us have so many fond memories of the township.

The author also uses press releases from various newspapers, location maps and diagrams, and inserts from friends and other writers on what they experienced during and after the eruptions.

Cost \$23.95 (incl. postage and handling in Australia) available from CPD Resources, PO Box 4037, GOONELLABAH NSW 2480. Tel: 066 24 5655, Fax: 066 24 5656

## BOOK NEWS & REVIEWS *Continued*

### RECOVERY AND RETURN TO AUSTRALIA OF BOSTON BOMBER

Roy Claringbould's son, Michael, played a large part in the 1984 recovery from the New Guinea jungle of an American Air Force Douglas A-20G bomber, its return to Australia and subsequent restoration. This is the most intact WW2 aviation relic ever recovered from the Pacific. Because of bad weather in the Markham Valley in mid-April 1944, a returning flight of 37 US Air Force bombers and fighters made forced landings, were destroyed or disappeared in what became known as *Black Sunday*. The crew of this particular bomber took 15 days to make it to safety. Michael interviewed the aircraft's surviving pilot and drew on more than 160 first-hand sources including his own diary kept during the recovery. The book, *Helluva Pelican*, is described as 'aviation nostalgia for anyone with more than a passing interest in the Pacific war'. To obtain a copy please send \$Aus.20.00 (which includes overseas delivery) to Michael Claringbould, Box 214, Suva, Republic of Fiji.

### TWO NEW BOOKS ABOUT NIKOLAI MIKLOUHO-MACLAY

*Nikolai* by Wendy Paton: a compilation of information particularly covering Miklouho-Maclay's time in Australia and the South Pacific areas. It includes resource data. Cost is \$A15 (\$20 p&p) from: Mrs F Lawrence, Woollahra Library, PO Box 61, Double Bay NSW 2028. Ph (61 2) 391 7100 or fax (61 2) 391 7116. ISBN: 0 949648 64 7

A new translation by Mr B Wongar of the diaries of Miklouho-Maclay, entitled *The New Guinea Diary by N N Miklouho-Maclay*. The book will be launched on 17 July. Cost will be \$A16.95, available from the distributors *Harper Collins* or the publisher, *ETT*, PO Box 157 Kings Cross NSW 2011. Fax: (61 2) 388 8025. ISBN: 1 875 892 51 6

There are no other books on Miklouho-Maclay in print.

### 10% DISCOUNT TO ROAPNG MEMBERS

Bill McGrath of Pacific Book House (see advertisement in this issue) advises that as from 1 July 1996 ROAPNG members are entitled to a 10% discount on ALL books purchased from Pacific Book House. Please mention your membership when ordering books.

**NEWS FROM PACIFIC BOOK HOUSE:** Bill & Patricia McGrath advise that the following catalogues are available free of charge to members of the Association:

- Catalogue 31, PACIFIC WAR AND MILITARY HISTORY (many PNG titles)
- A list (no catalogue number) of new books recently published between 1993 and 1996 relating to PAPUA NEW GUINEA AND OTHER ISLANDS OF MELANESIA, MICRONESIA AND POLYNESIA, 13 March 1996
- Catalogue 29, NEW GUINEA AND OTHER ISLANDS OF MELANESIA
- Anthropology List No 4, June 1996
- Catalogue 28, QUEENSLAND

*RABAUL 1942* by Douglas Aplin is available to members at \$5 off the retail price of \$25, ie \$20 plus \$7.00 packing and postage to anywhere in Australia.

**Contact:** Pacific Book House, 17 Park Avenue, Broadbeach Waters Qld 4218.  
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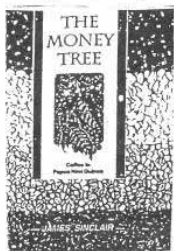
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## VALE

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

### **Father Kevin Barry MURPHY MSC** (23 May 1996, aged 73 years)

Father Kevin Murphy, the youngest of six children, was born to Irish parents in Sydney on 7-1-1923. At the young age of 12 years he went to Douglas Park Seminary to study for the priesthood and on 15-7-1948 he was ordained a priest as a member of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart. Fulfilling a childhood dream, he went to Papua New Guinea where he served for 31 years as a devoted missionary in Milne Bay, Goodenough Island and various other areas, the Melanesian Institute at Goroka and as a pastor in the prison system. He built many a church and house in the Milne Bay area.

In 1976 he returned to Australia for a short period for hospital treatment, then back to PNG until 1984, when he went to the USA to study the treatment of addictions. On his return to Australia he became the founder of the Australian Institute of Counselling in Addictions, treating hundreds who suffered from alcoholism and drug addictions.

Father Kevin had a remarkable and productive career. In the last ten years he suffered from illness and much pain, yet he never complained but had a kind word for everyone. He died of leukemia.

A Mass of Christian Burial for Father Kevin was celebrated in Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church at Randwick Sydney where 27 priests from PNG and Australia congregated along with some 300 friends and family members. He was laid to rest at the Douglas Park Community Cemetery. (The foregoing was written by Joe Nitsche)

### **Mr Cyril Lawrence THEODORE** (15 March 1996, aged 80 years)

Cyril Theodore was born on 17 June 1915. He left Australia for PNG in 1951 and settled in Port Moresby where he was employed by the Health Department. Later the family moved from Moresby to Madang and then to Kavieng, Rabaul and Sohano. He patrolled much of New Guinea carrying out malaria control activities, as well as supervising various health services in the towns. His employment was terminated in 1963 due to ill health. His son wrote, 'Dad always held fond memories of his years in the Territory and spoke of them many times.' His wife, Amy Marion Theodore, predeceased him on 8-12-93. He is survived by his son, Peter who kindly provided this information.

### **Mr William ARMSTRONG**

Bill had been trained in the army as a medical orderly. He was in ANGAU and later became a Medical Assistant. In late 1949 and early 1950, he was in Namatanai where there was no hospital, and the Administration had no money to build one. Bill, with the support of the local people and the planters, found old timber, iron etc and involved himself in building a semi-native material hospital - the only cost was £20, mainly for nails. Later he served in the Highlands spending a long time in Goroka as Hospital Secretary. Then he moved to Port Moresby where he was Hospital Secretary briefly and then was in charge of Moresby's Ambulance Services. He also spent some time in Rabaul as Acting Hospital Secretary and then Hospital Inspector for the New Guinea Islands Region. He retired to the Gold Coast. His wife, Margaret, pre-deceased him. He is survived by his sons Gary and Dale. (Information kindly provided by Paul Enders and Bert Speer)

**Mrs Gillian LOPES** (1 February 1996, aged 63 years)

Gillian died at Atherton Qld after a brave fight with cancer. Gillian first went to PNG in 1964 with her husband Ivor, who was with the Education Department from the United Kingdom. From 1965-67 she worked for the Royal Australian Army Engineers and for Steamships in Popondetta. Between 1968 and 1971 she was Treasury Clerk with the Administration at Lorengau, Manus Island. After her husband's posting to Rabaul in 1971, she became an Agricultural Officer in East New Britain, working in the rural extension area. From 1973 to 1974 she was Paymaster with the Education Dept in Lae. Her last positions were as Executive Officer with the Dept of Transport, Aviation and Parts Division, Port Moresby from 1975 to 1978.

Gillian is survived by her husband Ivor, son Richard and daughter Vivienne, and four grandchildren. (The foregoing was written by her husband, Ivor.)

**Mr Edgar (Ted) BURCHETT** (16 April 1996, aged 88 years)

Ted was born in Broken Hill in 1908. While in Broken Hill he became a qualified carpenter. He married during the depression but because he could not find work he went to New Guinea; his wife followed him. He worked as a sawmill, a labour supervisor, and from 1951-63 as a Medical Assistant with the Health Department. His work took him to the Upper Watut (NG), Wau (NG), Misima (Papua), Milne Bay 1942-43, Kairuku, Mt Hagen, Tari and Angoram. He retired in 1963.

Ted is survived by his wife, Iris Elizabeth.

(Information kindly provided by Don Barnes, and supplemented from our membership records)

**Mr William Pearce (Bill) LLOYD** (1 August 1995, aged 66 years)

Bill was born in Brisbane in 1929. After spending some time as a Jackaroo in Queensland, he went to Rabaul in 1947 to work for the W R Carpenter group at Teripax Plantation. He married Betty Keegan in 1949, and the couple then went to Kafkaf Plantation in New Ireland. Their next move was to Awar Plantation in the Bogia District (Madang), then in 1952 to Kulkul Plantation on Karkar Island off the coast of Madang. This was Bill and Betty's home until 1960 when Bill became Manager of Dogowan and Bagabag Plantations (Karkar) on condition that a new house was built.

The Dogowan house was completed and was home for the Lloyds for 15 years. It was here that their children Helen and David were brought up. For eight years (1968-75) Bill was on the Karkar Local Government Council. He was also Managing Director of the Karkar Coy in the most successful period of its history. Bill and Betty left Karkar in 1977 to settle in Australia, but things did not turn out as expected so they returned to PNG, this time to the Highlands, and Bill worked in various places until eventually Betty's health forced the couple to return to Australia for treatment. Betty died in 1991 leaving Bill devastated. Less than three years later David died tragically in a car accident.

His friends remember Bill for the example he set under enormous personal disappointment and pain, for the open friendship that radiated from him, for his firm mindedness, for his kindness, for his justness but overriding all else for his overabundant mischievous good humour.

**Mrs Anne Jacqueline WIGGINS** (April 1996)

Was in Wau before living in Chapel Hill QLD. Survived by husband Rex and children Mark and Simon. (No further information available.)

**Fr. Dom Anselm STONER** (11 April 1995, aged 83 years)

Fr. Dom was born George Stoner in 1912, at or near Port Alberni, Vancouver Island, Canada, then moved with his parents and sisters to Tasmania. As a young man he became a Catholic, and applied to join the priesthood there and then. When not accepted, he spent seven years in electrical work, then joined the Friars of the Franciscan Order. That's where he got the nickname Dom, and it stayed with him. It had nothing to do with "Dominic".

Dom was ordained priest in 1946 and taught the next year at St. Anthony's Seraphic College: our juniorate for friar-candidates or seraphs, myself included. Then he worked his way to the New Guinea mission the hard way, as crew on our mission boat, M.V. Madonna. A handy man had a value in the mission team, and Dom found his time divided between pastoral work at Arop and Malol (part of the Aitape Diocese) and jobs: engines, boats, sawmills, building, blasting passages for boats.....you name it. He hadn't the patience of Job, but how many of us have? He certainly didn't bear a grudge, not even when he knew his opinion about superiors was well founded.

Dom was also pastor of Sissano for awhile and built the convent there. Life was a struggle, but he thrived on a challenge. About 1962 he became pastor of Ali, and lived there much of the next 22 years. Combining his skills with the Alis' sea-going traditions, he set up boatbuilding as both a small scale industry and a way to ensure their own all-weather transport. Gradually clans built boats of their own, and hunger was no longer a necessary evil when bad seas prevailed. A sail or a paddle won't get far in the north-west season. Till the Pacific War, the S.V.D. missionaries used steam launches, but these did not reappear after 1945.

It was Dom who fitted inboard motors in the mission dinghies for Malol-Arop-Sissano, and then one to supply our Seleo school. When I got there in 1956 our little "Morning Star" was the only powered boat about. Dom's slipway at Ali changed this.

He remained a colourful character; gracious host and story-teller, unpredictable turn of phrase.... and a deep faith.

He left his mark on Port Moresby in the late 70's through early 80's and again after he finally retired from Ali. He'd see us onto and off flights, take us shopping and leave us with the cashier, or spend hours for us at Migration Office. To Dom it was a Rosebush, and one didn't ask why. Transit in Moresby can be a hassle, but with Dom it was never boring.

I spent time with him in Brisbane, and our sharings were good for us both. Colourful was still the word for him, with his quick wit, unexpected insights and turns of phrase, and his pet aversions. He's at peace now and may God rest him. His latest observations on his present surroundings must be priceless.

(From an article by Tim Elliott titled *Fr. Dom Dies at Kedron* in the Bulletin of the Vice-Province of St. Francis, Papua New Guinea Solomon Islands, Vol. 12, No. 3, June 1995, kindly provided by Doug Parrish.)

**Mr Leslie Colin McMAHON** (2 January 1996, aged 55 years)

Arrived in PNG in 1984, served in Port Moresby, Lae and Rabaul, departed 1995. Survived by his wife Elizabeth. (No further information available.)

**Mr John Alexander STITT** (3 June 1996, aged 78)

John worked in PNG from January 1955 to April 1973 as a Technical Officer with Transport. He joined our Association in 1973. His wife pre-deceased him. (No further information available.)

**Mr Edwin George HICKS OBE** (17 May 1996, aged 73 years)

Ted began his career in PNG as a Patrol Officer in ANGAU. He rose to the position of District Commissioner of the Sepik District, a position he held for eight years. He was awarded an OBE in 1983. Full details in next issue of the Newsletter.

**Mr Norman John CAMPS** (27 April 1966, aged 65 years)

Norm was born in Botany NSW in 1931. In his early years he enjoyed the outdoors. After a stint with the CSIRO, he took a position with the Australian Museum in Sydney and at the same time undertook a special Museum Course in zoology, biology and other relevant sciences. Many field trips to outback Australia came his way. One expedition, which was to change the course of his life, was to New Guinea where his job was to collect and prepare hundreds of species of birds and mammals.

Norm was offered a partnership in coffee plantations, with a lease secured in a new area of the Waghi Valley to be opened up to settling. He married Esma in early 1955 and that year he and Esma set up house in Mt Hagen in a bush materials house where they lived for seven years. Four children were born during their time in PNG. Norm became involved in civic and business affairs as Mt Hagen evolved from a 'station' to a town. He was highly regarded by the local people who sought his advice and assistance in many ways. With his love of wildlife and scientific interest in flora and fauna, Norm gave much of himself, and his time, to the Baiyer River Bird of Paradise Sanctuary and the Bensbach Wildlife Lodge. The family moved to Australia in 1975.

Norm is survived by his wife Esma, children Stuart, Scott and Roslyn, and grandchild Joanna. (Information kindly provided by Esma Camps)

**Mr Clive NICHOLLS** (31 May 1996, aged 47 years)

Clive Nicholls died from a heart attack in the Caloundra Hospital Qld. He is survived by his wife Jean and sons David and Geoffrey who live at Wurtulla on Queensland's Sunshine Coast. Clive went to New Guinea in 1969 as a Patrol Officer and spent most of the next 13 years in the Morobe Province. His final posting was ADC Kaiapit. He then worked for NG Goldfields and later for Exploration PNG until 1992. He survived a near fatal helicopter crash in the Tari area in 1988.

In 1992 Clive joined with George Leahy and former ADC Ian Thomson to form Oilmin Field Services headquartered at Mt Hagen. Oilmin provides a variety of field services to mining and petroleum companies and is now the leading company of this type in PNG today employing mainly former expatriate and national 'Kiaps'. Clive was considered to be a first rate 'bushman'.

(The foregoing was written by Bill McGrath.)

**Mr Henry Metcalfe CUNNINGHAM** (26-3-1996, aged 71 years)

Worked in PNG from May 1956 to December 1977 as Senior Works Supervisor with the National Works Authority. He was single at retirement.

**ASSOCIATION SUB-COMMITTEES 1996**

**Finance:** Elma Holmes, Don Drover, Doug Parrish, Joe Nitsche, Pat Jones, Paul Ryan.

**Social:** Joe Nitsche, Pamela Foley, Harry West, Pat Hopper.

**Legal:** Doug Parrish, Harry West, Freddie Kaad, Don Drover, Bill Johnston, Paul Ryan, Ross Johnson.

**Caring:** Pat Hopper, Frank Smith, Roma Bates, Ross Johnson, Pat Jones and co-opting Florence Cohen, Isobel Ireland and Marie Day as necessary.

**Editorial:** Marie Bassett, Doug Parrish, Pamela Foley, Bob Pulsford, Pat Jones, Don Drover, Ross Johnson.