



Una Voce

JOURNAL OF THE PAPUA NEW GUINEA ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC
(formerly the Retired Officers Association of Papua New Guinea Inc)

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THE CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

will be held on

Sunday 7 DECEMBER

Cost - \$30 per head

Full details in December issue

THE AGM and LUNCHEON

will be on **Sunday 2 May 2004**

ARE YOU A SUPERANNUANT?

Mention in June *Una Voce* (p.1) of a letter sent to superannuants has brought various responses - some appreciative, but some advising us that they, being superannuants, had not received the letter. The explanation is that, in earlier years, new members were not asked to specify whether or not they were in a superannuation scheme, so our records in this respect are not accurate. A copy of the letter has since been sent to those members who have advised us of non-receipt of the letter. A list of current superannuants is on pp 42-44.

Christmas is coming!

A copy of our book, 'Tales of Papua New Guinea', could make an excellent present.

See page 29 for details.

MEMBERSHIP FEES will be \$15 p.a. from Jan. 2004 (up from the present \$12) Please check your *Una Voce* address label for your membership expiry date. You can also renew through our website.

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**'UNA VOCE' IS THE JOURNAL OF
THE PAPUA NEW GUINEA
ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC**

Please send all correspondence to: **The Secretary, PNGAA, PO Box 452, Roseville NSW 2069.** Items for *Una Voce* are welcome and should be marked 'For Attention: The Editor' or emailed to: mccliftonbassett@ozemail.com.au

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**Membership is available to any person
having an interest in Papua New**

Guinea. The annual subscription is \$15. The membership year corresponds to the calendar year and an application form is available from the Secretary at the above address or you can download one from our website.

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VISIT TO THE MOUNTAINS

The annual springtime visit to the Blue Mountains will take place on **Thursday 9 October**. This time we are having lunch at the home of Edna and George Oakes, 5 Weroona Avenue, Woodford - phone (02) 4758 8754. They have plenty of space and there are expansive views from the verandah and garden to Kurrajong and beyond. For the energetic there are short walks to adjacent waterfalls and lookouts.

Edna will prepare lashings of enticing soup, rolls, tea, coffee etc. Visitors can bring sandwiches, slices, or whatever (and some liquid refreshments if they wish).

The Oakes will meet those who travel by train at Woodford station with two cars, but it is only 10 minutes to their house for anyone who prefers the picturesque walk.

The train departs from Central Country Concourse at 9.02 am and arrives at Woodford at 10.31 am. Returns from Woodford at 3 pm and arrives Central at 4.37 pm. **Join us!** Please contact Pam Foley, ph 9967 2818, by Monday 6 October.

Harry West

CORRECTION: In Mary Pulsford's article, 'First Night in the Bush', the DCA officer at Wewak was **Roy Taylor** (see Issue 2, June 2003, p.28, 4th para).

LIST OF FINANCIAL MEMBERS, 31-5-03:

The name of **Mr D SPEAKMAN** was inadvertently omitted from this list. We are pleased to advise that David Speakman is alive and well. He is at: 9B Dunrobin Court, 389 Finchley Road, London UK NW3 6HE

Also omitted was **Mr J A VANDERKAMP** who is at 36 Kamerunga Villas Caravonica, Cairns Qld 4878

HELP WANTED: If anyone knows the whereabouts of **Michael Bruce WHITE** please contact the secretary, Pam Foley, ph 02 9967 2818 or fax 02 9967 2856. Last year he moved from Braddon ACT but has not advised us of his new address.

Introducing - www.pngaa.net

The Papua New Guinea Association of Australia
Formerly the Federal Officers' Association of Papua New Guinea

PNGAA's wide membership consists of former PNG public servants, missionaries, entrepreneurs and individuals. From a relatively small beginning in 1952 the Association has progressively grown to a family of over 1,200 members, and it is still growing. This "family" can best be described as "diverse", in use a patois-English expression, as encompassing the elements of geographical location and elapsed years, old family together. It is hoped that this World Wide Web presence will further cement these bonds and facilitate communication and interaction between both regions and non-members.

One of the primary objects of the Papua New Guinea Association of Australia is the preservation of documents and historical material related to Papua New Guinea. In pursuing this objective, the Association encourages members to contribute their insights, experiences and reminiscences of their life, work and play.

This is our new web site and we are seeking comments/suggestions from members as to what you would like to see on the website - there is an area set aside for your comments on the PNGAA Forum.

Click here to let us know what you think.

Add on site to your toolbar

HOME | ABOUT PNGAA | CONTACT | NEWS | FORUM | PUBLICATIONS | BOOKS | ORGANISATION | EVENTS

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Our new web site has finally arrived. Your Committee took a gamble at its last meeting and agreed that our Association should have a presence on the world wide web. Arrangements were then made with John McGregor (who just happens to be a member who runs his own "Web Marketing" business) to develop a web site. We also need to thank member Peter Salmon (he runs the exkiap web site) for his advice and assistance.

The graphic on the left is the "Welcome" page. If you 'click' on the PNG Coat of Arms, you will hear the PNG National Anthem (assuming you have your audio set up correctly). The links on the right hand side, duplicated on the bottom "Garamut" as a 'footer',

take you to various 'pages' of the site. A viewer can -

- learn all about and contact PNGAA;
- catch up with the latest PNGAA news;
- use the "Forum" to indulge in swapping stories or asking questions;
- read about our publications and order "Tales of Papua New Guinea" on-line;
- visit and re-read selected articles from past issues of "Una Voce" indexed both by title and author;
- look at a selection of photos in the "Photo Gallery";
- join or renew membership;
- browse PNG specific web addresses;
- rekindle past memories by browsing the map(s) of PNG, and lastly,
- remember old friends and acquaintances no longer with us by visiting the "Vale" section.

For those of us who are just taking their first steps in internet 'surfing' and email communication, the "Help" link in the Garamut footer is well worth visiting. Likewise, the "Search" function - put your query in, press the button, and bingo! All references to your search criteria will be displayed.

The website needs your input. Any members who have those group photos and other items of interest languishing in storage should contact Ross Johnson, our Web Site Co-ordinator, at lapun@ozemail.com.au. We encourage members to contribute their records of PNG before these wonderful experiences are lost in the passage of time.

In the meantime, visit, enjoy, and let us know what you think,

HELP WANTED: Peter Cahill asks if anyone knows where **SCRUB ISLAND** is. He thinks it's in/near the Gulf District of Papua but can't track it. If you can help please contact him at 7 Wynyard Street, Indooroopilly Qld 4068 (p.cahill@uq.edu.au)

IN 100 WORDS OR LESS - VISITING DIGNITARIES

Three scientists from the UK-based Anti-Locust Research Centre and myself waded across the Ramu River to observe locust swarms. Littered around on the far bank were numerous stout pointed sticks about 20 cm long. One of the visitors asked me, 'What are these used for?' I answered, 'You carry one of them when you wade the river so that if a crocodile attacks, you slam the stick vertically into its mouth so it cannot close its jaws on you'. I received a very sceptical look. Now curious myself, on the return trip I asked one of the villagers what the sticks were for. 'You carry one of them when you wade the river so that ...' Now who looked incredulous.

Graeme Baker

Dr Bob Taylor, a famous ant expert, was billeted at Kuk Tea Research Station during a study tour of the Western Highlands. He returned exhausted from the field one day, so the local assistant assigned to him made him a refreshing cup of tea. Within minutes Bob had curled up in the foetal position on the floor in agony. Without delay he was rushed to the hospital in Mt Hagen where he was diagnosed with kidney stones and treated accordingly. The person most relieved by the diagnosis was the local assistant who had made him the cup of tea.

Graeme Baker

VIPs had no idea what went on behind the scenes during their visits to outstations. At the time of the change of Administrators, Mr David Hay, with his wife Alison, was touring Papua New Guinea as the incoming Administrator while at the same time, Sir Donald with Lady Cleland was touring as the outgoing one. Invitations were sent to many residents for drinks on Friday night, followed by dinner for thirty people, to introduce Mr and Mrs Hay. And to farewell the Clelands on the following Monday night we sent out the same number of invitations. It was the dry season and water was low in the tanks - and the day before the Hays' visit the town water supply dried up. We had to find an alternative way to cope with our bathroom and kitchen needs as well as toilet facilities for our many visitors. We solved the problem by bringing in drums of water from the river, and having labourers on standby to fill and refill buckets for the kitchen and toilet. Looking relaxed and composed under trying circumstances was a skill we learnt very early on.

Nancy Johnston

Invited to our first Territory reception, we joined the long receiving line. As we approached the official party, my husband nervously pinched out his cigarette and dropped it into his shirt pocket. He was about to shake hands with the visiting Australian Postmaster General when the pocket began to smoulder. In the stunned silence, someone stepped forward and solemnly put out the fire with a drink. The handshake and conversation continued as if nothing had happened. With protocol still faithfully maintained we moved on, then escaped to the solace of the bar, shirt and dignity in tatters.

Cynthia Hallam

Once when I was a/District Commissioner Madang we had a visit from the Minister for Territories, accompanied by the Administrator. On the programme the Administrator had some interviews and a delegation to see, and whilst this was taking place the Minister wanted to do some correspondence with his secretary. At the old District Headquarters, the DC's office was very large and the District Officer's office pretty small; so to handle the delegation I put the Administrator in the DC's and the Minister in the DO's office. At the conclusion of the interviews the Minister was to meet all the departmental heads and representatives, so when the Administrator finished I assembled all these people in the DC's office - there was just enough room for chairs for everyone. I then went to the

Minister and told him the staff were all present whenever he was ready. I got a curt reply, 'The staff comes to the Minister, Page, the Minister does not go to the staff'. (I then realised he was obviously miffed that he had not been placed in the DC's office.) So I got all the staff to the DO's office where there was no room for chairs, and not even room for everyone to stand so some were outside the door - but I guess the Minister's honour was restored!

Jack Page

An excited buzz rippled through the playground. It was mid 1964. I was a youngster attending Rabaul's Court Street Primary A School and we were expecting a visit by Lord de L'Isle, Australia's 15th Governor General, who had been appointed from Britain. His daughter, Ann Sidney, was to accompany him and she would be planting a tree to commemorate the occasion. We were assembled in straight lines, standing very still in the hot sun. A suitable hole was dug and a small tree placed beside it, in readiness. Our distinguished guests arrived and how impressive they looked! Ann Sidney, suitably dressed for the climate; Lord de L'Isle, tall and upright, a vision in whites - crisp long white trousers, formal white jacket, glittering medals attached. Sitting on his head, though, was the *pièce de résistance* - a white pith helmet with masses of magnificent pristine white ostrich plumes fluttering lightly. These contrasted greatly with the earthy colours of the masks and head-dresses we were used to the locals wearing for a singsing, and also with the dust and sweat of the schoolyard. Andrea Williams (nee Coote)

During our posting to Misima in the 1960s, Barry had arranged for a visit by the Anglican Bishop of New Guinea, Bishop Phillip Strong. It was to be a special occasion for the locals and during his stay he was to be our house guest. There was a good deal of preparation for the visit, including instruction for our four children on his importance, and we pointed out that he was to be addressed as 'My Lord'. All went well until the first morning after his arrival when our five year old came out thinking he was so very important and said 'Good morning My God'! The Bishop took it in good part. He was a charming house guest and I still treasure a letter he wrote to thank us for arranging the visit and for our hospitality.

Jean Bond

Early 1962 I was advised that the members of the UN Visiting Mission were coming to Karimui for morning tea the next day. I was to provide cakes and sandwiches for ten. Mild panic as I had no bread, no cakes and no stove. DC's secretary said she would bring the makings for morning tea and I was to provide tea and coffee. I had only two cups but a dozen plastic mugs from the gaol made up the required numbers. The leprosy rate was 8% but I figured the germs wouldn't last long on dry plastic. Next morning two Cessnas arrived with D.C. Bill Seale, D.O. Eric Flower, Sir Hugh Foot, Delmas Nucker and Ashok Bhadkamkar. Mr Nucker with three cameras leaped out and ran about taking photos from all angles and then walked about shaking hands and shouting 'Nucker'. The response from the assembled all and sundry was of course a vigorous handshake and a louder shout of 'Nucker'. Morning tea was served and as instructed the two china cups were given to the two big men, the pilots, the only ones in uniform. Sir Hugh asked the whereabouts of the toilet and as we had had 3 in. of rain the day before the earth covering the pit had collapsed and entrance was by negotiating a slippery log. I suggested a trip to the bush but Sir Hugh managed the greasy pole. When he returned he said, 'Dwyer, I have been shot at by the Germans, Italians, Africans, Jews, Arabs, Greeks and Turks, but crossing that pit was the most frightening experience of my life'. Mr Bhadkamkar spoke to the assembled throng and I translated to Pidgin and then the two interpreters spoke in Daribi and Tudahwei. A spokesman replied that the Government was a wonderful thing

and the kiap was a great man who led them in uplifting tasks such as building roads. Mr Bhadkamkar launched into a call for near revolution. 'Throw off the chains, lead don't just follow, learn to act without orders from the colonial masters etc.'. A look of horror came onto Bill Seale's face so my interpretation became, 'Don't leave everything to the Government and the kiaps. Get off your bums and work harder'. Roars of approval from the crowd and looks of satisfaction from both Bhadkamkar and Seale. Sir Hugh's private words to me were, 'Pidgin is much the same all over the world. Well done Dwyer. Have you ever thought about becoming a diplomat?'

Patrick Dwyer

As my diaries have long since vanished, I can't remember the date, but it was during the period early 1961 to early 1963 while I was OIC Karimui Patrol Post (then Eastern Highlands but later Simbu District). Word came in that a white man with a group of unidentified New Guineans was in the bush taking and bottling blood. As they hadn't turned up after a couple of days I walked out and met them. The medical research man (as he described himself) was talking to the locals in a language they couldn't understand, taking blood samples and writing what he said were names and villages on the bottles. I checked a few of these and found no names or village names that corresponded with anyone/any villages in that area. The blood collector told me that he didn't need an interpreter as he was able to learn a new language in two to three days. The Karimui people were lining up to give blood but I suggested that 'the doctor' should come with me and spend the night at Karimui. The last couple of miles were by motorbike and half way home my pillion passenger jumped off (scared of bikes he later told me). As I had a government issue BSA Bantam, the speed wasn't great and the road was only an unsealed mud track so the only damage was a torn shirt and scraped knees. I checked him out next morning on the radio sked and was surprised to learn that he was an accredited researcher investigating Kuru (the laughing sickness). I was further surprised some years later when Dr Gajdusek received a Nobel Prize for the results of his research into Kuru.

Patrick Dwyer

When the Queen visited Rabaul in 1974, she attended a reception and met one of the Tolai leaders, Nason Tokiala. He told her that he went to London when they 'put the hat on' her father. Our ever-gracious Queen (via an interpreter) said, 'Indeed, I know you were there, because my father told me all about you.' For the rest of the evening Nason Tokiala had a very happy smile on his face. And those in the reception line who had heard the conversation quietly admired the Queen's response.

Pat Hopper

Former members of the Rabaul Art Society were saddened to read of the passing of the celebrated artist, Sir William Dargie. In October 1969, the Society held its 12th Annual Art Exhibition in the Masonic Hall, Rabaul. Sir William (who at that time held the unique distinction of having won eight Archibald Prizes) accepted the Society's invitation to come to Rabaul to judge the 323 entries submitted that year. Sir William commented very favourably on some of the entries, particularly the Tolai members' interpretation of their symbols of Tolai culture and landscape. He visited villages and lectured at schools, and on his departure presented a gift to the Society - his portrait of a Tolai man. The Rabaul Art Society was indeed honoured.

Florence Cohen

His 1956 visit to PNG was clearly enjoyed by the then Governor General of Australia, Field Marshall Viscount Slim, V.C. His wife was unable to accompany him because of illness, but he arranged for her to make a visit on her own the following year. They had met and married many years earlier when he was a young army captain and she was living with her missionary parents on a remote Indian frontier outpost. Many of the New

Guinea experiences were reminiscent of their early life together.

Not the least was his Highland visit. On a Saturday morning he was to have landed in Hagen at 9 am where the DC, Ian Skinner, had assembled many thousands of magnificently attired tribesmen for the largest welcome and sing sing ever held in New Guinea. But the weather intervened and the aircraft could not proceed beyond Goroka. I was relieving Bill Seale as DC at the time and when the aircraft was overhead at 8.30 I was making final preparations for the scheduled midday arrival of the G.G. at Goroka, after his Hagen visit. The cat was certainly amongst the pigeons!

I was called to the DCA tower to talk to the aircraft and an emergency plan was hatched. The plane would land and move to the opposite side of the airfield, remote from the terminal, and the G.G. would be whisked away to the Residency. Just before noon he would be driven back to the aircraft which would then taxi to the terminal for the official welcome with guard of honour, assembled dignitaries, various groups and celebrations. The plan worked well and there was nothing of the catastrophe that could have resulted from an arrival more than three hours early. Lord Slim took everything in his stride and laughed about similar instances in his frontier days.

Fortunately the weather finally cleared, Goroka's Saturday afternoon programme was transferred to Sunday, which was to have been a rest day, and at 1.00 pm the vice-regal aircraft took off for Hagen. His Excellency graciously invited me to join his party and I was able to enjoy one of those great spectacles of seething people power, song and dance for which Hagen is so well remembered.

Hary West

THEME FOR NEXT ISSUE - ENGAGEMENTS AND WEDDINGS

Deadline for entries - 16 October 2003

Write/Phone/Fax/Email

HAVE YOU HEARD???

In February this year, **Bob COLE** of Nerang Qld spent 10 days in Abu Dhabi visiting his son Jim and daughter-in-law Sharon. Jim is the CEO of Amiri Flight. Bob said he made the trip mainly to assure himself that Jim and Sharon were quite safe in an area which Australians view as one of unrest. Bob has sent us a comprehensive account of his visit, extracts from which are on pp. 39-41. Bob, by the way, turns 90 late this year.

Mabel HOLLAND, widow of **Frank HOLLAND MBE**, sent us an article published in the Brisbane *Courier Mail*'s 'Escape' section. It gives a detailed description of the 'Escape from Rabaul' trek - a trek which follows trails taken by Australian troops in 1942 as they escaped the Japanese invasion of New Britain. In 1942, Frank Holland left Pondo on the north coast of New Britain, crossing to the south and back - his mission was 'to locate those fleeing from the Japs and bring them to safety'. Frank received the MBE for his part in the evacuation.

The trek takes four to five days and is graded easy to moderate. It is shorter and less strenuous than the Kokoda Trail. Mabel Holland said that Bruce Alexander and his wife Sue, who run the Hamamas Hotel in Rabaul, organise the tours. Bookings for the trek can be made through Niugini Holidays, 1300 850 020. All equipment, guides and porters are provided. Dry season is from May to October.

Copies of *El Tigre*, the story of Frank Holland's life, are available from Mabel at

33 St Clements Road, Oxley Qld 4075. Price to members: \$35 plus p&p (\$7-50 in Aust).

Flo and Ernie WILKINSON attended a luncheon at Government House for the over 100s (Ernie turned 100 last October). Flo reported that the invitation was from the Lioness Club to their 23rd successive afternoon tea for those 100 years and over and was hosted by the Governor of NSW. There were 47 centenarians, 39 women and 8 men. The eldest was 105. Soon after their arrival their photo was taken and they were given two copies. Flo said, 'We had delicious sandwiches and many little cakes and a big cake cut by the Governor for the over 100s. There were speeches, a very good one by the Governor who ended by saying "keep fit, keep active". She later moved around the tables and spoke to the over 100s. On departure, Ernest received a bag containing (1) a copy of the letter from the Queen, (2) a certificate, (3) a very nice photo frame, (4) a useful supply of soaps, Sorbolene, lanolin, sachets of lavender and many bags of sweets, (5) a piece of the big birthday cake. We all had an enjoyable and happy time. What a day!'

Bob BLAIKIE wrote that he thought his camping days were over after leaving PNG, but not so. He spent almost three weeks camping while on a four-wheel drive trip - three days in Kakadu and the rest in The Kimberley. He said, 'It is difficult to isolate the most memorable experiences but maybe three days camping in the Purnululu National Park at The Bungle Bungles and then flying over them in a helicopter would have to rate highly . . . Walking with torches through Tunnel Creek near Fitzroy Crossing was also not to be forgotten. Crocodiles everywhere in large numbers - but we were assured not in Tunnel Creek.' Bob is still getting the dust out of his clothes and gear.

Archbishop BARNES MBE was knighted (KBE) in the Queen's Birthday Honours, for service to the church and to the community.

Lieutenant Colonel Gregory Pike, son of **Jo and George PIKE** (Posts & Telegraphs), was awarded the Conspicuous Service Medal in the Queen's Birthday Honours, for outstanding service as Chief of Staff, Headquarters Regional Training Centres. Gregory was born in the old army hospital in Lae in 1953. His primary schooling was at Lae. After attending Portsea Officer Cadet School in Victoria, he had various postings in Australia and overseas, a term as instructor at the Royal Military College, Duntroon, and was C.O. at the Infantry School, Singleton.

Jim McGETTIGAN of Woonona NSW wrote, 'I refer to Leo Butler's *Reminiscences of a visit to Madang and Wewak, Christmas 1954* in the recent issue [June '03, p.35]. I was stationed in Madang from Nov. 1953 to Nov. 1956 in the Commonwealth Bank . . . Leo refers to Claude and Gerard befriending three young ladies from the Commonwealth Bank in Madang. The staff at that time were **Bob BIRD, Bob WOLFENDEN, Ian SCOUGALL, Lou FACCI** and I think **Clive SANDERSON** plus myself. Not a girl in sight and there were none up until I left in November 1956. They must have come from some other establishment'.

NEWS FROM THE NORTHERN TERRITORY: Jim Toner writes -

One-time Director of Education for PNG, **Ken McKINNON**, leaves Darwin before the end of the year. He has been Vice-Chancellor of the the NT University and its last, because in January it will change its name to Charles Darwin University. The Professor continues his other job as Chairman of the Press Council of Australia.

The former PNG Police Commissioner who died in July had acquired two degrees at ANU and one at Cambridge before he went to the Territory in 1969. **Ray WHITROD**

subsequently conceded, 'I was a poor choiceI was not acquainted with local customs and current administrative problems'. His departure to head the Queensland Force in 1970 was a disappointment particularly for the retiring Commissioner **R.R. COLE** who had spent months introducing the incoming Commissioner to his officers and men at stations throughout PNG.

One of my fading photos shows barefoot Indian boys happily playing cricket in the dust outside the Red Fort in Delhi. So I was interested in a new book which examines how the great English game came to be adopted within the Indian Empire. The author of the appropriately titled 'A Corner of a Foreign Field' believes it gave Indians an opportunity to demonstrate there was a place where Jack could prove himself as good as his Master. Or - as with Kipling's Gunga Din - better.

This was my own observation in PNG in the Fifties. Papuans relished the chance to show what they could do with bat and ball against the Taubadas. In the Southern Highlands they were assisted in this by the presence of **Des CLANCY** at Mendi, **Bill CRELLIN** at Tari and "Stumpy" **CORRIGAN** at Erave. These kiaps conducted an irregular competition which entailed some creative usage of Admin charter flights. So, native personnel were able to play the Empire game on 'ovals' far from Delhi let alone St. Johns Wood.

Such pioneering has paid off because the **PNG XI** has just returned from the South Pacific Games at Suva with the gold medal for cricket. They did make things exciting for themselves in the final by scoring 9-149 against Fiji's 9-147.

The book I mention showed that although something of a cricket 'tragic' I could only remember back, as far as India is concerned, to Ranjitsinjhi - and that was because he played for England. But it seems that in the 1890s there was a spin bowler still described as 'arguably India's greatest ever cricketer'. He would certainly have been a favourite with the crowd in Bay 13 at the MCG since his name was Palwankar Baloo.

NEWS FROM SOUTH AUSTRALIA: John Kleinig reported:

The **Reverend Rodger Samuel BROWN** of St Morris in South Australia was awarded an OAM in the Queen's Birthday Honours for 'service to religion through the Bible Society of Australia and the Uniting Church and to the community'. Rodger is now in his nineties and was one of the first missionaries into Rabaul after the surrender in 1945. During his years on the Gazelle Peninsula he became a proficient Kuanua speaker and recently recorded his memoirs in a book titled 'Talatala'.

Peter THOMAS has just returned from another stint in the Solomons having established countless projects of assistance for the locals. He reports that they were able to get on and carry out their mission without interference and whilst there are obvious problems, the media again concentrated on dramatising often fairly ordinary events.

Speaking in Adelaide recently was the Moderator of the Uniting Church in PNG, the **Rev Samson LOWA**. The forum was organised by the Uniting Church of SA, Oxfam/Community Aid Abroad and Amnesty International. Speaking about 'PNG Today - Where Next', Samson contrasted his education and the opportunities in the late 1960s with those of the current generation. In a very frank appraisal he talked about the 1970s and how there was a hunger to learn new things. 'We wanted to make a difference and we learnt much from the expatriates. The generations after us didn't have mentors. Some

of us became arrogant.' He referred to some of the major social challenges facing PNG, the breakdown of law and order, unemployment, the drift to urban areas and HIV/AIDS. There was not one simple solution to these problems and the people had to stop feeling sorry for themselves and start to make a difference, however small that might be. It was a change to hear positive news about PNG after the pessimism that so often prevails.

Shaun SWIFT, recently appointed managing director of Adstran in Adelaide, talked over dinner recently about his early days growing up in Lae in the late 1960s. Whilst admitting that there probably weren't many Greek restaurants in Lae at the time he did remember the Melanesian and the Golf Club which in those days provided much of the social life especially during weekends.

PNG NEWS

A CRADLE OF AGRICULTURE: In the 1960s plantation workers draining swamplands in the Wahgi Valley of the PNG Highlands found signs of a much earlier civilisation. Twenty years later, in England, a university student named Tim Denham became interested in these finds, and of the further discovery of ancient drainage channels. He wondered if farming might have been invented independently by the people of PNG and not imported from other civilisations. Tim is now an archaeologist at Flinders University in Adelaide.

An article in the *SMH* of June 21-22 reads, 'After years of research, he [Denham] has been able to show conclusively that PNG was indeed one of the world's cradles of agriculture. People at Kuk Swamp in the Wahgi Valley were intensively growing taro and bananas 7,000 years ago, and cultivation may have begun as long as 10,000 years ago, Denham and a team of Australian researchers reported yesterday in the journal *Science*.'

There is evidence that Eumusa bananas were cultivated 7,000 years ago (and possibly much earlier) and then dispersed to other countries where they were crossed with local varieties. In *Science*, the prehistorian Dr Katharina Neumann of the J. W. Goethe University in Frankfurt said 'From a "Neolithic backwater", New Guinea has turned into one of the few pristine centres of early plant domestication'.

GAS PIPELINE TO BRISBANE: The piping of gas from PNG to Queensland is unlikely to go ahead in the near future. AGL, a provisional buyer, pulled out earlier, and more recently Alcan's alumina plant at Gove in the Northern Territory decided to obtain gas from Woodside's Black Tip field instead of PNG. The government had hoped the pipeline project would help solve a spending gap. (*Financial Review*, 19-7-03)

PRIVATISATIONS: Last year the government-owned commercial bank, the PNG Banking Corp (PNGBC), was sold to a consortium led by the Bank of South Pacific (BSP) at a bargain price. A report into the sale said that 'all key decision makers, at both the capital raising and approval stages, expressed a strong preference for PNGBC to be sold to a nationally owned bank [rather than, say, Westpac or ANZ]. And, of course, BSP was the only bank to fit that description'. (*Fin. Rev.* 27-6-03)

The *Financial Review* of 5-7-03 reported that Prime Minister Michael Somare had halted plans to sell Air Niugini, the PNG Harbours Board and Telikom because they would start to provide revenue, instead of being subsidised, but that the government would sell Hargy Oil Palm Ltd for K19 million and two Port Moresby office buildings, for K47 million and K45 million.

THE PNGAA (formerly ROAPNG) COLLECTION IN THE FRYER LIBRARY
 The University of Queensland Library
 by Peter Cahill

Some years ago a plea in *Una Voce* sought to save Papua New Guinea material (photographs, documents, maps, patrol reports) from being destroyed as former NG residents changed their accommodation or, in some cases, left this material in the care of others. As a result, significant quantities were sent to me for identification, listing and eventual placement in a collection to be known as the *Papua New Guinea Association of Australia (PNGAA) [formerly Retired Officers Association of Papua New Guinea (ROAPNG)] Collection* within the Fryer Library of The University of Queensland Main Library. The Fryer Library is a special collections library within The University of Queensland Main Library. Staff changes, funds availability, the gutting and virtual rebuilding of the Library and difficulties in identifying some items have made this an extremely long-drawn-out continuing task. Note that patrol reports (pure gold for researchers) are *not* kept in the PNGAA Collection, but are passed directly to the Pacific Manuscripts Bureau (PAMBU), Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies, The Australian National University, Canberra (pambu@coombs.anu.edu.au) for microfilming and retention.

The mainly photographic material collected, and deposited in the Fryer Library so far, is astonishing in its richness and variety. It includes numbers of singsings (rarely identified!), Matupit volcano (always identified!), the 1937 Rabaul volcanic eruption and idyllic coastal and plantation scenes which jostle the more detailed collections listed below. Items sent without any identification - not even the name of the donor - have been listed under the generic title of *Anonymous* and a best guess attempt made at identifying them. This does not detract from their potential usefulness, but it does mean donors cannot be rightfully identified.

Material received for **New Guinea** includes *Don Brewer's* photos of Rabaul 1950s/1960s; *Betty Woods'* and *Diana Grose's* pre-war (1942) German buildings in Madang and Kavieng and plantations near Kavieng; *Pat Boys, Basil Hayes, Alex Malcolm* and *Keith Colyer's* general Rabaul pre-war scenes; *Donella Scown's* illuminated (hand-coloured) 'welcome cards' to the Minister for Home Affairs (C.W. Marr) from the 'little native Sisters of Vunapope' 192?; *Gladys Forsyth's* reminiscences of life on a coconut plantation pre-war; *Nancy Reason's* Madang photographs 1935-1939; an *Anonymous* donation of the opening of the Rabaul Amateur Turf Club; *Don Herborn's* and *Ted Marr's* photos of Rabaul in the months following the Japanese surrender (Ted included an excellent written description of the period); *Bill Seale's* colour slides of the Eastern and Western Highlands ca. 1960; *R.S. Swift's* Rabaul photos 1947-1949; Coronation Days 1937 (Salamaua) and Rabaul and Lae (1952); *Kim Kimmorley's* valuable four typewritten volumes of 'passes' received from natives, his answers and comments on social/anthropological matters; *Tom Read's* early history of Kainantu and *J.J. Murphy's* photos of Rabaul burning 1944 and a Kempei Tei guard. (Note: immediate postwar photos of Rabaul show Japanese soldiers labouring to repair some of the destruction in Rabaul.)

Papua is recorded by Tessa Jones' grandfather's (*A.H. Symons*) photos of Port Moresby 1900s, Woodlark Island and then Port Moresby again 1925; *Pat Murray's* 192? photos of Port Moresby; a very rare set of photographs taken in the late 1880s (British New Guinea) on Teste and Scrub Islands, and a couple of (?) Papuans on board HMS

Dart in Port Jackson, Sydney 11.10.87; the detailed and excellently presented collection of *Don Barnes* ranging from the Gulf District 1942 to Lae and the Highlands 1960s (includes a separate series on coastal shipping).

Postwar Papua and New Guinea sees *Sister Gilbert's* (Gillie) photos of infant welfare scenes; *Bob Hoy's* collection of Vacuum Oil Company's (VOCO) installations at Voco Point, Lae, and Lae scenes 194?-196?; *Fred Caterson's* official opening album of the Lae Institute of Technology (subsequently University); a list of NGVR/ANGAU Association members as at 8.2.94; *Pat Jackson's* donation of publications including the Inauguration Session of the House of Assembly 8.6.64 and the visit of Governor General Slim in 1949; *Doug Parrish's* Labour Department and other publications; *Marge & Phil Head's* social, sporting and Uniting Church material; *Dusty Miller's* assorted papers and, not to be overlooked, the Bulolo Recipe Book 1950 (out of print).

These represent *some* - by no means all - of the material donated to the collection to date. More is being processed - a slow and tedious job to ensure this collection of Papua and New Guinea material, unlike others in Australia, is as accurate as possible. All donations are catalogued under the donor's name (eg. *The Pat Jackson Collection* within the PNGAA (formerly ROAPNG) Collection). A general PNGAA Collection list will be compiled and eventually placed on the Main Library's website.

Because of space limitations the above material, once catalogued, may not actually be housed in the Fryer Library, but kept in a special store. So before going to examine a particular collection phone the Fryer Library (07.3365.6276), identify the collection (eg. *the Pat Jackson Collection*) and ask if it is available for use. Remember that processing/cataloguing hundreds of photographs and other hard copy takes time and what you want to see may not be immediately available; but the very helpful Fryer Library staff will do everything they can to assist you. Settle on a mutually satisfactory date/time to visit. Note that there will be a charge to copy anything even though you may have donated it.

The Fryer Library is on the 6th Floor of the HASS (Humanities and Social Sciences) Library Building directly behind the Main Library on The University of Queensland St Lucia campus. Although there are multi-floor parking stations, parking is almost impossible during semester; you may want to use a taxi. All donations - other than anonymous ones - are catalogued under the donor's name. If you have trouble tracking anything down, the Fryer Library staff will contact me and I'll try to sort it out.

Any questions about the above listing? E-mail me on p.cahill@uq.edu.au or write to Dr Peter Cahill, 7 Wynyard Street, Indooroopilly, 4068. Meanwhile - keep those donations rolling in! But *please* - identify and date them if you can.

HELP WANTED: George Farrow is doing a search on behalf of Rae Smith, who is the daughter of **Frank SMITH, plantation owner**, of New Ireland (Kalillli), Duke of Yorks and lastly Rabaul. At the age of 21, Rae and her mother were evacuated from Rabaul just prior to the Japanese invasion. Her father was never heard of again (he may have been on the *Montevideo Maru*). Rae is wondering, even at this late stage, if anyone has any knowledge of the fate that befell her father. Rae is also seeking information about **Sgt/Lt John GILMORE** ex Rabaul (of the Hotel Madang Gilmore family). He was a family friend but contact with him was lost. She would like to know any details of him and, if he is still alive, his address. Rae is now Mrs Rae Crighton (a widow), 22 Bareki Street, Wurtulla, Qld 4575, Ph 07 5493 2215

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RESTORATION OF THE EUROPEAN CEMETERY AT RABAU

During the eruption of Matupit Volcano at Rabaul in 1994 a lot of the town was covered in ash and pumice. One of the casualties along with shops, homes and churches was the European Cemetery which had previously been a lovely secluded well-kept park on the outskirts of town. All the graves were covered with ash, and eventually the vegetation grew back and vines, creepers and small trees covered the whole cemetery. Because a member of the Cohen family lived in Rabaul, one grave was excavated, and later two graves of family friends.

When a cruise ship (P & O) called at Rabaul in 1999 there were many ex-Rabaulites on board anxious to see the graves of relatives. I was able to find my husband's grave which had been excavated by Peter Cohen but unfortunately no others could be located and there were many sad faces on board when the ship sailed that evening. A small group of people decided the cemetery should be restored and this huge task was undertaken by Peter Cohen - Peter was born in Rabaul and still lives there.

Una Voce published an appeal for donations and \$1,000 was raised. The East New Britain Chamber of Commerce donated \$1,200 and further funds were raised through Joker draws at the Kaivuna Hotel. Direct appeals by Peter to RSL Clubs in Australia raised a further \$7,295. En route to Australia Mr Matt Foley received \$10,000 from the Port Moresby RSL.

To Peter fell the arduous task of clearing the jungle and ash from the graves; this restoration work was completed in 2003. All the graves that were known previous to the eruption were located, plus a few others that had not been unearthed since WWII. A wall has been built at the rear of the cemetery from the 4,500 cubic metres of ash that was removed and this will provide the cemetery with protection in the event of further eruptions.

Max Hayes, a member of the Cemetery Restoration Committee gave valuable support to the project with his research and collation of listings of people buried in the Cemetery. Anyone who would like further details can contact Peter on Email: enbps@datec.com.pg or Max at makisrpngc@netspace.net.au

Duncan McLellan of War Graves Australia inspected the site on 15 July 2003 and praised the restoration efforts whilst making the commitment to replace any plaques missing from the 15 commemorated ex-Servicemen's graves. Duncan is going to approach the RSL in Australia regarding the replacement of any missing or damaged plaques from the remaining 35 or so ex-Servicemen's graves.

Many thanks are due to all members who responded to the appeal and hopefully if they return to Rabaul people will now be able to find their relatives' graves. Finally a great big thank you to Peter Cohen for his continued efforts and hard work in restoring the graves in the European Cemetery at Rabaul. □ Pat Hopper

DARU DAYS

by Adrian Geyle

'We have to dig her up, we have to dig her up. You know where Arnold lives Adrian, you know his house. Go and tell him that we have to retrieve Esther's body for an autopsy.' My first reaction was to sink into a chair, head in my hands, incredulous. Stunned by the seeming insanity of this latest decision of our redoubtable acting District Commissioner, following the mind-numbing experience of the day before, I wanted nothing more to do with this nightmarish fiasco. We don't bury someone one day and dig her up the next! Or do we? An order from the Commissioner of Police in Port Moresby said we had to dig the body up.

Out of disgust with the haste with which Esther's body was interred, and with the suspicions some were raising as to the cause of her death, I angrily suggested that he himself, the acting District Commissioner, should be the one to confront and comfort Arnold and his children, since he was an Officer of Police and I wasn't. He was the orchestrator of these bizarre proceedings, so far. 'I'm not a police officer. I have not been appointed one yet', I reminded him, 'so you do it.' Cheeky from a lowly CPO to his a/DC, but it was a trying time. I had served nearly two years in the field as a cadet patrol officer, was only weeks back in 'civilisation' from up the Fly River, and was about to go south to Sydney on my first leave. Promotion to the status of Officer of the Royal Papuan Constabulary was usually gained and gazetted after one's return to duties in his second term. 'I don't have the authority to do this', I told my superior officer again.

'I'll soon fix that', he yelled back, and with speed quite out of character with the way things were usually done around the district headquarters, I was appointed! The a/DC had got through quickly to District Services in Moresby, by radio/telephone, to request that CPO Geyle be appointed an Officer of the Royal Papuan Constabulary, and that the matter was urgent.

'There', our august improvisator growled, throwing a radio signal down on the desk between us, 'now go and tell Arnold Walker we have to exhume his wife's body.'

Never before, I imagined, was such a promotion recommended and executed with such alacrity! Still numb from the shock of Esther's sudden death, I obeyed. Arnold was at home, lying on a large double bed with his three children who were sobbing with the shock loss of their mother. Arnold didn't appear to be shocked or even perturbed - at least on the surface - as I told him of the latest developments, the order from Port Moresby from the Commissioner of Police. 'I know' he said, 'I expected this. You have to do a post-mortem.' 'Yes' I said, 'but there may be a way out of it.'

'We don't need to exhume the body if you can find some vomit from Esther's stomach', I said as soberly as possible, half expecting a violent response from him. Esther had died violently, and food and faeces had exuded from her body within hours of her eating a mince pie she had cooked herself. Arnold had seen to it that all bags and cloth used to clean up had been burnt, after Esther's body had been removed, and he couldn't point to anything that might have traces of food on it. Every trace of her illness had been removed by her close family.

The meat mince Esther had used had been delivered that same day, with other stores, fresh vegetables and freezer that the regular fortnightly plane brought from Port Moresby. The trouble was that this plane, a Qantas Catalina, did not fly direct but landed at other stations along the way - Kerema, Kikori and Lake Kutubu - so that freezer goods

were either partially or totally thawed on reaching Daru at the end of the line. For safety's sake, households like Esther's habitually cooked their meat the day it arrived, especially minces, even in houses where refrigerators were in use.

Esther was a big woman, half Kiwai, half European, married to Arnold Walker who ran one of the trade stores on the island. He was a man conscious of his own controlled weight and appearance, always neatly groomed, clean and appropriately dressed - a sober man in a climate and locality where excesses were not unusual. He kept his wits about him. Esther was robust and happy, a congenial woman who was equally at home among whites and her own Kiwai relations and friends. She was grossly overweight.

At lunch she had apportioned slices of her meat pie to her husband and the three children. Something was wrong with it, all four said, and pushed it back - it 'tasted funny'. She ate hers and her husband's too, scoffing at the children's comments and trying to convince them they were too fussy. Within hours she was dead. She died in great pain, convulsed and vomiting.

Daru had no mortuary, and the hospital had no facility for keeping bodies longer than overnight. And there was not one motorised vehicle on the island. A funeral procession of hundreds of local Kiwai townfolk followed the mile-long trudge to the cemetery along the level, gravelled, straight road that dissected the island. Six of us young, able-bodied white and coloured coffin-bearers found the only wheeled 'vehicle' - a sort of autotray device from the hospital - of such little bearing capacity that we virtually carried it as well, somehow slung beneath the coffin. A couple of its small wheels had collapsed early along the way, so that all it served to do was to provide a temporary rest, taking some of the weight when we bearers needed a break. The mourners could see our difficulties, and respectfully, discreetly, slowed with us as we struggled our pathetic way towards the grave.

All was well and done, so we all thought, when the grave was filled and closed and the mourners' loved-one was put to rest.

A post-mortem? Dig up Esther? She just a body? No, No, No! Why, only yesterday she was a healthy mother and wife, full of life, involved and vibrant, loved and loving, full of hope and expectations aplenty. Esther? We just don't treat people this way, District Commissioner - we don't bury them and then permit their bodies to be dug up, their soul's aura not yet departed from the coffin around them!

In the company of the only doctor on the island I tried, without offending, to rationalise to concerned relatives the reason behind the exhumation, that it had to be in accordance with the law. Doctor Markus was from Europe and had served with the German army in WWII as a paratrooper. Hard-nosed and methodical, he left most of the explaining to me. With Esther and Arnold when she died, he was convinced that botulism had killed her - a most virulent form of food poisoning.

As Esther had died suddenly and unexpectedly, an autopsy should have been performed before she was buried. That it wasn't done reflected badly both on the acting DC and the doctor. It also suggested to a few that she died in suspicious circumstances, that there had been foul play.

It was hoped by the bureaucracy in Daru that the bureaucracy in Moresby would be seen as the instigators of an unnecessary post-mortem, as 'everyone knew' that it was putrefied meat that had killed Esther. To most of the islanders this was the cause of death

and the exhumation about to be performed was yet another case of government interference in people's lives.

As a newly appointed Officer of Police now, I witnessed the autopsy, the removal of a few snippets of entrails that contained pieces of food, undigested but reduced to small particles by mastication. Standing in the doorway watching the doctor perform, with my head half in and half out of the operating room, I was required to witness the placement of this food in a small bottle of formaldehyde, then seal it and sign across the seal to testify to its authenticity. It was then stored under refrigeration at the hospital for later despatch by the next Catalina to Port Moresby, specifically to the Pathology Section of the Department of Health.

A fortnight passed after its delivery, without a pathology report being received. 'What's happened with that tissue sample you sent to Pathology, anything back yet?', asked the acting District Commissioner. In the circumstances I was remiss for not having followed up the findings, and hastily got away a radiogram to the Department of Health requesting the results of the laboratory tests. Within twenty-four hours a radio conversation was arranged with Health, as the results were still not forthcoming. 'Oh, that sample you sent in was no good - it was fermented' came the reply! 'And you didn't think it important enough to advise us of this?' I asked. No reply from the pathologist - silence reigned for more than a few seconds.

Momentarily I was aghast as the thought of exhuming the body AGAIN flashed through my mind, but fermentation had, of course, put a seal on that being repeated. 'Forget about it, write it all off', was what that silence said.

Silence has reigned ever since! Forget about it? Fifty years 'down the track' I still haven't forgotten it. I wonder if Arnold has. He remarried not long after Esther died - after a time lapse that was apparently acceptable to those closely related to his three children - to a young local coloured girl. Hopefully he lived to see these three children grow into adulthood, and to see that the way their mother died and was buried didn't remain too vivid a memory that it weighed on their minds.

REUNIONS

PNG REUNION 2004 - Gold Coast: to be held on Saturday 12 June 2004 (Queen's Birthday weekend) at the Southport RSL Function Room, 36 Scarborough Street, Southport, the same venue as the very successful 2002 event. Cost of three course buffet dinner will be \$38-00 per person (up from \$36-00 in 2002) and liquor costs will be at Club prices. A band will be in attendance playing subdued music. Should anyone wish to organise a 'reunion within the reunion' from government departments, schools, or any organisation, tables can be arranged together for that purpose. For full details please contact: Paul Bolger, 5 Tamarix Avenue, Bray Park Qld 4500, Ph/Fax 07 3889 6805. Please include name, address, phone/fax number (home & work) and mobile number.

TERRITORIANS' LUNCHEON IN BRISBANE - Report back by M.R. Hayes : On Wed. 13 August interstate and overseas territorians joined local territorians for a once only luncheon at Brett's Wharf Restaurant on the Brisbane River at Hamilton. Senior territorian was Robyn McKay, previously of Aropa Plantation Bougainville, who journeyed from NSW. Pat Boys from NZ, author of 'Coconuts and Tearooms' and born in Rabaul, showed the second print of her book. Maxwell Hayes, RPNGC 1959-74 from Melbourne, accompanied by Patricia Walsh and en route for Rabaul, was able to gather

a total of 14 attendees at a perfect venue on a perfect Brisbane day. Others present were Doreen MacGowan (daughter of pre- and postwar police bandmaster David Crawley), Muriel Lamer (daughter of pre-war PWD architect Wm MacGowan), Barbara-Anne Laver (daughter of pre- and postwar police officer A.D. Gluyas) accompanied by her husband Ron, Cynthia Williams (daughter of pre-war head teacher A. Schmidt), Dr Peter Cahill, born in Samarai and postwar official historian to the Administrator, RPNGC members John Herbert 1949-64 and Alan Dyer 1965-75, Merle Wall (Bougainville prior to the 1980s) and Bett Macartney (Port Moresby from the 1950s).

HIGATURU 1951, AFTER THE MT LAMINGTON BLAST



The Jeep up the tree, after the Mt Lamington eruption

In the last issue Marjorie Kleckham told her story of events surrounding the Mt Lamington eruption. The above photo was sent to us by Alf Uechritz who bought the original from Chin Ho Min in Rabaul. Alf said he often wondered who were the four men in this picture. He would be grateful if anyone could identify some or all of them. Alf is at 'Kuradui', PO Box 107, Innisfail Qld 4860, Ph: 07 4063 3853

CEREMONY AT KOKODA TRACK MEMORIAL WALKWAY

A service commemorating the victory in the Pacific and the 60th anniversary of the Battle of the Beaches was held on Friday 15 August at the Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway. The service was conducted in the presence of Her Excellency, Professor Marie Bashir AC, Governor of NSW. About 1,000 people attended, including PNGAA President Harry West, and Committee member Pat Hopper. Mr Rusty Priest AM, Chairman responsible for the Walkway, gave the welcome address.

ENAROTALI

by **Bob Blaikie**

A few months before I entered the Australian School of Pacific Administration in March 1948 as a newly appointed cadet patrol officer I was given a book which has since been thumbed over many times and has an important place on my bookshelf. *Jungle Pimpernel*, by Lloyd Rhys, is the story of a district officer in Central Netherlands New Guinea during World War II. Jean Victor de Bruijn was born of Dutch parents in Java in 1913 and completed his study towards a career in the civil administration of the Netherlands East Indies at the University of Leiden in Holland. It was here that he obtained the degree of Doctor of Literature and Philosophy.

His brief early postings were as assistant district officer to the Moluccas and then to the island of Ceram. In 1939, after only ten months in the service, he was posted as district officer or *controleur* to take charge of the base at the newly found Wissel Lakes, Paniai, Tage and Tigi, in Netherlands New Guinea. The post of Enarotali, established in May 1938 on the south-eastern shore of Lake Paniai, was the first Dutch post in the Central Highlands.

Jungle Pimpernel is de Bruijn's story in the Central Highlands of Netherlands New Guinea from his posting there in 1939 to his evacuation to Australia by Catalina on 26 July 1944 from Hagers Lake. It is the story of his work among the Ekari and Moni people while supplying information of Japanese troop movements in West New Guinea to the Netherlands Forces Intelligence Service.

With this background in mind it was with some excitement that I was about to land at Enarotali in October 1969. What was an Australian official doing in the remote highlands of West Irian?

Following the declaration of Indonesian independence on 17 August 1945, tensions had risen over the transfer of sovereignty of Netherlands New Guinea from the Netherlands to Indonesia and the vexed issue of Papuan self-determination.

Disturbances and uprisings had been widespread throughout the Province with some of the more serious centred in and around Enarotali in the Paniai Regency. In April 1969, air fields were sabotaged to prevent troop landings, Brigadier General Sarwo Edie's plane was fired upon to prevent his landing at Enarotali and four battalions of Red Beret paratroops were dropped by Hercules aircraft at Enarotali to put down the insurrection. Most were believed drowned in Lake Paniai or killed by OPM forces.

There had been a sporadic number of incidents along the border with Papua New Guinea since 1963. These included the movement of refugees from West Irian into Papua New Guinea and incursions by Indonesian forces in pursuit. One of the most serious was an incursion near Wutung in the north. On 26 April 1969, Indonesian soldiers in pursuit of refugees had fired upon Tony Try, the officer in charge at Wutung Patrol Post. [See *Tony Try's article on p. 21*]

Royce Webb, accompanied by Ken Brown, had visited Jayapura on 10 and 11 June 1969 to discuss the improvement of liaison along the border, including regular meetings between officers-in-charge, and radio and telephone links.

Since the visit by Royce and Ken in June, the Indonesians had conducted the Act of Free Choice at assemblies at a number of centres beginning at Merauke on 14 July 1969 and concluding at Jayapura on 2 August 1969. On each occasion, delegates unanimously voted to remain a part of Indonesia.

It was against this background that a second liaison team, again led by Royce Webb and of which both David Steven and I were members, visited Jayapura.

Royce and I had flown from Port Moresby to Vanimo where we were joined by David. On 22 October 1969 we crossed from Vanimo to Jayapura in West Irian travelling in an Australian Beechcraft Baron piloted by Rev Doug McCraw. We were warmly greeted by the

Indonesians at the airport at Sentani and driven in to Jayapura. The drive in the Australian-built Holden from the airport at Sentani to Jayapura was an experience not to be missed. With horn blaring and police escort we scattered all who dared to get in our way.

In Jayapura we were quartered in a comfortable guest house typical of that found in Indonesia with tiled floors and high ceilings and generally of an open-plan style - much more suitable for tropical living than the sterile architecture adopted in Papua New Guinea.

After a tour of Jayapura, the Deputy Governor hosted a lavish reception for the three Australian visitors which was a lead-up to the serious business of the following day. The next day was spent in formal discussions and negotiations with the Indonesians on a border regime for the future in an attempt to avoid a repeat of confrontations and incidents of the past.

With the business disposed of, the Indonesians planned to take us on a sightseeing tour the next day through the remote Central Highlands of West Irian. In the early evening, an Indonesian official visited us at the guest house to inform us, with some embarrassment, that the aircraft in which it was planned we travel through the highlands had been delayed at Manokwari in the far west. Would it be too much to ask that we travel in our Australian aircraft instead? Our pilot Doug was happy to oblige and we were secretly delighted as Mervat, the Indonesian airline, did not have a marvellous safety record at the time. We had known Doug for years as an experienced and reliable pilot and we were more than comfortable with him at the helm.

The following day we set off from Sentani in the Baron accompanied by two Indonesian officials for the main Indonesian town of Wamena in the Central Highlands. Wamena, the capital of the Jaya Wijaya Regency, was only quite a small settlement at that time but is now the major town in the Baliem Valley, the home of the Dani people, and has become a major tourist centre.

The Baliem Valley had been unknown to the West until 23 June 1938 when the American millionaire and explorer Richard Archbold, on his third visit to New Guinea under the auspices of the American Museum of Natural History, came upon it in his Consolidated PBY2 Catalina *Guba*. Together with the Dutch military, Archbold subsequently set up two research camps where they remained for fourteen months.

The next major contact with the West was in the closing days of World War II when Allied pilots flew over the Baliem Valley looking for suitable sites for airstrips. Hollandia became a major Allied base, but as the war moved westwards, pleasure flights over the Baliem valley became commonplace. This remote valley was dubbed "Shangri-La" by American war correspondents.

In May 1945 a Netherlands air force DC3 on a sightseeing flight with twenty-four people on board crashed in the valley. There were only three survivors who were eventually spotted by a search aircraft. Supplies were dropped and paratroops landed. As there was no way to get the survivors out of the valley, a glider strip was built and 47 days after the crash everyone was whisked out of the valley in a glider hooked back into the air by a snatch plane.

From Wamena we then flew westwards through the centre of the highlands. We could not help but compare the almost total lack of any development such as we had become familiar with in the PNG highlands. It was as though we were in a time warp flying through what we might have imagined the PNG highlands to have been like, some thirty or forty years earlier.

To our left were the Carstenz Peaks with perennial snow and Puncak Jaya (Carstenz Pyramid), the highest mountain in the island of New Guinea. And then there in the distance were the three Wissel Lakes and our destination of Enarotali dominated by the great Puncak Deijai. I could not help but think of Jean Victor de Bruijn and his dodging of the Japanese in this mountain fastness twenty five years earlier. At Enarotali we had coffee and refreshments with the resident Roman Catholic missionary. It was here that David and I were photographed with our Indonesian hosts at a commemorative arch erected to mark the twenty-fourth anniversary of the proclamation of Indonesian independence on 17 August 1945.



Bob Blaikie (L) and David Steven (R) at Enarotali with their Indonesian hosts near a commemorative arch erected to mark the 24th anniversary of Indonesian independence on 17 August 1945

At Enarotali there was no sign of the turbulence of some six months earlier. One could not help but speculate that it may have been the intention of the Indonesians to demonstrate that order had been restored in this troubled area.

From Enarotali we flew back east to the evangelical mission station at Bokandini where we were to spend the night. We were welcomed by our American host family and were more than a little surprised, and a little embarrassed, to find a carton of beer being unloaded from the aircraft together with our bags. The Indonesians had thoughtfully put the beer on board without our knowledge. Maybe they thought that Australians could not survive without their beer ration.

Next morning we were given a tour of the upper Baliem Valley by Missionary Aviation Fellowship Cessna. Our American pilot took us high into the Baliem Valley where we landed on the small airstrip at Tiom and were met once again by the resident missionary. The air was crisp and clear in the grassed mountain valley home of the Dani people.

Apart from the almost total lack of any PNG style development, it became clear to us that there was also an almost total lack of government presence in the highlands. There were some officials in Wamena and we saw a few in Enarotali but apart from these it seemed to be Western Christian missionaries who wielded the most influence.

Then back to Bokandini where we rejoined Doug and his Baron. Bypassing Wamena we flew direct to Sentani. The Baron bounded around a little over the mountains in the turbulent afternoon air, and our two Indonesian escorts did not take too kindly to the rough conditions. We safely deposited them at Sentani and after saying our farewells headed back to Vanimo. Mission completed.

LIFE ON 'THE BORDER'

by Tony Try, Patrol Officer

Wutung village on the north coast of PNG was, and still is, an idyllic village of traditionally-constructed houses in very neat rows under the coconut trees adjacent to white sand beaches. The village itself is situated a few hundred yards east of the border of PNG and West Irian, and approximately 30 km west of the township of Vanimo.

During the period when the 'Act of Free Choice' was being conducted in West Irian, a large number of political refugees sought haven in PNG. The Indonesian Government tried to stop the flow of refugees across the border and used a heavily armed para-military group known as the 'Brimob'. Unfortunately, these foot patrols often claimed that they did not know exactly where the border mark was situated and came wandering into the Wutung village area. They also lobbed two-inch mortars, machine gun and rifle fire onto the PNG side of the border from the surrounding hills on the West Irian side. Indonesian patrol boats also regularly chased the motorised canoes into PNG waters. At the height of the influx of refugees I was required to report by radio every hour into Vanimo, 24 hours a day, so that headquarters knew that everything was under control. Police were also stationed at all access points to Wutung on 24 hour guard duty, keeping a watch on movements back and forth across the border.

As can be imagined, this situation, which went on for quite a few months, led to some interesting experiences one of which was reported in a magazine produced by HMAS *Madang* - an Australian patrol boat on duty in PNG at that time.

HMAS *Madang* was (I believe) at anchor in Vanimo harbour. I had obviously gone to sleep and missed a few of the radio scheds that I was required to make. HMAS *Madang* was ordered to make maximum speed to Wutung to assess the situation. It was also a very dark and moonless night. The thump of the patrol boat's motor could be heard getting closer and closer and as it was steaming along without any lights on at all, the policeman on duty reported to me that we could be having a visit from one of the many Indonesian patrol boats that we had seen in the area.

I quickly woke the remainder of the police - there were a maximum of 53 policemen from the Royal Papua and New Guinea Constabulary based at Wutung during the height of the activity - and stationed them behind suitable cover around the apparent place of landing. We remained quiet listening to the sounds of the patrol boat as it came to a halt, still in complete darkness, and wondering what we were in for.

The following is taken from the report by the HMAS *Madang* -

'Operating under cover of darkness, we stealthily slipped into our anchorage. Operating to the maximum efficiency the boarding party, armed to the teeth . . . , leapt into the boat for the perilous trip inshore in mountainous seas. Unfortunately halfway inshore on our mission of mercy we were met by a native canoe containing the local patrol officer, Tony Try, who just happened to be wondering what we were doing. Red-faced, we explained we were about to save him.'

The seas were in fact quite high and there was a good surf running where any boats would have to come ashore. This meant that getting into a small boat from the patrol boat was a very difficult exercise, as it jumped and bucked around. It was this fact that gave me the clue that we were not in as much trouble as I originally thought. Someone in the boat obviously got hurt because a very clear burst of swearing in a very Australian accent wafted across the water. It was then that I decided that with a small

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(continued from previous page)

canoe, and some local knowledge, I should take a closer look at our 'enemy' under cover of darkness and with relative impunity.

Needless to say, relief on all sides made for quite a few laughs, as we waited for the sun to rise.

Postscript - The *South Pacific Post* of 2-5-1969 contained an editorial titled 'Bravery is not Recognised'. It began, 'Australia has every reason to be proud of such officers as Tony Try, the young man in charge of the Wutung patrol post. Equally the Territory can be proud of the policemen and interpreter who are stationed with him.' It then told of an attack on Wutung village by an armed Indonesian party searching for West Irianese who had crossed into PNG. Shots were fired at Mr Try and his assistants, but 'later Mr Try had a prolonged discussion with the Indonesians and managed to convince them to release one of the men they had captured in the village'. The editorial proposed a decoration for people such as Tony Try, but this never eventuated. It also questioned the Australian Government's decision not to make a formal protest to Indonesia over the incident.

Nancy Johnston, widow of kiap Bill Johnston, wrote, 'Years ago J. K. McCarthy, when head of the Dept of District Services and Native Affairs, said that field staff of DDS&NA were not recommended for bravery awards because *where would you start and end*'.

A FISHERMAN'S STORY

by Neville Threlfall

As my canoe went softly over bright waters,
The fish were swimming below me among the coral.
Little fish, blue and green, and striped with black and yellow,
Still in the water or gliding along with a flick of the tail.
My glasses and spear lay in the canoe beside me,
But I let them lie, for my eyes were watching the fish
And the coral, the colours and shapes in the clear, bright water.
So I came back to shore with no fish for the fire in the cook-house.
They laughed at me, 'Here is a man who went fishing
And came back with nothing!' they said.
Nothing? My eyes still see the colour and beauty,
My mind still feeds on the things that I saw that day.
Fish on the fire would have fed my mouth for a little;
But the fish in the water will stay in my heart forever.

Written in PNG, about 1970

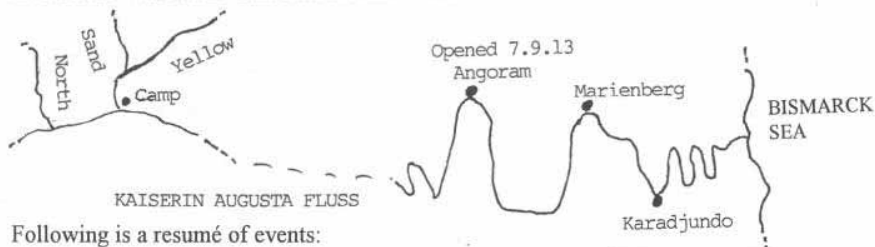
THE THURNWALD INCIDENT

by K. Humphreys

This is a little history from the German times which may interest the old Sepik hands.

Dr Richard Thurnwald arrived on the Sepik in early 1913 to join the Sepik Expedition which carried out research from February to September. Thurnwald stayed on the river when the expedition ceased. The expedition gave their 73t steam yacht *Kolonialgesellschaft* to the government for use by the Madang District Officer. Thurnwald retained the motor boat *Papua* and other small craft, but on completion of his work the *Papua* would be given to the Angoram Policemaster. Thurnwald was sponsored by the Museum fur Volkerkunde of Berlin.

In early 1914 Thurnwald was in Sydney buying two years' supplies (apparently he planned to work on the Sepik to 1916). In May he returned to New Guinea, in June he was up the Sepik and in September he was at the Sepik source when Rabaul was occupied by Australians. In mid October Thurnwald was at the Yellow River Camp (see map) and in Nov/Dec was on the Sand and North Rivers.



Following is a resumé of events:

- 7 December Colonel Pethebridge with Tropical Force arrived Madang on the *Eastern* out of Sydney.
- 8 December Pethebridge to *HMAS Warrego*: departed Madang 2200 hrs for the Sepik.
- 9 December At 0900 Pethebridge at Sepik mouth, was joined by *HMAS Parramatta*. *Warrego*, *Parramatta* and 64t *Nusa* (ex German government) to Marienberg mission where night spent. Also on board *Warrego* was Father Limbrock, Prefect of the Mission of the Holy Ghost, Father Callisters of the Caroline Islands Missions and Brother Camisiers, Captain of the mission steamer *Gabriel* [One source has the *Gabriel* Captain as Father Loerks.]
- Warrego* and *Parramatta* remain at Marienberg mission while *Nusa* goes up to Angoram Police Post; *Nusa* armed with a Maxim and 12 pounder field gun.
- 10 December Pethebridge on *Nusa* arrived Angoram 1300. German Medical Assistant Karl Wolfrum hands over station. Policemaster Emil Tafel had gone into hiding at a bush camp with his police.
- Pethebridge returns to Marienberg with sick Wolfrum plus stores of value, including 12 rifles and 2 shotguns.
- 11 December Pethebridge on *Warrego* returns Madang. All ships to Madang.
- 12 December 0730 *Warrego* arrived Madang.
- 14 December *Warrego*, *HMAS Yarra*, *Parramatta* and *Nusa* depart Madang for the

Sepik mouth. Joined there by 450t *Siar* (ex Neu Guinea Kompagnie) and motor schooner *Witu* (also ex Neu Guinea Kompagnie). Major Martin, OC Madang garrison, also on *Warrego*.

- 15 December Fleet raised anchors at 0900 to proceed up river. Arrived Marienberg in afternoon. *Yarra* to remain there.
- 16 December Fleet arrives Angoram. Garrison from Madang landed under Lt. Chambers (Vol X - see References); [another source, Vol IX, says troops came from Eitape on the *Siar*, Eitape having been garrisoned on 4 December. Vol IX is incorrect.]
- Angoram Policemaster Tafel arrested in bush in the afternoon. Assume he had been warned by mission runner on night of 9th, of warships' arrival at Marienberg.
- 17 December Fleet at Angoram.*
- 18 December Fleet heads up river.
- 20 December Destroyers sent back to Angoram. Commander Cumberlege (RAN) and Major Martin transfer to *Nusa* and proceed up river.
- 23 December *Nusa* arrives at Thurnwald's Yellow River camp. Met by German engineer Fiebig who maintains 4 motor boats and one outboard motor etc. (Vol IX).

Camp plundered by *Nusa* troops during the night.

- 24 December Cumberlege takes Fiebig down river on the *Nusa*. Martin left at Yellow River to contact Thurnwald. Camp further plundered as Martin considers camp to be a government station. Am not certain if Cumberlege condoned the looting during night of 23rd, apparently so according to Martin's report to Pethebridge dated 9-2-1915 and Fiebig's later report to Thurnwald.

Martin uses the *Papua* (?) to go up river searching for Thurnwald. After a week Martin strips the Yellow River camp and takes all vessels to Angoram. [Vol X has Martin bringing Thurnwald down to Angoram - it is incorrect]

- 4 January Martin arrives Angoram. Apparently he left note at Yellow River for Thurnwald to report.
- Early January Thurnwald arrives Yellow River camp from North River. Finds camp looted and all boats gone. Goes down river to Angoram by canoe so must have used canoes to go up the Sand and North Rivers. Thurnwald later learns that his base camp at Karadjundo was also looted.
- 2 March Thurnwald meets Pethebridge (Administrator since 8-1-1915) at Madang and submits a written complaint on the looting. His losses were estimated at over £4,000. Thurnwald allowed to return to the Sepik.
- Angoram was closed by Pethebridge in February 1915 because of health concerns. So 6 police were stationed at Marienberg to safeguard the missionary and Thurnwald who was to work from there.**

QUESTION: The rivers Sand, North and Yellow were given English nomenclature in the German era. Why? Was Green River also named by the Germans?

* *Apparently depth soundings had been recorded by the Germans up to Angoram - note that on 20 December the destroyers were sent back to Angoram after fears were raised re river depth.*

** *Germans not in the military reserve were allowed to stay on their plantations or in civil employment if they signed an oath of neutrality - most of them did. Those who held military rank were classed as POWs. Those who refused to sign were deported to Liverpool internment camp as were the POWs. Civil servants, including the Governor, were allowed to return to Germany via America, having signed the oath. Most oaths were broken on return home!*

References:

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- Official History Australian Navy - A. W. Jose 1928 Vol IX
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- Across New Guinea* - Ivan Champion 1931

OF MACARTHUR, BLAMEY AND RABBITS

by Neville Threlfall

Bill Edgar's article, 'Politics and the Military - unhappy bedfellows in 1942' (*Una Voce*, Sept 2002, p. 16), was very revealing about the character of US General Douglas MacArthur. Like Napoleon, MacArthur used the press to put across his own slanted version of events, to build up his own reputation as a hero. One episode right back in 1932 shows his ruthlessness. The US Government had promised in 1924 that every WWI veteran would receive a bonus payment of \$500, but not until 1945. (Perhaps they hoped that many veterans would be dead by then!) At the height of the Great Depression, 25,000 hungry veterans gathered in Washington to ask for the bonus to be paid immediately, because their need was desperate and said that they would not leave until they got help. Rather than sympathise with those who had been fellow-soldiers, MacArthur, then Chief of Staff to President Herbert Hoover, offered to clear them out of Washington with 'whatever it took'. (1)

As for MacArthur's insistence on all-out attacks on the Buna, Gona and Sanananda beachheads, regardless of the cost to his own forces, this was consistent with all his thinking. The later policy of bypassing enemy strongholds was not MacArthur's own plan, but was forced upon him by the Allied Joint Chiefs of Staff, backed by Roosevelt and Churchill. He had to accept it, very reluctantly, and drop his plans for head-on assaults on Rabaul and Kavieng; but was astute enough to take the credit for the new policy with his famous phrase about 'leaving Rabaul to wither on the vine'.

Under intense pressure from MacArthur, Blamey (2) was in turn unfair to his own troops and their leaders; but his words about rabbits were misquoted, and another man's use of the misquotation was then attributed back to Blamey. When superior numbers and heavier weapons (artillery and heavy machine-guns, as against the Australians who had only rifles and Bren guns) enabled the Japanese to push forwards from Kokoda as far as the Iorabaiwa Ridge, sixty kilometres from Port Moresby as the crow flies, Blamey

rushed up from Australia, took personal command of the forces in New Guinea, and sacked Rowell (3), the commander on the spot. Rowell had been in command during the Australians' fighting retreat, but by the time of his sacking (28 September 1942) the tide had turned and his policies had been justified. Blamey's next victim was Potts (4), the commander of the 21st Brigade, which had borne the brunt of the fighting along the Kokoda Track in August and September, suffering heavy casualties as they were forced back. Both Rowell and Potts had recognised that it is sometimes necessary to retreat in order to fight from a better position; but Blamey failed to acknowledge this. (He either did not know, or chose to ignore, the Duke of Wellington's dictum that 'The greatest test of generalship is to know when to retreat, and to dare to do it'.)

Blamey then turned his attention to the men of the 21st Brigade, when they had rested and many of the casualties from wounds and sickness had returned to the ranks. On 9 November Blamey addressed a full parade of the Brigade, and with a complete lack of fairness or truth castigated them for having been 'licked by an inferior enemy in inferior numbers'. To urge them to hold their ground in all circumstances, he used a metaphor from rural Australia, 'It's the running rabbits that get shot' (ie. a rabbit is safe if it stays still in cover, but reveals itself to the hunter if it runs). The soldiers thought that he was calling them rabbits, and only military discipline stopped them from vocally demonstrating their anger. But there was one response the next day, when Blamey visited the military hospital: lettuce leaves were smuggled in and patients chewed them ostentatiously in front of him (5).

It was left to Australia's Minister for the Army, Francis Forde, to pick up a garbled version of Blamey's words and to repeat it. Addressing a parade of troops who were to go into action in New Guinea, he told them, 'Don't be like the 21st Brigade, who ran like rabbits'. This was too much! Forde being a civilian, the soldiers did not feel bound to silence by military discipline, and hooted him off the parade ground. Forde's words were mixed with Blamey's in the re-telling, but may well have blighted Forde's own political career. He was Deputy Prime Minister when John Curtin died in July 1945, and thus became Prime Minister for eight days; but the Labor Caucus then replaced him with J.B. 'Ben' Chifley. The Chifley government was returned to office in the general elections of 1946, but Forde lost his seat - the only Cabinet Minister to do so. He later gained a seat in the Queensland State Parliament, but lost it at the next election. The long memories of servicemen, and of friends who heard the story of his remark, may well have played a part in his political demise.

Not satisfied with the sackings of Rowell and Potts, Blamey went on to dismiss Major-General A.S. 'Tubby' Allen, the commander of the 7th Division, on 27 October. By this time it was the Japanese who were in retreat, with Allen up forward directing the pursuit; but MacArthur, still ignorant of conditions on the Kokoda Track and quite unrealistic in his expectations, told Blamey that the Australian advance was too slow, and Allen was the next victim sacrificed to MacArthur's vanity. And because Chester Wilmot, perhaps Australia's foremost war correspondent in WWII, showed plainly in his dispatches that he considered Rowell and Potts had been in the right, he too felt the Blamey axe: his accreditation for the South-West Pacific theatre of war was cancelled (6).

Notes:

- (1) Hargesheimer, Fred, *The School That Fell from the Sky*, Auburn, California, 2002.
- (2) Blamey, Lieutenant-General Thomas (later Sir Thomas), originally a school teacher; served as a staff officer in WWI, and later became Victoria's Police Commissioner.

Rejoining the Army, he commanded Australian forces in the Middle East in 1940/41, and on his return to Australia became Commander-in-Chief of the Australian Army. In 1942 he became, under MacArthur, Deputy Supreme Commander of Allied Land Forces in the South-West Pacific. After the war he was knighted and made the first Australian-born Field Marshal.

(3) Rowell, Lieutenant-General Sydney (later Sir Sydney), career soldier. His WWI service was cut short by illness, but between the wars he showed genius as a staff officer and served as Blamey's Chief of Staff in the Middle East 1940/41. He was made Deputy Chief of the Australian General Staff in September 1941, then commander of the 1st Australian Corps (and the youngest Lieutenant-General in the Australian Army). Sent to Port Moresby to take command of all Australian forces in Papua and New Guinea on 11 August 1942, he was sacked by Blamey only seven weeks later, because he had been in overall command during the fighting withdrawal of the outnumbered Australian troops on the Kokoda Track, and because he protested when Blamey came to Port Moresby and breached military etiquette by interfering in Rowell's command.

In what can only be regarded as spite, Blamey gave Rowell no other employment in the Australian theatre of war. But those who recognised his genius secured a liaison position for him with British forces in the Middle East. When that campaign ended he went on to Britain and took part in the staff planning the Normandy landings of June 1944. His wartime service was rewarded with a knighthood.

(4) Potts, Brigadier-General Arnold, in peacetime a grazier at Kojonup, Western Australia. Potts served with distinction in Gallipoli and France in WWI, and commanded the 21st Brigade in the Middle East in 1940/42, during which time they saw hard fighting in the Syrian campaign. Potts and his brigade went into action on the Kokoda Track at Isurava on 17 August 1942, still in khaki and in conditions very different from the Middle East. Outnumbered by an enemy with heavier weapons, and often ill-fed, they conducted a fighting retreat through Alola, Iora Creek, Myola, Efogi, Menari and Nauro before handing over to the 25th Brigade on 12 September, by which time battle casualties and sickness had reduced the brigade to a remnant.

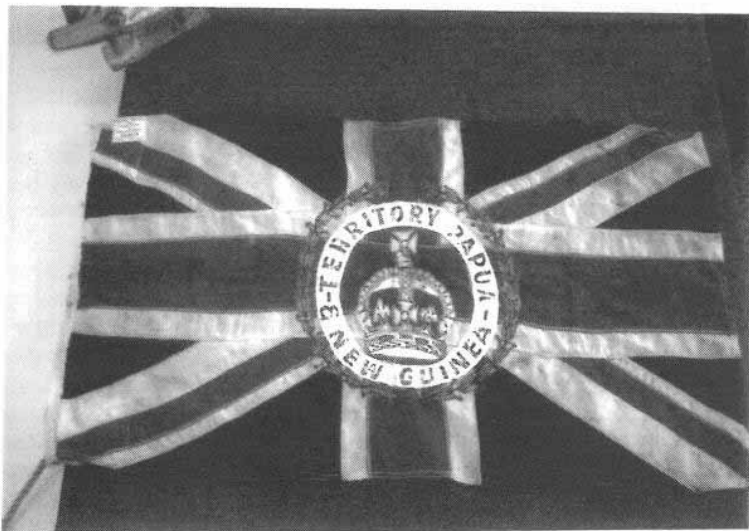
Sacked when the brigade was ready for service again, and the Japanese were already retreating, Potts was relegated to a command in the Northern Territory, where there was no land fighting and no longer any risk of invasion.

(5) Paull, Raymond, *Retreat from Kokoda*, London 1958.

(6) Wilmot, Chester; distinguished war correspondent for the ABC, who had been in Tobruk during the siege in 1941. After Blamey barred him from the South-West Pacific theatre of war, because of his full and frank analysis of events of August/October 1942, the ABC transferred him to a position with the BBC, in which he covered the D-Day landings and the liberation of Western Europe. His first book, *Tobruk* (1944) was succeeded by *The Struggle for Europe* (1952), a masterly analysis of the military and political aspects of the war in Europe. He died in the crash of a Comet airliner in 1954.

HELP WANTED: For 20 years or so, Peter and Maudeline Edwards have been trying to make contact with **Harold and Ivy LOUIS who lived in Lae in the mid '70s** when Harold was an art and photography teacher at Bugandi High School. Harold and Ivy were originally from Mauritius and used to accommodate Peter and his wife when they came to 'the big smoke' from their posting at Kabwum. Peter and his wife are at: 59 Burgess Drive, Langwarrin VIC 3910, ph.(AH) 03 9775 8814, email: exkiap@optusnet.com.au

Can anyone identify this flag?



This flag was originally owned by Graham Viele (?spelling), a former harbour master of Rabaul. It passed to the Cairns branch of the Sea Cadets from his estate. Made by Harry West of Balmain, Sydney, the flag is the British Red Ensign with the Crown embroidered in the centre surrounded by 'Territory of Papua New Guinea' in a cirlet of leaves and red berries. Although historically inaccurate, it poses interesting questions. If you have any information at all about the flag, please contact Dr Peter Cahill, 7 Wynyard Street, Indooroopilly Qld 4068 (p.cahill@uq.edu.au)

BOOK NEWS AND REVIEWS

WHEN THE CAUSE OF 'SCIENCE' IS NOT ENOUGH: FRANK HURLEY IN PAPUA (6th University of New England Museum of Antiquities Maurice Kelly Lecture, 2002) by **Jim Specht**, Research Fellow, Australian Museum, Sydney

This printed lecture is 40pp in length; incl. photos, map, bibliog; ISBN 1 86389 824 7. Available for \$7 which includes GST and p&p. Cheques to be made out to UNIVERSITY OF NEW ENGLAND and sent to G.H.R. Horsley, Professor of Classics and Ancient History, School of Classics, History and Religion, Univ. of New England, Armidale NSW 2351. We hope to provide a brief review of this publication in our next issue.

SOGERI - THE SCHOOL THAT HELPED TO SHAPE A NATION - A History, 1944-1994 by **Lance Taylor** - ISBN 0-949600-42-3, 340pp, 140 photos

Note to PNG readers - this book is now available at **Brian Bell Co** stores at a cost of K59 in Port Moresby and K62 in Provincial towns.

In Australia: price for PNGAA members is \$30, others \$40, plus \$11 P&P per mailing. Cheques only, made out to 'ING DIRECT - Sogeri Account'; post to M. Walker, 31 Josephine Avenue, Mt Waverley VIC 3149. Ph 03 9803 9071

BISHOP GEORGE, MAN OF TWO WORLDS by Elin Johnston
--

Reviewed by David Wetherell

George Ambo, born in 1922 near Gona village in what is now the Oro Province, was the first national Anglican bishop of Papua New Guinea. He was first a teacher on the mission staff, then a priest; and in 1960 was consecrated bishop in St John's Cathedral, Brisbane. He was thus the first Pacific Islander to become a Christian bishop. Serving first at Popondetta, Ambo was archbishop in the six years after 1983, presiding over the church's five dioceses.

Ambo led the Anglican Church through some of the turbulent years following Papua New Guinea's independence in 1975, a political transition about which he felt deep misgivings (by contrast with the first archbishop, David Hand, who threw his weight behind the Independence movement).

This biography was written by the Danish-born Elin Johnston, whose husband Donald was headmaster of The Martyrs' School at Agenehambo near Popondetta. Themes in the first part of the 277-page book include the Japanese invasion, the visit of Camilla Wedgwood, the anthropologist and educationalist, to his school, and the Mt Lamington eruption (Ambo was away from Sangara on the fateful day).

Chapters 18 to 20 deal with Ambo's wariness of the Pentecostals who were in conflict with the long-established United and Anglican churches; encounters with raskols and other criminals in Oro; and his adroit handling of a riot at Popondetta. There is also much about Ambo's village and his ancestors, as well as his wife Marcella and children. James Ayong, Ambo's successor, writes of him as a 'leader of our Nation and our Church'.

The book is beautifully illustrated with a wealth of photographs and maps. It was launched at the University of Melbourne in May 2003. (Elin Johnston also wrote 'Dodoima - Tales of Oro' in 1995.) Available from: E. Johnston, PO Box 114, Point Lonsdale VIC 3225, email: djohnston@ozemail.com.au or fax 03 5258 3994. \$35 plus \$8 P&P in Australia.

An extract from a review by Rowan Callick in *The Financial Review* said, 'This splendidly written and produced book, containing vivid passages in Bishop George's own words . . . celebrates a spiritual titan whose life merits celebration far and wide'.

STORIES ON THE JAPANESE INVASION OF PNG, JANUARY 1942:

Recently launched was a book called 'Brave and True' about the 22 Salvation Army bandmen who died in Rabaul in January 1942 when the Japanese invaded.

In the Melbourne *Herald Sun* of Saturday 28 June 2003 there was an article titled 'Witness raises hope on survivors' which tells the story of the *Montevideo Maru* from the point of view of a Japanese sailor who survived.

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ALOTAU NEE CAMERON PLATEAU: FROM WHENCE THE NAMES?

by Roy Andrews

In recent times, on three separate occasions, approaches have been made to me on the origins of the name of the town of Alotau and its former name, Cameron Plateau.

The latest referral came from Chris Abel, on behalf of an American friend in Alotau at that time (about a year ago) who was taking much interest in the history of the Milne Bay area. Chris still lives in Alotau - many will recall he is the elder son of the late Russell Abel, the well-loved Kwato missionary, who resided in his latter years at the mission plantation of Koebule (better known as K.B.) about 1 km to the west of Alotau.

I was posted at Cameron Plateau during 1964 and 1965 during the initial layout and development of the township and was acting Assistant District Commissioner from about November 1964 to August 1965. I developed a close friendship with Russell Abel and his family, he himself being a most valuable source of local knowledge and customs for a young field officer.

It was from Russell Abel that my information as to the origin of the name Cameron Plateau was sourced. At the head of Sanderson's Bay, now in the heart of Alotau, on the Charles Abel Highway, is a fresh water spring which is still used as a drinking spring by the Milne Bay people. That spring bears the name of 'Cameron Spring'. Russell advised me that the spring obtained its name from an officer (Commissioned or NCO was not stated) attached to the American Seebies (engineers) posted to the Milne Bay just prior to the Japanese attack on the area. These engineers, it will be recalled, played a crucial role in the development of the airstrips - No. 3 at Waigani Plantation, Turnbulls, and the still existing and operative strip at Gurney as well as other installations.

It is interesting to note, and I stand to be corrected, that the name Cameron Spring does not appear on any of the maps existing prior to approximately 1943, a point drawn to my attention by Russell. It then appears that when the Americans decided on the plateau approximately 70 m immediately above Sanderson's Bay/Cameron Spring as the site for their base hospital, the name Cameron Plateau was adopted for the site, and on the army survey maps of that era the Plateau was so named. According to Russell Abel, Cameron Plateau took its name from Cameron Spring. Its traditional name in the Tavara dialect of the north coast of Milne Bay is 'Hiwe Hiwe' which translates to 'breezy place' which is no doubt one reason the Americans selected this location.

Certain myths that have arisen should be dispelled. The concept that it was named after the Cameron Highland Regiment is just not correct according to my sources. This concept was very dear to the heart of the late Sir Donald Cleland and with deepest respect to Sir Donald, I cannot agree with him. The more recent and ludicrous idea that it may have been named after the late 'King' (Cam) Cameron of Kitava is ridiculous as he is neither known nor was he ever located in the area.

A more feasible alternative to the Russell Abel version came to me from Jim Sinclair recently - Jim thought it was named after a prominent field officer located at Milne Bay in the pre-WWII era, named Cameron. Against Jim's information, which certainly warrants investigation, one can only consider there was no government station in the Alotau area at the time. Gehua, the government station at that time, was I believe located 18 km to the west of Alotau. Access to it was via Gabagabuna Bay at the head of Milne Bay which served the Lever Brothers' plantation at Gili Gili and the Burns Philp plantation at Hagita. There was no road access to the Cameron Plateau area at that time although K. B. Plantation was immediately to the west of the area and Ahioma plantation

some kilometres to the east. John Preston White lent strongly towards the Russell Abel version. However I would welcome any additional information on the matter. The true facts lie in the naming of Cameron Spring and any prior 1943 knowledge that the spring was so named would be of great interest to me.

The naming of the town of Alotau is unfortunately one of those many incidences where the small man responsible for the inspiration was usurped by those in a higher station. As the town developed in 1965, hostility was rife in Samarai and Port Moresby primarily on the part of the major commercial houses who stated they would never move to Cameron Plateau. The District Commissioner, John Preston White, pushed without relaxing knowing Samarai could not expand and/or compete as a major centre in the future. This view was strongly supported by the Secretary of the Department of the Administrator, Dave Fenbury. In 1965 I was instructed through John Preston White to investigate local names for the town then emerging at Cameron Plateau, and in particular local feelings on the matter. Preston White stressed the merits of a Papuan name for a new Papuan town - he read the local feeling correctly.

Several names were put forward, the more important of these being Hiwe Hiwe (meaning 'breezy place', the local name for the plateau and the site of the old American base hospital), Gabi Gabi (the name of the land located in the Garaboi Street low covenant area of Alotau), Koebule (the actual name of the Kwato Mission K. B. Plantation), Mutiawa (the village located to the west of Alotau) and Ahioma (the village to the east of Alotau).

At that time, the clerk of the then large and successful Milne Bay Local Government Council was Bondai Pita, a well educated, competent and extremely popular personage within the area. Under his auspices the Council operated its own boat, the *Alotau*, which provided the villages with freight services and transport. The Council, through Bondai, also published its own newspaper, *Alotau Wasana*, or 'The Bay News'. Bondai and his wife Irna and family became close friends of mine. It was on a visit to his house one evening in May 1965 that the question of a name for the new town came up. He reflected that the matter had been much discussed amongst the councillors and elders of the area and he then indicated that he himself and others had a preference for the name 'Alotau', a word in the Suau dialects translating simply as 'calm bay'.

The following week at a meeting of the Council, also attended by many elders, there was 100% support for the name of 'Alotau' for 'their new town'. The various names were submitted to Preston White and then on to Moresby. Sir John Guise later informed me that he desired the name he had selected for the town be adopted. I asked him what that was and he answered 'Alotau'.

After my departure for other parts, the battle lines were drawn between Sir Donald's desire for the Scottish 'Cameron', and 'Alotau'. Cameron was initially adopted as the name for the town - the high school and club still carry that name. However Sir John Guise, I was later informed, with much local voter pressure, proved himself again to be the consummate politician, and the name of Alotau was adopted - in my opinion a most suitable and beautiful Papuan name. Later, as my good friend the late and redoubtable F. G. (Bill) Driver informed me, certain bureaucrats endeavoured to lay claim to having sourced the name.

It now remains for an ageing ex-kiap, nearly 40 years later, to set the record straight and ensure that an honest and progressive Papuan like Bondai Pita and those he led receive the accolades and credit due to them in naming what they rightly considered to be 'their town'.

WITU ISLAND (Part Two)

By Dick Doyle (on Witu Island)

(In his first article, Dick Doyle explained that he is not technically an expat. any more as he is a naturalised PNG citizen. He said he is happy on Witu - it is his home, close to his friends and family, his orchids, his old house and his books. It is a lifestyle he has enjoyed since 1965.)

I was recently asked about law enforcement as it applies to Witu Island. For those who did not see the Witu Island article in the September 2002 issue of *Una Voce* (p.14), Witu is a 26 sq mile island 80 miles NW of Kimbe in West New Britain. It is fairly isolated and with no resident police.

The Village Court system operates successfully on Witu but occasionally serious incidents do occur. I can recall the separate, violent deaths of three adult women over a period of three years, some time ago. Kimbe police investigated quickly, governed only by having to use small Witu work-boats to travel to and from Witu, as air services stopped in 1998 due to Council no longer maintaining Witu airstrip. There are no Provincial Government trawlers operating in West New Britain.

The suspects in all three cases were the women's husbands. One got six years jail, the other two got off.

There have been no fatalities over land disputes on Witu that I'm aware of. The figures below may give reasons for this situation. The PNG Year 2000 census showed:

- **Witu** had 3,630 people on 26 sq miles of land (140 per sq mile)
- **Ningau**, 8 miles NW of Witu, had 1,322 on 2 sq miles (660 per sq mile)
- **Bali** (Unea Is.), 20 miles SW of Witu, had a huge 8,637 people on 11 sq miles (785 per sq mile)

Bali land disputes can be quite violent. An independent land mediator from Hoskins, well respected, has come to Witu occasionally. This seems to work OK.

The enforcement of contracts has not been an issue on Witu yet, due to very little formal commerce being practised.

The big agricultural company that operated three of the four plantations (the fourth being mine) on Witu went 'belly up' in December 1997. Local people use the coconuts for copra making etc on these three derelict plantations. The cocoa is mostly overgrown and lost.

The National Government Lands Minister still has not given a ruling on title transfers for or against a company that has held a Contract of Sale with the Receiver (since 1998). I've no idea how that one will work out - if the Minister ever rules on the matter. The owners of the company that has the Contract of Sale no longer reside on Witu, nor are they involved in any work on the derelict plantations.

One of the plantations has a beautiful small harbour with connections to Queen Emma days - 'Peter Haven', named after Peter Hanson, a Danish freebooter, who pioneered Witu. I've been told 5000 ton vessels have been into Peter Haven, but not in my 38 years on Witu. Yachts do call in, still. In the past 46 years I've probably been into, or out of, over 200 harbours worldwide, and Peter Haven is at the top. A beautiful location for a discreet, eco friendly lodge - obviously the developer would need patience for a return and would need approval from local people.

Peter Haven is known to quite a few *Una Voce* members, and two members, Al McKinlay and Harry Krause, managed the plantation, 'Meto' in the 1960s, early '70s.

There is another harbour at Witu that is spectacular, very big - Johan Albrecht Harbour - a caldera (hopefully extinct) that the sea came into. The Germans successfully hid their gunboat 'Comet' in this harbour at the start of WWI, when Australia took over at Rabaul. 'Comet' had engine trouble and I'm told was towed back to Germany during the war. I find that hard to believe. Maybe a reader knows the full story?

Two live-aboard dive boats operating from Walindi Resort near Kimbe regularly dive the Witu reefs. Several reefs here are of world class. Clients are usually from the USA, but English, German, French, Swiss and Italian all turn up ... even Aussies and Kiwis, Mexicans and Hungarians, as well as Japanese, Chinese, Brazilians and Canadians. Many of the clients are repeat visitors - some have visited six or more times. Old friends, now. Generous and friendly. Always welcome.

Currently economy travel to and from Witu is by 35-40 ft work-boats, locally owned. They are usually overcrowded (not so much from owner greed as availability of vessels). The fact that there are no bunks (or 'heads') and only limited shelter, should not deter the hardy. Where else can you spend 15-20 hours at sea for around K14 (\$Aus\$6)?

SNAPSHOTS - from Paul J Quinlivan

No. 57 - The Mataungan Case - A Preliminary Comment

In previous Snapshots I have tried to take the viewpoint of a fly on the wall - reporting what I saw and heard but playing no part in the event described. In regard to the Mataungan Case, however, I have to say what happened to me and what I said and did, and this is quite foreign to me. It also presents some other problems. These fall into two groups: 'professional' ones such as what a lawyer means by 'claim of right', 'admissible evidence' and so on (which I will include below, in the case itself) and personal ones such as 'Melchior Tomot was my student', 'John Kaputin helped me when I was setting up the Law Society' and so on. These, with one exception, must await a detailed explanation in later Snapshots. The exception arises from the fact that, for most readers who remember the Mataungan Case, it was about thugs who bashed-up people who favoured turning the Tolai Council into a multi-racial one. In later times there undoubtedly was much strife but up to the day after the first arrest (2 September 1969) I was blissfully ignorant of any anti-Council feeling at all. I certainly knew that there had been no assaults or damage to property or threats to do either (because I would be the first to know) but I was insulated from the fact that someone thought that it was necessary to send SitRep Reports to Canberra twice daily about a 'dangerous Communist organisation' known as the Mataungan Association. Since I had been regarded as fairly switched-on, this may be difficult to understand but the fact is that, when constantly travelling on business, one is naturally receptive to what is going on, but once one becomes settled in a new place the situation changes. And, being a shy person, I always found the New Guinea Club a bit overpowering.

The fact is that the 1959 'reclassification' of the Law Department moved all 'lawyer' magistracies to the Supreme Court Registrar for 'administrative' purposes and, since the last time I had been to Rabaul was in 1958, Crown Law had no knowledge of what was going on until the Tolai Council complained, in July 1965, that the Courts were not fulfilling their function. When I arrived in 1966, I found that, before that complaint, the total of civil cases heard in the Gazelle (cases brought by ordinary people) were: 1961 - 1,261; 1962 - 1,121; 1963 - 1,212; 1964 - 1,438. In my years in Rabaul (and before the

Mataungan case of 1969) the relevant figures were: 1966 - 3,354; 1967 - 5,802; 1968 - 11,721. From this it is clear that I was a fairly busy person! The magistrate's house was another factor. The 1959 'reclassification' meant that a fully-furnished house with fine china and all the trimmings was built in Rabaul for visiting judges. But the magistrate's house, up an isolated driveway just beyond the explosives store on the road up Namanula Hill, was allowed to become derelict and when a friend was helping my wife and me unpack, he leant against the main wall of the lounge and the whole wall fell out into the 'garden' (also derelict), nearly killing him! Since Soph was pregnant I hastened home each evening to keep her company during the unpacking and the rebuilding of the house around us. Then our four children were born in quick succession and student magistrates started arriving and I had to train them, so for two or three days each week I was doing Rabaul cases each morning and then, in the afternoons, I was travelling the Gazelle Peninsular with the Tolai magistrates, hearing cases in the villages and arriving back in Rabaul towards sunset. So I went straight home. The fact that I spent so much time with those magistrates is important because two were former Council Clerks and all had unlimited loyalties to the new Multi-racial Council so, without intending to do so, they insulated me from the anti-Council feeling which had suddenly come into being now that the Tolai Cocoa Project had paid off the last of its multi-million dollar loan.

No. 58 - The Mataungan Case - The Case Itself

In late August 1969 and early September my wife's parents were staying with us because our third child had just been born and because there was a possibility that we would soon be leaving Rabaul and this was their last chance to be there. I say 'possibility' because Canberra was considering the appointment of a new Secretary for Law and I had not only held that position a number of times before (I conducted the Ceremonial Welcome to Chief Justice Mann in that capacity and, again in that capacity - but years apart - I did the same for Justices Minogue and Frost who each became Chief Justice) but there was the added fact that several Canberra friends had rung to say that the contest was between me and their Mr Ballard, and the betting was strongly on me. And, to be honest, there was the fact that I had conducted more than 700 trials in the Supreme Court, for both prosecution and defence, and I had built up the various 'branches' (Registrar General, Land Titles, Public Curator, Public Solicitor etc.) enormously in my five years as Assistant Secretary for Law (Executive). In other words, it was a very happy time and, on 2 September 1969, it was made even happier by the arrival of the *Soochow* with friends of my in-laws on board. These were the Attorney-General of New South Wales and his wife and we invited them to dinner. I should mention that my wife's father was at that time Attorney-General for Victoria. We were having pre-dinner drinks on the lawn when a vehicle screamed up the drive and John Kaputin jumped out and ran towards us calling out, 'The cops have arrested Melchior Tomot for stealing the keys of the Council House and they won't let the PubSol see him!' (We had a resident Public Solicitor in Rabaul.) I said, 'But the cops here would never do that!' I should also point out that, although I had not seen John Kaputin for some years, he had helped me greatly in the early days of magistrate training and when I was setting up the Law Society of PNG, so we spoke on a colloquial basis.

He said - and the two Attorneys-General were fascinated by this - 'They have locked Melchior in a cell and they now say they can't find the keys to the building so nobody can talk to him, not even through the door. I'm racing around the Gazelle because if he can't see a solicitor there'll be bloodshed and I want to stop it'. I said I'd do what I could and I rang the home of the Rabaul Public Solicitor who confirmed what Kaputin had said. I then rang the OiC Police who apologised and said that he had no option but

to obey the clear and specific order from Canberra. I said, 'Canberra? How the bloody hell can Canberra come into this?' and he simply repeated what he had said. I then rang Wally Watkins, the Secretary for Law in Port Moresby. He said he had nothing to do with it because someone in Canberra was orchestrating everything but he knew that the police were not to blame for pretending they had lost the key to the Police Station. They had been instructed to say that! I said, 'But even Canberra must know that any cop pulling that sort of stunt will be sacked next day! Heads will roll if we can't get the solicitor in tonight and I can't allow that because they're all good men!' And I then asked, 'What is this all about, anyway?' He said that there were SitRep Reports every day about the Mataungan Association. I said, 'What's that?' He said, 'It's a dangerous Communist organisation. They object to Jack Chipper and the Multi-racial Council taking over the Tolai Cocoa Project'. He ended by saying, 'So they have closed the Council down and you will have to decide their claim-of-right. You'll love that!'

He emphasised the 'you' and I did not know how to take his remark so I said, 'I think you had better ring whoever it is in Canberra and tell him that I have four house guests, the Attorneys-General of Victoria and New South Wales, and their wives, and they are very curious to know what is preventing us from going in to dinner. You can also tell him that, as soon as I put this phone down, I am going to ring the Oic Police, here in Rabaul, to say that I will be making a 'surprise inspection' within the hour, as Visiting Justice, of the cells of the Rabaul Police Station and I will be taking the Attorney-General for New South Wales and the Attorney-General for Victoria with me as honoured guests so that they can make press statements, when they get back to Australia, about the way things are handled here'. Wally said, 'I see!' and less than half an hour later the police rang and thanked me for getting them new instructions. They also said that they had rung the Public Solicitor and told him that he had unlimited access to Melchior, and that he had said he was on his way down to see his client. At 9.15 that night the Court sat and Tomot was released to attend trial eight days later.

Next day the police brought two other Tolais, Damien Tokereku and Daniel Rumet, before me, charged with 'obstructing the Council'. In addition, Tokereku was charged with stealing the keys to the Council House while the stealing charge on which Tomot had been arrested was replaced by one of being 'found in possession of a key ring containing 27 keys reasonably suspected of having been stolen or unlawfully obtained'. They pleaded Not Guilty on all charges and were released to attend, with Tomot, on the 10th. In those few days, however, the media was filled with talk about the defendants being part of a despicable organisation and that X, Y and Z also belonged to it - by 'despicable' I mean that Watkins had described it as 'Communist', others alleged that it was anti-European, others that it was an unruly mob of young thugs and, as mentioned at page 36 of the roneoed judgements, that it was a 'criminal association devoted to extorting money'. Among the persons named was John Kaputin so, when the cases came on for hearing, I announced to Counsel (Norris Pratt, Deputy Crown Solicitor, for the Prosecution and Dr. Ikenna Nwokolo for the Defence) that John Kaputin had approached me at my home on the night that the defendant Tomot had been arrested and that, as all the lawyers in Port Moresby would know, he had rendered me great assistance when I was setting up the Law Society of Papua New Guinea. For this reason, I said, I would understand it if Counsel wanted me to stand down. But they said they wanted me to hear the cases and they wanted them heard together. I told them that Melchior Tomot had been a student of mine when I was setting up magistrate training so they might like me to stand down for that reason and they said No. I then announced that though I was not on record as being involved, I had had a 'watching brief' in a rather famous case 15 or so years

earlier which arose out of antagonism to the Council. And I repeated my offer to stand down but they said they wanted me to hear the cases. (I should mention that the 15 year old case did crop up during the trial when - as mentioned at page 56 of the roneoed series - a non-Mataungan was cross-examined on the basis that he 'with two others, beat up Mr McCarthy who . . . was District Commissioner here when the Raluana Incident occurred').

That is the background to the case, apart from the fact that when Judge Minogue visited, I had to complain that the publicity about 'unruly thugs' etc. was making the climate of the trial 'unpropitious'. A further background fact is that, as I mentioned earlier, certain professionally binding rules applied. These are best indicated by referring to the classic case (described in Snapshot 37) where Scottish Nationalists burglarised Westminster Abbey, hacked the Stone of Scone out of the Coronation Chair, and took it away. It was hard to imagine anything worse: burglarising Westminster Abbey was a sacrilege, hacking into the Coronation Chair was an offence against heritage laws and taking something from the chair was ... well, something for which the culprits should be punished. Despite all this however, the authorities refused to prosecute! Their reason (as I explained in No. 38) was that the evidence which the court would be compelled to listen to - with the world's media listening in and reporting on a daily basis - would have little or nothing to do with the ancient abbey or last week's wilful damage to a priceless historic Chair. It would all be about a 'claim of right' based on events which took place hundreds of years ago but which, the Scottish Nationalists claimed, entitled them to Self Government! And the authorities wanted to prevent that claim of right being aired! To come to our own case, and to put it simply, everyone involved knew that the case was governed by section 22 of *The Criminal Code* which says '... a person is not criminally responsible, as for an offence relating to property, for an act done ... in the exercise of an honest claim of right and without intention to defraud' (my emphasis).

As I said in Snapshot No. 37 - and in my *Handbook for Crown Prosecutors* which was circulated in 1954 and 1958 - this meant that 'the facts' were only part of the equation; ... the real issue was ... (the claim of right) because the 'stealing' charge on which both Melchior Tomot and Damien Tokereku had been arrested, and the new charge of being found in 'possession of a key ring reasonably suspected of being stolen or unlawfully obtained', both required the Court to hear evidence which would not normally be admissible on an 'obstructing' charge. That evidence came from prosecution witnesses and, by the end of the very first day of a very lengthy trial, it was clear that the motivating factor was that the defendants felt that the conversion of the Tolai Council into a Multi-racial one had been done without the full implications being properly discussed - specifically, that Europeans and other non-Tolais would become the bosses of the Tolai Cocoa Project which (as I said at page 55 of the roneoed series) was created with solely Tolai money and which had 'more than \$1 million worth of assets and which controlled at least 50% of the industry processing and exporting \$9,000,000 worth of cocoa per year'.

Additional facts, as set out in District Commissioner Harry West's evidence (quoted at page 33 of the roneoed series) were that the Defendants:

'had closed the Council (on 2 September) ... because they wanted to arrange a meeting as soon as possible, preferably 3rd September, between the (members - number not given - of the) Gazelle Council, 22 members of the Mataungan Association and the 4 local Members of the House of Assembly ... the Council offices and chambers (to) remain closed except for essential services

such as the Market, Schools, Aid-posts and that type of thing' (my words in brackets)

As the trial progressed, from day to day, it became a truly surreal experience. There was never any suggestion of violence or threats of violence by the Mataungans and yet the media, in both Australia and in Port Moresby, was filled with anti-Mataungan publicity which, as I have said, caused me to complain to Judge Minogue! The courtroom was packed each day with Tolais and the occasional Australian or two, all paying the closest attention to what was being said. Justice Leckie, of Australia, called on me one evening and said that, having arrived two days early, he had sat in court that day and he was so impressed that he offered to hold his Supreme Court Sittings in another building. But the media did not even know we existed! Things became so difficult that when, on 3rd October - and long after all the evidence I have just related was on the record - the prosecutor 'sought leave to withdraw' the stealing and 'goods in possession' charges, I said, 'I will give a written decision on what is happening!' Before roneoing my Decision on Reserved Question of Charges of Stealing and Possession of Council Keys, I sent a copy of it to the Secretary for Law with a note saying:

'I think a very dangerous situation is being created by powers outside the court and I draw your attention to paragraphs 15-17 of a decision which I am about to deliver, as soon as I can get it roneoed. There is a grave danger that this case has, from its very beginning, been nothing but a callous, cruel charade. And since this can do untold damage, I think that you, as Secretary for Law, have a duty to either apply for a Prerogative Writ to prevent me going on, or to tell the person you said was orchestrating all this from Canberra, to abide by the Rule of Law.'

The paragraphs 15-17 to which I referred read:

'15 . . . the first act of the authorities was to charge one of the Defendants with an offence which, beyond the slightest shadow of doubt, made admissible any bona fide claim of right which that Defendant might have had.

16. It is also clear that, from the very beginning, the two other Defendants were asserting some sort of a bona fide claim of right.

17. And, at the very beginning of the trial, the learned Prosecutor moved that all charges be heard jointly, thus making admissible in the general trial the defence which the authorities had clearly made available to the Defendant Tokereku.'

I also sent a copy of that to Judge Minogue, drawing attention to paras 15-17 in case he felt he should ring the Secretary for Law to stop the charade - as Judge Bignold had done in Snapshot No. 14 and as Monte Phillips had also done in several cases. I did this because I had already spoken to him when he visited and also because Chief Justice Mann was still away, in hospital, and his deputy was on leave but I expected them both to return soon and I knew that each of them would fight valiantly for the Rule of Law.

But, of course, no Order of Prohibition came. Instead, things became much worse and the radio started giving reports on matters which were in evidence, but the reports were the exact opposite of what the evidence was! The explanation was that Canberra had got the House of Assembly to appoint an Australian QC to conduct an enquiry whose terms of reference overlapped the 'claim of right' which I was forced to hear and adjudicate on! I phoned the QC and we had an amicable meeting and, as recorded in my tribute to him at page 35 of the roneoed series, these reports ceased.

On 10 October I delivered the decision containing paras 15-17 quoted above and copies went to Canberra and to a host of other people so that there could be no surprise at what would happen if the authorities did not apply for a Prohibition Order. Since no application had been made to date, the trial continued, and on 4 November 1969 I dealt with the claim of right and dismissed the charges. On 11 December 1969, the new Secretary for Law, Mr Curtis, called on me in Rabaul and said that he was there to transfer me to Madang where my duties would be to hear all cases at all Stations in the Highlands and the Sepik for three weeks each and every month, and to report to him from each Station as soon as I arrived. I said, 'That is grossly improper! It would also make an interesting headline, especially since I have three very young children! Perhaps you might like to repeat it to the lawyers who are outside, waiting for the Court to open?' Then, since I seemed to have the advantage, I asked him if Wally's statement to me was true and he said 'yes', it was he who had been in charge of the whole anti-Matangan operation from the very beginning.

I then made some remarks about the people who, living in conditions of great privation, had worked so hard to create the Rule of Law in TPNG and how he had done so much to destroy it. We then discussed a number of issues and before he left he said that he had reconsidered what he had said at the beginning and I would not be transferred.

When the next judge arrived - again it was Minogue J. - I told him, in detail, what Mr Curtis had said and he astonished me by saying that he (Curtis) had been lobbying 'all the judges' against me and that he, Minogue J., had been alone in insisting that what I had done was what the prosecution had forced me to do! Then on 16 January 1970 I issued a formal Statement From the Bench in defence of my Kiap colleague. At page 4 of that Statement I said:

'during all of the political troubles of . . . 1969 there was no sign of any lessening of the appreciation and respect accorded the Courts as they sat in (Rabaul and in) the 80 or so villages they visit six times each year . . . (but) this happy and necessary situation has changed in the past two months and the Gazelle Peninsular is in danger of degenerating . . . some of the reason must lie in the fact a recent 'final adjudication' had an effect which is far from final and this without benefit of an appeal being lodged' (my emphasis).

HELP WANTED: The Office of Australian War Graves is making enquiries on behalf of the family of **Robert 'JOCK' MCLAREN**, a decorated war veteran, in an effort to find the exact location of his grave in **Wau General Cemetery**. Robert K McLaren was a former POW of the Japanese and is therefore eligible for official commemoration by the Office of Australian War Graves. His family has indicated their preference to have the official commemoration at his grave site. However the bronze grave marker has been stolen, there are no local records available, and the family do not have a photograph of the grave to assist in its identification. Jock McLaren's family say he was working for the Queensland Dept. of Agriculture as a veterinarian in Wau at the time of his death. If anyone can help in any way at all, please contact: Duncan MacLennan, Assistant Director, Operations, Office of Australian War Graves, Dept of Veterans Affairs, PO Box 21, WODEN ACT 2606, Ph 02 6289 4889, fax 02 6289 4861, email: duncan.maclennan@dva.gov.au

**Observations made by BOB COLE during a visit to ABU DHABI
10-20 Feb. 2003, while visiting his son Jim and daughter-in-law Sharon
- Jim is the CEO of Amiri Flight**

Abu Dhabi is one of seven sovereign sheikhdoms which make up the United Arab Emirates (UAE), at the southern end of the Persian Gulf. It has been ruled by the Al Nahyan family for the last 250 years and the present ruler, since 1966, is His Highness Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan who was born around 1918 (the date is uncertain).

Up until the discovery of oil, Abu Dhabi was undeveloped with a poor economy based primarily on fishing and pearl diving. The first cargo of Abu Dhabi crude oil was exported in 1962 and thereafter the economy exploded. The Emirate was at that time in treaty relations with Britain - having been so since 1820 - but when Britain, in 1968, gave notice that it would leave the Gulf within three years, the Sheikh took the lead to form the United Arab Emirates, which he accomplished in 1971. Sheikh Zayed was elected the first President of the Federation and has been re-elected at five-yearly intervals.

Since Federation in 1971 the population has risen from around a quarter of a million to about three million today with an influx of expatriates to assist with all the development which has taken place during that period. It is mind-boggling to see the development in these last 30 years. I was lucky enough to see and study a 'mud-map' of old Abu Dhabi - it is proudly displayed in their magnificent Cultural Centre - which shows it as a fishing village of mud and thatched huts established on coastal mud-flats with a background of treeless desert stretching to the horizon.

What I found is a beautiful thriving city, equal to any in the world. Lonely Planet Publications describe Abu Dhabi as 'one of the most modern cities on earth, where few buildings are more than 30 years old'. It has an annual average rainfall of less than 6.5cm and in earlier days depended on a few wells for cooking and drinking water. But now, with a very up-market desalination system producing over 200 million gallons of drinking water per day, Abu Dhabi may be classified as 'a country having the second highest per capita consumption of water in the world'. It has a reputation of being 'The Garden City of the Gulf' because of the enormous coverage of trees, parks and gardens. Water sprinklers appeared to be on everywhere and operating nonstop - there are no restrictions to their use and this was very noticeable to me having just left the Gold Coast where we have a number of rivers within and close to the city but still have very stringent water restrictions. Abu Dhabi has not a river in the whole country (it has several oases) but it now has Oil which provides the wherewithal to finance its elaborate desalination system and there is no shortage of sea water in the Gulf. There is no shortage of electricity which is provided through turbine generation also made possible by the availability of oil.

All the incredible development I saw would not have happened if it were not for the wisdom and statesmanship of its leader, Sheikh Zayed, a person who has never been to school and has no formal education but whose stated philosophy has always been 'that the resources of the country should be fully used to the benefit of the people'. I only had ten days in the country and am not in a position to make profound judgments but it appeared clear to me that the key to Abu Dhabi's outstanding achievements must be the role played by its leader, Sheikh Zayed.

It is thought that the Sheikh's 19 sons are all married and all live in their own palaces - or it appears to be so - there are royal palaces all over the place, and each is surrounded by high walls with entrances guarded by what appear to be armed guards. In

fact all residences appear to be surrounded by brick or stone walls and the architecture generally is very Eastern, despite the hot climate - I did not see a verandah anywhere.

DRESS: Most National men wear the loose, ankle-length, white DISHDASHA though I did see a few grey ones. Worn over the head is a white cloth called GHUTRA which is held in place by a black material coil called an AGAL and again I saw variations of red and sometimes gold-checked ghutras. Underneath the ghutras men wear a loose skull cap called a TAQIA. All the men I saw wore sandals, without socks.

Women wear a long black cloak called an ABAYA which covers everything from head to feet and apparently underneath they wear what they like with a tendency to very colourful garments. As further headwear a black cloth is added over the head, called SHAYIA. Quite a few women also wear a BURGA which is a stiff mask made of gold-coloured material that covers the eyebrows, nose and mouth. Some women use the shayia to cover the face completely, others leave the eyes uncovered and others again leave the whole face uncovered, but it appears that the hair is always covered. I was told that inside their homes the women lay aside the shayia and reveal hair styles equal to their Western sisters. Women also wear sandals and I saw some with socks.

ROAD RULES: Vehicles drive on the right-hand side of the road ... much confusion on the road with continuous horn-blowing by practically everyone, particularly taxis looking for business. Outside the city, such as en route to Al Ain, is an excellent three-lane highway, the left lane being for fast traffic, the centre lane for those observing the speed limit and the right lane for trucks, buses and slow traffic. Trucks must stay in the right lane and are not allowed to move out of it - they are not permitted to overtake. Buses are permitted to overtake but must immediately return to the right lane. Drivers who offend in this right lane rule are deported. The speed limit is 100 mph but few keep to it and no-one appears to care.

POPULATION: All the lowly and middle class jobs appear to be carried out by expatriates. Gardeners, shop attendants, office workers, drivers, police and the like are assigned to Pakistanis, Indians, Iranis, S.E. Asians, British, Europeans, South Africans etc. I did not see a National carrying out such tasks - apparently they consider such work to be beneath them as they claim executive jobs in all fields. For instance my son Jim is the CEO of Amiri Flight but the person in charge is a National, the Crown Prince, and the Divisional Heads of Amiri Flight are also Nationals.

On the streets National men are everywhere. National women are seen although mainly only in the supermarkets, but not as many as men. I did see some National women talking to expat shop assistants during shopping excursions but usually they had an escort when they did this. Judging by our code, the National women are treated as second class citizens, they do not appear to accompany their menfolk socially - this is their culture - but I am given to understand that some of the younger generation of women are questioning these restrictions, they are demanding, and getting, more education. Expatriate women (Pakistanis, Indians etc.) are not so restricted and fill many of the workforce positions; they dress more Western, so they may influence their National Arab sisters in time.

EDUCATION: Education has been a priority for the Abu Dhabi government and is provided free to all National citizens. Primary education is compulsory for its own citizens and every encouragement is given for its youth to attend high schools, colleges of higher education and its universities. They even have a Zayed University for women. Thousands of UAE young people study overseas with generous government scholarships.

DEVELOPMENT: There is development going on everywhere, be it buildings, roadwork, reclaiming land at the seaside, wharves etc. and the skyline of Abu Dhabi is cluttered with cranes on top of construction sites. One amazing project I saw was the stockpiling of 'sweet' sand. It was explained to me that sand along the coastal strip of Abu Dhabi is what they refer to as 'sour' sand because of its large salt content - it is not suitable for any type of gardening no matter how much water is applied. However the sand inland has been found to be what they call 'sweet' sand because it does not have salt and is very suitable for cultivation, so millions of tons of the latter have been transported to the city where extensive parks and gardens have been established to a depth of miles from the coast.

On our trip out to Al Ain, 160 odd kms from Abu Dhabi, I saw gardens bordering the road all the way. However looking beyond the trees and houses etc. which are a mile or two deep, one can see the desert stretching to the horizon. There are thousands upon thousands of date palms along the roads as well, all grown on 'sweet' sand. I also saw huge plantations of date palms at intervals along the road. Date palms are in the grounds of public and commercial buildings, in all the parks - of which there are many - and anywhere where there is a spare patch of ground. Dates are (and always have been) a vital part in the life of Arabs. Dates are one of the staple foods of the Bedouin and the trunk of the palm is still used in ceilings for houses whilst the fronds are used to make roofs and walls.

A telephone system was first installed in the city in 1963 and in that same year the first post office was opened which brings back memories to me of opening in 1948 the first postwar post office at Buin in Southern Bougainville and then in 1953 opening another one at Mount Hagen. Those two post offices are possibly still operating as relatively small units whilst the Abu Dhabi one operates in a multi-storey building.

AMIRI FLIGHT: Sunday is the first day of my son Jim's working week and was the day he chose to show me over where he works. He has about half an hour's drive to his office. He has a very posh office facing the tarmac where several aircraft were parked, and according to him presented a view which could not be equalled. I had to disagree claiming my verandah view at Nerang, overlooking the river and towards the mountains was superior by far. We agreed to disagree. Whilst talking in his office we were served several times with coffee in very small cups about the size of an egg cup and with only about half an inch of black coffee - their culture - and I was pre-advised that it was polite to accept at least two cups which I did. I met a number of his senior National staff, and his secretaries who are non-Nationals, from India, and also personnel who were in charge of different branches of the Amiri establishment. I understand there are 426 on the payroll. (Bob was then given a tour of the establishment.) ... It was a day full of interest, in many ways, and very important for me.

I made this trip to Abu Dhabi mainly to assure myself that Jim and Sharon were quite safe in an area which we Australians view as one of unrest. Also I wanted to see just what work Jim had chosen after his 30 years in the RAAF where he retired with the rank of Air Commodore. Fortunately for me, Jim was free for the first five days of my visit (their weekend and a Muslim religious holiday) and he and Sharon used this to show me as much as possible - then the visit to his workplace topped everything. I am now quite happy, and even during the war with Iraq I had no fears for their safety. I venture to say that Jim is happier in his present position than he was during the last few years of his RAAF career when he was desk-bound and physically away from his beloved aeroplanes.

Robert R. Cole

PAPUA NEW GUINEA SUPERANNUANTS - the following list of superannuants has been extracted from our membership records and we would like to make sure that it is accurate. If you receive a pension as a result of you or your spouse's previous employment in the Public Service of PNG and your name is NOT listed, please advise our secretary as soon as possible. Conversely, if your name is ON the list and you do NOT receive a pension, please let us know.

Mrs	M A	AHERN	CHAPEL HILL	QLD
Mrs	E J	ASHWORTH	HOVE	SA
Mr	L A	AUCHETTL	EARLVILLE	QLD
Mr	L R S	AUSTIN	ROTHWELL	QLD
Mrs	R I	BATES	DULWICH HILL	NSW
Mr	A R	BEARD	TURNER	ACT
Mrs	V M	BICKLEY	FULLERTON	SA
Miss	V	BIGNOLD	ARTARMON	NSW
Mrs	M	BLANDEN	DOVER HEIGHTS	NSW
Mrs	D	BLOINK	KENMORE	QLD
Mr	P A K	BOSWELL	FAIRLIGHT	NSW
Mr	J B	BRAMELL	NORTH MANLY	NSW
Mr	E	BRANDS	NERANG	QLD
Dr	F J	BROCKHALL	CROYDON	VIC
Mr	R C	BROWNE	MAPLETON	QLD
Ms	E M	BRUCE	SOUTHPORT	QLD
Mrs	G	BRUYERES	BROADBEACH WATERS	QLD
Mr	J	BULL	ERINA	NSW
Mr	G R	BURFOOT	TYALGUM	NSW
Mrs	O K	BURKE	CHESTER HILL	NSW
Mr	A E	BYWORTH	PARADISE POINT	QLD
Mr	R S & J	CARNE	NORTH BALWYN	VIC
Miss	R J	CARTER	FAIRLIGHT	NSW
Mr	L G	CAVANAUGH	SURFERS PARADISE	QLD
Mrs	J	CHAMBERS	PENNANT HILLS	NSW
Mr	D	CHENOWETH	07100 BALLEARES	SPAIN
Mrs	F	CHESTER	PALM BEACH	QLD
Mr	M F	CICHOCKI	NORTHMEAD	NSW
Mrs	J	CLARINGBOULD	INDOOROOPILLY	QLD
Mrs	M P	CLARK	SOUTHPORT	QLD
Mr	R D M	CLELAND	KENMORE HILLS	QLD
Mrs	M	CLEMENTS	KARRINYUP	WA
Mrs	M	CLIFTON-BASSETT	CASTLE CRAG	NSW
Mr	C T	COGHLAN	BUDERIM	QLD
Mr	R R	COLE	NERANG	QLD
Miss	J M	COLEMAN	ELTHAM	VIC
Mr	E G	COLLIS	BRIBIE ISLAND	QLD
Mrs	D J	COLWELL	NOOSA HEADS	QLD
Mr	W L	CONROY	AVALON BEACH	NSW
Mr	H	CORDER	BRIGHTON EAST	VIC
Mr	J L	COSTELLOE	CAIRNS	QLD
Mrs	H	CROUCH	MOUNT HELEN	VIC
Mrs	P D	CURTIS	KALINGA	QLD
Mrs	L L	DAVIS	STIRLING	ACT
Mrs	J	DAVY	KENMORE	QLD
Mr	T E	DAW	WATERMAN	WA
Mrs	A M	DAWE	WOODY POINT	QLD
Mr	D	de GRAAFF	PETRIE	QLD
Mrs	E	de MORIER	MERMAID WATERS	QLD
Mr	O G G	DENT	MAROOCHYDORE SOUTH	QLD
Mrs	J S	DISHON	MOOROOKA	QLD
Mr	I F	DOWNES	GOLD COAST MAIL X	QLD
Mrs	A	DRYER	BEACHMERE	QLD
Mr	B	DUFFY	THE GAP	QLD
Mr	K W	DYER	VICTORIA POINT	QLD
Mr	N D	ENDACOTT	WARRANWOOD	VIC
Dr	P S	ENDERS	NEUTRAL BAY	NSW
Mrs	L M	EVANS	TURRAMURRA	NSW
Mrs	Y	EWING	MIAMI KEY	QLD
Ms	H G	FARRELL	PANANIA	NSW

Mrs	H M	FENBURY	SUBIACO	WA
Mrs	P D	FOLEY	WILLOUGHBY	NSW
Capt.	C D	FOSTER	TAROONA	TAS
Mrs	V	GALLOWAY	HILL END	QLD
Dr	G W	GIBSON	NAMBOUR	QLD
Mrs	A M	GILES	WANGI WANGI	NSW
Mr	J H	GILLMAN	GREENBANK	QLD
Mr	J C	GOAD	GRIFFIN	QLD
Mrs	M	GODWIN	WULGURU	QLD
Mr	S A	GOW	ROSEBAY	TAS
Mr	J F	GRAHAM	PALM BEACH	QLD
Mrs	A	GRAHAM	FORSTER SHOP. VILLAGE	NSW
Mrs	J	GRANT	PARADISE POINT KEYS	QLD
Mr	R S	GRIMSHAW	WARANA	QLD
Mr	D S	GROVE	MONT ALBERT NORTH	VIC
Lady	E	GUNTHER	ROBINA	QLD
Mr	J L G	HARRIDGE	TAIGUM	QLD
Mrs	J	HARRISON	WERRINGTON COUNTY	NSW
Mr	F E	HAVILAND	BAYVIEW	NSW
Mrs	J	HAYES	MAROOCHYDORE	QLD
Mrs	D	HEALEY	GRACEVILLE	QLD
Mrs	J L	HENDERSON	ST. IVES	NSW
Mr	D S	HERBORN	MOSMAN	NSW
Mrs	L	HOOPER	MOOLOOLABA	QLD
Mr	A D	HUNT	BUDERIM	QLD
Mr	A L	HURRELL	BANORA POINT	NSW
Mrs	H	JACKUS	NARRABEEN	NSW
Mrs	G	JAGO	ULMARRA	NSW
Mrs	M	JARRY	ALICE SPRINGS	NT
Mrs	M G	JENSEN	BUDERIM	QLD
Mr	S H	JOHNSON	TRIGG	WA
Mr	B R	JOHNSTON	DARWIN	NT
Mrs	P A	JONES	MOSMAN	NSW
Mr	T S	JONES	LAURIETON	NSW
Miss	G R	JONES	GREEN VALLEY	NSW
Mr	A K	JONES	KINGSLEY	WA
Mr	F P	KAAD	MOSMAN	NSW
Mr	G P	KELENY	MAROUBRA	NSW
Mrs	P C	KELLY	COOGEE	NSW
Mr	A S	KEMP	GRENFELL	NSW
Mr	R B	KENNEDY	OXLEY	QLD
Mrs	E	KIMMORLEY	BANORA POINT	NSW
Mrs	M	KLECKHAM	SEAFORTH	QLD
Mrs	J	LAM	WOODRIDGE	QLD
Mr	D L	LARGE	CALOUNDRA	QLD
Mr	A H	LAURENS	WESTLAKE	QLD
Mr	B V	LEHMANN	PARA HILLS	SA
Mr	A J	LEYDEN	HORNSBY	NSW
Mr	D C	LUSTY	WONDALGA	NSW
Mrs	B	MACARTNEY	DURACK	QLD
Mrs	Y	MACDONALD	RACEVIEW	QLD
Ms	E C	MACILWAIN	FULHAM	SA
Mr	D R	MARSH	HARBORD	NSW
Mrs	J A	MARTIN	CLARENCE GARDENS	SA
Mr	S	MASON	WOODY POINT	QLD
Mr	B J	MAUME	NEWSTEAD	QLD
Mr	W	McBRIDE	SCOTLAND	UK
Mrs	M J	McCUBBERY	ST LUCIA	QLD
Mr	P G	McGOLDRICK	ALSTONVILLE	NSW
Mr	J	McGREGOR	EVERTON PARK	QLD
Mrs	B M	McLAUGHLIN	CAMBERWELL	VIC
Mrs	E C	McNAUGHT	CRANBROOK	QLD
Mrs	V V	MILES	TOOWOOMBA	QLD
Mr	J F	MOODY	ROBINA	QLD
Miss	L	MOORHOUSE	CLEVELAND	QLD

Mr	M A	MUNRO	SHEPPARTON	VIC
Mrs	D M	NELSON	MANLY	QLD
Mr	W J	NEVE	GORDON	NSW
Mrs	J	NEWMAN	EPHING	NSW
Mrs	M	NEWTON	ROWES BAY	QLD
Mrs	D F	NICHOLS	BUDERIM	QLD
Mr	F E	NIEMINEN	HIGHFIELDS MS103	QLD
Mrs	F	NITSCHKE	GREEN POINT	NSW
Mr	J G	O'BRIEN	HACKETT	ACT
Mr	K D	O'MARA	POTTS POINT	NSW
Mrs	S	ORKEN	PARKINSON	QLD
Mrs	M	ORMSBY	RED CLIFFS	VIC
Mr	J B	PAGE	GLENSIDE	SA
Mrs	J	PECKOVER	JINDALEE	QLD
Mrs	J	PENDRIGH	SANDY BAY	TAS
Mr	S G	PIKE	GIRALANG	ACT
Mr	R L	PULSFORD	NORTHBRIDGE	NSW
Mr	P J	QUINLIVAN	THE GAP	QLD
Mr	D B	READ	BICTON	WA
Mr	J E	RITCHIE	BUDERIM	QLD
Mr	J G	ROBERTSON	CLEVELAND	QLD
Mr	J	RUDD	WARANA BEACH	QLD
Dr	D A	RUSSELL	KENMORE	QLD
Dr	J	SAAVE	AUSTRALIA SQUARE	NSW
Mr	E P	SCOTT	CHIANG MAI	THAILAND
Dr	R F	SCRAGG	VICTOR HARBOR	SA
Mrs	D M	SEARLE	SOUTHPORT	QLD
Mr	T D	SEXTON	BUNDALL	QLD
Mrs	H	SHARP	SYLVANIA	NSW
Dr	D E	SHAW	TOOWONG	QLD
Mrs	B R	SIDEBOTTOM	NERANG	QLD
Mrs	D	SMITH	FORBES	NSW
Mr	J G	SMITH	FLYNN	ACT
Mr	E V	SMITH	ROBINA	QLD
Mrs	I V	SMITH	KINGSCLIFF	NSW
Mr	P	SOMERS	NIGHTCLIFF	NT
Mr	A	SPEER	CROWS NEST	NSW
Mr	W G	SPELDEWINDE	WODEN	ACT
Mrs	D	SPENCER	SUNNYBANK HILLS	QLD
Mrs	N E	STEVENS	TORONTO	NSW
Mr	D J	STEWART	BATEAU BAY	NSW
Mrs	L H	STRECKFUSS	ST ALBANS	NSW
Mr	L	SYKORA	GLENSIDE	SA
Mrs	M	SZENT-IVANY	ATHELSTONE	SA
Mr	R J	TEBBLE	REDLAND BAY	QLD
Mr	R	THOMSON	ASHMORE	QLD
Mr	W E	TOMASETTI	WENTWORTH FALLS	NSW
Mrs	M	TOPHAM	YORK YO1 SPQ	UK
Mr	H A	TRESTRAIL	PIALBA	QLD
Mrs	G L	VAN HOECKEL	NAMBOUR	QLD
Mrs	G E	VON SCHILL	BEACON HILL	NSW
Mr	W A	WARBY	YERONGA	QLD
Mrs	M	WEBB	BENOWA	QLD
Mr	H W	WEST	LANE COVE	NSW
Mrs	J	WESTMORE	MOUNT BEAUTY	VIC
Mrs	I L	WESTON	BRITISH COLUMBIA	CANADA
Mr	K J	WHITE	PATTAYA 20260	THAILAND
Mr	A L	WILLIAMS	SCARBOROUGH	QLD
Mrs	M	WILLIAMS	CROMER	NSW
Mrs	P G	WOOD	PYMBLE	NSW
Mr	L C	YELLAND	BROADBEACH WATERS	QLD
Mr	E B	YOUNG	CALOUNDRA	QLD
Mrs	A	YOUNG-WHITFORDE	PALM BEACH	NSW
Mrs	J	ZIGAS	THE HAGUE	NETHERLANDS

VALE - With deep regret we record the passing of the following members and friends

Mr Ormond James (Orm) MATHIESON (21 June 2003, aged 85 years)

Orm was born in Victoria and educated in Tamworth NSW. He became a clerk with Dalgety's of Sydney before enlisting in 2/2 Machine Gun Battalion 9th Division. He was wounded at Alamain then discharged for health reason on the Battalion's return from New Guinea. Postwar he married Mavis Brown and together they had two children Ron and Jane. In 1946 Orm signed on to become a Patrol Officer in Papua New Guinea. During his time there he served in a number of districts including postings at Wewak, Aitape, Baniara, Gehua, Kerema, Ihu, Madang, Saidor, Chimbu, HQ, Tapini, Goroka and Kundiawa. They remained in PNG until 1971 when Orm retired as District Commissioner Eastern Highlands District, to Port Macquarie NSW where he remained until his death. Orm is survived by his children Ron and Jane and their families.

From Orm's daughter, Jane Mann

Mr William (Bill) RACE OAM (aged 82 years)

Bill was with the Department of Health from 1951-74. Further details in next issue.

Alexander Morrison (Sandy) SINCLAIR MID, PLSGCM. (Mentioned in Despatches; Police Long Service Good Conduct Medal) (29 June 2003, aged 99 years)

Sandy was born in Dundee, Scotland. In 1921, he joined the Brigade of Guards (Scots Guards) of the British Army, and served for several years in China. In 1929 he migrated to Australia and in late 1934 he joined the European Constabulary of the New Guinea Police Force as a Warrant Officer, 2nd class. In the following years he served at Rabaul police training depot, and at Kieta and Kokopo.

When the Japanese invaded Rabaul on 23.1.1942, he was commanding the police detachment at Vunakanau airstrip outside Rabaul. On that day he was told by the Police Superintendent, W.B. Ball, to leave his post and try and escape from the Japs. For the next six weeks he wandered across New Britain, under considerable danger of being captured, until finally he was evacuated along with other police officers, soldiers, civilians and missionaries and taken to Cairns on the *Lakatoi*.

He joined the RAAF in Australia, but because of his experience in New Guinea was transferred to the Army Water Transport unit in Port Moresby. There he came in contact with another former New Guinea Police Force colleague, Christopher Normoyle, then heading the Royal Papuan Constabulary (RPC) and to which he was transferred and served until the end of WWII. RPC was a unit within ANGAU, serving in the 8th Military District. After the war, he remained with the police force, which postwar became known as the Royal Papuan Constabulary and New Guinea Police Force, later to become the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary. When a detachment of this force was selected to attend the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth in London in 1953, Sandy was selected to head this unit of three officers and 23 loyal native members of the force all of whom had served in WW2. Before and after the war Sandy, because of his army service, was largely involved in the training depots of the police force. He was promoted to the rank of Senior Inspector on 20.3.1952, and retired in that rank on 24.11.60, following which he lived quietly in Sydney, his wife Gladys having predeceased him some years earlier. He leaves no surviving family members.

Sandy was a loyal servant of the police forces of Papua New Guinea, and should be remembered for his great contribution to training indigenous members of the pre-war Native Constabulary and of the postwar Constabulary.

M.R. Hayes

Raymond Wells WHITROD (10 July 2003, aged 88)

Ray Whitrod served in the SA Police from February 1934 to April 1949 (apart from wartime service in the RAAF). He was Commonwealth Police Commissioner prior to PNG - dates not known. Appointed Deputy Commissioner RPNGC (Special Duties - whilst taking over from Bob COLE) on 31.3.1969, and Commissioner from 21.4.1969 (Bob formally retired 19.4.1969) until 31.3.1970, viz a very brief career in RPNGC as Commissioner for 11 months much of which he was overseas. He then went to Qld police, dates not known. Decorations; A.C.; C.V.O.; Q.P.M. He was on SBS TV, 9.8.2002, 'Australian Biography'.

M. R. Hayes

Mr John Cyril WILLIAMS (31-7-2003, aged 82 years)

John was born in Ipswich Queensland, grew up in Cairns and in his youth did plantation work in New Guinea. He spent the war years with the RAAF and returned to PNG as a cadet patrol officer in April 1946. He served in a number of districts as a field officer until the early 1960s when he went to Headquarters in Port Moresby. For many years leading up to independence he headed the Management Services Division of District Administration with substantial responsibility in all aspects of staff finance in the Department. His long retirement was spent at Port Macquarie where his second wife Eunice died in 1987. He concerned himself with community affairs and was notably active in Probus. He maintained close contact with work-time colleague Orm Mathieson who also recently passed away in Port Macquarie.

H.W. West

Mr. Ian Campbell FISHER ISM (4-6-2003, aged 86yrs)

After training at the Marconi School of Wireless in Sydney as a radio telegraphist in the mid 1930s, Ian joined the merchant marine service as a radio operator and travelled to many parts of the globe including Rabaul (about 1937, before the eruption). When war broke out Ian found himself on armed troopships operating around Africa, the Mediterranean and Europe. After the war, with work being scarce, Ian answered an advertisement for radio operators to help restore communications in the Territory of New Guinea. He arrived in Rabaul in early 1946 - his wife Vi and baby daughter Margaret joined him in late 1946 when married accommodation became available.

Communications in the war-ravaged Territory were non-existent so it was a challenge to get a reliable service established - on a shoestring budget. From those early beginnings till 1971 when Ian left Rabaul to work in Port Moresby, communications in and to Rabaul, the outstations and Islands had improved dramatically. Automatic telephones had been established in the early 60s, and a good telegram service and reliable daily radio service with outstations was the norm. Ian was in charge of the Rabaul Telegraph Office for many years. At Port Moresby Ian became a radio inspector for about a year and then retired in 1972. He was recognised by the Queen for his service to communications in TPNG by being awarded the Imperial Service Medal in 1972.

While in Rabaul in the early 60s, Ian took up amateur radio as a hobby and continued this until arthritis prevented him only last year. He was well known around 'ham' radio ranks, operating under call signs VK9VM in TPNG and VK4FB in Australia.

Ian and Vi settled at Woody Point Qld for about 17 yrs and then moved to the country at Wamuran near Caboolture Qld, where Vi passed away suddenly in Sept 2002. Ian had been in ill health for some time with Vi being his carer.

His children, Margaret, Glenn, Ian and Janet, and several grandchildren and great grandchildren, survive him.

From Ian's son Glenn

Mr Douglas FYFE (16 August 2003)

Doug's association with PNG began in the 1950s. He came from Glasgow to join the Education Department as a primary school teacher. He moved around schools in the New Guinea Islands and later was based in Rabaul. After some years teaching he joined the ABC's Education Broadcasts. His Scottish accent was familiar on radio as that of Form IV quiz master. Doug was a great entertainer, pianist and raconteur. He played for various entertainment groups and dances, and was involved in productions such as the Scout Gang Shows. Doug worked for a short time with the ABC in Sydney then finally retired to Tasmania about twenty years ago, where he was still involved in show production from Scouts to Retirement Village 'gang' shows. Doug could enthral his audiences with a yarn or two. Tragically six years ago a stroke deprived him of speech. He was a keen traveller and was brave enough to make a trip back to Scotland alone about four years ago. He has a nephew and sister in Glasgow, and good friends in Hobart.

From Doug's friends, Myra & Rod Macey

New premises for ComSuper: Recently the Commonwealth Superannuation Administration (ComSuper) opened new premises in Canberra, enabling all sections under its control to be in the same area. The Minister for Finance and Administration, Senator the Hon. Nick Minchin, formally opened the premises and unveiled a commemorative plaque. An invitation to the function was extended to this Association and was attended by Deputy President Pam Foley who reports that part of the proceedings was the presentation of a silver medallion to some of the beneficiaries under the various schemes - both younger and older - and in this category one of our members, **Mrs Marge BLANDEN**, was presented with her medallion and also asked to cut the celebratory cake with the Minister. Marge's husband was Mining Warden in Wau.

UNFINANCIAL MEMBERS: We have not heard from the following members for quite some time. Can anyone help with information? Please advise our Secretary, Pam Foley (phone 9967 2818, fax 9967 2856)

MR J.R. ALLEN	RESEARCH, VIC	MRS. P. ANDERSEN,	CHAPMAN, ACT
MR. L.A. ARROWSMITH	LOGANDALE, QLD	MRS. M. BASTOW,	THURLIMBAH, QLD
MRS. P. BENSTED	DECEPTION BAY, QLD	MRS. G. CARPENTER,	ASQUITH NSW
MR. G.K. COWPER	MORRISSET EAST, NSW	MR. P.F. DAVEY,	EARLVILLE QLD
MR. B. DAVIDSON	ERSKINEVILLE, NSW	MR. P.A. DENNETT,	COOGEE NSW
MRS. A. EAGER	WINSTON HILLS, NSW	MRS. L.B. EAKIN,	WHITFIELD, QLD
MR. B. ESSAI	CHARWOOD, ACT	MR. L. P. FERRY, UNI.	SYDNEY, NSW
MR. D.A. FORBES	BANORA POINT, NSW	MS. R. GRIFFITH,	WOLLSTONECRAFT, NSW
MR. H.E. GUGENBURGER	BEAUMONT S.A.	MRS. S.P. HALL,	GRIFFITH ACT
MR. A.M. HALLETT	KENMORE, QLD	MRS. S. HILTON,	THE GAP, QLD
MR. H.H. JACKMAN	ANGASTON, S.A.	MRS. G. JOHNSON,	BALWYN, VIC
MISS N.R. KINGSLAND	GORDON, NSW	MRS. P.J. KROGH,	WYOMING NSW
MS. G. LEVY	CAWDOR, NSW	MR. M. MANNING,	NELSON BAY NSW
MR. D.B. MOORHOUSE	FORSTER, NSW	MRS. D. MUNRO,	CAMDEN NSW
MR. C.B. O'BRIEN	ROSEVILLE NSW	MR. D.F. PERMEZEL,	MALAK, N.T.
MR. R. PFENG	WULGURU, QLD	MR. G. PIGGOTT,	BOWRAL NSW
MR. N.H. PRATT	MARGATE, QLD	MRS. W. RHODES,	KELMSCOTT, W.A.
MR. P.J. RICHARDSON	ROBERTSON QLD	MR. R. SEETO,	BEACHMERE QLD
MR. R. SHERIDAN	RYDE NSW	MR. J. STOLZ,	CURRIMUNDI, QLD
MR. R.H. TAYLOR	BAYVIEW HEIGHTS QLD	MS. M. TUXWORTH,	ADAMSTOWN NSW
MR. S.F. TYLER	ELLENBROOK W.A.	MR. B.G. VESPER,	FERNVALE QLD
MS K. WALDMANN	MOIL N.T.	MRS. H. WELCH,	COLLINSWOOD S.A.
MRS. R. WENNEBOM	LEURA	MRS. M. WHITE,	CLAREMONT W.A.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

MR. J. AITKEN	4 MERRANS ROAD	HEALESVILLE	VIC	3777
MRS. R. ALBIEZ	P O BOX 217	LANDSBOROUGH	QLD	4550
DR. I. BENISSEN-HESSE	7 BELLEVUE COURT	MUSGRAVE	VIC	3170
MR. R.D. BRAKE	3 WILLIAM STREET	WATSON, CANBERRA	ACT	2602
MR. A. BRYDE	160 TRINITY BEACH ROAD	TRINITY BEACH	QLD	4879
MR. J. BUCHANAN	"THE SCHOOL HOUSE" BAERAMI CREEK,	via DENMAN	NSW	2328
MR. G. CARTER	1074 EASTBANK ROAD,	NANA GLEN	NSW	2450
MR. R.H. FISK	6 OXLEY CIRCUIT	DAISY HILL	QLD	4127
MR. J. FOOTE	40 AQUARMARINE DRIVE	SALISBURY EAST	S.A.	5109
MR. D. FOPP	68 DRYANDRA STREET	O'CONNOR, CANBERRA	ACT	2602
MR. M. GAFFNEY	30 PROCYON STREET	COORPAROO, BRIS.	QLD	4151
MR. V. P. KARNUPS	KR, VALDEMARA iela 37,	RIGA,	LATVIA	
MR. T. JARVIS	8 CLYDE STREET	PARKSIDE	S.A.	5063
MR. A. LUSSICK	11 GLOSSOP CRESCENT	CAMPBELL, CANBERRA	ACT	2612
MRS. MYRA MACEY	20 TARONGA ROAD	BONNET HILL	TAS	7053
MS. R. MACDONALD	142/2345 CEDAR HILL CROSS ROAD	VICTORIA B.C. VP8P5M8	CANADA	
MR. J. McGREGOR	10 COOTHA STREET	EVERTON PARK	QLD	4053
MR. P. MILBURN	16 CHABLIS CRESCENT	VERMONT SOUTH	VIC	3133
MR. H. MULDER	7 GLANOR DRIVE	STANTHORPE	QLD	4380
MS. E. RYAN	94 BLACKET STREET	DOWNER	ACT	2602
MRS. C. SMITH	7 MARTIN ROAD	SORRENTO	WA	6020
MR. J. STEVENSON	407 PACIFIC HIGHWAY	WYONG	NSW	2259
MR. H. STONE	19 SUSSEX CRESCENT	MORPHETVALE	S.A.	5162
MR. G. TAIT	151 BACK ELECTRA ROAD	ELECTRA, BUNDBABERG	QLD	4670

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

	<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>	
MR. C.A. BAKER	COOTAMUNDRA	THE BAY VILLAGE ESTATE 601 FISHERY POINT RD. BONNELLS BAY	NSW 2264
MR. D.S. BAKER	TEA GARDENS	4 BOWERBIRD CLOSE, BURLEIGH WATERS	QLD 4522
MR. D. BENSTED	GLASSHOUSE MTNS.	P O BOX 308 LYNDOCH	S.A. 5351
MR. P. BLESSING	ABU DAHBI, UAE	16 KRUGER STREET, TOOWOOMBA	QLD 4350
MRS. D. BOURN	ROCHEDALE	32 KAWANA CRESCENT, LOGANDALE	QLD 4129
MR. R. HORNER	WANNEROO, WA	33 WOODBINE LOOP, TAPPING	W.A 6065
MR. K.W. JONES	MARGATE	1A HUNGERFORD STREET, KIPPA RING	QLD 4021
MR. T.S. JONES	NELSON BAY	C/- MS. P. KOHN P O BOX 2 LAURIE TON	NSW 2443
MR. S. KNIGHT	BRIGHTON-LE-SANDS	SCA 34, CASTLE RIDGE RETIREMENT RESORT 350 OLD NORTHERN RD. CASTLE HILL	NSW 2154
Mr. K.E. MURPHY	GOROKA	P.O.BOX 762 MT. HAGEN 281 WHP	PNG
MRS. M. ORMSBY	REDCLIFFE VIC.	C/- RC&CAC'S HOSTEL, BOX 41 REDCLIFFE	VIC 3496
MRS. N. STEVENS	CHATHAM	FIGTREE POCKET AGED CARE FACILITY 7 HARRIS ST., TORONTO	NSW 2283
MRS. J. VON LEIXNER	FORTITUDE VALLEY	73 'RIVER GALLERY APTS' 6 MERTHYR ROAD NEW FARM, BRISBANE	QLD 4005
MR. A. WOODCOCK	DEVONPORT	100 KOOYONG AVENUE, WARRENUP, ALBANY WA	6330