

PAPUA NEW GUINEA ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA, Inc.

Celebrating the 30th Anniversary of the Independence of Papua New Guinea Christmas Luncheon , Sunday 4 December 2005



Foreword by President Harry West

Our Association celebrated Papua New Guinea's 30th Anniversary of Independence (1975-2005) with two major events. On Sunday 28th August more than 250 members and friends gathered at the Roxy Theatre, Lindfield, for a special screening of 'Walk Into Paradise', refreshments and socialising. Members from South Australia also organised a viewing and a donation of \$2000 was raised from both events for the children's Ward at ANGAU Memorial Hospital, Lae. (See page 10, Una Voce No. 4 Dec 2005).

Our regular Christmas luncheon on December 4 was transformed into a very special and joyous Independence anniversary festivity. Twenty two large round tables filled the expansive function room at the Mandarin Club in Sydney and on each of the gleaming white tablecloths were ten large sparkingly colourful laminated table mats depicting PNG's national and nineteen provincial flags. On the reverse were the national anthems and flags of both PNG and Australia – wonderful souvenirs of the occasion for the 220 who attended the luncheon and sang both national anthems. Suspended above all tables were vivid clusters of hovering balloons in red, black and yellow. The stage was surrounded and lined with palm fronds and had a focal point of a large PNG flag. On each side of the stage was a set of the PNG provincial flags. Walls were decorated with posters relating to the national and provincial flags, the national anthem and the national crest. Aviation memorabilia was supplied by Robin Mead and postage stamp and coin displays by Nancy Johnston.

Our Chief Patron, His Excellency, Major General Michael Jeffery, AC CVO MC (Rtd), Governor General of the Commonwealth of Australia, who has had a long and close association with PNG, including service with the Pacific Islands Regiment in the late 1960s, sent an inspiring address, which was read by me. Our guest of honour, Paul Nerau LLB, PNG's Consul General in Brisbane, accompanied by his wife Pauline, spoke stimulatingly about the positive side of contemporary developments in his country. There was much satisfaction and applause when he presented the 30th Independence Anniversary Commemorative Medal to legendary Fred Kaad OBE for outstanding service to the development of PNG.

We were pleased to be joined by the President of the PNG Chinese Catholic Association, Dr Dennis Chow and wife Susan, and from the Sydney-PNG Wantok Club, Daniel and Caroline Luke, Tom and Margaret Neeson and Helen and Ray Withy, who arranged the presentation of five brilliantly attired and vigorously accomplished Manus dancing girls who provided colourful and lively entertainment to the rhythm of the garamut in their dances of 'friendship, celebration and rejoicing'.

There was a large display of recently published books on PNG. People dug deep with their pockets in their quest for the wonderful raffle prizes, including a combo DVD video player donated by regular benefactor Alan Johnston, and a set of 12 recent books on PNG donated by Pandanus Books, ANU, to mark the 30th Anniversary of Independence. Members attending were mainly from the Sydney region, but all states were represented and Jeanette Leahy was down from Zenag, near Lae. Apart from the war years she has lived in the Morobe Province since 1939.

Everyone enjoyed the day and it brought back many wonderful memories.



His Excellency Major General Michael Jeffery AC CVO MC (Retd)
Governor- General of the Commonwealth of Australia

**A Message
from
His Excellency Major General Michael Jeffery, AC CVO MC (Retd)
Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia
for
The Annual Christmas Luncheon hosted by
The Papua New Guinea Association of Australia
4 December 2005**

I am disappointed that Marlena and I are unable to attend the Annual Christmas Luncheon hosted by the Association because of a long standing prior commitment.

In September this year we were privileged to make a State Visit to Papua New Guinea to attend the 30th anniversary independence celebrations and to mark the 60th anniversary of the World War II surrender ceremony at Cape Wom near Wewak. The Japanese invasion of PNG in July 1942 initiated one of the bloodiest campaigns of the war. Japan's march south through the Philippines, Malaya and Singapore, was halted – first at Milne Bay and then along the Kokoda Track.

Soldiers of the Pacific and New Guinea Infantry Battalions, carriers on the Kokoda track and loyal village people, made a splendid contribution to our respective countries' defence. Sixty years later, the trauma of those times still resonates deeply with many.

We were both delighted to be back in Papua New Guinea, as we were married in the 'Haus Lotu' at Taurama Barracks nearly forty years ago, and after a very happy three years there, I was further privileged to command 700 very fine soldiers of the Second Battalion the Pacific Islands Regiment in Wewak at Independence in 1975. Little did I realise that in commanding a company of a 1PIR Guard of Honour to welcome the new Administrator Sir David Hay, in 1967, that 38 years later I would be inspecting guards from both 1 and 2 RPIR as Governor-General of Australia.

In 2000 I returned to PNG as a member of an Eminent Person's Group tasked to review the size, structure and role of the Papua New Guinea Defence Force.

Australia's relationship with PNG is one of our deepest and most important. At its core are our close geographic proximity and shared history. There are many significant moments comprising that history, but none more important than 16 September 1975 – the day Papua New Guinea gained its independence.

On the 15th of September 1975, when the Australian flag was lowered in Papua New Guinea, PNG's first Governor-General, Sir John Guise, noted poignantly that '*the Australian flag was being lowered, not torn down*'.

Sir John's statement reflected the positive spirit in which the Independent State of Papua New Guinea was established – to the credit of both the leaders of Papua New Guinea and the Australian Governments.

In 2005 Australia and Papua New Guinea have an exceptionally close and broad-based relationship which is characterised by a great deal of affection and trust. We must all continue to work together to ensure that the positive links between our two countries, tempered through war, independence, economics and geographic proximity will continue to expand. Let us not be deterred by occasional blips on the radar screen; they come and they go, but the enduring features of our relationship are unique and will never change.

I commend the members of the Papua New Guinea Association of Australia for your contribution to the building of people-to-people links between our two nations, for your continuing interest in regional affairs, and for the goodwill and opportunities you create that particularly influence our bilateral relationship.

Marlena joins me in wishing you and your families a very happy Christmas and prosperous New Year.



(Michael Jeffery)



The Guest Speaker, Mr Paul Nerau, LLB, thanked Mr West for giving him the opportunity to address members and guests of the Association on such an important occasion. The following is an edited version of Mr Nerau's address -

“Our motto for the 30th Independence Anniversary is: ‘PUT PNG FIRST, PNG ATOA GUNA, PUTIM PNG IGO PAS’. It is with great anticipation and optimism we stand here to celebrate the 30th Independence Anniversary of Papua New Guinea. Our country has been described as the ‘Jewel in the Crown’ of our South Pacific neighbours.

Papua New Guinea attained its Independence in 1975, from Australia under Prime Minister Gough Whitlam. I was privileged to be just completing my University studies with many others in the likes of Mr Frank Kramer. Our pioneer politicians and public servants include our current Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Sir Michael Somare, former Prime Minister Sir Rabbie Namaliu and current Foreign Minister and former Prime Ministers, the Hon. Pius Wingti, Sir Julius Chan, and Sir Mekere Morauta. Independence was achieved with mixed feelings. Some critics say it was too early but be that as it may, it happened and it happened without any bloodshed as our first Governor General, Sir John Guise at the eve of Independence with the lowering of the Australian flag, and in handing the Australian Flag to the Australian Governor General Sir John Kerr, said ‘We are lowering the flag and not tearing it down’.

Our 30th Independence motto challenges us to be patriotic in our outlook and calls for Renewal and Commitment and a beacon of Hope; Solidarity in our Commitment for Unity, and Purpose for our Nation, Papua New Guinea. We must now strive to excel in the things that bring positive outcomes and ensure we work towards protecting what we have already achieved and built over the last 30 years and continue to build on them. The vibrant Parliamentary Democracy and the Government Institutions, our diverse languages, Cultural Heritage, our unique environmental fauna and the Virgin Forest which we must treasure for future generations and not destroy for quick capital gains. We must not take these for granted but continue to nurture, protect and improve on them.

We have and will continue to have many challenges of nationhood as we have learned from the Bougainville experience. We must learn that 'Life is precious' and that we can resolve differences between ourselves without resorting to violence. Today we celebrate 'LIFE'; the life of Papua New Guineans and friends of PNG for the 30 years we have been together. Life, as you and I know, has many challenges, and PNG has had many such challenges, for example, the natural disasters of the tsunami, the frost and El-Nino; the Bougainville experience; the Sandline Crisis; economic short comings; the AIDS-HIV epidemic and others, but we will overcome such with equal determination and continue to strive to find solutions for the common good of our people.

What have we to look forward to in the next 20 to 30 years? By far the most significant will be the PNG Gas Project with the PNG to Queensland Gas Pipeline; the stability in our Parliamentary Democracy; the challenge to tackle AIDS-HIV, and improvement in both Education and Health, and the quality of Life for our people.

We need to think and do things smartly and cultivate a hunger and thirst for Excellence and Innovative thinking outside the box. As a Nation we must be ready to take proactive measures to embrace what is happening around us in regard to Globalisation and to capitalise on opportunities presented to us for those of us living and working in Australia and vice versa. We need to establish a mutually sustainable partnership between Australia and PNG at the community, corporate, political and bureaucratic levels. We must grab with both hands the opportunities presented by the Gas Pipeline Project and take a holistic approach on all fronts. Queensland, the closest neighbour to PNG, provides great opportunity which my office is promoting with the State Development and Innovation Department, the QLD/PNG Chamber of Commerce, the QLD/PNG Business Corporation Group (BCG). We look forward to strengthening this relationship with further opportunities for PNG and Australia through the accessing of Labour Market Employment Opportunities in the horticultural sector and youth training.

Today we celebrate these and say "thank you" to our Mentor, friend and neighbour, Australia, for being a true friend during the Second World War when we stood side by side at the Kokoda Track Campaign and for the assistance over the last 30 years in the provision of aid and other assistance. Also, we acknowledge other donor countries who have and continue to assist us today

I make special mention of your recipient of the Commemorative Independence Anniversary Medal, Mr Kaad. Let me thank Mr Kaad for being such a wonderful friend and ambassador for PNG. Finally let me thank your Association and its members for your great contribution to our country during your days in PNG and no doubt you will continue to maintain this link through your Association. I have read from your magazine, *UNA VOCE*, the many adventures and tasks that many of you accomplished whilst in PNG.

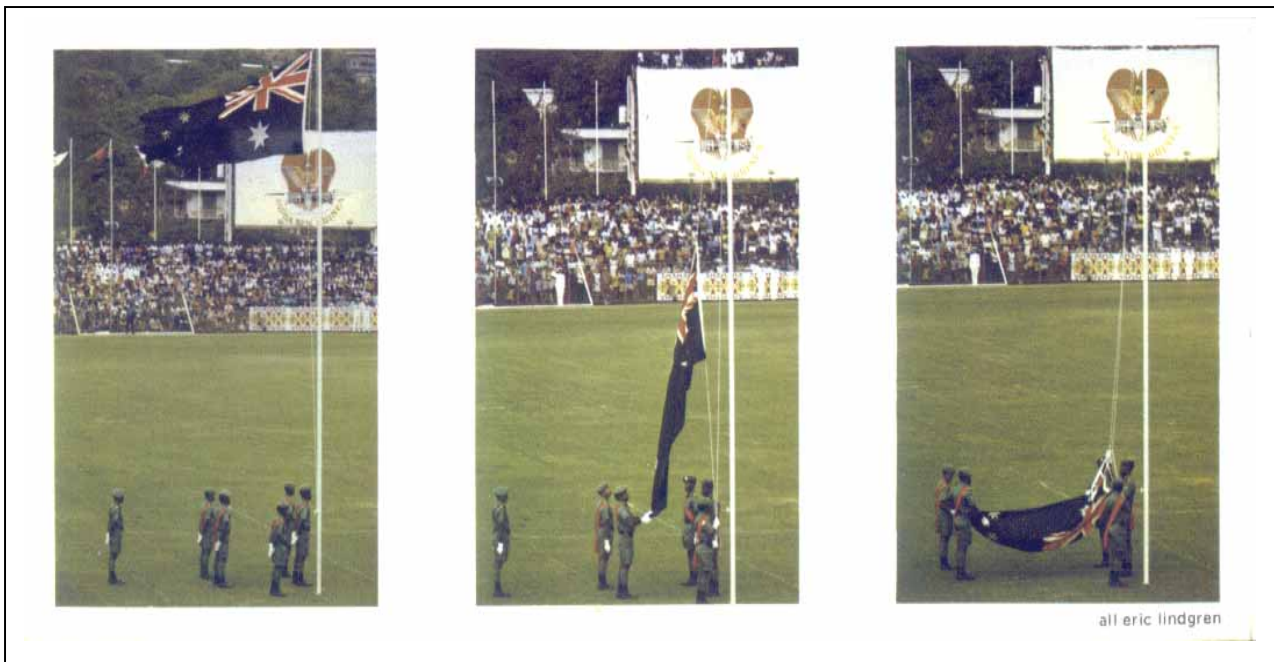
What can you do as friends and brothers and sisters of our people in PNG? Currently we are negotiating the seasonal labour opportunity for fruit picking and other employment opportunities in Australia. You have your networks, both through the Association and individually, to your representatives in the Parliament. Please, I urge you to support us in this, as this will make a tremendous difference for families if we are allowed to have these job opportunities. As you and I have learned from the media, the aid to PNG does not reach the families, whilst job opportunities will have immediate effect on family disposable income. I look forward to your support and hope we can once again stand side by side as we did at the 'Kokoda Track Campaign' when we needed each other.

Thank you and God Bless You All."

INDEPENDENCE

Monday 15 September 1975

Symbolising the end of Australian Control, the Australian flag is lowered



Tuesday 16 September 1975

The Proclamation and raising of the Papua New Guinea flag



INDEPENDENT STATE OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA

PROCLAMATION OF INDEPENDENCE BY GOVERNOR GENERAL OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA

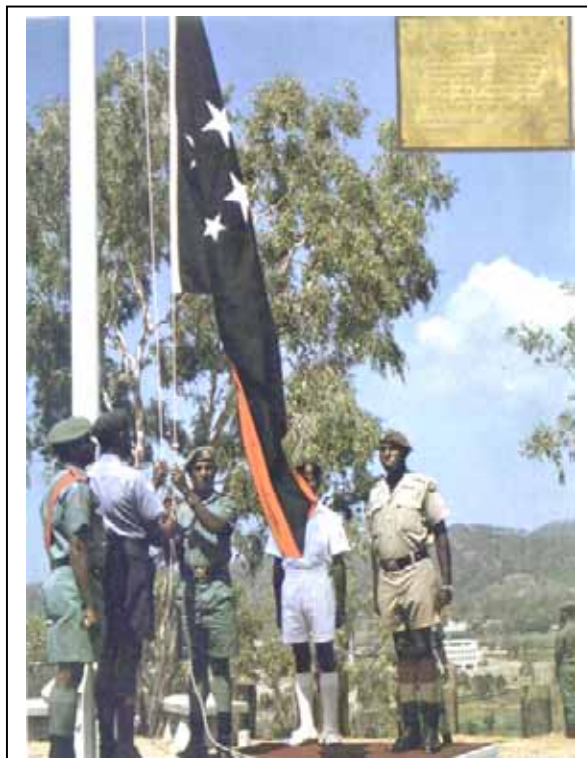
DISTINGUISHED GUESTS,
VISITORS FROM OVERSEAS,
PEOPLE OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA IS NOW INDEPENDENT.
THE CONSTITUTION OF THE INDEPENDENT STATE
OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA, UNDER WHICH ALL
POWER RESTS WITH THE PEOPLE, IS NOW IN
EFFECT.

WE HAVE AT THIS POINT IN TIME BROKEN
WITH OUR COLONIAL PAST AND WE NOW STAND
AS AN INDEPENDENT NATION IN OUR OWN RIGHT.

LET US UNITE, WITH THE ALMIGHTY GOD'S
GUIDANCE AND HELP, IN WORKING TOGETHER
FOR A FUTURE AS A STRONG AND FREE
COUNTRY.

00.01 16 SEPTEMBER, 1975



*Photos – INDEPENDENCE 1975
papua new guinea
in truth a nation – eric lindgren*

The Papua New Guinea Crest and Flag

The story of the crest and flag commenced during the life of the first House of Assembly when the Select Committee on Constitutional Development under the Chairmanship of the late Dr. John Guise called upon the people and schools throughout PNG for submissions about their countries flag. Hundreds of entries were submitted which, due to time restraints, were handed over to the Second Select Committee of Constitutional Development under the Chairmanship of the late Paulus Arek.

Armed with this information The Committee in October 1970 had its executive staff analyse these designs to find the most suitable colours and symbols for a crest and flag. They found the popular colours were gold, green and blue and the symbols - birds, drums, spears and stars.

This information was passed to Mr. Holman, an artist with the Dept of Information & Extension Services, for him to design a crest and flag using these colours and symbols. The committee ran with Mr. Holman's designs, a tricolour flag in green, gold and blue with the Southern Cross and a white bird of paradise superimposed. The design was shown to the house of assembly on the 17th November 1970.

Paulus Arek told the House:

The Committee will also seek the people's views on a flag and a crest. The flag and crest do not represent the ideas of one single person but rather have been designed taking into account the overwhelmingly popular colours, designs and ideas submitted by the people to your Committee.

Mr Speaker, with your approval I would like to show members of the House of Assembly the flag and crest the Committee proposes to show to the people. In relation to the flag –



- *The BLUE represents the islands of our country and the sea, which surrounds them. The Cross lies above our whole country and guides our people in their travel on land and sea.*
- *The GOLD represents the coastal areas of our country, its past and future mineral wealth and unity.*
- *The GREEN represents the mainland and highland areas of our country and a Bird of Paradise, our unique bird, is turned towards the islands to represent one unified country.*

Mr Speaker, your Committee proposes to make an extensive tour of the Territory in January and February 1971. The people will be shortly notified when the Committee will be visiting their areas and will be provided with sufficient time to think about and prepare answers to the Committee's proposals, the main ones of which I have outlined in this statement.

The Committee divided into two groups to tour the country in Jan/Feb 1971. As Deputy Chairman of the Select Committee I led one of the groups. The people universally accepted the crest although there was some parochial discussion about the design of the spear and drum.

However, the people were quite outspoken when shown the proposed design for the flag. Mostly they regarded the design as a mechanically contrived outcome designed by the Select Committee and not produced by a real person. It lacked warmth and charisma. Our group visited Yule Island on 12th February 1971. At the Yule Island meeting a schoolgirl, Susan Karike, a pupil of the Catholic Mission School, gave me a revamped design of the proposed flag drawn on a page taken from an exercise book. It had instant appeal and I immediately thought, “This is the flag”.

Susan replaced the tricolour by making the lower segment of the flag black with the stars of the Southern Cross in white. The top segment was red with the stylised bird of paradise in gold. Susan described the colours as those most commonly used by the people in their traditional ceremonies.

The Committee next met in Port Moresby on the 1st March to consider the findings from its fact finding tour and finalise its report. Both groups found that that the proposed flag was not acceptable to the people as the flag for a future independent Papua New Guinea and decided to recommend one of the alternatives submitted to the committee during its tour.



The “Johnson” flag

The choice was narrowed down to two designs. Susan’s design I had already presented to the meeting. The other, somewhat larger, from a New Ireland group, was submitted by Mr. Wally Lussick¹. The Committee adjourned that evening without having come to a decision. I felt a little despondent, as I needed more than a page from an exercise book to do full justice to Susan’s design. That evening Ross Johnson²

took the initiative and had his wife, Pat, put Susan’s design onto a piece of cloth slightly larger than a tea towel. When this was shown to the Committee next day a consensus was soon reached. Ross & Pat’s flag gave support to my presentation and the committee accepted Susan’s design.

The report was presented to and adopted by the House on 4th March 1971. It said this about the crest and flag:

“50. The crest suggested by your Committee is acceptable to the majority of the people. Many groups particularly in the New Guinea Islands region, submitted that some object representing their particular area be represented on the crest but it would not be practicable to include a representation from all areas on the crest. As there was widespread support for the crest as it stands, your Committee recommends that it be adopted.”

“51. The Committee suggested a flag for the country and showed it to the people on its recent tour. Your Committee received numerous representations to either alter the suggested flag or replace it. Because of the wide variety of views about the colour and design of the suggested flag, your Committee has decided to choose one of the submissions made to it on its recent tour.”

“52. The Committee has chosen a design submitted by a young Papuan girl named Susan Karike. In her submission to the Committee Susan described the colours of the flag as being the colours most commonly used by our people in their traditional ceremonies. The Committee recommends that this flag be adopted as the flag for Niugini”



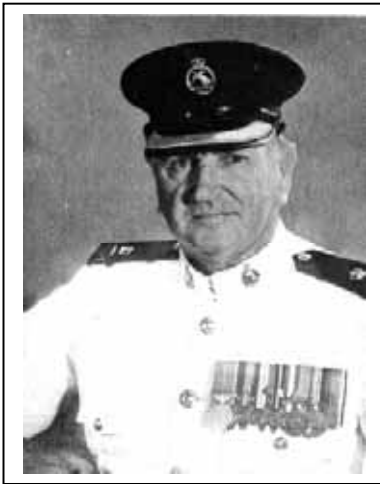
Evan Evans Pty Ltd of Melbourne supplied the first Papua New Guinea flag. I offered it to Dr. John Guise, Speaker of the House, to fly at the House of Assembly. He gracefully refused the offer as he thought it was premature. Mr. Les Johnson, the Administrator flew this flag in front of his office in Konedobu. It was the first PNG flag to be flown in the country.

I visited PNG in August 2003 and noted the respect shown to their flag. This reinforced that the decision we made was the correct one.

Geoff Littler, Official Member, The Second House of Assembly, Territory of Papua New Guinea

¹ The Regional Member for New Ireland; ² Deputy Executive Officer of the Select Committee

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA



Thomas Shacklady, the composer of the PNG National Anthem **“O ARISE ALL YOU SONS OF THIS LAND”** was born in Gateshead, County Durham, UK, in 1917.

Enlisting in the Royal Marines in 1935, he subsequently became a musician studying for two years at the Royal Marines School of Music (Deal, UK). Tom was proficient in playing Brass, the Flugelhorn, Trumpet, Trombone, French horn and Percussion instruments. He was also an accomplished Violinist.

Tom saw service during World War 2 on a variety of Royal Navy ships in various locations. He survived burns from a torpedo strike on HMS Cleopatra and the sinking of HMS Penelope by a U-boat. Post World War 2, he enlisted in the Australian Army in

1951 and served in and trained various bands, including a posting to PNG in 1957. In 1964 he was appointed Bandmaster of the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary band with the rank of Inspector. Under his direction, the Band toured Australia, New Zealand, United States of America and SE Asia. In 1970, the Band performed at the Edinburgh Military Tattoo.

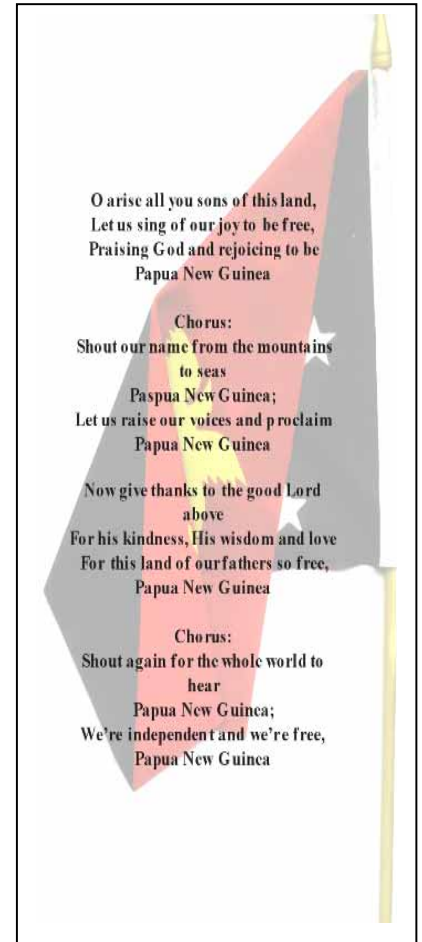
However, Thomas Shacklady will always be remembered as the winner of a competition conducted in early 1975 for a National Anthem, writing both the words and music to “O Arise All You Sons of This Land”. After an illustrious career in PNG, the much decorated Chief Superintendent Thomas Shacklady, MBE, retired in 1982 to Australia. Sadly, Tom passed away on 22 January 2006.

Bandmasters of the RPNG Constabulary Band (all from the UK):

1. Inspector David Crawley
2. Superintendent Thomas Shacklady
3. Superintendent William Harrison
4. Superintendent Keith Terrett

The present incumbent is –

5. Chief Inspector Palo Walo, MBE. Palo is the first PNG citizen to hold the post and he also received training at the Royal Marines School of Music in Deal, UK.



O arise all you sons of this land,
Let us sing of our joy to be free,
Praising God and rejoicing to be
Papua New Guinea

Chorus:
Shout our name from the mountains
to seas
Paspua New Guinea;
Let us raise our voices and proclaim
Papua New Guinea

Now give thanks to the good Lord
above
For his kindness, His wisdom and love
For this land of our fathers so free,
Papua New Guinea

Chorus:
Shout again for the whole world to
hear
Papua New Guinea;
We're independent and we're free,
Papua New Guinea



The National Crest

In late 1970, Mr Holman, then in charge of the Art Section at the Dept of Information and Extension Services (DIES), Port Moresby, was urgently requested by officials of the House of Assembly to prepare a series of designs for both a National Crest and National Flag for consideration by the Select Committee on Constitutional Development. As the Committee were at that time travelling around Papua New Guinea in order to discuss and receive submissions on the future Constitution from the local populace, Mr Holman with his Assistant Esau Reuben, flew to Lae to attend one of the Committee's sessions to present a portfolio of design concepts.

The team's initial designs were rejected by the Committee but because of the urgency of the matter, the Committee requested that a further presentation be made the following day with the team taking into account comments made by the Committee. Working through the night, what was to become Papua New Guinea's National Crest was drafted. This was accepted by the Committee and a copy of the original art-proof is shown below.



The Second House of Assembly Select Committee on Constitutional Development *(Some of the members and staff of the Committee)*



*Matiabe Yuwi, Ross Johnson (Deputy EO), Wally Lussick, Mat Toliman,
John Middleton, Alan Kerr (Exec. Off.), Sinake Giregire, Donatus Mola, Tai Abal
Geoff Littler (Dep. Chair.), Paulus Arek (Chairman), Tom Leahy*

Provincial Flags of Papua New Guinea

(Source: PNG: A fact book on modern Papua New Guinea, Jackson Rannells, Oxford University Press (Melbourne), 1990 and www.crwflags.com/fotw/)



Central Province - The silhouette of a Lakatoi canoe represents tradition. It is set over a blue background representing the sea. A large star (for Central Province) and five smaller stars (the 5 districts) are set over a red background representing the land.



East New Britain Province - A green stripe separates red and blue triangles. Four white stars over the blue represent the national flag. Traditional shell money surrounds a circle. Masks of Tolai (dukduk) and Baining dancers are in the centre.



East Sepik Province - In the upper right quarter, a yellow bird of paradise (representing the national flag) is set over a red background. In the lower left quarter, a haus tambaran (for the hill and plains people), crocodile (for the river people), shark (for the coast people), kundu and garamut drums, spear and lime pot (representing culture) are set over a green background.



Eastern Highlands Province - Red and green triangles form the background. Inside a large yellow star in the centre, a legendary one-legged man named Nokondi holds a coffee branch (the province's main cash crop). The star has 6 points (for the six districts). It is surrounded by 8 smaller stars (for the local government councils).



Enga Province - The background is divided into black (for the national flag) and green (for vegetation) triangles. At the centre is a yellow, black and white dendrobium engae orchid (the provincial flower).



Gulf Province - Inside a blue background, 2 crocodiles (rivers) surround a disc with a white seagull (representing the people) over red, and the Southern Cross (representing the 5 original districts) over black.



Madang Province Red, yellow and black stripes (representing the national flag) form the background. Six white stars represent the 6 districts. In black and white, Madang's memorial to the Coastwatchers of the Second World War is surrounded by coconut palm branches (for agriculture) and a slit drum (for tradition)..



Manus Province A yellow Manus Friarbird flies over brown (land) and blue (sea) triangles. The 5 Manus Green Snails represent the five regions.



Milne Bay Province - Stripes of green (for plants) and white (for beaches) are shown on the left. A square is divided into triangles of blue (for the sea) and red (for festivals). A yellow star on red represents the Eastern Star (a seafarer's guide).

Morobe Province - The background stripes are green (for vegetation), yellow (for Markham Valley) and blue (for the sea). A white bird of paradise (representing animal life), white pig's tusks (traditional



exchange), a brown and yellow kundu drum (for festivals) and spears (for traditional warfare) are at the centre.

New Ireland Province -

The Southern Cross (a guide to seafarers and indicator of the seasons) is shown over a blue background for the sea. A silhouette of a paradise



drongo (a bird found only in New Ireland) is shown on an orange background.

North Solomons Province -

The flag is dark blue signifying the Pacific Ocean; green in the circle signifies the rich island; the jagged white shell is traditional money; the black signifies the dark skin color of its inhabitants and is unique in the Pacific, the hat in the centre (Upe) is worn by young men at the transition period from adolescence to manhood. The stripes on the hat (red-centre) stands for men and the stripes at the side for women.



The black signifies the dark skin color of its inhabitants and is unique in the Pacific, the hat in the centre (Upe) is worn by young men at the transition period from adolescence to manhood. The stripes on the hat (red-centre) stands for men and the stripes at the side for women.

Oro Province - A gold strip of tapa cloth with red and black markings (representing culture) and a yellow Queen Alexandra Birdwing butterfly (representing wildlife)



cover a green background (for vegetation).

Sandaun Province -

Black and red triangles form the background, with the gold bird of paradise symbol from the national flag set over the red. Six stars (representing the 6 districts) are set above a



light blue setting sun with yellow rays (the provincial symbol).

Simbu Province - The Bird of Paradise and Southern Cross from the national flag are combined with two red spears (representing leadership), a white chain (for unity) and a yellow coffee branch (for the main cash crop).



a yellow coffee branch (for the main cash crop).

Southern Highlands Province -

A black stripe separates red (upper right) and green (lower left) triangles. Seven white stars (for the 7 districts) cover the red and green. A



cassowary head (representing traditional exchange) and two spears (for defence) are set in yellow over the black.

Western Province -

The black and red of the national flag form borders around a gold square holding the provincial emblem. The emblem, in black outline, includes a



head-dress with white wing feathers of the crane (for unity) and a bow and arrows (for tradition).

Western Highlands Province -

A white stripe (for peace) separates triangles of green (for vegetation) and black (from the National flag). Stars represent the 3 geographic regions. The Provincial emblem is set



over the green triangle.

West New Britain Province -

The national flag is set next to an area of blue (for the sea) with a white, brown and gold conch shell (representing communication).



Manus Dance Presentation

A feature of the Anniversary celebrations was a performance by Manus Island dancers arranged by the Sydney Wantok Club. Thanks go to Lomot Kiap, Cecilia Parkop, Nia Kametan, Tapas Kametan and Chimo Kametan for a marvellous performance which brought back many memories. They performed a series of nine dances set to different (recorded) rhythms of a Garamut. These, including both “Entrance” and “Exit” rhythms, symbolised many of the Manus Islanders traditional dances, for example, a dance based on the U.S. occupation of Los Negros (“March”); the cry of a “Ngam” (spirit) for her dead baby; displeasure at the perceived value of a bride price (“Mus” or “Rat ”); catching of tuna (“Barieu”); leaf of a tree used to cover the breasts of women dancers (“Iawo Pirlu”); the traditional trading cycle between Manus Islanders and Ponam Islanders (N’Drehet); and a traditional dance where members of the audience are invited to join the dancers. The following are a selection of photographs of the “Dance Presentation”.

