



# Una Voce

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

Patrons: His Excellency Major General Michael Jeffery AC CVO MC (Retd)  
Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia  
Mrs Roma Bates; Mr Fred Kaad OBE

## CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON –

This year's Christmas Luncheon will be on Sunday 02 December at the Killara Golf Club, 556 Pacific Highway, Killara (Sydney, NSW). For those coming by train, Killara Golf Club is 600m from Killara Station along a fairly flat and pleasant walk. Take the exit on the western side of the station, walk along Marion Street and turn left onto the Pacific Highway. For those coming by car, the entry is immediately after the Black Stump at Killara, on the left side travelling north. Free shuttle transport from rail station for those who need it.

\* \* \*

## VISIT TO THE MOUNTAINS

The annual spring visit to the Blue Mountains will be on Thursday 11 November. Last year a delightful day was enjoyed at the spacious home of George and Edna Oakes at Woodford who have kindly offered to be our hosts again this year. Full details in September issue. Please make a note in your diary.

\* \* \*

\*\*\*don't forget to have a look at our

website: [www.pngaa.net](http://www.pngaa.net)

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**'UNA VOCE' IS THE JOURNAL OF  
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ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC**

Please send all correspondence to: **The Secretary, PNGAA, PO Box 1386, Mona Vale NSW 1660.** Items for *Una Voce* are welcome and should be marked 'For Attention: The Editor' or emailed to: [editor@pngaa.net](mailto:editor@pngaa.net) By submitting your article/story for publication, you agree that we may, after publication in *Una Voce*, republish it on the internet unless you advise us to the contrary.

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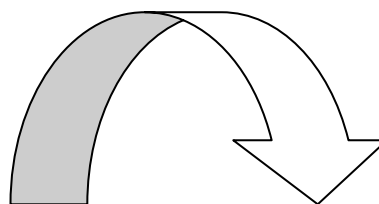
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## Email Addresses:

Thank you to those who confirmed their email addresses after the last issue. If you have not yet done this, could you please send a simple message to the Membership Officer, **Ross Johnson** at: [admin@pngaa.net](mailto:admin@pngaa.net), and please also include your membership number! This will ensure you get timely notice of any breaking "news" Also, those of you who have a "limit" on your mail box, it would help if you would please clear it at regular intervals.

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## **Una Voce – To be or not to be!**

Regular contributor, Max Hayes has written as follows:

“I herewith move a motion, to be considered at the next AGM, that the name of our excellent journal be changed to reflect something more suitable to our PNG origins, aspirations and interests and more easily identifiable with the aims and interests of our wide spread membership.

...“*Una Voce* in no way reflects the PNG component of our association. As a Latin text it had no relevance either to our association or the present modern era. It may well have been relevant when the association was first mooted as aspiring to the aims of the superannuants of the twin superannuation schemes at that time to be united in their claim for better pensions from the Commonwealth, but since then has grown from a handful of members to a much larger worldwide membership.

“It is time to move on. Perhaps a competition could be run for a more appropriate name... A simple suggestion from me would be ‘Kumul’, ‘Kundu’ etc.”

It is true our forerunner, the ‘Retired Officer’s Association of PNG’ was formed in 1952 to protect the superannuation interests of the former officers of the separate pre 1939-45 war Papuan and New Guinean Administrations. There had always been considerable rivalry and some distrust between the two. The motto ‘Una Voce’ or ‘one voice’ was chosen to dispel this, in a spirit of friendship, cohesion and single allegiance to achieve a common purpose.

At the AGM it was decided to print Max’s letter and seek members’ views. Is a name change appropriate, and if so to what, and why? Please post your comments to The Secretary, PNGAA, PO Box 1386, Mona Vale, NSW 1660 or *email*: [editor@pngaa.net](mailto:editor@pngaa.net).

At the AGM it was decided to print Max’s letter and seek members’ views prior to its formal tabling at next year’s AGM as required by our Constitution. Note that, in this respect, the Notice of Meeting for the 2008 AGM will contain this motion together with a Proxy Form for those members unable to attend to enable them to cast their vote.

Is a name change appropriate, and if so to what, and why?

Please direct any comments and any suggested alternative names, by post to The Secretary, PNGAA, PO Box 1386, Mona Vale NSW 1660 or by email to: [editor@pngaa.net](mailto:editor@pngaa.net).

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## **Christmas Luncheon – Killara Golf Club**

After researching 15 possible new venues for our lunches, a decision has been reached to trial the Killara Golf Club on the Pacific Highway at Killara (first drive-way after the Black Stump!) for this year’s luncheon on December 02. In looking at different venues throughout metropolitan Sydney, consideration was given to ambience, a reasonable price, table service, parking, access to public transport (including bus, train and taxis) and lifts at nearby stations. It is apparent that few venues fitting our criteria have the size to cater for our numbers.

Killara Golf Club is home to ‘one of Sydney’s premier golf courses’ and ‘maintains a reputation for fine dining with commitment to quality, style and service’. Guests can venture out onto the spacious balcony with spectacular views of the fairways and beautifully landscaped gardens. There is extensive on site parking as an added convenience. For interstate visitors, the Killara Inn is located approximately 400m away and has a shuttle bus. As usual there will be tables of 10 people, so please also think about organising a table of friends to come along. As our main aim is to gather friends together in a happy, relaxed atmosphere we hope you will enjoy the day.

## IN 100 WORDS OR LESS – A STRANGE COINCIDENCE

**When we went to Pomio Patrol Post in 1959**, where George was the Patrol Officer, we met the wife of the head medical orderly, Lapan. She told us her name was the same as Edna's. Edna asked her how she got her name. She told us that when she was born, her mother worked for Miss Woolnough, a Methodist missionary in pre-war Rabaul. At that time Miss Woolnough had a visitor Sister Edna Williams who had come up from the Malalia Methodist Mission near Hoskins in West New Britain, to recover from an illness. She was named after Edna Williams. In September, 1934, Edna and her twin sister were born at Malalia and Sister Edna Williams assisted at their birth. The twins were almost 3 months early. Edna's father, Rev. Brawn, baptised them immediately and Edna was named after Sister Edna Williams. When we were in Rabaul in 2002, we went looking for Edna. We found her village, but she had gone to visit family up in the hills so we missed out on another meeting.

**George and Edna Oakes**

**In 2003, we had a visit to our place at Woodford** in the Blue Mountains from a lady from Djaul Island in the New Ireland Province whose name was Grace Lombard. She was in Sydney doing a course at Alan Walker College and we invited her up to see us because of our New Ireland connection – George's parents, Rev. Dan and Marion Oakes were missionaries at Pinikidu on New Ireland for many years before the war and where George was brought up. Grace asked us if we had a Methodist Hymn Book with music. Edna went to our bookshelf and the first suitable one she saw she took out and it had Marion's name in it – a gift from her parents in the 1940's. Grace opened the book, gave a scream and clutched it to her chest! Edna asked what was the matter, she cried – my mother's name is Marion. We then found out that Grace's grandparents were mission staff at Pinikidu when her mother was born and she was named after George's mother.

**George and Edna Oakes**

**In 1947 or 1948 I was driving from Wau to Bulolo** with a friend. Those days the gorge road was one lane, better driven at night as headlamps warned you to find a passing place. On our right side was over 1000' up; the left, about 400' down. The right side was shaded from a full moon, the other side of the gorge in moonlight. I stopped the car, and my friend said 'What are you stopping for?'

I said 'Look over there!!' It was raining heavily on the other side, and there was the most perfect moon rainbow, full bow and pure white. I have heard of one being seen from a ship at sea.

**Wally Cooke**

*[Note: Neale Fraser, from the Bureau of Meteorology and often heard on ABC 702, says a moonbow 'is similar to a rainbow caused by sunlight. The drops of water refract the moonlight. If the moon is bright enough it is visible.'*

*For more information: <http://home.hiwaay.net/~krcool/Astro/moon/moonring/>*

**My last four years (1974-78) in PNG were as Regional Surveyor New Guinea Highlands** in charge of Lands Department. The naming of streets in new sub-divisions had to be approved by the Place Names Committee based in Port Moresby. At one stage I wrote to Lands, Moresby requesting guidelines for place names. The reply I received went along the following lines:

'You cannot name a street or place after a person who is still living. If you wish to use a dead persons name you have to obtain their permission first.'

**Bob George**

**More Than Just A Coincidence...** Some years ago when I was working as Manager of *Kristen Redio* in Lae, a friend of mine was working for a firm in Australia which makes thousands of floppy disks for gramophones. These were given away as advertisements by various firms. One day he phoned me asking if I knew that the song *Islands and Mountains*, which I had composed and had taught his family, was being used by an Australian tobacco firm to boost their sales in Fiji!

The firm had used the tune, but had altered some of the words to fit the Fijian scene and my friend had already printed hundreds of the disks before he thought of phoning me. However as their rendition of the song contained the words 'We'll build Fiji now as God has planned, make this His country, make this His land', I was very much in favour of that idea spreading through their nation. As a result, I wrote and told the Manager of the tobacco firm that although I didn't approve of my song being used to promote tobacco sales, as they were also promoting the idea of God guiding Fijians in the building of their country, I would allow them to go ahead with their advertising venture. I imagine the Manager must have breathed a sigh of relief at that point because they had printed special covers and photos to go to thousands of newspapers with the floppy disks! He sent me a cheque for \$100 to settle the affair, but I think it was more than a coincidence that the one man who had been given the job of printing the floppy disks was a personal friend of mine who recognised the song I had composed! **Geoff Baskett**

**I was coming to the end of an interesting week's holiday in Berlin** back in the East/West Germany days. Twice I had gone through Checkpoint Charlie and spent a long day in East Berlin. On the second day I decided to break the restrictions on my day visa that restricted me to central Berlin. The main form of public transport in East Berlin was the overhead railway – ideal for 'touristing' sitting down. I bought a return ticket and went on a very interesting hour-long trip.

This flouting of regulations came back to haunt me on my final day. As I stood at Passport Control in West Berlin's airport, the officer took my passport, opened it, looked at me, flipped through a few pages, gave me another look and then checked other pages. (Had the system caught up with me?) He looked at other pages, and then asked 'What's Moresby like now?' He had been one of the German's who worked on the building of the Rouna Hydro Electric Scheme! We chatted, the queue behind me grew longer; he waved them to other officers. But eventually he had to get back to his work. With a flourish he stamped my passport and handed it back. Then smiled an acknowledgement as I farewelled him with '*Bamahuta!*'

**David Fopp**

*One that accidentally missed the March issue on Unexpected Visitors:*

**My husband and I lived at WARANGOI**, where Frank was building roads and bridges and logging timber. There were no mod cons or communication. One Sunday morning, I stoked the wood stove and made a batch of scones. Why? Frank didn't like scones. My guardian angel was at work.

Unexpected visitors arrived: Keith McCarthy DC Rabaul and wife Jean, the Administrator Mr Cleland (as he was then) and Mrs Cleland.

They had come to see first hand the work being undertaken.

Inspection over, tea and scones enjoyed, before the party left for KOKOPO and scheduled meeting with PRESTON-WHYTE.

**Mabel Holland**

**IN 100 WORDS OR LESS**

**Theme for next issue – A Visit by the Boss!**

Deadline for entries: 27 July 2007 – Please write/phone/fax/email

## **The Patti Hopper Memorial Fund-Lukautim Picanini project**

### **Rebecca Hopper addressed our AGM and lunch**

‘On March 24<sup>th</sup> 2007 a luncheon took place in memory of our mother Patti Hopper who died in September 2006. Its sole purpose was to raise awareness and funds towards the AIDS crises facing the country of PNG at this moment. An ABC documentary in August 2006 revealed the devastation and havoc caused by the ignorance surrounding this disease and the alarming spread it is taking throughout the entire country.

‘My family were all born and raised in Rabaul and many members of the Papua New Guinea Association of Australia have long-standing and fond memories of the beauty and gentleness of the people and the land. We wanted to do something. At this lunch we raised \$11,000 after costs, and are still receiving donations towards the fund. I am proud of what we did and very grateful and a little overwhelmed at the outstanding generosity of those who sent cheques, came along and also supported by donating auction items. The list of gifts was vast and I have mentioned them below in acknowledgement.

‘At the lunch we had three speakers – Judy Warrillow, a Gulf of Sepik lady who resides in Melbourne now, and has had first hand experience of this disease within her family. Judy spoke of the sad and pitiful victims in the centres like Moresby with no family or assistance in their last days – many are on the streets dying of starvation. She talked of the isolation many experience when ostracized by their village or community, left to die alone or with family who have to face it again with the next member. (Judy’s speech will be included in the September issue of *Una Voce*.)

‘Paul Marshal of the Foothills Vineyard Church also spoke and he delivered a truly enlightening and professional presentation with facts and statistics to back up the challenges ahead for the country. He aims, through a project called ‘The Mustard Seed’, to build a hospice on the Gazelle Peninsula and house families and AIDS victims and teach self sufficiency and care so the families can be responsible for the victims. He is also preparing an education program to be focused on women and health. The challenges and cultural differences are huge, however empowering women has to be a priority as their lives are at risk. Paul hopes to replicate the hospice throughout PNG and build one in each main centre. He joins with anyone who wishes to help and many different denominations are involved in this project.

‘Lastly, we heard Alana Galatti a researcher from The Hague at the Institute of Tropical Diseases and she supported all the speakers. From a medical viewpoint the similarities with Africa are clear and armed with this foresight and knowledge we can do something.

‘The money is currently in a Memorial Fund bank account – details below, and will be presented to Paul Marshall and The Mustard Seed project. Paul has been given a parcel of land by Alan Marat MP Rabaul to build the hospice at Kurakakaul outside of Rabaul. The criteria for the money to be donated has always been

1. It had an educational purpose and
2. It was not to fall into the hands of any PNG bureaucrat.

‘Paul Marshall is a man of integrity, compassion and dedication. He strives to make a difference to the people of PNG.

‘In closing I would like to sincerely thank all of you who contributed in many ways – money, phone calls, donated gifts and those who bid for them, and the PNGAA who have pledged \$500 towards this fund. To all the members we THANK YOU deeply.

There will be a registered charity number at some stage and also an update on the website to let people know how the project is going.'

[www.foothillsvineyards.com.au](http://www.foothillsvineyards.com.au).

Donations to: The Patti Hopper Memorial Fund

Account Number: 577121579

BSB:012003

**Gifts and money donated by:** Ross and Pat Johnson, Harry West, John O'Dea, Barbara Jennings, The Coote family, Cheryl Assuage, Robin Mead and family, Joe Nitsche, Jeanette Leahy, Luke McDonald, Susanna Davey, Melissa Badennoch, Elvis Jusic, Ann Graham, Margie and Don Clarke, Peter Cush, Matt Bolton, Susie and Bruce Alexander, Peta Morrison, Jenny Tait, Paul Mapson, Cathy Parry, Georgina Shand, Debbie Donnelly and Sophie Landa, Shareen Silveratnam, Jan Roberts, George and Edna Oakes, Stuart and Jo Inder, Margaret Allcorn, Freddie and Gaynor Kaad, Marie Clifton-Bassett, Paul Munro, Ed Atkinson, Varga Combs.

**Gifts:** Morrison's Mercedes, Blackmore's products, Penrose Pine, Rabaul Hotel, Noosa Resort, Jane Cush jewellery and sculpture, Rebecca Hopper Jewellery, South Sea Pearls, Marker Consulting Recruitment Advice, Paul Mapson Coaching, Executive Excellence Kokoda Treks, the book Kokoda by Peter Fitzsimons, Rare books – James Sinclair Balus 2 and Frank Hurley Photos from 1921-31 donated by Chris Warrillow, Life Connect - Career and Life Coaching, Juli Allcorn, Chef for a day, Jules Collins Jewels, Holly Bennett Films, Yacht for a day.

### **ASOPA QUO VADIS?**

PNGAA members will be aware that the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust is proposing to redevelop the long-standing Middle Head military precinct

Their quite ambitious and well-presented draft plans include broad generalised advice concerning the restoration and/or refurbishment of the old ASOPA buildings. This well-intentioned initiative begs questions as to which of the old ASOPA buildings are to be restored and for what specific purpose and at what cost.

The Trust has indicated that it would welcome inputs from interested parties including ASOPA graduates. Some 60 or so people – including Sydney-based members of the PNGAA- attended a meeting arranged by the Trust at ASOPA on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2007. However, there was no fixed agenda and there were no consequential recommendations or decisions. It appears though that the Trust is beginning to formalise its final planning. The door remains open for those of us interested in the future of the ASOPA complex to address the Trust accordingly. Some of us feel that having regard to the importance of ASOPA as a national icon in the context of Australia's colonial responsibilities, the complex should be preserved with a permanent historical information-based memorial and memorabilia museum with additional facilities open to the public as a living meeting place-cum-convention centre. But there may be other more worthy ideas. The Trust's address is PO Box 607 Mosman NSW 2088.

One suggestion is that ASOPA graduates might wish to compile a compendium of our experiences at ASOPA. This might well result in a stand-alone publication and/or a valuable historical addition to a Trust refurbished ASOPA.

I would be happy to collate such inputs from my fellow ASOPA graduates.

Graham Taylor 15 St Albans Avenue, Toorak Gardens, Adelaide SA 5065.

## NOTES FROM THE NORTHERN TERRITORY From Jim Toner

**Mike PRESS** on completing his first tour of duty for Oilsearch at Kutubu took the opportunity to go over to Rabaul and visit his late wife's village in order to join with her family in the customary Tolai shell distribution ceremony following a death. The ex-kiap has magnificent colour photos of the Duk Duk Society men who participated. I had seen old B&W pictures of them dancing in the cone-shaped cane masks enveloping half their body but colour reveals just how splendid is their perhaps unique finery.

On return to Darwin Mike brought me a couple of cans of SP. Beootiful! PNG's first brewery was established in Badili 55 years ago with, I think, a German *braumeister* and the current South Pacific staff who have shifted operations to Waigani seem to be continuing his good work.

Other former kiaps seemingly unable to stay away from 'The Territory' are **Colin CAMPBELL** and **Graham POPE** both employed at the Mt. Kare gold diggings in the Highlands. And **Chris WARRILLOW** with at least three huge 'Going Finish' parties on his cv has been back at Tari (where the locals are determined to separate from the Southern Highlands and establish their own Province to be named Hela).

**Serena STAINES nee Bell**, daughter of the dentist from Rabaul and Misima, who works as a financial counsellor for a United Church welfare group in Darwin is now also teaching Financial Education to Year 10 students in schools. A good idea but she says she is so flat out that the last book she had time to read was four years ago - and that was a treatise on the Bankruptcy Act. Very sad. Misima island where she spent most of her childhood while not as badly affected as Buin did suffer from the Solomon Sea tsunami during April. Everyone from Bwagaoia and coastal villages speedily moved inland to higher ground when they saw that frightening phenomenon of the sea sucking itself back 100 metres before surging up the beach again.

The Arafura Games is a week-long multi-sport carnival held in Darwin biennially and in 2005 PNG sent 160 competitors. However this May Air Niugini is supplying a Boeing 767, its largest aircraft, with 230 seats and these are expected to be filled with young people led by **Ryan PINI**, swimmer and Commonwealth Games gold medallist.

England's Test teams no longer tour under the aegis of the Marylebone Cricket Club but the MCC still sends other teams to fly the flag where the game needs support in small countries. One of which is PNG where a MCC XI recently played three games in Port Moresby. It included the *manki Simbu* as he was called. **Geraint JONES** was born in Kundiawa and left PNG when he was six years old. An unlikely heritage for an England wicket-keeper but he was behind the stumps during their recent losing Ashes series in Australia. Jones was not selected by England for the World Cup in the West Indies just recently completed and was thus available for his first trip back to the land of his birth.

PNG cricketers did not win a place in the World Cup finals but it may surprise some readers to learn they have been competing in the qualifying competition since 1979. They have beaten such as Israel and Hong Kong, three times in each case, but never bested Bermuda and Ireland who both made their presence felt in the Caribbean this year.

It has been confirmed that the 5-star hotel mooted for the old Works & Housing site in Moresby is to be built by a Korean company, encouraged by a 10 years tax holiday, for US\$35 millions. It should offer guests a fine view over Tabari Place and across the iron roofs of Boroko. Vale Comworks Mess and all the desperados who sailed in her....



Former Gazelle Peninsula wantoks will be familiar with the North Coast road but perhaps surprised that there is to be a South Coast counterpart. It will run 135 kms from Kokopo to Pomio and be built by a Malaysian logging company which has been allocated 150,000 hectares of timbered land. The Government will be installing the necessary bridges over the numerous waterways flowing into Wide Bay.

In 1969 it was necessary to construct a company town to support the new Panguna copper mine on Bougainville and for this purpose Arawa plantation on the coast was acquired by the Administration. That land was not quite sufficient and adjoining acreage belonging to the Rorovana people was legally resumed after they declined to sell. This provoked a couple of days of confrontation.

The Commonwealth Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade has now published "Documents on Australian Foreign Policy, Australia and Papua New Guinea 1966-69" which mentions those events in Bougainville. The Documents assert several times that the PNG Administrator personally directed the police operations at Rorovana including ordering baton charges and the firing of tear gas at villagers. In fact **Mr. (later Sir) David HAY** did not go to Bougainville and the police were in the charge of **Supt. Brian HOLLOWAY** in conjunction with **Des ASHTON**, the District Commissioner. **Bill BROWN**, then DDC Bougainville, who was present throughout the operation has written to DFAT informing it in no uncertain terms of the inaccuracy of its publication.

People at Canberra do seem to take an odd view of the duties of Australia's principal representative in PNG. One recalls that in 1940 the Lieutenant-Governor of Papua was advised that should the Japanese attack and occupy Port Moresby he should take to the bush and mount guerrilla raids. Sir Hubert Murray responded that whilst he had once been amateur heavyweight boxing champion of England it was in the reign of Queen Victoria. He suggested that any such raids should be led by a man who had not yet reached 78 years of age.....

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Photographed at the KIAP Reunion in Melbourne, Nov 2006  
Photo courtesy MR Hayes

### **Superannuation Update**

At last we have had official confirmation that the 10% tax offset will also apply to the PGN Scheme as from 1 July. We will also receive the CPI increase which you will remember is based on the increase/decrease over the 6 month period from September to March. All this will be explained in detail by letter from Comsuper, expected to be mailed out early June.

Fred Kaad

### **News from South Australia – John Kleinig**

The story of artist **NORA HEYSEN [1911-2003]**, daughter of Sir Hans Heysen, is told by Eugene Schlusser in a film now available on DVD, titled “A Life of Her Own”. Nora’s association with PNG began with her appointment as an official war artist on 18 October 1943. Together with two other female war artists she was amongst the first to be stationed so close to the front line. Nora was a feisty and at times controversial figure and it is said that she quite unconvincingly denied she was ever a feminist. Her artistic pursuits in PNG resulted in a collection of over 200 paintings now in the Australian War Museum in Canberra. Her posting to Finschafen and then to Alexishafen resulted in a meeting with Dr Robert Black MD. They fell in love in difficult circumstances. In 1947 she travelled to England, partly to be near Black. He was involved in specialist study of tropical diseases and later became Head of Tropical Medicine at the University of Sydney. In 1953 they married and between 1954 and 1965 made a number of journeys to PNG and the Solomons where she completed some extraordinary pencil and charcoal sketches of local people. They now hang in her studio at The Cedars, Heysen Road, Hahndorf in the Adelaide Hills. The DVD was launched at The Cedars on Saturday 28 April and can be purchased by contacting Allan Campbell, Curator of the Nora Heysen Foundation at 08 8388 7277 or [h.heyse@bigpond.net.au](mailto:h.heyse@bigpond.net.au)

I’ve written before about the work of **Dr BARRY CRAIG**, Curator of the Pacific Culture Galleries at the Museum of South Australia. Barry has a long term relationship with PNG which goes back over 30 years and he is still a frequent visitor. After much hard work and I suspect frustration, the Museum has commenced a refurbishment of this highly significant collection. Barry insists that it is currently a ‘work in progress’ but wandering through it recently I couldn’t help but be impressed by the changes. Rather than a disjointed assortment of small objects there is evidence of careful interpretation and the telling of a story. One of the new displays poses the question of why PNG is important to us and why we should fuss about this collection of spears, shields and shells. There are many valuable items including a Malagan canoe donated by **HAROLD GALLASCH** and four large Papuan Gulf tapa-cloth masks, three of which were collected by Theodore Bevan in 1887. For those of you who would like to become benefactors, there is an urgent need for glass display cases which range in price from \$5,000 to \$10,000.

The imminent refurbishment of **ASOPA** is proving to be an interesting exercise in public relations. The Sydney Harbour Federation Trust has been involved for some time in a consultative process seeking ideas and opinions from the general public as to how the site should be used. This has taken the form of advertising on their website, open days at Middle Head and on 31 March, a special afternoon at the old ASOPA for those who spent time there between 1947 and 1997. The significance of ASOPA has been enthusiastically endorsed by Bob Clark, an architect and historical adviser at the Trust. How the ASOPA period is recognised should be revealed soon. In the meantime, those with memories of the place might like to send them to **GRAHAM TAYLOR** at [tay29@tpg.com.au](mailto:tay29@tpg.com.au). Graham was a kiap from 1947 until 1957 and then later with the ABC in PNG and elsewhere.

Planning has now started for the Annual **ADELAIDE PNGAA LUNCH** to be held on Sunday 21 October 2007 at Alan Wheaton House, Pulteney Grammar School, South Terrace, Adelaide. Graham Taylor reports on last year’s lunch – “*As in previous years, the luncheon was attended by a full capacity house. Two guest speakers were invited to recount their recollections of growing up in TPNG. Retired Army Colonel Mike*

*Dennis told how at four years of age he came with his parents to Kareeba Plantation out of Rabaul near Keravat. He spoke with great fondness of plantation life with his family. He recalled aspects of their enduring friendship with local Tolai plantation workers and others. The presentation of many old photographic reminders of his parents and his early days at Kareeba were well received. Susan Benham Page, daughter of well-known Kiap JB Page, also spoke about her experiences as she moved with her parents from one posting to another. Her very wry and engaging comments about early schooling and spare-time escapades, prompted an enthusiastic response from a very appreciative audience. JB looked on with undiminished admiration."*

### **YOUR MEMORIES OF ASOPA**

Since the last update the Conservation Management Plan for the site has been received in draft form. The Trust put out a tender for architectural/planning consultants to prepare options for the adaptation of the Middle Head sites for new uses and to document the final agreed changes. This project has now commenced.

Further to the successful get together at ASOPA on 31 March (thanks to all those who were able to attend) Ingrid Jackson at [grasmere@bigpond.net.au](mailto:grasmere@bigpond.net.au) and Graham Taylor at [tay29@tpg.com.au](mailto:tay29@tpg.com.au) have agreed to act as filters for information, stories, memorabilia, etc from ex Asoparians to relieve the workload on limited Trust resources. For those who would be interested in providing a recorded oral history please contact Eunice Sarif at the Trust on [eunice.sarif@environment.gov.au](mailto:eunice.sarif@environment.gov.au). We now know there are a lot of people out there that have very affectionate memories of ASOPA!

**Bob Clark, Sydney Harbour Federation Trust**

#### **THE LAST NEW GUINEA SALVAGE PIRATE by Fritz Herschied**

The author arrived in Rabaul in 1967, and for the next fifteen years engaged in the salvage of war-time shipwrecks throughout PNG. A candid account of the determination and fierce rivalry between salvagers, the risks and gains, and the actual and close calls with death in remote locations. A remarkable contribution to our documented maritime and military knowledge of PNG. Hardcover, with colour, 496 pages. \$56.00. ISBN 0 9586657 6 1.

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#### **EL TIGRE- Frank Holland, MBE, Commando, Coastwatcher.**

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### Have You Heard?

News has filtered through that a Member of the Order of Logohu (ML) in the 2007 New Year's Honours List for PNG was awarded to Ray Weber ML "For service to the Community as a Kiap from 1961 to 1980 in various parts of the country and community project adviser in the Hula region of the Southern Highlands".. Quite a few ex kiaps have been recognised, but usually for some other purpose - eg Voutas for early politics, Sinclair for books on PNG, Fred Haynes for work with BP on the first oil well, etc, but **perhaps this is** the first time that the word "Kiap" has been used?

We've also noticed that Allan McLay ML, who has his business in Lae (MBC Consultancy) where he has lived since 1964, and is currently President of the Lae Chamber of Commerce Inc and Chairman of the PNG National Roads Authority, also received a Member of the Order of Logohu in 2006.

Congratulations to both Ray and Allan.

### Letters to the Editor

**His Excellency His Grand Chief Sir Paulias Matane, GCL, GCMG, Kt St J, Governor General of Papua New Guinea**, wrote:

"Greetings from us at Government House, Port Moresby, to all the members of PNGAA.

I write to express my thanks and appreciation to all members for your continuing interests in Papua New Guinea. I enjoy reading various contributions in your informed *"Una Voce"*. Keep up the good work and interests in my country.

Best wishes to all,"

We value Sir Paulias' ongoing interest in our association and the regular contact he maintains. Sir Paulias, who has travelled extensively, has found time to publish 42 diverse books on PNG and overseas experiences, many of which are educational. He wrote 'proceeds from the sale of these books will NOT benefit me personally and financially as the author but will go towards charity. I have been donating to charity, privately for over two decades.' Enquiries about the books, including a list of titles and their costs, should be made to 'Paulias Matane Foundation Inc', PO Box 79, Port Moresby NCD PNG or *Email: jwaingut@datec.net.pg*.

### DC Journey

It is not my habit of writing to editors with a pompous 'Letter to the Editor'. On this occasion I must, having read the item by Paul Oates in the latest *Una Voce*. I wonder if he was joking, otherwise he was 'gilding the lily' with his first experience of flying in a DC3 in 1969. Most of us from earlier times and subsequently were always grateful for Ansett and TAA getting us around PNG in DC3s to meet our commitments, despite the odours of frightened first time aloft passengers and their cargo.

Having had the privilege of being invited to the cockpit on many occasions, I admired hugely the skill of the pilots meeting schedules in varying PNG weather conditions, and what about the splendid flight attendants – brave girls. Overnighting in some dingy hotels and after borrowing an iron they would turn up at first light in immaculate uniforms and wearing the mandatory HIGH heeled shoes, to climb up and down Paul's dreaded 25 degree incline, time after time, during the flight. **Donald Ramsay OAM**

**I was surprised to read that the Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels poem** sent in by Edna and George Oakes had not been attributed. Certainly the author was not known during the war and some confusion arose when the name of an Australian poetess, Linda Hanbury somehow became associated with it when first published. Those were the days when many a kitchen had the poem cut out from the Womens Weekly and stuck up on the

wall. Later, however the author was revealed as Sapper Bert Beros, writing from the battlefield in Papua in 1943. There was immediate speculation by scholars that his inspiration had been a poem by Kipling, who had not then been confined to the dustbin as a non-PC imperialist by postmodernist educationists. It may well have been that Beros had learned at school (as I did) Kipling's poem about the Soudan Expeditionary Force:

So 'ere's to you, Fuzzy-Wuzzy, at your 'ome in the Soudan;  
You're a pore benighted 'eathen but a first-class fightin' man;  
An' 'ere's to you, Fuzzy Wuzzy, with your 'ayrick 'ead of 'air –  
You big black boundin' beggar – for you broke a British square!

**Geoffrey Luck**



**Robert Kennedy (RK) Wilson** was the first qualified surgeon in Rabaul (1950-1953), serving as Regional Medical Officer for the NG islands in 1952. In 1953 he moved to Pt Moresby as Exempt Specialist Medical Officer (Surgery). Albert Speer, the Medical Assistant Officer in charge of the Native Hospital and its administration, assisted RK with anaesthetics. Lorraine Stephen was the receptionist at the x-ray department at Ela Beach Base Hospital. It was RK Wilson's usual commencement of the day to have a conference at the x-ray where Lorraine usually collated the records that he wished to look at. Lorraine married Lloyd Yelland in Pt Moresby in 1953 and they remained in PNG until 1974. *In the photo to the left*, Lorraine Stephen and RK Wilson are standing in front of the old Native Hospital at Pt Moresby.

**David Watters is writing a history of surgery in PNG (1840-2000)** and would appreciate any surgical tales, or stories about surgeons, along with any photographs being sent to him at Department of Surgery, Geelong Hospital, Geelong, VIC 3220 or *Email: [waters.david@gmail.com](mailto:waters.david@gmail.com).*

**Albert Speer MBE**

## *The Planter by Owen Genty*

ISBN 0-473-10229-3, Published by Geebaa Enterprises. 246 pages including 14 full colour gloss photo pages.

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## PNG.....IN THE NEWS

The largest vessel to enter Rabaul in many years, QE2, recently spent a day there en-route from Sydney, Brisbane, Cairns, to Yokohama, Shanghai and Hong Kong. Former Deputy Commissioner of RPNGC, Robert Robertson and his wife Coralie were amongst about 600 Australians. Most of the passengers were American, and one American female had lived on the QE2 for the last nine years. The ship's purser did not have any kina on board, so any local purchases by tourists were mostly non-existent. Tourists were conveyed on a bus trip around local sights, Kokopo and the Bitapaka War Cemetery. Max Hayes

**Toea Wisil**, the PNG sprinter, won two gold medals in the Australian national under-23 and under-20 championships in early February, winning the girls 100 and 200 metre finals in Hobart, Tasmania. She was part of a PNG team of five athletes that performed with distinction, winning two gold, two silver and two bronze medals. Wisil also picked up a silver, finishing second in the 400m when she ran 55.28 seconds, just one tenth of a second outside Ann Mooney's national record of 55.18. Team member **Wala Gime** won silver in the boys 400m hurdles and both **Andrew Doonar** and **Betty Burua** each picked up a bronze medal. Wendy Seymour

**The Solomon Islands** was hit by a magnitude 8.1 earthquake and subsequent tsunami on April 2, 2007. 52 people died and thousands lost their homes. The worst affected provinces were Choiseul and Western provinces however the Shortland Islands to the north also suffered substantial earthquake and tsunami damage.

### 'Pricey paper.

SMOKE paper eh? The esteemed publication you are reading gets better with age, it seems. A copy of the Post-Courier special Independence issue of 1975 was put up for auction at a dinner run by the New General Party in Lae at the weekend. Guess what it went for? K2000. Not bad for fish and chip wrappings!'

Taken from the Drum, Post Courier, 21 March 2007

For those interested in the **Orders and Decorations of PNG**, they can be found at the following website: <http://www.medals.lava.pl/bc/pg1>

Trans Niugini Tours will now be running scheduled flights to **Bensbach Wildlife Lodge** on pre-designated dates (roughly once a month). There is no minimum number set for these flights to operate. Located in the far south-west corner of Papua New Guinea, Bensbach Wildlife Lodge is located inside the Tonda Wildlife Management Area, an area that is in the process of being nominated for World Heritage Listing for its outstanding natural beauty, as well as its importance as a stop over for migratory birds.

**The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual PNG Oldies Vs. Youngies Rugby Charity Shield** will be held on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2007 at St Josephs College Hunter's Hill No.1 Oval. The organising committee has been sourcing auction items and other fund raising activities for the day. Please go along and support them. This year the group is supporting Cheshire Homes Port Moresby – a centre caring for more than 100 disabled children, and the Port Moresby City Mission.

The Post-match function will be held at the Tennis Cove Sports Club, Eastern Valley Way from 7pm. For more information please contact: Christopher Wong, Charity Shield Committee, 11 Cammaray Rd, Castle Cove NSW 2069.

## LOST AND FOUND by Pat Johnson

The outbreak of WWII and the evacuation of women and children in 1941 from PNG meant many treasured possessions were lost. This is the story of one such treasure being found and returned – a Baby Book!

Approximately 7 years ago, Erla Angell, who lives in Gympie, Qld, was doing her regular searching for early Australian history books. At an Antique Shop in nearby Pomona she happened upon a “baby book”. Being struck by the unusual nature of the book, she bought it and then tried to trace the family through Family History magazines without success. In a recent clean-up of her office, Erla was reminded of its existence and invoked the aid of the Internet and Google.

In entering the family name in Google, up came an obituary to the mother, Gladys Forsyth, written by myself (Gladys Forsyth’s Vale was printed in *Una Voce* and ‘posted’ on our web site [www.pngaa.net](http://www.pngaa.net) in June 2003). This mentioned that Gladys Forsyth’s husband was lost on the *Montevideo Maru*. Intrigued, Erla entered *Montevideo Maru* into Google and up came PNGAA member Rod Miller’s web site. The next step was contacting Rod, who in turn, contacted me and yes, I knew the baby in question. In fact she is a lifelong friend and as it so happened I was about to visit her in Queensland.

Contacting both the ‘baby’, Beatrice Knight (nee Forsyth) and Erla, we arranged to meet in Gympie for the return of this wonderful family treasure. Truly a time capsule, there were photos of Beatrice as a toddler taken pre-war in Rabaul. There was information about feeding, weaning, walking, talking, several locks of hair and even a telegram from Fairyland inviting Baby Beatrice to meet Father Christmas at the New Guinea Club. Among the photos in the ‘baby book’ were some of other children, sadly there were none of me.



*Erla, Beatrice and the “Baby Book”*

However, I discovered that our mothers (who were close friends) were both attended by the same midwife at our respective births, Sr R M MacKinnon in Rabaul (Beatrice) and shortly after in Salamaua (Pat). We were also both baptised at St George’s Anglican Church in Rabaul by Archdeacon De Voile.

We experienced a wonderful friendly day, meeting and talking with this thoughtful woman Erla; it was a day both Beatrice and myself will always remember. How the ‘baby book’ came to Pomona is an unsolved mystery. The moral of this particular story is however, that one never knows what is out there just waiting to be found. Oh for the wonders of the Internet, Google, our own web site and interested members!! ■

## RABAUl YACHT CLUB By Graham Taylor

David Ellis' reference to the Rabaul Yacht Club (*Una Voce* March 2007) prompts me to record reminders of its origins.

In 1962 Eddie Gray, a fellow Apexian, employed by Jack Chipper's enterprise, and I, the ABC's Regional Manager, decided to establish a sailing club in Rabaul. We had enjoyed dinghy sailing as young boys in Queensland and the placid waters of Rabaul harbour beckoned enticingly. We set up a meeting of would-be enthusiasts in the New Britain Club, stacked the Committee and the Rabaul Aquatic Club was established.

After much debate our choice of sailing dinghy was the English Jack Holt designed GP14. I ordered a set of plans from England and contracted with a Chinese shipwright in Malaguna Road to lay up the framework. I brought the bare skeleton home to my Page Street residence (incidentally Ed *Una Voce* lived opposite us), purchased the necessary marine plywood and completed construction in a lean-to at the rear of my cook boy's quarters. .

We needed a mast. Eddie purloined a length of Oregon pine from a mystery source. A mate sawed it down the middle lengthwise. We chiselled out the inside so as to admit internal halyards. When it came to gluing the two halves together to guard against buckling we laid the two sections on a steel H section electric light pole in the powerhouse. At midday on Saturday, just on closing time, Eddie prevailed upon a mate in the hardware section of Colyer Watson's store to "lend" him every available G clamp displayed on the shelves. We glued the mast sections together, clamped them with the borrowed G clamps and hoped for the best. Come daylight on Monday morning with mast straight and true enterprising Eddie sprinted back to Colyer Watsons to return the borrowed clamps to the display shelves before the store opened. Nice one...Eddie!!!.

We added a boom, rudder and centreboard and the running rigging. The sails were ordered from Ratsey Sails in England. I named the craft 'Tani' after my Papuan cook-boy's five-year old daughter Rakatani.

I dredged up a pair of old car wheels, constructed a rough jinker- like trailer, wired it to my rear bumper bar and dragged Tani down to the harbour shore at the bottom of Page Street. With cook-boy Moi on board I launched her on her maiden voyage and sailed joyously around the harbour. And so a dream was realised.

Our enterprise prompted other enthusiasts to build their own GP14's and in a few months there were half a dozen or so GP14's on the water.

With the Aquatic Club now up and running came the first 'club championship', and with Eddie as my crewman "Tani" won. We were each presented with an EPNS beer mug suitably engraved by Rabaul's dentist..." Tani RAC 1962".

One of our very enthusiastic members was Dave Brown, a Didiman from the Keravat Agricultural Station. Dave used to make a last minute dash from Keravat to Rabaul to sail with us on Saturday afternoons. But he was often held up along the way hence his nickname 'Too-late Dave'.

I left Rabaul in 1964 and 'Tani' was passed on to a new owner. I have no recollection of her ultimate fate.

But the story does not end there. There is an even happier ending.

Eddie also left Rabaul in 1964 returning to his family sawmilling enterprise in Proserpine. He has re-visited New Britain regularly oversighting contracts with indigenous sawmills supplying timber to his Proserpine plant.



In the years since then the Rabaul Aquatic Club has changed its name to the Rabaul Sailing Club. Eddie has visited the Club and in 2005 spent a week or so there helping young *Tolais* master the art of sailing Optimus dinghies. .

Eddie has reported that these days the Club's fortunes ebb and flow in the wake of the recent eruption and the uncertain support and participation of expatriate sailors.

In 2006 Eddie suggested we mount our engraved EPNS beer mugs and re-present them to the RSC as a perpetual trophy reflecting the origins of the Club. They have now been mounted and Eddie plans to present them in the near future.

We hope a new generation of enthusiastic indigenous sailors will receive them with considerable gratitude.

Passing years have not diminished the lure of the sea. We have continued to sail competitively but in bigger boats. Eddie has been a very pro-active Commodore and is now Patron of the Whitsunday Sailing Club at Airlie Beach. I race on/offshore with the Royal South Australian Yacht Squadron. ■

### **MEETING BOBBY GIBBES** by Laurie Le Fevre

Tom Ellis was meticulous about my induction into 'his' Western Highlands when I joined the Department of the Administrator on posting to Mount Hagen in late 1963. In the management language of today, it would be called a multi-dimensional role. The induction took me to every station and patrol post in the Western Highlands as well as the airstrips along the Sepik/Irian Jaya border.

It also included visiting every planter in the Wahgi Valley; sometimes with Tom; often on my own.

It was on one of these visits with Tom Ellis that I first met Bobby and Jean Gibbes at their plantation. I think it was 'Tremearne'. But I am happy to be corrected. Bobby was a great war hero who deserved enormous respect. I was quite in awe of Tom and Bobby as they interacted. They had an intuitive connection. Tom was not a gregarious man; indeed he was quite the opposite of Bobby. But the two of them hit it off as though it were only yesterday they had last seen each other. Tom even smiled in this company that he valued so highly. Jean was the charming hostess. She doted on Bobby and Tom.

Later I had the chance to also meet Clive 'Killer' Caldwell. Caldwell bounced into the office, and announced himself. 'Is Tom in?' Witnessing the meeting of three war heroes together in the one room - Caldwell, Gibbes and Ellis - was one of a young man's greatest experiences.

I visited Bobby and Jean on many later occasions, but the one that sticks in my memory was the occasion when I took Mr Moraji Desai for a conducted tour of the Wahgi Valley and called to see the Gibbes on the way. Moraji Desai, sometime Indian Finance Minister, and later the Indian Prime Minister, was ascetic by reputation – a reputation that preceded him. This presented a challenge to the gregarious Gibbes, who was about 180 degrees away in his inclinations.

Bobby turned on a party trick with his dog. On Bobby's command, in any of several languages, of 'show us what the bad girls do' she would roll onto her back with her legs widespread. The austere visitor was not amused. ■

## DR NORMAN FISHER VISITS RABAUL By Steve Saunders

The staff of Rabaul Volcano Observatory [RVO] was privileged in October last year to receive a visit from the Observatory's founder, Dr. Norman Fisher, accompanied by his wife and daughter. As a 98<sup>th</sup> birthday present his close family had arranged for him to join the cruise ship *Orion* at Rabaul.

In 1934 as a young geologist Norman Henry Fisher came to Papua New Guinea as the Administration's Geologist at Wau. His work in the Morobe Goldfields later earned him a Doctorate. Following the 1937 eruptions he was sent to Rabaul to assist two overseas specialists in their investigations but he was soon left on his own to do a more in-depth



Herman Patia (RVO's present Acting Assistant Director) discusses developments with RVO's first Director, Dr. Norman Fisher

study; his subsequent report was to become a classic in vulcanological literature and was published as '*Territory of New Guinea. Geological Bulletin No.1* (1939)' (in a second hand bookshop an original copy now costs over four hundred dollars). The preliminary reports had recommended that a volcano observatory be built at Rabaul and Dr. Fisher was asked to design and supervise its construction. He was sent to Java for training in vulcanology under the tutorledge of some of the world's greatest vulcanologists of the time. The Observatory was built during 1940 at its present site; the design of the grounds included a tennis court (a game which, on medical advice, Dr. Fisher gave up only a couple of years ago!). He was subsequently the first Director of the Observatory, assisted by Clem Knight. The Observatory was mainly equipped with homemade instruments; the war making the procurement of equipment difficult. Even so, by analysing temperature measurements actually collected within the vent of Tavurvur (N.B. as Dr Fisher wrote in his usual direct style in 1939, '*...the expression "Matupi Volcano" is to be deplored...*') he saw a build-up and warned of an impending eruption, this occurred in June 1941.

To Dr Fisher's dismay in December 1941, his garden and tennis court became the site of an anti-aircraft battery and the observatory building doubled up as barracks for over thirty men. This overloaded the facilities and Dr. Fisher had to have words with the C/O about the dumping of waste over the sides of the ridge, as 'the flies were getting terrible'.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan. 1942 after several days of intense air-raids and as Japanese transports were observed off Watom Island, *Corporal* Norman Fisher of the New Guinea Volunteer Rifles (NG 608) and ~79 other civilian volunteers bolstered the regular army at Rapindik as part of the defences of Lakunai airdrome. But orders soon came to move to Vulcan to protect the approaches to Vunakanau airdrome. Dr. Fisher's party dug in near the beach at the base of the new military road up to Vunakanau (the Burma Road). After the intermittent night-time fighting first light brought intense dive-bombing of their positions, their mortar received a direct hit. With the Japanese successfully landing on Vulcan and others coming around the road from Rabaul Dr. Fisher's party retreated under intense bombing. When they got to the top of the zigzags in the Burma Road they found that they were amongst the last to leave with only one vehicle left.

After waiting for others they continued on, all the while being dive-bombed. Abandoning the truck at Mt. Varzin they walked to the head of the Warangoi River. Crossing the South Bainings to Lemingi Mission, and then travelling through to Wide Bay the party of three (Norman Fisher, Clem Knight and Patrol Officer George Greathead) then found a small launch. Another five escapees were lucky to catch up with this small group of practical men. Following the coast and dodging warships they found a larger boat at Palmalmal. At Fullern Harbour Dr. Fisher and Leo McMahon went ahead to search for fuel and stores. It transpired that a German Priest at Lindenhafen was collaborating with the Japanese, but under the cover of darkness Dr. Fisher and McMahon were able to raid the priest's stores and gather enough stocks to enable the eight to reach Samarai and hence safety. A journey all the more remarkable when it is considered that two thirds of Rabaul's NGVR did not survive.

Although post war Dr. Fisher was mostly based in Canberra, he was invited to be involved in the debate on whether Rabaul should be rebuilt. In 1939 he had been of the opinion that as Rabaul was practically intact the most economic thing would be to leave it as it was, but monitor the volcano. In the late 1940's, however, with the town raised to the ground he considered it best to abandon the caldera floor, advice that was not heeded. He was to become Director of the Australian Government's Bureau of Mineral Resources. Vulcanology, however, remained one of his loves. In 1957 he produced the Melanesian volume of the 'Catalogue of the Active Volcanoes of the World' a work that still forms the basis of the Smithsonian Institute's vulcanological database of the region.



In the short time Dr Fisher was at the Observatory last October many questions were asked on both sides. His strong personality was still to the fore, and so was his interest in vulcanology. Handing him some of RVO's recent scientific papers, he had to be stopped by his wife from reading them then and there, but she said "he *will* read them you know". We felt like we had handed in our home-work to a well respected headmaster! It is a shame he could not have stayed longer as there was much more to ask. We hope to see him back. ■

Dr Norman Fisher surveys the view from Observatory Ridge 69 years after he first came to Rabaul.



**We have received a suggestion from one of our members to include in our Annual Listing of Members the maiden name of women** who have married or changed their surname, for whatever reason, since leaving PNG. This would appear to have some merit as it would help to 'identify' many women who have worked and lived in PNG, and whose current surnames would not normally be recognised. If this situation applies to you and you would not be averse to having your maiden name attached to your current surname eg, Mrs A Williams, (NEE Coote), *please advise our Secretary with relevant details* (mail to PO Box 1386, Mona Vale, NSW, 1660) or email to [admin@pngaa.net](mailto:admin@pngaa.net). You should be aware however that this change would also affect your Una Voce address label.

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## **WALK INTO PARADISE DVD**

### **Elizabeth Thurston addressed the AGM with an update on production**

‘After the successful screenings in three states of *Walk Into Paradise*, which was filmed in Papua New Guinea in 1955 and starred Chips Rafferty, the committee of the PNGAA has embarked upon the project of transferring the film to DVD, making it available for our members. We are indebted to Bob Cleland who arranged the first screening in Brisbane and who brought this historical film to our attention again. ‘As I mentioned in the last issue of *Una Voce*, we are grateful to Penn Robinson, son of the late director Lee Robinson, for granting us the rights to produce *Walk Into Paradise* in this DVD format. We are also grateful to Rhonda Grogan, who was part of the film crew, for granting us permission to include her ‘Behind the Scenes Location Footage’ as part of our Special Features.

‘We believe we have the opportunity to produce a beautiful collector's edition of a unique film. *Walk Into Paradise* showcases fabulous scenery and an authentic *sing-sing* with thousands of fantastically adorned tribesmen and women. We will most likely never see cinematography of Carl Kayser's calibre and scope again. We are including a filmed interview with Fred Kaad OBE, our patron and former district officer, who was also a supporting actor in the film. There is a photo gallery of wonderful black and white photos taken on location: these photos capture the essence of life far from the studio lots of Hollywood and are full of humour, warmth, camaraderie and whimsy. The antithesis of this photo gallery is the original trailer, which we have sourced - sensational and breathtaking, it is a timepiece in itself!

‘The attention to detail of the production and design has been paramount and we hope the DVD will look both classic and timeless and will reflect the ethos of the colonial fifties when adventurers confronted one of the most dramatic and magnificent cultures on earth. We see this production as an important legacy for our children and grandchildren.

‘As the Production Editor I am particularly grateful to Ross Johnson who has spent much time on the legal and financial aspects of this venture and to the following people who have contributed and co-operated in the making of this DVD: Penn Robinson, Rhonda Grogan, Fred Kaad OBE, David Noakes from the National Film and Sound Archive, Drina Thurston for her design work and I particularly thank Harry West and the committee for their support and trust.

‘We are only weeks away from going to production and we look forward to the DVD being available well in time for Christmas. ■

## HEAD HUNTERS FROM THE RAMU RIVER By Denis Compston

I was a young manager at Potsdam Plantation near Bogia, north west of Madang, when, one afternoon in August 1963, my *hausboi* told me someone wanted to talk with me. I asked what was wanted but he did not know, only that the visitor was not a local *boi*.

I met this tall native who spoke good pidgin and was very friendly. He wanted to know if I had any work on the plantation. As I was losing 15 *bois* the following week, I thought I could be interested and asked him why he wanted to know. He told me he had *wantoks* that wanted work. Asking him where they came from he replied, 'The Ruma River'. After a few more questions he told me these *bois* had had no contact with a white man, let alone other natives apart from those in their area...but they had heard they can work for money, medicine, tobacco, food plus accommodation.

I explained that it would be very difficult to employ *bois* who have had no contact with white people and I was also concerned with how they would get along with the locals and other friendly natives employed from the Sepik.

After a long *toktok* I said I could give them work BUT under conditions. I asked how long it would take them to arrive and he told me that the *bois* were there, up in the hills above the plantation. Within an hour there were 13 small, fit young guys in my garden, looking at me like I was some kind of a freak; being blond did not help. Everyone was VERY nervous including me. My labour line was standing by in case of trouble.

Their *wantok* told them in their dialect that I would employ them. I told my *bois* all was OK – and to cook up rice, fish and tea for our unexpected visitors. These guys had never tasted anything like it. We cut up *lap laps* for them and I sent a letter to the ADO in Bogia telling him what had happened. The astonished ADO arrived at Potsdam within the hour, unable to believe what he heard and saw. Peter (ADO) said they had been trying to get into that part of the Ramu for years, only to have arrows and spears thrown at them. 'You now have these fellows eating in your garden like you're their best friend' he said. The following day I took these lads down to Bogia for a medical – and there's another story about the truck trip.

Most of Bogia was out to see these head hunters, which is what they were known as. I was told I would be killed in days if I employed them. They finished up being great workers, very gentle, got along with the other *bois* who taught them fishing, pidgin and especially how to *wash wash* everyday.

Word got back to their villages that work was a good life style. I then had men coming in from the back waters of the Ramu asking for work. Finished up sending men to New Britain to work with CPL (Rabaul).

The next problem was getting the first 20 of these guys onto the old DC3s from AWAR Airstrip, a few miles from Potsdam. No trouble – long trip via Manus Island then Rabaul. I went with them. The guys loved the flight – they had coffee, smokes and food. They then went to Kokopo Plantations – everyone was very happy with them. After two years they were flown back to Awar. ■

**FAREWELL MASTA BOBBY** By Wingston Wan-Ruin  
*(our thanks to The National Newspaper for their permission to reprint this  
article from 27 April 2007)*

The news of Australian World War Two hero Bobby Gibbes' passing on April 11 saddens the people of Dei Valley, Western Highlands Province, especially the tribes living around what it is now called the Mamgol (Tremearne) Coffee Plantation, which he established during the 1950s.

History has that, Mr Gibbes was with a patrol team to Mala Patrol Post, not far from a naturally cone shaped hill, he later name it 'Tremearne Hill' and built his residence there. He negotiated and acquired the land from the Wallei and Kinjibl Tribes and established his first coffee plantation with a milling factory later and a cattle paddock on the valley including an airstrip (in used till early 1980's).

The oldies described Mr Gibbes (popularly known as *Masta Bobby*) as a very talented and an intelligent air pilot, who could swing his plane from side to side or upside down while in the air. Stories of Mr Gibbes' shooting down many enemy war planes and making his own escape after having been shot down were well told stories among the oldies, who considered *Masta Bobby* their hero.

Mr Gibbes being the pilot and owner of a plane, was able to fly into the valley with cargoes-a large quantity of pearl shell (a very highly treasured and priced item those days by the locals) from the coast every month to pay his plantation labourers. Money was of no value then to the workers. Mr Gibbes was seen by the locals as a source of their wealth, so they treasured and accorded him with great respect. Young men from all around came to work for 'Masta Bobby' in order to get paid a pearl shell a month's pay. According to the oldies, Tremearne Plantation was the hub of the shell trading economic activity in the valley. The pearl shell was used for bride price and Moka making activities along with pigs, so the shell was highly regarded and priced during those days in most parts of the Highlands.

Bobby Gibbes was described as a man who had a big heart for the local people whom he worked and associated with and resided among without discrimination or grievances. Stories had been told that he took village locals aboard his plane to various places, making them experiencing their first trip in a plane. He would ask them to sing or make traditional message sending shouts from inside the plane when about to take off or land.

After he sold his property and left, he was always remembered. Many children born to his associates were either named after him or one of his family members. Thus the names such as Bobby, Julie, Jeanie and Robyn are common names in the valley. In the year 2000, an old, pale and wrinkled Mr Gibbes returned (this time as a tourist) to see the remains of his Tremearne Plantation.

Despite some extensions including a new factory built on his once popular aerodrome, the plantation was at the point of collapsing due to mismanagement. The paddock which once produced cattle with high quality meat and also won Mr Gibbes awards on the Highlands Agricultural Show Competitions were no-where to be seen. The cattle paddock was overrun with bush after the last cattle were killed during a tribal fight in 1992.

The old coffee factory located at the foot of a small hill was covered under a landslide soon after Mr Gibbes went finish. The covering of a large coffee factory by a small landslide was believed to be done by magicians hired to do the job over compensation claims for a local man who was electrocuted by the fallen power lines of the coffee factory's generator. The compensation paid by the plantation owners to the victim's Kinijibl Kamunga tribe was thought to be insufficient.

Looking at the sorry state of the plantation and the run down coffee factory, Mr Gibbes told the onlookers most of them were the younger generation that if he still had the strength and energy, he would buy back and revive the whole coffee plantation back to its former glory days. Standing near to his once big workshop and road junction leading to his lovely Tremearne Hill Residential Area, Mr Gibbes shed tears to show his respect for the establishment he laboured tirelessly for during his hey days. He asked around for his colleagues-the oldies namely Kouru, Pena and Mel of the Wellei tribe and Rain, Mel and Worukl of the Kinjibi tribe. He was saddened to hear that they had passed on. However, Mr Gibbes had the privilege of meeting some of their children, who were small boys during his time there.

Mr Gibbes' other business establishments including his own airways-*Gibbes Sepik Airways* in Papua New Guinea, apart from the Tremearne Plantation, were unheard of by the people in the valley. Certainly lack of education and language barrier could have limited and confined the people to their own physical world, than understanding the status of their hero in the outside business world. Stories were told that Mr Gibbes had requested his local colleagues to adopt their children and take them to the coast or Australia to school. He would bring them back during the holidays at his own expenses. His suggestion was neither supported nor agreed to, because they feared sending their kids to the outside world, could mean giving them away forever. Those kids, now grown ups deeply regret missing that golden opportunity of getting educated.

The people of the valley pay tribute to the great man, who was once their hero, an intelligent pilot, a brave fighter and a developer, who modeled and groomed them to be what they are now, from what was feared and considered to be a very swampy, mosquito infected and/or 'masulai' (Kur Kit) dominated, scared valley, where no European would have liked to live in during those early days. Master Bobby, we salute you, chief, we salute you. May your soul remain in peace.

We send our belated sincere condolences to wife, Jeanie, daughters Julie and Robyn for a wonderful and a caring husband and father, the one who pioneered coffee growing in the valley, that brought a lot of changes to the lives of our people.

*The writer is a grandson of one of Mr Gibbes' local colleagues/associates. He wishes to establish some contact with the Gibbes family for exchange of old photographs and information of the family's days and its association with the local people in the Treamone Plantation, Papua New Guinea.*

**Dr David Wetherell** is offering three books for sale to help the widow and children of a Papuan tertiary lecturer accidentally killed by a falling tree at Popondetta in 2006.

**FOR SALE**

- ▶ A.E.Pratt, Two Years among New Guinea Cannibals Seeley Service, London, 1908. Author's signed presentation copy. In fair to good condition. Complete. This copy \$283, the median price cited by 18 overseas booksellers.
- ▶ James Colwell (ed) A Century in the Pacific One volume - five parts scientific, sociological, historical, missionary, general. Beale, Sydney, 1914. In good condition. \$86, median price quoted by 28 booksellers.
- ▶ James Paton, The Story of John G.Paton Told for Young Folks or Thirty Years among South Sea Cannibals Hodder, London, 1895. \$35.

Please contact Dr David Wetherell at: School of History, Heritage and Society, Deakin University, GEELONG VIC 3217 PH: 03 52 271 398 (work) and 03 52 78 2208 (home)  
Email: [dfw@deakin.edu.au](mailto:dfw@deakin.edu.au) or fax 52 272 018

## **SAMUEL PINIAU OBE By Keith Jackson AM**

The founding Chairman of the National Broadcasting Corporation of Papua New Guinea, Sam Piniau, has died at Vunapope Hospital in East New Britain from what were described as 'lung complications'. Sam's father had been a pastor in the Gazelle Peninsula and his Christian values lived on in Sam who, throughout his life, continued to contribute to PNG at national and village level. Sam's home at Rakatop village in the hills behind Kokopo, which I visited last October, was full of mementoes of a brilliant career and a very full life. He grew up in Rabaul and was a bright young man whose teachers found a place for him at a top high school in Australia. Sam turned out to be as good at rugby union as he was a student and represented PNG as hooker at the South Pacific Games in 1966 and 1969.

In the early 1960s, he joined the Department of Information and became one of the first indigenous station managers. In 1964 he was managing Radio Wewak when he recruited Michael Somare as a young broadcaster. Recognised as a person who could take on tough assignments, he was later transferred to Radio Bougainville when the secession movement was on the boil. In 1970 he was promoted to Deputy Director of the Department of Information and, in November 1973, he was appointed as founding Chairman of the new National Broadcasting Corporation, an amalgamation of the rival ABC and Government Broadcast Service which operated in PNG at the time. Sam chaired the NBC through the difficult years of its establishment in the time around Independence. Under his administration radio broadcasting expanded rapidly at a provincial level as the NBC's first five year plan was implemented. His close friendship with Michael Somare soured when the NBC, short of money, introduced commercial broadcasting on one of its networks in 1976. When Sam resigned from the NBC in 1979, Somare offered him the job of High Commissioner to Australia, but Sam – tired of public service – refused. Instead he went home to Rabaul to join the Uniting Church, where he served for many years as a senior administrator. In recent years he set up his own cocoa and vanilla growing and trading business and did a lot of work to help the people of his village and in the Reimber local government area where he lived. He continued to contribute to national life as an adviser to onetime PM Sir Julius Chan and through long-term involvement in the PNG Sports Federation and National Olympic Committee, of which he was a life member. He played an active role in sport as president of the East New Britain Athletics Association and founding chairman of the East New Britain Provincial Sports Authority. Last October my wife and I spent two days driving around the Gazelle in Sam's clapped out car, visiting the places he wanted us to see and meeting his wife and grandkids and having dinner together on board our ship. As we drove into Rakatop, he pointed out with pride the power poles that were being erected to bring electricity to his village for the first time. Sam had a lovely sense of humour. Driving through the bush not far from his village, he stopped the car and pointed to a spot beside the road. 'This is where my people killed and ate the first Christian missionaries from Fiji,' he told me. 'The missionaries struggled to the top of this hill on a very hot day. They were quite fat and glistening with sweat. They looked so good, my people just couldn't help themselves'.

Sam Piniau was a strong advocate of media freedom and impartiality in broadcasting, even when there was almost irresistible political pressure. Sam was admired by all who worked with him as an honest and fair leader who performed with courage, dignity and skill in the best interests of the people of Papua New Guinea. ■



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**MEMORIES OF OLD HONIARA – WHERE TIME STOOD STILL**

**By Richard Jones**

BACK in early 1969, I did a trip around some of the island nations which had indicated they would be sending athletes later that year to the Moresby South Pacific Games. The competitors would then send regular stories back to the *Post Courier* for publication. The trip coincided with my long Christmas vacation that year, so it worked out well.

First stop from Port Moresby en route to Vanuatu (then still known as the New Hebrides), Fiji and Tonga was Honiara. Our Federal Police members and other assorted RAMSI bureaucrats have been stationed there for some time now. But it was a much different place 38 years ago.

A sleepy little town with plenty of ramshackle Chinese-owned trade stores dotted here and there, Honiara reminded me a bit of Kavieng. Although the Solomon's capital had a larger population than the New Ireland haven and certainly quite a few more trade stores than Kavieng, it must be said.

The pace of life was slow and nothing much seemed to happen. Well, not during the four or five days we were there. Henderson Field, the Solomon Islands major airstrip back then as it is now, had plenty of wartime junk still strewn everywhere. I imagine it would be a far tidier place today. Offshore we could see a number of landing barges and other maritime wrecks, discarded or bombed during the 1944-45 campaigns. I'd seen the Japanese landing barges nestled in their resting places hollowed out of cliffs beside the Rabaul - Kokopo road in New Britain. The landing craft left in the ocean close to the Honiara shoreline looked remarkably similar.

When we got down to discussing prospects for the Moresby Games, I vividly remember being told by one Solomon Islands' South Pacific Games official that the people of Guadalcanal enjoyed a real rivalry against competitors from Malaita. And, of course, that rivalry boiled over into outright civil warfare in 2000 necessitating the arrival of RAMSI forces to sort things out.

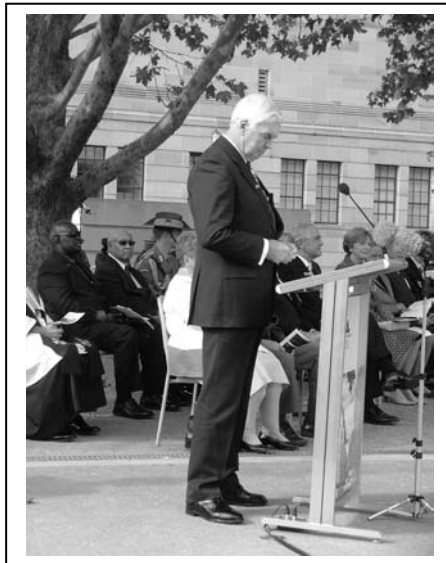
Compared with capitals such as Vanuatu's Vila with its French-English ambience, cosmopolitan Noumea in New Caledonia or even bustling Suva in Fiji, Honiara didn't have a lot going for it. The Solomon Islands is still a very small nation now. Back in the late 1960s Guadalcanal was like a PNG island province which time had completely passed by with Honiara its sleepy capital. ■

## DONATIONS TO THE PNGAA COLLECTION IN THE FRYER LIBRARY, THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND

**Mrs A.V.P. Weaver:** article – brief memories of Rabaul 1927 – 1942, photographs of 1937 Vulcan eruption/inside Matupit volcano/evacuation from Nodup beach in M.V. Montoro, 2 schooners and M.V. Golden Bear, natives walking on pumice at main wharf. **Graham Cowley:** copies of *Nilaidat* UPNG student newspaper March-September 1968, *Across the roof of New Guinea* by Colin Freeman, 2002. **R&M Macey:** photo album of German New Guinea natives/scenes/European houses/German road master's camp 1913; German officials and luluais, dried native heads, some photographs of Port Moresby, **E.D.&M. Clarke:** Steamships Trading Company calendars 1969-1973 (photos of Port Moresby, Madang, Kieta, Goroka), Grass Roots Offisel Kalenda 1987, copy of East New Britain Independence celebrations (Tok Pisin), colour photos of (1994) eruption of Matupit volcano, assorted slides of Rabaul including the 1963 riot. **D.S. Barnes:** copy of *Lucy's Story: the Barnes family in Papua 1914-1919*, 3 photographs (5 year old Kathleen Barnes on shoulders of native woman, Mrs Barnes being carried to mining community, Kathleen Barnes with doll and pram). **F.N. (Norm) Rolfe:** papers on European salary scales, Public Service Commissioner's circulars 1961-1963, numerous documents on meetings/ committees etc. in the short period leading to PNG Independence, draft Cabinet papers, PS Board memoranda, material dealing with the proposed revision of legislation governing Statutory Authorities and other Government bodies to transfer to the PNG Government certain powers held by the Australian government, report of an interdepartmental committee on a Public Services Structure review, Proposals of Constitutional Principles and Explanatory Notes, Final Report of the Constitutional Planning Committee 1974 (Part 2), The Reorganisation of the Public Service in Papua New Guinea, Barnett Report on The Constitutional Institutions: Problems of and With their Independence, A Short History of the Government Printing Office. **Mrs A.Dryer:** Papua New Guinea Independence Day booklets, *Siboda Henari* – poems on Independence, *Black & White* magazine (3 issues), incomplete set of Air Niugini's in-flight magazine *Paradise* 1981-1993 with amazing photographs of PNG scenes and people, Jackson's strip ca.1943, other WW2 photographs, orchids, sing-sings and an article on Bob Browne (*papa bilong namba wan PNG philosopher Isuzu Lu*), PNG Electricity Commission Annual Reports 1974-1992 (incomplete), 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 1963-1993 Commemorative Booklet, *Elcom News* (incomplete) 1975-1987. **Gordon Tripp:** 2 cartoons, photographs Madang, Banz, Mt Hagen, Rouna Falls, Port Moresby scenes (trade store, Papua Yacht Club), photo of water-colour, 2 photos Gordon Tripp painting Bird of Paradise on French Aero Survey Team aircraft and Ansett aircraft. **Jan Steinfurth:** scenes of Vulcan and Matupit volcanoes (1937) erupting and afterwards, and ship moving through pumice in Rabaul harbour. ■

**DEDICATION OF MEMORIAL PLAQUES – Tuesday 15 May 2007**  
*to recognise the sacrifice and service of the members of the New Guinea Volunteer  
Rifles (NGVR)/ Australia New Guinea Administrative Unit (ANGAU) and the Pacific  
Islands Regiment (PIR)*  
by Ross Johnson

On a balmy autumn morning in Canberra, in the Western Courtyard of the Australian War Memorial, in the presence of His Excellency, Major General Michael Jeffery AC CVO MC and Mrs Jeffery, and other notables, a commemorative plaque to the Pacific Islands Regiment was unveiled by Mr Roy Sheargold (Papuan Infantry Battalion) and Mr Peter Porteous (Pacific Islands Regiment). Following the dedication of the PIR plaque by Defence Force (RMC) Chaplain Bob McKennay, the official party moved to

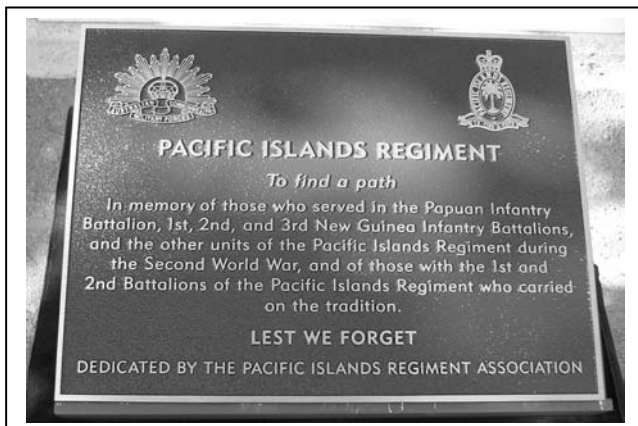


the site of the NGVR/ANGAU commemorative plaque which had been placed in the western courtyard several years ago but never dedicated. The dedication of the NGVR/ANGAU plaque was also carried out by Chaplain Bob McKennay.

Prior to the unveiling and dedication, a welcome was given by Mr Steve Gower AO, Director, Australian War Memorial. Following this, His Excellency Major General Michael Jeffery reflected on the roles played by the NGVR, ANGAU, PIB and the PIR during WW2 and, in the case of the PIR, after the war, drawing on his own experience when serving with the PIR. Prayers were offered by Chaplain Bob McKennay of the Royal Military College of Australia,

and the hymn “O God Our Help In Ages Past” was led by the Band of the Royal Military College of Australia and the Australian Rugby Choir.

Following the dedication of both plaques, a Piper played a Lament, the Ode was recited by Mr Keith Payne VC OAM (an ex-PIR Member), with everyone joining in to sing the National Anthem. Mr Phillip Ainsworth, President of the NGVR/PNGVR Ex-Members Association and Pacific Islands Regiment gave a concluding Thanks and Farewell speech.



A fuller description of the Dedication of the Commemorative Plaques, together with photographs, will be placed on the Association's web site.

## HELP WANTED

**Isobel Pert is keen to obtain a copy of the film 'Sepik Patrol'**, part of a 'High Adventure Series', produced by Lowell Thomas and directed by Lee Robinson, which was filmed in the Sepik in 1957. Isobel Pert's husband, Jack, was involved with the filming on board his **MV *Taynna***. Would anyone with any information or contacts on how to obtain a copy of this film please contact Isobel Pert at 37 Weyba Esp, Noosa Heads, QLD 4567 or Phone: 07-54473967'

**Robin Downs**, the second wife of the late esteemed Ian, is searching for his **OBE, WWII Naval medals and other memorabilia in order that they can be passed on to their son Michael who currently has no 'memorabilia' belonging to his father**. It is believed that these were auctioned by the Queensland Public Trust in Brisbane around Sept/Oct 2004 following Ian's death on 24 August 2004. Anyone having any information on this matter please email: [robindowns@bigpond.com](mailto:robindowns@bigpond.com) or Ph: (03) 95042293.



This photo was taken by a soldier from Gympie, in WW2. He was in Pt Moresby and Scarlett Beach, Finschhafen but could also have been in other places. **Marjorie Head asks if anyone knows where or when the picture was taken**. Could you please let the Editor or Marjorie know? Marjorie can be contacted at:

1/3 Nash Street, Gympie, QLD 4570 Phone: 07 5482 2767,

Email: [midgery@spiderweb.com.au](mailto:midgery@spiderweb.com.au)

**Geoffrey Williamson** is researching Ninigo history. He is keen to hear from anyone who may have some information or know the whereabouts of the Visitors Book which would be a great help to him. Please contact him c/- 2 Warattah Ct, Wurtulla. QLD 4575 Ph: 07-5491 8997 Email: [geekay25@optusnet.com.au](mailto:geekay25@optusnet.com.au)

**The request for help in the March 2007 issue of *Una Voce* for information concerning the pre-war Irwin family of Mogubu Plantation** (then Milne Bay District) owned by the Bunting family of Samarai attracted several responses. **Stuart Inder** provided details of entries in the *Pacific Islands Monthly Index*; **Neil Lucas** (Patrol Officer, Magarida Patrol Post, Amazon Bay, scanned a photograph he took in 1965-66 of Mrs Bessie Irwin's remarkably well preserved tombstone, and brief details of Mogubu Plantation; **John Fowke**, Manager of nearby Mamai Plantation also provided details of the Irwins and suggested other points of enquiry; and **Bob Piper**, Military Aviation Research Services, Canberra, who was at Mogubu ca.1970 knew the then manager who was familiar with its history.

All this was passed on to Mrs Irwin's great-niece, Mrs Arlean Armstrong Guerrero of California, who was "blown away" by the interest and help of *Una Voce* readers. She is delighted with the information sent to her and asked that her grateful thanks be extended to all involved.

## **EMIL GLAUS' ALUMINIUM SMELTER** by Geoffrey Williamson

I wonder if anyone can fill me in on the earlier life of Swiss expatriate **Emil Glaus**. On my third sojourn to Papua New Guinea - I think it was about 1956 (my first was in the AIF in 1945 aboard the troopship Katoomba, and my second trip 1953) I joined Emil in Lae where I was engaged in preparations for the construction of an aluminium smelter to be carried to Wewak and thence Dagua. Emil had the scrap rights from Wewak to Aitape and my job was to do the aluminium smelting, of which I knew nothing.

After a fairly rough trip in one of Emil's barges from Lae to Madang and thence Wewak, we settled in at Boram where I reconstructed the smelter on site next to Emil's residence and after some time, succeeded in pouring our first ingot - a great moment for us all, as my knowledge of the subject was next to zero and many things had to be tried before success eventually came. After completion of the available work at Wewak, I was chosen to fly with my wife and baby son Gregory (who, incidentally, is now driving a Boeing 767 for Air Pacific) to study the situation in Dagua. We caught an old Dragon DH84 of Gibbes Sepik Airways to Dagua airstrip and intended to stay there for week or more whilst we studied what would be required. As Emil was already there, having previously come up by road, I naturally assumed that accommodation would be provided, but it just didn't exist. We now spent an interesting seven hours under a tarpaulin as protection from the sun whilst the local chief, the unforgettable Peta Simogen, had his crew build a complete house made of native materials right on the edge of the beach - complete with a six feet hole for a toilet. And thus we were able to move in and sleep under cover that night.

I seemed to have moved away from my original request. In the many months that followed, possibly a year and a half, Emil and I had many a chat about various things. I have a sneaking suspicion that Emil was engaged in a much wider field in the Territory than he spoke about. He was possibly engaged in mining trips deep into then uncontrolled territory. I am not sure of the connection but often, over a few Negritas he often spoke about a Ludy or Rudy somebody who supposedly committed some crimes against native people and was actually charged with a hanging offence. I think this person may have actually been hanged, but can't be sure. If somebody out there has some knowledge of this connection or about Emil's movements in the goldfields I would appreciate the information please.

Emil was one of the finest human beings I have ever met- He had a heart of gold and an abiding fear that people would find out about it. He could get more work and effort out of his native workers than anybody I have ever met; they worshipped the ground he walked on. It was a pleasure knowing you Emil. Thank you.

## **REUNIONS**

**Goroka/Banz/Kundiawa/Minj/Mt Hagen International Primary Schools Reunion** will be held on Saturday **15 September 2007** at the QLD Irish Club in Brisbane. Cost will be \$50/adult and \$30/child (incl food and beverage package), DJ and photographer. Please advise contact details, numbers coming and what year/s you attended the school. GIPS: please contact Lisa Adams at: 6/3 Mauna Loa Street, Larrakeyah, Northern Territory 0820 Ph: 0432919401 Email: [gipsreunion07@hotmail.com](mailto:gipsreunion07@hotmail.com).

BIPS/HIPS: please contact Lola Collins Email: [lola.Collins@defence.gov.au](mailto:lola.Collins@defence.gov.au) or Ph: 0431 273549 Lola says that her year is organising a small photo board, and other years may like to organise this too.

*Cont. over...*

## REUNIONS (Cont.)

The following ASOPA reunions will be held in late 2007:

**1961-62 reunion:** Cedar Lake Country Club, **Advancetown via Nerang** 24-26 August 2007

Please contact David Keating email: [dak99@bigpond.net.au](mailto:dak99@bigpond.net.au) for details.

**1962-63 reunion: Brisbane, 12-14 October 2007**

Please contact Henry Bodman, email: [hmacdb@ozemail.com.au](mailto:hmacdb@ozemail.com.au) for details.

**1960-61 reunion: Brisbane, 12-14 October 2007A**

Please contact David Keating email: [dak99@bigpond.net.au](mailto:dak99@bigpond.net.au) for details.

Whilst the focus for the 1960-1961 and 1962-1963 reunions in Brisbane is past ASOPA Education Officers, the qualification base for attendance has been broadened, particularly for the planned golf morning and the Reunion Gala Dinner on Saturday 13 October - and therefore others with a PNG and/or education interest will be welcome.

Those interested in the golf morning should contact Bill Welbourne Ph: 07-3287 6183 Email: [wwelbour@bigpond.net.au](mailto:wwelbour@bigpond.net.au) or Les Lyons Ph: 08-9359 2582 Email: [leslyons@iinet.net.au](mailto:leslyons@iinet.net.au) and those interested in the Gala Dinner should contact Henry Bodman Ph: 07-3378 8382 Email: [hmacdb@ozemail.com.au](mailto:hmacdb@ozemail.com.au)

\* \* \*

### **Kiap Reunion - Sunday, 11 November, 2007**

Kawana Waters Hotel, Nicklin Way, Buddina, Queensland. Please contact: Bob or Heather Fayle, Home Ph. 07. 54447446, 31 Moondarra Cres., Mooloolaba, QLD 4557, Email: [bobfayle@hotmail.com](mailto:bobfayle@hotmail.com) (Please put 'Kiap Reunion' in the subject line if possible)

\* \* \*

**Treasury** people will be holding another reunion at Port Stephens, NSW, from **September 13-18, 2007**. For further details contact Dave Martin on (08) 8388 4354.

\* \* \*

**All ex-teachers, ex-students, and friends of Yang Ching / Sacred Heart School, Rabaul** are invited to attend the Reunion Dinner at the Greek Club, 29 Edmondstone Street, South Brisbane on Saturday 30 June, 2007 at 6.30 pm and the Commemorative Mass at the Sacred Heart Centre, 80 Nemies Road, Runcorn on Sunday 1 July, 2007 at 10.30 am. Cost of Dinner is \$75. Tickets for the Reunion Dinner are limited so please book early. A Commemorative Magazine and Photo Disc will be produced - if you have interesting stories or photos of the school or Rabaul, please contact Sylvia at [stephenchow1945@aol.com](mailto:stephenchow1945@aol.com) or at 1-73 Homebush Road, Kedron, QLD 4031 - mobile 0412 117 225. More details of the function are available on [http://geocities.com/rabaul\\_reunion](http://geocities.com/rabaul_reunion).

\* \* \*

The **Bulolo Golf Club, PNG**, invites all past and present members to its **60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary & Reunion** to be held on the Queens Birthday Holiday weekend from Friday 8<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2007. For full details see posting under 'Reunions' on [www.pngaa.net](http://www.pngaa.net) or contact: Ron Sneath - Telephone (675) 474 5194, Fax (675) 474 5365, Email [pngfp.rs@global.net.pg](mailto:pngfp.rs@global.net.pg).

## BOOK NEWS and REVIEWS

**Jack Read, Coastwatcher: The Bougainville Reports.** ISBN 9980-9974-1-9. Softcover. 212 pp. Published by PNG Printing Co. Ltd, \$A25, posted to Australia, elsewhere on request. Cheques to 'Valkew Pty Ltd'. The publisher regrets the supply issue which previously occurred due to currency conversion. This book is now available from: RJ Thurecht, 170 Bli Bli Road, BLI BLI. QLD Aust. 4560

## BOOK NEWS AND REVIEWS (Cont.)

**The Last New Guinea Salvage Pirate** by Fritz Herscheid ISBN 0 9586657 6 1

Published by Barrier Reef Business Brokers, 500 pages, hardcover, colour and black and white photographs and maps. Cost \$56.00 plus \$9 p&p, available through: Peter Stone, Oceans Enterprises, 303-305 Commercial Road Yarram, Vic 3971 Ph: 03 5182 5108 Email [peter@oceans.com.au](mailto:peter@oceans.com.au)

This amazing book is a must-read for every diver. Older divers will re-live the crazy wonderful times of their youth, before bureaucrats and lawyers made risk-taking a crime and adventures passive and supervised. Young divers will have trouble believing it all.

But here it is! Routine 300ft (90m) dives on air using primitive scuba, 150ft (45m) free ascents in dive training, power heads to blast troublesome sharks, and fortunes in copper, bronze and brass awaiting the courage and ingenuity of mostly self-taught salvage pirates whose bible was the revered 1963 US Navy Diving Manual.

In his book Fritz Herscheid, writing with a natural, lively, conversational style, describes his fascinating years of adventure in Papua New Guinea (with excursions to the Solomon Islands and Philippines). He moved to Rabaul as a young Automotive Engineer in 1967, but quickly evolved into a diver, businessman, ship's captain, explosives expert and salvager of shipwrecks, mainly from World War 2.

His research enables him to identify and tell the history of many of the wrecks familiar to tourist divers today. He then describes how and why they now exist without propellers, condensers and most of their non-ferrous fittings. He and his various rival salvagers were a band of pirates indeed, poaching from each other and all doing their best to avoid authority. At this time PNG was still a territory of Australia. When PNG became independent in 1975 the new Nation became concerned about the preservation of its war history, salvaging rapidly came to a halt and Fritz had to find a proper job!

Some will no doubt be mortified at the destruction caused by the salvagers but the truth is that no one in the 1960's really saw these wrecks as the historical treasures they are regarded as today.

Fritz's hair-raising exploits, though high risk, resulted in few injuries and no fatalities, though he does describe fatalities of a few Rabaul divers from the same era. He confesses his own 'near misses' and tells the stories with good humour and sensible caution to others. He certainly made dives outside the limits – but this was not done without precautions, such as careful monitoring of depth, bottom times and decompression stops. I have to tell you, though, that you are going to lose some sleep – but only because this book is impossible to put down. Most of the personalities he encountered are still alive and willingly contributed memories to the book.

Original photographs of the ships, photos of the wrecks on the bottom and photos of the people and boats involved in the salvage, bring it all to life. [www.salvagepirate.com](http://www.salvagepirate.com)

**Bob Halstead**

*The above review is an edited version of that which has appeared in Skin Diver and Asian Diver magazines*

**BOMBS TO BEEF: Development of Dumpu Cattle Station, Papua New Guinea** by Barbara Jephcott. ISBN 978-1-921151-57-6, 178 pp Printed 2007 by Community Books, Cost: \$25 incl postage within Aust., Available from Lady B Jephcott, 'Yundah', M/S 28, Warwick. QLD 4370

## MARGARET CLANCY, IN PERTH, DESCRIBES HOW ONE THING LED TO ANOTHER!

When Des and I and the family moved from Papua New Guinea after Independence in 1975 we lived first in Kununurra in the Kimberley District of Western Australia where Des took up a new career in the WA public service, and where – as had happened many times in our PNG postings – I was asked if I would take a temporary teaching job in the local primary school, ‘until the teacher arrives in three weeks’.

But of course the teacher never arrived. So I taught there for the next two years, until we moved on to Carnarvon with Des’s new posting. And, in Carnarvon over the next ten years I taught in two primary schools and the high school – mostly remedial work with Aboriginal children. Then in 1987 we moved to Perth when Des, having reached 65, had to retire from the public service. But he went on to a directorship and consultancy with the Pastoralists and Graziers Association, and I developed my interest in the French language and ended up teaching French, and English as a second language, for the next nineteen years. I retired from teaching in 2006, the last ten as French teacher at the Nedlands Primary School.

But, one thing leads to another. During my time at Nedlands I was writing simple plays in French with accompanying translation in English and these were performed at the end of the year at an assembly for parents and children. The assemblies included French songs and dances as well as Christmas carols and fashion parades, and were very popular. In 2003, while at the school, I had been persuaded by other teachers to approach a publisher to distribute these plays, of which there were now ten. A local publisher was happy to take me on - (LOTE Publications, that is, Languages Other Than English) – and we found the plays were well received by schools all over Australia and New Zealand. Most of the plays were suitable for upper primary classes (although they were bought by many high schools and even a couple of universities). So I then wrote ten very simple plays for beginners, with accompanying work-books. These were equally well received by schools, and have been published in five languages – French, Italian, German, Indonesian and Spanish.

After my retirement I decided that what was needed in the LOTE area were some very easy and attractive little reading books children might read by themselves, or perhaps with a partner or group, but without the help of a teacher. If such books had been available when I was teaching I would have bought them eagerly, but anything then available was usually too difficult for reading without help. The publisher was very enthusiastic about this idea, and I am now very happy to have a five-book package featuring the lives and activities of two children, Thomas and Claire. The books have been illustrated beautifully by Perth artist Kerry Jordinson, who has her own very quirky style and whose pictures are very appealing to children (and me!). They are selling very well.

The themes of the five books are: *The Family* (including grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins and pets), *Greetings*, *Names and Ages*, *Colours and Numbers* and *Days and the Weather*. They are published in English, French, German, Italian, Spanish, Indonesian, two Japanese dialects, two Chinese dialects, and modern Greek. All the stories have been translated by a professional translating service, who have changed the names from Thomas and Claire to suit each language, but the stories remain the same. I am now in the process of writing five more books, to be released in 2008, with themes of *Friends*, *Months and Birthdays* (including presents), *Seasons*, *Games and Sports*, and *Animals*.

I feel I am so lucky to have all this at my late stage in life, especially as I miss Des so very much following his death last October. But with the two little grandchildren, and the books doing so well, life is worth living. ■



## LETTER TO THE BOOKS EDITOR

**Bill Brown draws our attention to a significant error in the publication *Documents on Australian Foreign Policy, Australia and PNG 1966-1969*** (*Una Voce* Vol 1 March 2007 p35) which needs correcting in the public record. The book launched with fanfare, in Port Moresby in February 2007, by Chris Moraitis, Australian High Commissioner to PNG, claims to be ‘an important resource for historians and any one interested in the relationship between Australia and PNG’... ‘an accurate, comprehensive and impartial record ...’ Then came the bombshell, a letter from Sir David Hay. The Department had sent him a copy of the draft of the Introduction, but, recovering from a severe bout of influenza at 90 years of age, he did not read very far.

In the long Introduction, the book incorrectly claims that the Administrator of PNG, David Hay, ‘was instructed to travel to Bougainville to personally take charge of police operations’. The fundamental error occurred when Document 307, a telex, sent from ‘HAY TO WARWICK SMITH’ on 12 August 1969, was incorrectly attributed as being a document written by Administrator Hay, a record of his activities in the police operations at Rorovana, between 26 July 1969 and 8 August 1969. Administrator David Hay was not personally involved in any physical operations in Bougainville. He did not order that ‘tear smoke should be laid down’ and he did not order that batons be used. He was not even in Bougainville at the time.

Superintendent Brian J Holloway was the officer instructed to travel to Bougainville to personally take charge of police operations under District Commissioner Ashton, being recalled from overseas to do so. Holloway was the only person who could have written the document and has since confirmed that it is his report.

Bill has posted the letter he wrote to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, who published this book, on the Ex-Kiaps website.

We understand that the Department intends to publish a correction in the next volume of the series, which will be released in two to three years time. Meanwhile the uncorrected volume is available from the Department, and at National, State and University libraries around Australia.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Altogether too precious** is the only way I would describe Dr Peter Cahill’s March issue review of Nancy Lutton’s book on the Clelands’ wartime correspondence, *My Dearest Brown Eyes: Letters Between Sir Donald Cleland and Dame Rachel Cleland during World War II*.

Firstly, Dr Cahill takes exception to what he calls ‘the unfortunate title’ because from chapter nine ‘it changes from a love story to a detailed account of ANGAU and its potential for PNG’. There is no denying the change of emphasis, but in my view, as expressed in my review of the book (*Canberra Times*, 23 Dec. 2006), the letters are at core love letters. They take us into the heart of a remarkable marriage which, above all, is a story of enduring love, and that is what the title captures, as well as evincing the feeling between them.

Dr Cahill also objects to the use of the honorifics in the title. However, I believe usage is justified because that is how they were best known in PNG and Australia – as Sir Donald and Dame Rachel. I concur with his point about the paucity of photographs in the book. Presumably that was a miscalculation on the part of the publishers, or it was a casualty of the rush to get the book out before Pandanus Books closed down.

The endearments at the beginning and end of the letters are, to some degree, repetitive, but not word-for-word. A variety of endearments are used. Besides they show an

unexpected side of the Clelands' relationship. Who would have imagined the 'well organised... seemingly somewhat dour and gruff' Sir Donald, always a stickler for the right form and very proper in his relationships, capable of the romantic sentiments expressed in the letters?

Finally, although the publishers did not give it the promotional backing it undoubtedly deserved, the book did have a public launching, in Brisbane, with the honours being done by former NSW and Federal Government minister Wal Fife. This, I thought, was a rather inspired choice. given that Don Cleland, as inaugural director of the Liberal Party's Federal Secretariat, gave Wal Fife his first job shortly after Fife left school.

John Farquharson, Tura Beach, NSW.

### **Steve Saunders writes from Rabaul**

I enjoyed David Ellis's piece on his return to Rabaul on the *Orion* in March 2006 (*Una Voce* No. 1 March 2007, page 22), however a couple of things need to be clarified before they become too entrenched in Rabaul's story.

Firstly only Tavurvur and Vulcan erupted in 1994; *Rabalanakaia categorically did not!* Rabaul Observatory periodically visits the floor of Rabalanakaia's crater to take temperature measurements and gas samples. The crater is 300m across and flat bottomed, with no hole in it, either before or after September 1994. Trees were growing on this flat floor and, although stripped of foliage, were still in position after the Tavurvur eruption. Likewise fumeroles, with names like 'the whale', which had been studied since Dr. Fisher's days in 1937, although partially buried by Tavurvur's ash, were still exactly the same post September 1994. Instrumentally no intense (shallow rock breaking or explosive decompression) seismicity was recorded in that area; at Tavurvur and Vulcan these signals were massive and unmistakable. The rumour that Rabalanakaia erupted probably came about because of a phenomenon still seen today; when strong southeasterly winds blow eddies form and whip up dust from the crater, which even now with a fraction of the loose dust present in 1994 can look like small eruptions. Except for Vulcan's initial explosion, which were on or just north of Vulcan's old coastline there were no sub-marine eruptions. Vulcan did produce pyroclastic flows that rushed out over the sea for up to a kilometre, when these run out of forward momentum, the hot gases rise leading to what are termed 'phoenix clouds'; again these may have appeared to some as separate eruptions.

Secondly, it isn't the case that: 'Matupit Island village has sunk into the harbour'. Between 1971 and 1994 Matupit rose by 2 m, the eruption of September 1994 only caused about 20cm of subsidence, hence the village was still about 1.8 m higher than it had been in the early 1970s. Although a bit rusty and dusty around the edges Matupit village is alive and well. Visiting there this morning the regular bucket-chain of PMV's were bringing in Rabaul's workers, school children, megapod eggs and market Mary's. Many of the Matupit Islanders now have two homes, one at the resettlement blocks, but the most important and primary one - their traditional home at Matupit village. It takes more than a volcano (or two) to get a Tolai to abandon their *balanagunan* [Tolai identity/traditional customs].

Lastly, and at the risk of being called a 'nit picker', Tokua Airport was not one of the five Japanese airstrips (six if you include the small Rakanda strip on the Duke of York Islands). The new airport was carved out of the previously untouched Tokua Plantation. Looking at US army aerial coverage of the Gazelle for 28/3/1944 there are impressive views of Rapopo airstrip, with bomb-pockmarked revetments and runway, but the site of Tokua airport was more bush than plantation, with no sign of anything constructed by man; except for two coastal defence guns at Laweo Point, kindly arrowed by US Intelligence. The Japanese knew better than to build an airstrip perpendicular to the prevailing winds! With Tokua soon to be an international airport we hope more of you will slide-slip in to see us.

# **MINUTES OF THE 56th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF PNGAA HELD AT THE MARIGOLD RESTAURANT, SYDNEY, ON 29 APRIL 2007**

*Meeting opened at 11.40am*

**Present** (as per signatures in Attendance Book):

Joe Nitsche, Marie Clifton-Bassett, Florence Cohen, Pamela Foley, John O'Dea, Harry West, John Stevenson, Ken Weare, Allan Neilsen, Elizabeth Thurston, Ian Reardon, Edna Oakes, Ann Graham, George Oakes, Greta Ryan, Barbara Burns, Laurie Le Fevre, Ross Johnson, Kevin Kerley, Helen Dennett, Pat Kelly, Paul Dennett, Linda Evans, Lynne James (nee Evans), Gabriel Keleny, Nancy Johnston, Margaret Wallace, Alan Johnston, Robin Mead, Stuart Inder, Iain Mitchell, John Mills, Andrea Williams, Betty Smith, Clarrie James, Janet Dykgraaff, Joyce Benson, Murrough Benson, Maureen Pendergast, Dick Graham, Noel Wicks, Marie Day, Frank Smith, Christine James, Jennifer Harris, Steve and Joan Burns, Rebecca Hopper. David Marsh, Margaret Komarek, Pam Tippet, Prue Regan, Jacky Lawes, Fred Kaad, Anne Collins.

**Apologies:** Joan Stobo, Bev Melrose, Pat Johnson, Roma Bates, Donald Ramsay, Chris Johnston, Ros Barrand, Ron and Joan Carne, John Leake.

*Motion that the Minutes of the 55<sup>th</sup> AGM be confirmed*

*Moved Ross Johnson, seconded Gabriel Keleny - Carried*

**Business Arising:** None

**President's Report:** Received with acclamation - reprinted at end of these Minutes.

**Financial Report:** Treasurer

Ross Johnson provided a comprehensive financial report for the year ended 31 December 2006. This included Statements covering Income & Expenditure, Assets & Liabilities and the Auditor's report. An abridged version of these financial statements is shown on page 38. Membership Statistics as at 31 December 2006 were also provided. Mr Johnson said the PNGAA website appeared to be going from strength to strength, that the majority of new members came via the website, and it was becoming increasingly popular for subscription renewals. He added that the membership fee of \$15 per annum may have to be increased next year, however profit from sale of the DVD 'Walk into Paradise' could render this unnecessary for about three years. He stated that after lengthy behind-the-scenes work, the PNGAA now has exclusive rights over the DVD for 10 years.

With regard to information to be sent to the Department of Fair Trading concerning incorporated organisations, Mr Johnson said he would be signatory and Pamela Foley would be the second Public Officer.

*Motion to accept the Financial Report -*

*Moved by George Oakes, seconded by Joe Nitsche - Carried*

## **Reports**

(1) The President commented that 'Una Voce' was the backbone of our organisation and we were very fortunate to have Andrea Williams as editor to carry on the work of Fred Kaad, Doug Parrish and Marie Clifton-Bassett. He then asked Committee members to report on their respective activities: Andrea Williams spoke on 'Una Voce' matters and Elizabeth Thurston on the DVD of 'Walk into Paradise' which will be on sale to members in the very near future. Later in the meeting Rebecca Hopper (daughter of long-time member Pat Hopper) spoke on her fundraising effort as a memorial to her mother - this was in the form of a fund to go towards combatting AIDS in PNG. These talks will be printed as separate items elsewhere in 'Una Voce'.

(2) Fred Kaad spoke regarding superannuation - he advised that legislation which should come into force before 1 July 2007 should benefit superannuants by way of a 10% tax offset. He explained that someone on a pension of, say, \$40,000 pa. should end up with an extra \$4,000 in their hand.

*Cont. over...*

## **Correspondence**

The President said that Pam Foley was in the process of handing over the job of Secretary to Ann Graham. Around 800 letters have been received and attended to, with any letters requiring special consideration going to a meeting of the Committee.

*Motion to accept the Correspondence Report -*

*Moved by Joe Nitsche, seconded by Frank Smith - Carried*

## **Election of Executive and Committee**

The President advised that nominations were received for every office of the Executive and every vacancy on the Committee. (Rebecca Hopper accepted nomination in her mother's place.) There were no excess nominations and the President declared the nominees duly elected unopposed.

**Executive** - President: Harry West; Deputy President: Pamela Foley; Secretary: Ann Graham; Treasurer and Membership Officer: Ross Johnson; Editor *UNA VOCE*: Andrea Williams.

**Committee** - Stephen Burns; Marie Clifton-Bassett; Marie Day; Rebecca Hopper; Nancy Johnston; Fred Kaad; Robin Mead; Joe Nitsche; Ian Reardon; Frank Smith; Elizabeth Thurston.

## **General Business:**

(1) A letter was received from Max Hayes saying he thought the name of our journal should be changed to a name that reflected our PNG origins, aspirations and interests and one which our widespread membership could identify with. General discussion followed, after which it was agreed the matter would be raised in the next issue of *Una Voce* and members asked for their views. Robin Mead suggested that in the first instance members should be asked if they wanted a change. If a change was favoured, then suggestions should be canvassed.

*Clarrie James moved that the letter be received - Agreed*

(2) Future venue for AGM and Christmas Luncheon (note - the old venue, The Mandarin Club, is about to be pulled down):

The President asked Robin Mead from the 'luncheon venues' sub-committee to talk about the sub-committee's findings. He prefaced his remarks by a call for fresh blood on the Committee, saying that without an influx of new members we risk losing continuity in the Association. The sub-committee of three, ie Robin Mead, Andrea Williams and Rebecca Hopper, looked into 15 possible venues. There was applause for Elizabeth Thurston who liaised with the Marigold Restaurant for the holding of the current AGM. Mr Mead said the sub-committee was looking for ambience, a reasonable price, availability of transport and parking, and a location people would be happy with. He said the sub-committee would finalise future arrangements as soon as possible after reporting back to the Committee.

*Meeting closed at 12.55pm.*

## **President's Report - Annual General Meeting - 29 April 2007**

Once again welcome to what should be a fairly short meeting, before we adjourn to some socialising and luncheon. Throughout the year members have been kept abreast of Association activities through our quarterly Newsletter, and we have been fortunate enough to have single nominations for all committee positions - thus avoiding ballots.

It is now 55 years since our organisation was formed in 1952 as the Retired Officers Association of Papua New Guinea to safeguard the superannuation rights of Government officers. The wide expansion of our objects, which we publish in *UNA VOCE* once each year, and the broadening of membership to anyone supportive of the Association's objects, has meant that an organisation that would have now been nearing extinction through attrition, has grown substantially in recent years, and current membership, at 1487, is the highest on record.

The popularity of our informative Newsletter, and keeping abreast of IT mainly through the internet and website, have largely been responsible for this increase, and I am

leaving it to the experts, Andrea Williams and Ross Johnson, to whom we are all enormously indebted for their time, dedication and expertise, to talk to you on these matters.

Following the successful screening in three states of the film *Walk Into Paradise* as part of our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Independence celebrations in 2005, a decision was made to produce a DVD of the film, provided substantial hurdles could be negotiated. Assisted by Ross Johnson, Elizabeth Thurston has applied much time and talent to what has proved to be an enormous task "sourcing and editing original material, and co-ordinating the post production process which has involved many talented people in the film and audio industry, and clearing every inclusion in the DVD for copyright purposes". This first-rate production is, apart from its other outstanding qualities and features, the most comprehensive and accurate depiction of traditional highland dance and dress ever recorded. Elizabeth will speak about this project during the meeting.

Dr Peter Cahill came from Brisbane in March and had useful talks with some of the Committee on the work he is doing with, and at, the Fryer Library, University of Queensland, classifying and preserving documents and historical PNG material. His contribution in time and expertise is amazing, and the importance of his work cannot be over emphasised. There have been many generous donations of material, and sources indicate that further substantial and valuable private collections are likely to find their way to Fryer in due course. Currently access to the material means a visit to the library, and Peter wants to start digitising to give ready access by internet. The proposal will be considered at the next Committee Meeting, and some financing should be our next major project, after development and production costs of *Walk into Paradise* are recouped.

The Australian School of Pacific Administration and its successors operated at Middle Head from 1947 until January 1998. ASOPA, time spent there, and events and people associated with it mean a great deal to many of us. The land and buildings are now in the hands of the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust, and a Draft Management Plan for conservation, protection and public access has been prepared. Items on this subject appeared in *UNA VOCE* June 2006 and March 2007. Several Committee members attended a meeting at the former ASOPA buildings on 31 March 2007, and we will be maintaining contact with the Trust.

We continue to organise a very successful and enjoyable Spring day trip from Sydney to the Blue Mountains each October, and in recent years Edna and George Oakes have very generously made available to us, their lovely house and garden at Woodford, with expansive mountain views. Each Thursday we meet up with Freddie Kaad in the great atmosphere of the *JAM* café at Spit Junction for a light 'Dutch shout' lunch. Anyone who cares to come along is most welcome, and no prior notice is necessary. These Thursday lunches have been a weekly event at various venues around Mosman since 1970, when the late Bill Seale came to town following retirement as DC in Lae.

Last September we were saddened by the passing of our wonderful Pat Hopper who contributed enormously to the Committee, mainly through the Caring Sub-Committee, for 18 years. Fortunately her place has been taken by her daughter Rebecca, who has already made her mark by launching a very successful PNG charitable enterprise as a memorial to her mother. Rebecca will speak on this subject at this meeting.

\$500 was raised at the last Christmas luncheon from the distribution of a CD containing several Melanesian pidgin monologues, prepared and donated by well-known didiman David Montgomery. It is proposed to donate the \$500 to Rebecca's charity. *Cont. over*

It seems there is good news for Superannuant members who can expect a 10% tax offset on their pensions from 1 July 2007. Fred Kaad will have something to say on this matter.

We have kept in close contact with the PNG High Commissioner in Canberra, His Excellency Charles Lepani, have attended two gatherings with him in Sydney and he was the guest speaker at our Christmas luncheon. We also have close links with Paul Nerau LLB, the PNG Consul General in Brisbane. Incidentally we have more members in Queensland than in NSW or any other State or Territory.

Our chief Patron, His Excellency Major General Jeffery, Governor-General, graciously invited me, as President of the Association, to attend a function at Government House Canberra on 20 April to mark the 81<sup>st</sup> birthday of Her Majesty the Queen. We were appropriately represented by our member on the Council of Public Sector Retiree Organisations, Tim Terrell, AM, and his wife Judy.

Our organisation was well represented amongst the hundreds of mourners at the funeral, with full Air Force Honours, of our esteemed and distinguished member, Wing Commander Bobby Gibbes, DSO, DFC and Bar, OAM, on 11 April 2007. Bobby received the OAM in recent years in belated recognition of his substantial contribution to pioneering aviation, agriculture, tourism and hotel development in Papua New Guinea.

Our regional correspondents continue to contribute much by extending our presence and submitting items for *UNA VOCE* - Jim Toner in the Northern Territory, John Kleinig in South Australia, Max Hayes in Victoria, Bob Blaikie in Queensland, and until his recent return to Canberra, Rick Nehmy in PNG. We would like someone to replace Rick Nehmy and also Terry Daw who used to keep us up to date on West Australia happenings. Our gratitude to Life Member and Honorary Auditor Len Bailey, and our thanks to Alan Johnston who for years has donated quality raffle prizes. Greetings and best wishes to long time Patrons and distinguished ex-residents of PNG Roma Bates and Fred Kaad.

For more than 20 years our two annual luncheons have been held at the Mandarin Club and our last Christmas lunch was clearly enjoyed by the 198 who attended. However the ambience of the Club has been in decline in recent times, and future availability uncertain because of the imminent demolition of the building, so we have moved on to the Marigold. A small sub-committee has been established to locate another venue. Robin Mead will open discussion on this issue in General Business.

I have been carried along by a very competent, alert, hard working Committee, and I thank them one and all: Stephen Burns, Marie Clifton-Bassett, Marie Day, Pamela Foley, Ann Graham, Ross Johnson, Nancy Johnston, Freddie Kaad, Robin Mead, Joe Nitsche, Ian Reardon, Frank Smith, Elizabeth Thurston and Andrea Williams.

Finally I would note that more than half of our Committee members are around 80 or beyond, and while we are fortunate that a number of very talented younger people have joined us in recent years, some of us are eager for volunteers to enable us to step down. Personally it is now 25 years since I became Secretary in 1982 and 15 years since I assumed the Presidency in 1993. As I approach my 85<sup>th</sup> birthday I look forward to becoming a back-bencher by the next AGM. ■

# ABRIDGED AUDITED ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

For year ended 31 December 2006

## 1. Statement of Income and Expenditure

2005 (\$)	INCOME	2006 (\$)
322	Donations	50
7,950	Functions (gross receipts - AGM & Xmas)	7,440
1,629	Interest	1,627
20,515	Membership Subscriptions	20,720
896	Raffles	949
524	Tales of Papua New Guinea (net)	499
4,830	“Walk Into Paradise” film screening	
36,666	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	31,285
	<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	
4,568	Administration Expenses	4,836
133	Caring Committee	236
689	Depreciation	218
9,175	Functions (expenditure – AGM & Xmas)	7,394
303	Income Tax	275
2,283	Membership Listing	1,543
130	Subscriptions	130
78	Donations and Contributions	
15,947	Una Voce – printing & distribution	14,636
4,830	“Walk Into Paradise” film screening	
38,136	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	29,268
(1,470)	Surplus / (Deficit) transferred to Members Funds	2,018

## 2. Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2006

2005 (\$)		2006 (\$)
17,753	Current Assets	23,314
12,172	Cash at Bank	19,491
5,529	Stock on hand	3,823
53	Accounts Receivable	
30,029	Investments - Term Deposits	20,029
550	Fixed Assets (written-down value)	332
48,332	<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	43,674
15,529	Current Liabilities	23,936
181	Accounts Payable	
250	Provision for Audit Honorarium	250
303	Provision for Income Tax	275
	Provision for Charitable Donation	405
	Provision for DVD “Walk Into Paradise”	8,104
14,795	Subscriptions in Advance (Year 2006)	14,902
9005	Long Term Liabilities -	
	Subscriptions in Advance (> 2006)	8,617
24,534	<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	32,553
23,798	<b>NET ASSETS</b>	11,121
25,268	Represented by –	
(1,470)	General Reserve	9,103
	Net Surplus (Deficit) for Year	2,018
23,798	<b>TOTAL MEMBER FUNDS</b>	11,121

(The full financial statement together with the Auditor’s Report, as presented to the Annual General Meeting, can be obtained on application to the Secretary)

## HOW CLANCY TOOK THE FIRST LAND ROVER INTO MENDI

By Chips Mackellar

The death of Des Clancy reported in the March 2007 edition of *Una Voce*, must have brought back some fond memories to many of us who knew him. Des was a legend even during his own lifetime, and his exploits spawned many stories. This is my Des Clancy story. It has previously been told in *Taim Bilong Masta*, the ABC radio program and its subsequent book transcript, but in the original broadcast it was somewhat truncated by the limited radio time available. This is the unabridged version:

During 1955 and 1956 I was stationed in the Western Highlands District of PNG. It was a wild frontier of tribal fights, and freezing nights, in the grip of development fever as planters vied for the best coffee land. The Highlands Highway had not then been built, and each Highland town was isolated by road from all the others. The only effective access between them and the coastal supply centres of Lae and Madang was by air. However, networks of roads did snake out from each Highland town, and beyond these there was an extensive network of native walking tracks which could generally accommodate bicycle and motorbike traffic. In theory, it was possible to ride a motorbike from Mount Hagen to Goroka, and a few stalwart heroes did make this journey from time to time, but only by making prior arrangements to have the motorbikes carried up and down the steepest river gorges and other places where there were gaps in the road and walking track systems. It was therefore a major developmental priority to link these District road systems together to form what was later to become the Highlands Highway.

These days in PNG roads are built with foreign aid grants, Christian Mission donations, United Nations development projects, Ausaid, Peace Corps, Community Aid Abroad, and so on, but in those days at Mount Hagen there was no one to do the work except us, and there was no funding for road construction. This meant that there was no modern equipment like bulldozers and graders, and everything was done by manual labour, and to this day, it has never ceased to amaze me that apart from the Kiaps and police involved, no one was paid for the work they did on the roads nor for the land on which the roads were built. Yet, on any given day thousands of Highlanders could be seen working like beavers on road construction.

Already adept at summoning large numbers of their clansmen to attend tribal fights or *sing sings* or *moka* ceremonies, clan leaders were able to muster huge work gangs to build the roads. A gang of anything between 2000 and 3000 warriors was common and endemic clan rivalry between traditional clan enemies invoked intense competition to muster the biggest road construction gang. In this context road construction replaced tribal fighting as a means of establishing the traditional balance of power since lesser clans learned not to mess with the larger clans which could demonstrate their tribal fighting capability, by mustering the biggest road gangs. Therefore, given the huge labor force available it was a simple enough process to construct a road along the valley floors. Two six foot deep parallel ditches were dug, twenty feet apart, and the dirt was thrown into the middle between the ditches. A thousand stamping feet flattened out the surface, and left to bake hard in the sun and rain, the result was a good serviceable road. But along the hill sides, or crossing a mountain range it was a different story. Roads had to be properly graded, and the going was a lot tougher, when hill sides had to be excavated by hand. Most of the digging was done by pointed saplings, and the overburden was removed by hand carried stretchers.



By the time I arrived on the scene, the road network had extended so far out of town that it was no longer practicable to supervise day to day construction from Mount Hagen, so base camps were set up at the road heads. But as there were more roads to be built than kiaps available, sometimes police were co-opted into supervising road construction. I am sure that road building was not part of the curriculum at Bomana Police Training College, but it certainly was a major component of police duties in the Highlands. Some of the police involved became excellent road construction supervisors. One such was Corporal Sandigai. His road camp was in the Nebilyer valley, where he enhanced his road gang recruitment function by a traditional Melanesian method. He discovered that there were seven exogamous clan groupings in his area of operations, so he ‘arranged’ to marry one girl from each clan. All male members of each clan then became his affines, obliged under the Melanesian sanction of reciprocity to assist him whenever he needed their help, and on any given day he had hundreds of affines working happily on his road. It has to be admitted that Sandigai spent most of his time arbitrating demarcation disputes between his “wives” but as time went on he became famous for his road building prowess. However, because of his labyrinthine matrimonial arrangements he also became so embroiled in local politics that eventually he was transferred to Madang without his wives, and in later years he and I did several patrols together there. When Sandigai died, the Police Commander at Madang, Mike Thomas, gave him a magnificent police funeral, complete with flag draped coffin, police escort at slow march with arms reversed, police honour guard, and a police bugler sounding the Last Post. But that is another story.

Actually, there was nothing unique about Sandigai’s matrimonial arrangements, because in a land where wealth was measured in pigs and where the pigs were reared by wives, more wives meant more pigs, more wealth and more influence, and more fealty from more affines. Polygyny was therefore the basis of traditional clan leadership and in establishing his authority over neighbouring clans, all Sandigai really did was to graft the traditional custom of polygyny into his road building program. Incidentally, some of the early white planters made similar arrangements. That is, by ‘marrying’ locally, they acquired a reservoir of affines who became their plantation labourers, and the more wives they had, the more labourers they acquired. Some I knew had six, seven, or even eight local ‘wives’. For the white settlers, this process was helped along by the fact that in those days Hagen girls wore nothing other than a G-string and a pearl shell necklace. However, by Departmental decree these fruits were forbidden to single kiaps building the road system, although there were rumours that because a kiap’s road camp hovel was unlockable, some nubile Hagen girls seeking shelter from the cold night air were want to stray into the warmth of the kiap’s bed.

My road camp was at Tomba, eight and a half thousand feet above sea level, and it was at the end of the road from Mount Hagen. It was a bleak and desolate place, on the slopes of Mount Hagen, (The mountain of Mount Hagen that is, not the town.) But Tomba was an important junction in the road system because from here it was proposed that one branch of the Hagen road would run west to Wabag, while another would run south to Mendi. I was building the beginnings of each branch, both at the same time.

Meanwhile, from Mendi, Des Clancy began building his own road, with the intention of linking up with the southern branch of my road, somewhere in the Kaugel valley along the slopes of Mount Giluwe which is the highest mountain in Papua and which was often capped with snow. The urgency which fueled Clancy’s road was that in those days the Mendi airstrip could only accommodate small aircraft, whereas the Hagen strip

could take DC3's which could carry in vehicles like Land Rovers, tractors and trailers and other equipment. Thus whilst there were several Land Rovers at Hagen, both Government and private, Mendi had no vehicles bigger than a motorbike, and road access to the Hagen airstrip was needed to bring in heavy equipment overland from there. So there I was at Tomba one day, contemplating my mountain vastness when a vehicle drove up from Mount Hagen with a note which said simply:

ARRIVING TOMORROW EN ROUTE MENDI.

PLEASE ASSEMBLE 1000 CARRIERS.

CLANCY

Now Des Clancy was never known to waste words, but he could have spared a few more words for me, because as he did not state the purpose of his visit, I thought he had made a mistake by adding more zeros than intended. A kiap travelling light might use 10 carriers, and with an extended entourage he might need 100. But 1000 carriers? That was not likely. So to be on the safe side, I allocated from my 2000 strong work force at Tomba, 100 carriers to accompany Clancy to Mendi.

The next day, Clancy drove up in a brand new Land Rover with two policemen and a few patrol boxes aboard. I went to meet him and he said 'Have you got my 1000 carriers?' I said, 'Why do you need 1000 carriers?' and he said 'To carry this Land Rover to the Mendi road head.' And I said, 'That's a tall order, why didn't you dismantle it and carry it in bits and put it together again at the other end?'

'No,' Clancy said, 'it would take months to do it that way, and we can't wait for that. We need to carry this Land Rover in now, not in parts, but whole, just like it is.'

'OK,' I said, 'I can supply a thousand carriers from the road gang here, but how will you ever carry it?'

'Ah,' said Clancy, 'I thought you would know how,' and he flashed his famous Clancy smile. My God, I thought, how will we ever do it? Then, sensing my dismay and looking around at the road gang working nearby Clancy asked 'Who is the boss of all these workers?'

'This *Luluai*,' I said, indicating a local clan leader who was standing next to me. 'OK,' Clancy said, 'let him work out how to do it,' and I agreed.

'*Luluai*,' I said in Pidgin, '*Masta* Clancy wants to take this Land Rover to the Mendi Road. Can you carry it?'

'Yassir,' the *Luluai* said without hesitation. He obviously had a better idea of how to do it than we did. So I ceased all work on my road so that my road gang could concentrate all their efforts on the task of preparing the Land Rover for portage to the Mendi Road.

'We better go into conference,' Clancy said, 'while they decide how to do it,' and he asked his police to carry one of his patrol boxes into my grass hut. After they had deposited it there and departed, Clancy sat down and opened the patrol box. It was full of beer bottles, packed in ice. 'It's going to be thirsty work figuring out how they plan to carry it,' Clancy said, 'lets have a beer.'

And while we sat inside my hut wondering how they were going to carry the Land Rover, Clancy told me why he had to take the Land Rover into Mendi fully assembled. And the reason was that unlike the Hagen road gangs which already knew the reason for the roads they built, the Southern Highlands road gangs were becoming disillusioned because they could not see the point of building roads which were 20 feet wide, when the only vehicles in Mendi were bicycles and motor bikes, and these could obviously use the existing walking tracks. The Mendi people had never seen a four wheeled vehicle before, and because they had no concept of the vehicular traffic which a road would bring Clancy said, a practical demonstration was required. He needed to drive

the Land Rover along the Mendi roads so the people would see why the roads were necessary.

Meanwhile, outside my grass hut there was much hollering and yodelling and crashing of timber, and grunting and groaning and shouted commands, and a full cacophony of sounds as my road gang set about its new task. One hour dragged by, then two, then three, while Clancy and I sat inside, concentrating on the contents of his patrol box. Finally, one of Clancy's policemen came to the door and said 'We're ready to go, Sir.' So Clancy and I went outside, and we were amazed at what we saw.

You see, just as the Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels carried wounded diggers down the Kokoda Track on stretchers made from bush material, so my road gang carried the road work overburden away in similar stretchers. So, when it came to carrying Clancy's Land Rover to the Mendi Road, all that they needed was a bigger stretcher. And that is exactly how they did it. They had cut down two tall casuarina trees, used the trunks for stretcher poles, and they cross tied the branches as the stretcher bed. Then they lifted the Land Rover onto the bed and lashed it securely there, and with 1000 carriers all strung out on either side of the tree trunks both fore and aft of the Land Rover, they were ready to go. When Clancy gave the command, they all gave one almighty heave ho, lifted the stretcher to shoulder height and away they went. But there was a steep escarpment leading down to the valley below, and we had not yet found a way around it for vehicular traffic. The native track to the valley floor went down the escarpment in a straight line from top to bottom, as native mountain tracks always did. And as there was nowhere else to go, that is the way the Land Rover had to go. That is, straight down. But once over the lip of the escarpment, pointing down like a toboggan on a slippery slope, the Land Rover developed a momentum of its own, and the carriers had to run to keep up with it. I watched from the top of the escarpment as 1000 carriers yodelled and yelled in unison as they ran down the slope to the valley below, with Clancy running behind. I lost sight of them as they disappeared into the gathering valley mist, but for hours afterwards I continued to hear the yodelling and yelling floating up from the valley floor from miles and miles away until it slowly fading into the misty middle distance.

I heard later that like a conquering Roman Emperor, Clancy made a triumphant entry into Mendi, except that instead of driving a chariot as any conquering Roman Emperor might, Clancy drove his Land Rover but with equal panache and flair. Word had spread like wild fire, and from the road head where my carriers had delivered the Land Rover, all the way to Mendi, thousands of people lined the route to see their first four wheeled vehicle, and to learn the reason why they were building their roads. Meanwhile, back at Tomba I discovered that Clancy had left the patrol box full of beer behind, so for several weeks thereafter, I drank his health every day in gratitude. So that is how I acquired a patrol box full of beer, and that is how Clancy took the first Land Rover into Mendi. ■

## FILM MAKING IN THE SEPIK - SEPIK PATROL

*The following extracts are from letters sent to Isobel Pert from her husband, Jack, who was Captain of the Taynna. They describe the making of the film 'Sepik Patrol', part of the High Adventure series with Lowell Thomas from America. Of particular relevance and interest Jack mentions Lee Robinson who was of course the director of Walk into Paradise.*

**Angoram 24<sup>th</sup> July 1957**

Dear Is

I'm afraid this will be very short but the chaps are going to Madang today to photograph the arrival of Lowell Thomas from America, the trip has been very interesting so far, the chaos at most times is hard to believe, I won't try to explain here but will sit down and write the whole trip up in instalments and post them when possible. Yesterday and the day before I was up and down in front of the cameras anchoring, turning and going back to do it again, to the laymen it all seems so mixed up, but they seem very happy with the whole thing.

The old *Taynna* is the feature ship, all the way through I have to dress the ship, hide the big motors under canvas, every detail has to be remembered to keep the continuity going. I have to wear the same shirt in every scene, everyone has to be in the same position for the next. I'm not allowed to wear any shoes so I have to get my shirt washed and dried when ever I have a chance, silly me went and wore that grey one that I only have one of, instead of wearing one of those black and white check ones that I have about six of.

The scenes were most impressive and I would love to see it on film. The *Taynna* was coming into the village, down the main street which is a big Barat and as I was anchoring about fifty canoes came racing down and split each side of us, they were loaded with hundreds of natives, cheering and shouting, it was really impressive.

Monday we created history by running a short of *Walk Into Paradise* in the centre of an enormous lake, *Taynna* had the motors running, the *Winbirra* had the sound equipment on it, and was along side of me, at the back we tied a double canoe with the projector on it with a screen built on the front. The Kanakas came in hundreds and sat in their canoes in a great circle, to make it more impressive, there was a great fire raging through the kunai and pit-pit and it was really a wonderful experience. The picture was shown in Angoram Sunday and a great crowd gathered to see it. The *Yankee* left here the morning that I arrived and we passed in mid stream near Marienburg.

Our movements are as they stand at the moment, the Americans arrive tomorrow and Friday we set off up river, to get to the May River it will take us about 10 or 11 days travelling, but en route we will be shooting at different villages so I am not sure how long the whole thing will last, but, if they stick to their schedule, which they have to date, they have to be in Tahiti to start shooting a picture called, Stowaway, but I am the feature ship and have all the stores on so I will have to stay on strength till the equipment has been disposed of so it should be a very profitable little episode...

All the chaps are good and very friendly and makes life easier.

All my love

John

## Sepik River

28<sup>th</sup> Sunday

Dear Isobel,

I had intended to write a continuous letter of the trip so far but I have decided to write a few short extracts and compile the full story later, it has been so interesting so far that it deserves doing properly.

The whole thing is for a television show in America running for one hour, but I believe that it is to be run on all theatre circuits later, and will be released in Australia after the American season.

The picture is to be called *High Adventure* and features a Sepik patrol attempting to contact the May River people, this was where the massacre occurred some time back. The May River people captured a *meri* of the other tribe and they are using her to go in and try and bring the people back to their villages, at the moment they have fled into the bush in fear of reprisal raids. The administration have hopes of making peace with these warring tribes but I fear it will take more than a small patrol to convince them.

After the Kambaramba Lake scenes, we returned to Angoram to prepare for the long trip up to the head waters of the Sepik...

Our party consists of Lee Robinson, Director of this picture and *Walk Into Paradise*, Lowell Thomas, top sports commentator, News caster and television announcer, Gilbert Ralson, head of the Columbia Broadcasting System television circuit, both these are Americans, Carl Kaiser, head cameraman, Keith Loon and Bobby ? of the camera department. Allan Allan, the senior sound technician in Australia. These all have their line of assistants, the electrical dept. consists of Johnny Williams, Tex Foote, Cyril Bird, Eddy Waddel, and a nicer crowd you could not find.

At 0800 Hrs on the 27<sup>th</sup>, we set off from Koonjambie for Timbunke, en route we had to dress ship, all cargo was covered, for the sake of continuity every detail had to be attended to, such as I had to have the same shirt on, the boys the same lap laps, water bags and towells all had to be in the same position and it takes a bit of remembering. Joy Cavill is a wizard in this department, she remembers everything.

After lunch, the director Lee Robinson came on board followed by a swarm of camera men, electrical tech's, grip men, (These rig up all the props and set the scenes up. The main camera was set up on a double canoe tied alongside the *Taynna* as we were sailing along. An enormous light, better known on board as 'The Brute' was set up near the cabin facing the steering wheel. This light, believe it or not can produce a light almost twice as bright as the sun. The heat when facing it is like the breath off a furnace, and impossible to look at. The light was switched on and checked with a light meter, and the light had to be turned down to bring it equal to the sun.

The scene being shot was Gilbert Ralston and Lowell Thomas studying a chart of the river and approaching Angoram, I was on the wheel endeavouring to look intelligent which under the hot breath of 'The Brute' made it very uncomfortable, the scene was taken several times from different angles and for different sequences of the film later; it is marvellous how it ever comes together at the finish. We were in front of the cameras for an hour and a half this period.

After this invasion, we proceeded up river to Timbunke, here we tied up for the night, the banks of the river are getting higher the further we proceed.

At 0830 Hrs on the 28<sup>th</sup>, we left Timbunke and proceeded up river, the terrible monotony of the Sepik has to be seen to be believed, flat country and only Marienburg

and Angoram the only high spots, Pit-Pit and Sago palm and swamps breeding untold millions of every type of insect that creeps, crawls and flies. The only bird life encountered is the stately looking white crane who struts along the banks. This bird the natives call '*Watch bilong Puk-Puk*'.

They say that wherever there is a crocodile on the bank there is a white crane. I think the crocodile sees the bird there and sleeps on the bank, the first sign of danger the bird flies away, in doing so wakes the croc, and into the water he goes. There are many types of parrots, scream-flocks of white cockatoo's near the coast, the black cockatoo is not so plentiful but there is one type an enormous black one with a blue face that stands about three feet high. The kokomo, better known to us as the Hornbill is always seen flying in pairs, the wind rushing through their wings can be heard along way off. We proceeded on towards Ambunti, examining villages to get the best material, eventually we stopped at 'Awatip' an insignificant place but the best of a bad lot, and prepared to shoot stuff for tomorrow...

Well dear the plane is due in a few minutes and I must rush this off.

Cheers for now.

All my love,

John

**Ambunti**

**31<sup>st</sup> July 1957**

Dear Isobel,

Well, darling, as dawn broke this morning we could see what a pretty place Ambunti is. After the endless miles of Pit-Pit, Pandanus and Nipa palm the surrounding country started to get higher and eventually we started to enter the lower foothills of the ranges that are the water shed of the many rivers that enter the Sepik. The area is a very welcome change from the last 200 miles of grass and more grass. The bush is festooned with closely packed trees, vines and ferns, with creepers hanging to the ground - a blaze of scarlet red flowers. Clouds of shrieking parakeets, the harsh screech of black cockatoo's make it feel like anywhere but the Sepik. But this is only a pleasant interlude between a long and not very pleasant journey, the heat and most of all boredom, having nothing to do. But then suddenly the formation of the convoy starts to alter, it becomes restless, canoes start to go alongside the *Tangalooma*, the red flag is flown from the mast head, this means that they want to get into radio communication with us. All ships are fitted with small portable radios. Then the panic starts, we receive instructions to prepare for shooting. Cameras are tossed onto canoes, the *Winburra* and *Tangalooma*, who are not allowed to be seen in the film, start to increase speed to pass us and go ahead to be out of the way, the two canoes converge on us one each side, disgorging a swarming mass of technicians, tons of gear, the electricians who live on board, rip up the hatches and drag out the 'Brute' the big lamp I mentioned before, I understand that this is the biggest lamp in use in the world, its power is 27000 watts and is almost twice as bright as the sun, reflectors, sound equipment, and people litter the decks. To a native it must be a terrifying sight, it's rather frightening to me, let alone them. The peak of all this madness comes when the big generator is started and it fairly screams to feed the 'Brute'. Then we try our parts, under the heat of the lamps, the sun and the withering looks of the director, cameramen, continuity and technicians, among all this screaming madness comes 'Standby' then, as everyone tightens up, comes 'Action' - this is the moment that only take 20 seconds perhaps to film, and

hours to prepare. You imagine you are doing it as you were instructed, but suddenly the director yells ‘Cut’ and that is a sure sign that you have made a mess of something, or you wore the wrong expression or something. Then you start all over again, maybe five or six times, till you do it properly.

After this invasion, everyone goes back to their own ship and relaxes. The powers that be read over their script, and we have a meal perhaps 3 to 4 hours late and everyone is temporarily happy...

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Aug.

Today was a big day as we were under the cameras nearly all day and was it hot, the highlight of the day was the official entering into the uncontrolled territory, Thomas, Ralston and myself were photographed at the hoisting of the ‘Explorers Flag’ – it is a flag that very few men in the world are entitled to fly. The Explorers club of America has approximately 1000 members, to fly the flag of the club you must have been on at least seven major expeditions somewhere in the world. Lowell Thomas is one of those few who are entitled, there were only 4 countries in the world he has not visited, New Guinea was one of them. I was filmed with him as he hoisted his flag on the *Taynna*, it was quite an event. Members of this club are very well known explorers such as Admiral Byrd, Shackleton, Wilkins and lots of others.

You can imagine that I was very proud to see the old girl with this flag at the mast-head, leading a very impressive convoy into one of the last of the head hunting and cannibalistic areas. Snooks was very sarcastic about it as he and the *Winbirra* had to get out of sight every time the cameras came near me. Thomas is a very nice old chap and we get on very well together. He is a man of 65 years, active as any person in the party. He has been recording daily broadcasts to America and I have featured in many of them. He made glowing references about the efficiency of Lee Robinson and his party, and this will look very good on the television circuit; it may even come out to Australia. ■



Samarai cottage, circa 1906.  
Photos courtesy Mrs Pat Shea and Kevin Lock.

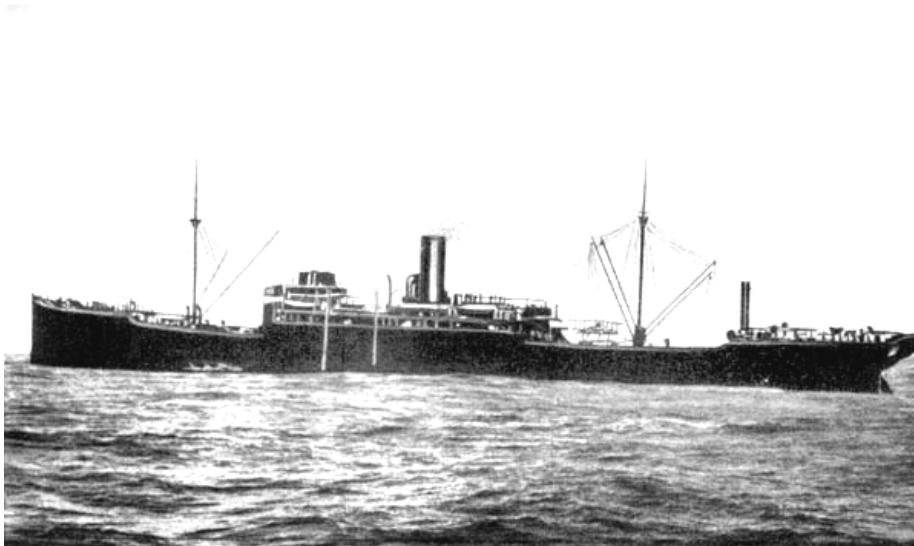
Our member Kevin Lock, through a chance encounter, met Mrs Pat Shea, the grand-daughter of Master Mariner Soren Nelson. Letters written by Soren Nelson to his wife, a newspaper cutting from the North Queensland Register, and a number of photographs showing Samarai and part of the Trobriands, all taken circa 1906, now appear on our website.

## 'WINGS OF CANVAS' OR EARLY FLIGHTS IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA

By **Steve Saunders**, of the Rabaul Historical Society

As James Sinclair records in his history *Wings of Gold* (1978) the start of civil aviation in PNG was in 1922. Sinclair mentions that two military aircraft (or 28% of Australia's air force!) were shipped to PNG in November 1914 to aid in the take-over of German New Guinea, but Germany's capitulation occurred rapidly, and the planes were not unpacked. If we explore the military side of aviation a little more, the fleeting shadows of some almost forgotten wings appear over the Solomon Sea up to half a decade earlier than commercial interests.

Australia took control of German possessions in the South-west Pacific in late 1914, but Germany didn't leave the upstart Australians in peace for the rest of the war. The German raiders *Wolf* and *Seeadler* arrived on the scene in 1917, and of special interest is the fact that the *Wolf* carried a seaplane, a Friedrichshafen FF33E, nicknamed *Wölfchen* or "The Young Wolf", during what was to become a 15-month, 100,000 km pirates' odyssey.



The German raider *Wolf*, parts of her hull are false and would drop to reveal six 15 cm guns, four 50 cm torpedo tubes and numerous smaller weapons. Her most useful weapon however, the seaplane *Wölfchen*, can be seen aft of the main superstructure, next to the mast.

On 6<sup>th</sup> Aug. 1917 the *Wolf* captured the Burns Philp steamer *Matunga* while it was enroute from Sydney and then only a few hours steaming time from Rabaul. The *Wolf* had earlier intercepted a radio message from the *Matunga* giving away the fact that she was carrying 500 tons of navy coal and was due to reach Rabaul on 7<sup>th</sup> Aug. The Germans, short of coal, were soon lurking at an appropriate spot south of Saint George's Channel, and at intervals over the next few days the recently rebuilt seaplane was sent aloft searching for their quarry. Soon after 7:45 pm on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> Aug. the pilot and navigator, Paul Fabeck and Mathaus Stein, sighted the *Matunga*. The seaplane returned to the *Wolf*, and through the night the ship shadowed their unsuspecting prey.

The plane was re-launched at 07:00 am on the 6<sup>th</sup> and, now flying a German Imperial Navy battle flag from a wing strut, the crew soon made their nationality and intent known to the Australians. According to Frederic Traves, who wrote about being a prisoner aboard the *Wolf* for five months (1919), the little *Wölfchen* on her own forced the Rabaul bound ship to heave to, probably by the navigator displaying its bombs. The *Wolf* caught up, and the *Matunga* was boarded – to the particular dismay of 16 members of the Rabaul military garrison, including a colonel, a major and three captains, who were returning from leave in Australia.





„Wölfchen“, das erste Seeflugzeug, das von einem Kriegsschiff aus auf hoher See verwendet wurde

The *Wölfchen* aboard the German raider *Wolf*. This was probably the first aircraft to fly in PNG air space, early August 1917. To keep their nationality and military intent secret the *Wölfchen* was unmarked. The above markings were added for propaganda purposes on the *Wolf*'s return to Germany.

With the *Wolf* escorting, the *Matunga*, with a prize crew aboard, sailed up the east coast of New Ireland before turning west, passing close to Manus, heading for Waigeo Island (the large island floating above the beak of West Papua's bird's head). Here the *Matunga* was finally looted of all useful cargo, including two or three horses which were later eaten, and a bonus 1,000 tons of coal not mentioned in the intercepted radio message. She was then sunk.

During this voyage around the periphery of the New Guinea islands, it is probable that the *Wölfchen* would have been aloft often to warn the *Wolf* of the approach of Australian or Japanese warships (our allies in the 1914-18 war) or of potential prey. So almost certainly the first few flights in the air space of PNG were made by a German Friedrichshafen seaplane called the *Wölfchen* beginning a couple of days before 5<sup>th</sup> Aug. 1917, although it is unlikely it ever touched land. On its return to Germany the *Wölfchen* was nationally feted. The little worn-out seaplane was used extensively for propaganda photos and consigned to a museum. The High Command even commissioned a copy to undertake morale-lifting public appearances.

And what of the *Matunga*'s passengers – those Rabaul residents, military men and crew expecting to disembark at the sleepy backwater of Rabaul? With over 400 captives from other vessels, most of the military men and the crew of the *Matunga* spent seven months on board the *Wolf*, and were then interned in Germany until the war ended. The women and children, and civilian males of non-military age, and a couple of army medical officers, were transferred to a prize ship. These people, having travelled into the Arctic Circle still wearing the clothes they were captured in, finally escaped when the ship ran aground on 24<sup>th</sup> Feb. 1918 on the Danish coast, at the very gates of a wintry, war ravaged and starving Germany.

Meanwhile during their overseas adventures several Australian naval ships took on the role of float plane carriers for the Royal Naval Air Service (RNAS) and gained much experience with several types of seaplane. In Oct. 1917 Commander Cumberland of *HMAS Brisbane*, now minus her RNAS seaplane and patrolling around New Guinea and the Solomons, was saying “the ideal method of watching this part of the world would be by seaplane; the smallest type could always find smooth water from which to operate”. But at that time there were no such aircraft available to the Australians. Plans or funding at least for a Royal Australian Naval Air Service were still someway off when peace broke out on 11<sup>th</sup> Nov. 1918.

The RAN was not to stay flightless for long, however. In 1920 two AVRO 504L twin-seat float planes were included in Britain's Imperial Gift Scheme to Australia of 128 aircraft. AVRO 504L - H3042 was placed onboard *HMAS Melbourne* on 29<sup>th</sup> Sep. 1920 and the ship set out for New Guinea. This was a public relations exercise to impress the

populace of the recently Mandated territories with British technology and show the Australian flag, specifically at “localities with the greatest number of German Companies and Planters”. H3042 was photographed on the beach in Rabaul during this trip; unfortunately it would appear it was paddled there!

Although AVRO 504L H3042 was to become the second aircraft to fly in PNG air space, the cruise was seen as a failure. The main report on the trip, filed as *HMAS Melbourne Cruise to Mandate Islands. Failure of Seaplane allotted by Air Board for Cruise*, is stamped *Confidential*, and forgotten.



A crowd inspect the impotent AVRO 504L H3042 in Rabaul Oct. 1920. It was the second aircraft to fly in PNG, and the first to break down!

The report states that whilst in the Woodlark Islands on 11-12th Oct., H3042 actually rose 200 feet into the air with Ft Lt Freyer-Smith at the controls - “greatly impressing the natives”, but then had to land due to engine problems in the “very hot and damp” air. The *Melbourne* then carried on to Rabaul arriving 14<sup>th</sup> Oct., but despite a change of aero-engine there were no more flights in the plane. On the 20<sup>th</sup> the *Melbourne* left the seaplane in Rabaul for further tests and continued on to New Ireland. But the Commodore was still optimistic when he left, instructing Freyer-Smith and observer “to carry out a survey of Mioko harbour etc”.

The *Melbourne* returned to Rabaul on the 25<sup>th</sup> to embark the seaplane, but there had been no survey. The plane had made fruitless dashes across Simpson Harbour in an attempt to get airborne, and there is the comment - “the affect on the natives of the inability of the seaplane to fly was bad, as the Germans will put it about that a German machine would have done so...” The exploits of the *Wölfchen* were well known by this time, at least three books having been written about it. The *Wölfchen* had managed 56 reconnaissance flights and spent 61 hours and 25 minutes in the air during the *Wolf's* voyage. But by the time the *Melbourne* returned to Australia, H3042 had one truncated flight of perhaps three or four minutes to her credit. As a foil to what the German's were 'putting about' the Commodore 'endeavoured to initiate a propaganda that the machine was not a real seaplane but only a land machine experimentally converted with an unsuitable engine lacking in reserve of power necessary for flying in damp tropical air...'. This may explain the rather strange title of the AWM's image of the AVRO at Rabaul - 'Conversion of hmas melbourne rabaul, new guinea.jpg.'

In the AVRO's defence, there must have been serious mechanical, fuel, or maintenance issues, not just “hot and damp air”. A seaplane's lot is to operate in damp air, and the model had flown in many hotter and humid places; the design was well liked and usually known for its reliability. When working properly, the AVRO had a better power-to- weight ratio than the Friedrichshafen. When they got back to Cairns, H3042

got to 2000 ft, but still the engine's "revolutions" were not considered sufficient for a safe public display and an anticipated public demonstration was cancelled.

The Commodore of the *Melbourne* noted that he hoped that - "if possible, machines which will fly for certain, may be sent up next year". But it looks like a military aircraft did not make it back to Rabaul until 1926 when Group Captain Williams and McIntyre toured PNG and the Solomons in a DH-50A aircraft fitted with floats.

The final comment on the Australian Air Board's début in PNG is a hand-written scrawl (dated 7 Jan 1921) on the front page of the report, which notes: "Report has been perused. The Air Board is now taking steps to obtain 12 up-to-date seaplanes each with an engine of 375 HP from London for use from HMA ships". Six Fairey IIID seaplanes were on the books by the end of 1921, bought by the RAN, but received by the newly formed RAAF. So the cruise was not a complete failure, as the experience gained ensured that when the Australian Air Force came into being in March 1921 (made 'Royal' in August that year) it was to get state-of-the-art seaplanes.

There is some irony in the fact that the first aircraft to visit Rabaul was an AVRO 504, as in 1921 Japan acquired 30 of them – 20 land and 10 float planes. These were used as trainers for naval pilots and then the fledgling Nakajima Aircraft Manufacturing Company started production of the model, honing their skills before they started to produce designs of their own. So perhaps it could be imagined that in 1942 the descendants of that first AVRO were returning to Rabaul to prove what could actually be done.



To commemorate PNG's almost forgotten earliest wood and canvas flights, 90 and 87 years ago, the Rabaul Historical Society has been preparing 1:19 scale models of the Friedrichshafen and AVRO for the New Guinea Club Museum. Thus AVRO 504L, H3042, finally flies over Rabaul (model in front of a mural at the museum).

**Footnote:**

Incidentally, H3042 had been the first aircraft to land on the Yarra River 26 June 1920. After the New Guinea cruise fiasco she was relegated to shore bases and became A3-47 in 1921, and in 1926 was "converted to spare parts" (military parlance for scrapped!). And if anybody has any more information about the 1920's flights over Rabaul, I would be interested to hear. Meanwhile, special thanks to: **David Loh**, who came across an old, oddly titled and undated photo of a seaplane at Rabaul; **Jon Woodhead**, of the University of Melbourne, who helped fish the 1920 cruise report from the bowels of the NAA in Melbourne and sent me copies of relevant pages; and **Erica Ryan**, of the NLA, who pointed me in the direction of a couple of web documents. ■

## **MACQUARIE BANK SPORTS – Joeys Old Boy PNG Tour (2006)**

**By Kori Chan**

In November 2006, Kori Chan of South Sea Horizons (PNG based inbound tour operator) was involved in organizing the inaugural Macquarie Bank Sports tour to PNG. Macquarie Bank Sports is the foundation body of Macquarie Bank with its primary objective being to reach out to children in remote locations around the world through sport. The tour included the Sydney team participating in the PNG Rugby Sevens Tournament and in conducting two rugby clinics for local youth groups in Port Moresby and Rabaul.

**PNG 7's Tournament** - The tournament included 16 teams (15 local teams from various provinces and 1 from overseas). It was held over two days in the hot and dry conditions of Port Moresby. The Macquarie Bank Sports – Joeys Old Boys were placed in one of the tougher pools, having to first face up to the 2005 defending champions Goroka the followed by Madang and Bouganville. The tourists managed to top the pool and on day 2 qualified for the CUP grand final after beating the local Port Moresby representative team in the Quarter final and then the Kavieng District team in the Semi final. The Cup grand final saw the Old Boys come up against the invitational Rugby League team from Mendi. The highlanders proved to be too fit and fast for the tourists in the final ending the tournament with a 36-17 scoreline. The victorious Mendi Menjals were awarded PGK20,000 for first place and the runners up received PGK5,000. The Joeys Old Boys association in PNG decided to put the prize money from the tournament towards a development program being designed and organized by South Sea Horizons Kori Chan and Alan Manning as well as various business houses in Port Moresby. The Association is called the PNG Junior (Rugby Union) Association and it is aiming to establish a development program for Rugby Union in PNG.

**Youth Rugby Clinics** - Two rugby clinics were conducted by the Macquarie Bank Sports touring team. The first was held in Port Moresby at Barva oval of which 150 local students from the Gerehu and Hanubada compounds attended. The students were aged between 7-13. The second clinic was held in Rabaul at the Sacred Heart International Primary School oval. This clinic attracted students from Kokopo primary (Vunapope International, Rabaul International, Raluana Primary), Malaguna primary and secondary school, SHIPS and Vuvu primary.

The clinic promoted to the children healthy lifestyles, importance of sport and education. Stations were setup on the Rugby paddock which taught the youths about the different aspects of playing Rugby Union – Rucking and mauling, passing, kicking, tackling and communication. At the end of each clinic, each student received a gift pack from Macquarie Bank Sports which comprised of a boot bag, mini football and water bottle. From the success of this tour, South Sea Horizons and Macquarie Bank Sports are hoping to establish an ongoing rugby clinic program to be held as an annual event and tour.

**PNG Junior Rugby Union Association – The JRU** - Kori Chan and Alan Manning have acquired support from various local business houses in Port Moresby and Rabaul to assist with the forming of the PNG JRU. The PNG JRU aim to develop and implement a Rugby development program for youths in PNG. The JRU is currently in the preliminary stage of development but it is attracting strong support from the right people on the ground. It aims to be an established body that can retain its connection with overseas sporting bodies and foundations like Macquarie Bank Sports and also through Alan Manning's connections with the NSW Waratahs.

*[Kori is the son of Maria and Michael Chan]*

**VALE – With deep regret we record the passing of the following members and friends**  
**Philip Leslie OAKLEY** (26 May 2006, aged 82 years)

Philip was born in Worcester in England and migrated to Australia with his parents as a small child, completing his education at Scots College in Sydney. He finished school during the Second World War and joined the RAAF soon after. Following on from his initial training he was posted to Number 10 squadron to serve on Sunderland flying boats based in Plymouth on the south coast of England.

After the war Phil joined Qantas and applied to go to Papua New Guinea in 1947 he was seconded to the Australian Petroleum Company operating the Grumman Widgeon VH-AZ0. He flew around the western areas of Papua for several years until he returned to Qantas to fly the Catalina service on the coast to Rabaul and the islands. In 1957 he was posted to Lae to fly the DC-3 aircraft and was appointed Chief Pilot in 1958. When TAA took over the Qantas operations in PNG in 1960 he returned to Sydney before being seconded to Fiji Airways for a short time, where he filled the role of Operations Advisor. Following on from his time in Fiji he flew for Qantas eventually converting to fly the Boeing 707 which he flew until they were phased out of operation in the late 1970s. He retired from Qantas in 1979.

Phil married Nance Sefton in Port Moresby in 1948 and a daughter Pamela and son Christopher were born in due course. He flew for 13 years in PNG and grew to love the country in his time there. He was proud to receive an award recognising his service to the country on the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Independence.

Phil is survived by his wife Nance, daughter Pamela and son Christopher.

Chris Oakley

**Samuel PINIAU OBE**, (1941-2007, aged 67 years)

Samuel Piniau, from Rakatop village near Kokopo, was the founding Chairman of the National Broadcasting Corporation of PNG. The son of a pastor in the Gazelle Peninsula, Sam had a brilliant career and a very full life. He was a strong advocate of media freedom and impartiality in broadcasting, even when there was almost irresistible political pressure. His life story is told in more detail on page 23.

His first wife Atu predeceased him. He is survived by his second wife, Dulcie, and six children – Guise, Aarol, Evah, Gladish, Dianna and Sam Junior and five grandchildren. His funeral service at Rakotop was attended by 700 people.

Keith Jackson AM

**Richard (Len) AISBETT** – 25 February 2007, aged 76

Born in Scarsdale, Victoria, Len worked for the Commonwealth Bank in Ballarat and Melbourne before applying for and being accepted as a Cadet Patrol Officer in 1951 and after a short course at ASOPA was posted to the Namatanai (New Ireland district). From there he was posted to Balimo, Western District. In 1956 whilst on a one year course at ASOPA in Sydney he met and married Margaret.

In 1957 he was posted to the Sepik where he was stationed at Vaimo, Telefomin, Aitape and Angoram, before going to Mt Hagen where he was stationed until 1972. His final posting was to Port Moresby where he was seconded to the Prime Minister's Department as Assistant Secretary, Management Services.

Len and Margaret returned to Australia to live in 1976 and settled in Geelong. In 1977 Len joined Millers Rope works and was to see several takeovers before he retired as the Personnel and Industrial Relations Manager with Boral/Kinnears, on his 60<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Len is survived by his wife Margaret and three daughters, Lynn, Cathy and Karen.

Karen Aisbett

## **Wing Commander Robert 'Bobby' Gibbes DSO, DFC and Bar, OAM**

(11 April 2007, aged 90 years)

For anyone who has done business or had a long term interest in New Guinea, their ability to succeed was more than likely impacted by the pioneering efforts of Bobby Gibbes. It is therefore with great sadness we announce his recent passing. Bobby, as he was known to everyone, died in Mona Vale Hospital Sydney three weeks shy of his 91st birthday.

The many obituaries that have been printed since his death speak of a war hero, an adventurer, a pioneer and reveal a life worthy of a Hollywood block buster. The main difference was that Bobby's exploits were real.

Born in country New South Wales in 1916, he spent time in his youth as a jackaroo working the land. When war broke, he was determined to be a fighter pilot. At just over 5 feet tall, he had to cheat his height as he was under the minimum allowed for the air force.

His exploits in WWII were well documented - bravery awards of a DSO, DFC and BAR - made him a hero to all of Australia. It was this time in the desert, with makeshift landing strips, constant moving of base that gave him a grounding for his time in PNG.

After the war, civilian life in Australia was not his cup of tea. In 1946 he came to New Guinea, saw opportunity, and more importantly for such a daredevil, he saw adventure. He set up Gibbes Sepik Airways (GSA) that serviced both the Sepik and the remote highlands. Over a period of many years, he created airstrips in remote areas - inaccessible and inhospitable. Such was the unregulated, primitive locale that attracted Bobby. The arrival of GSA meant that supply drops to government patrol officers, explorers and locals could be made - the catalyst to the opening up of the highlands. In one of his earliest landings in the highlands, he arrived in a small aircraft with his new wife Jeannie (and his red kelpie Paddy - anyone who knew Bobby, also knew Paddy Gibbes). Confused by the landing of this enormous silver bird, the natives were amazed. When Bobby emerged from the bird, the men of the tribe carried him off to confirm he was one of them. Satisfied this animal was a man, they scoured the plane to establish its sex - what sort of bird was this? He sold GSA in the late 50s to Mandated Airlines.

His next venture was coffee. As a pioneer in coffee, tea and other farming pursuits, he created the infrastructure for agricultural businesses to thrive in the highlands. He was always innovative and while others were battling with fuel-driven devices, he used the gravity flow of water to drive a generator to power his coffee factory. Bobby was committed to the development of PNG and, by passing his knowledge and expertise to the local tribes, he helped educate and advance the native population. He raised a family there, making a home with Jeannie and their two daughters on their coffee plantation between Goroka and Mt Hagen.

In the mid 60s, he moved into hospitality with the conversion of his house into the first hotel in the region. The Bird of Paradise Hotel in Goroka remains today one of the key hotels of the region. He was the founder of Tourist Hotels of New Guinea and remained active on the board for many years.

Bobby thrived on "No, it can't be done". It just made the challenge more inviting. At his funeral service in Sydney, his wife Jeannie quoted long time friend and supporter Sid Neilsen who said of Bobby: "He tackled things that no sensible man would." Jeannie added, "and he was always successful". The stories of Bobby will be told and retold for years. In 2004, he was awarded the Order of Australia medal for his services to New

Guinea - an accolade well overdue. In 1980, he was honoured on the Australian TV program "This is Your Life". His surprise guest was Poppa, the Gibbes' houseboy for over 25 years. Poppa spoke of the drums that told him he had to go to Australia for Master Bob. The drums again will be talking of Masta Bob - such was his impact and respect.

He is survived by Jeannie his wife of 62 years, daughters Julie and Robyn, and five grandchildren.

Robin and Greg Apps

**Raymond Burt DODD** (24 January 2006, aged 71 years)

After serving 12 years in Victoria Police, he joined RPNGC as a Sub Inspector on 27.6.1969 on a 12 year contract, this then being the usual contract period for appointments. He served throughout PNG but largely at Rabaul, Lae, Wewak, Mendi and Mt Hagen. He was retrenched on 30.9.1975. On returning to Australia he became a hotel manager and later took up a property at Curra. He leaves a widow Val and a daughter.

D. Fitzgibbon and M. R. Hayes

**Brian STEVENS** (3 April 2007)

**Lexie BURNS** (25 March 2007) Port Moresby died Bribie Island north of Brisbane.

**Shayla ORKEN** (28 March 2007, aged 84 years)

Shayla was born in far north Queensland. In late 1941 she commenced nursing training at Darwin Hospital and there survived the trauma of the Japanese bombing. She joined the PNG Health Department in 1951 and was posted to Rabaul. In 1953 she married Max Orken, ADO at Rabaul, and their son, Keith James, was born in 1954. The family was posted to Goroka in 1958. Shayla then spent some years in Brisbane until Keith was old enough to commence boarding school. She returned to Goroka in 1965 and worked as Sister in charge of Casualty and Outpatients at Goroka Base Hospital, then as School Health Nurse and finally as District Supervisor Community Health, Eastern Highlands District. The family retired to SE Queensland in 1973. Shayla continued her nursing career at the Woorabinda Aboriginal Settlement and the Greenvale Nickel Mine. In later years she was actively involved with the Older Womens Network and in political and environmental issues. She is survived by her son Keith and four grandchildren.

Ken Hanrahan

**Muttu Gware OBE** (6 May 2007 aged 72 years)

A Paramount Chief, Muttu was Chairman of Ahi Holdings, the business entity of the Butibum, Hengali, Kamkumung, Yanga, Wagang and Yalu villages. Muttu was Papua New Guinea's first national newspaper journalist and was noted for writing the country's first *Tok Pisin* newspaper, Nu Gini Tok Tok, whilst working for the New Guinea Times Courier. A wing at the ANGAU Memorial Hospital in Lae is named in honour of the contribution of Muttu's father to the health sector in Morobe Province, PNG.

Info from the Post Courier 8 May 2007

**Brian William CRANE** (16 May 2007, aged 76 years)

After 5 years service in Victoria Police, joined RPNGC on 14.3.1955, as Sub Inspector serving at Lae. The onset of severe malaria caused him to resign on 19.4.1956, following which he joined the Australian Army separating some years later as a Warrant Officer. He then went into business and worked many years as a consultant, before branching out into becoming a specialist in militaria, coins and medals. He was a member of PNGVR and in later years a researcher for the PNGVR ex members Association. He leaves a wife, Erma, a son and daughters.

MR Hayes

*The 32 'changes of address' have not been included in this issue due to space and because the annual membership list is enclosed.*

## **WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS**

Ms L M ARDEN	39 Margaret Street , NORWOOD, SA, 5067
Mr C R BEARD	49 Mooroodu Street , THORNESIDE, TAS, 4158
Mr M J BENSON	37 Findlay Avenue, ROSEVILLE, NSW, 2069
Mrs E J BENSON	37 Findlay Avenue, ROSEVILLE, NSW, 2069
Mrs E J CRANE	164 Settlement Point Rd , PORT MACQUARIE, NSW 2444
Mrs P DABBS	Unit 4 9 Cotrill Street, MYAREE, WA, 6154
Mr R A DOBSON	27 Springfield Avenue , BLACKTOWN, NSW, 2148
Mr P M DONNISON	18/27 Campbell Parade , MANLY VALE, NSW, 2093
Mr E John DOWLING	7 Sunbrite Court , SANDSTONE POINT, QLD, 4511
Ms D C DUNCAN	8 Cobbittee Street , MOSMAN, NSW, 2088
Mr P J FENTON	PO Box 2160 , GRACEVILLE, QLD, 4075
Mr D J FITZGIBBON	Lyell Highway , DERWENT BRIDGE, TAS, 7140
Mr K D GEISSLER	PO Box 6316 , BOROKO NCD 111, PNG
Mrs J M GILLIS	PO Box 33 , KURRIMINE BEACH, QLD, 4871
Mr I J GRAHAM	PO Box 4166 Stockland, FORSTER, NSW, 2428
Mr R A HALSTEAD	PO Box 141 , EARLVILLE, QLD, 4870
Mr D HARRIS	3 Geoffrey Street , CALOUNDRA, QLD, 4551
Mrs J HARRIS	6/48 William Street , DOUBLE BAY, NSW, 2028
Mr S O HOLLANDS	450 London Road Ditton, Aylesford ME20 6DA, KENT, UK
Mrs P JOHNSON (nee Bates)	3 Boronia Avenue , BEECROFT, NSW, 2119
Mrs Agnes KENT	9 Tryon Street , CHATSWOOD, NSW, 2067
Mrs E C LASSEN	120 St Helena Road , BANGALOW, NSW, 2479
Mr M LUXMORE	594 Image Flat Road , NAMBOUR, QLD, 4560
Mr I H MORTON	3 Aisbett Avenue , CAMBERWELL, VIC, 3124
Mr V D MURPHY	30 Lawley Street , TUART HILL, WA, 6060
Mrs L PAVSIC	'Treetops' 81 Parrish Avenue, MT PLEASANT, NSW, 2519
Mr E PAVSIC	'Treetops' 81 Parrish Avenue, MT PLEASANT, NSW, 2519
Mrs C I PRITCHARD	623 Webster Road , CHERMSIDE, QLD, 4032
Mr H F SABBEN	6/111 Rio Vista Bvd, BROADBEACH WATERS, QLD, 4218
Mr R J SANDERSON	8 Jendi Court, SPRINGWOOD, QLD, 4127
Mr I L SAYERS	47 Erldunda Circuit , HAWKER, ACT, 2614
Mr S H SMITH	PO Box 855 , TURRAMURRA, NSW, 2074
Mrs H STEVENS	163 Stradbroke Road , ROSTREVOR, SA, 5073
Mr W M STUART	31 Sophie Avenue , BROADBEACH WATERS, QLD, 4218
Mr C SUTHERLAND	171 Fitzwilliam Road , TOONGABBIE, NSW, 2146
Mrs J TERRELL	17 Woodgate Street , FARRER, ACT, 2607
Mr W F TURNER	95 Lake Road , PORT MACQUARIE, NSW, 2444
Mr G K WILLIAMSON	C/- 2 Warattah Court , WURTULLA, QLD, 4575
Mr B J WILLIS	102 Attfield Street , SOUTH FREMANTLE, WA, 6162
Prof VR PRATT	2215 Old Page Mill Rd, PALO ALTO, CA 94304 USA