



Una Voce

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

Patrons: Major General Michael Jeffery AC CVO MC (Retd)
Mrs Roma Bates; Mr Fred Kaad OBE

The Christmas Luncheon
will be held at
Killara Golf Club
Sunday 7 December 2008
Full details on page 3,
inside this issue!

Please get your replies in quickly.
Invite or meet up with old friends
from your past and reminisce about
days gone by. Extended families and
friends of members are most welcome
and we can organize tables to
accommodate all ages and interests,
or organise your own table of 10.

Please RSVP by **24 Nov 2008**

* * *

⇒ **PNGAA Constitution to be
reviewed - please see
insert or visit our website.**

⇒ **WEBSITE COORDINATOR
NEEDED!!** If you can
volunteer your expertise we would
love to hear from you! This person
does not need to reside in Sydney!!
Please contact Ross Johnson on 02-
98766178

⇒ **Thursday 9 October,
2008 Visit to the Blue
Mountains - see details page 2.**

www.pngaa.net

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**'UNA VOCE' IS THE JOURNAL OF
THE PAPUA NEW GUINEA**

ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC

Please send all correspondence to: **The Secretary, PNGAA, PO Box 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 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.

Una Voce is published in March, June, September and December.

Advertising is available - please contact the Editor.

Website: www.pngaa.net

Membership is available to any person having an interest in PNG. Annual subscription - \$20. The membership year corresponds to the calendar year and an application form is available from the Secretary at the above address or you can download one from our website.

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Visit to the Blue Mountains

Edna and George Oakes are again very kindly welcoming us to their home in the Blue Mountains for a spring time visit on **Thursday 9 October**. Come for a chat and to enjoy the views from the verandah and garden to Kurrajong and beyond. For the energetic there are short walks to adjacent waterfalls and lookouts. Please bring something for the picnic lunch. Edna will supply soup, buns, tea, coffee etc. The Oakes' will meet those who travel by train at Woodford Station with transport, but it is only 10 minutes to their house for anyone who prefers the picturesque walk. Their address is: 5 Werona Avenue, Woodford – phone (02) 4758 8754.

The train departs from Central Country Concourse at 8.55am and arrives at Woodford at 10.28 am. Returns from Woodford at 3.05pm and arrives Central at 4.43pm. Join us! We had a wonderful day with Edna and George last year. Please contact Pam Foley Ph: 9967 2818 by Monday 22 September.

**Deadline for next issue
16 October 2008**

Email Addresses - please notify or update them to: admin@pngaa.net

DISCLAIMER: *Una Voce* is produced for the information of members of the Papua New Guinea Association of Australia Inc. It is written with care, in good faith, and from sources believed to be accurate. However, readers should not act, nor refrain from acting, solely on the basis of information in *Una Voce* about financial, taxation or any other matter. Having regard for their own particular circumstances, readers should consult the relevant authorities or other advisers with expertise in the particular field. Neither the PNGAA nor the editor accepts any responsibility for actions taken by readers. Also, the views expressed by any of the authors of articles or book reviews included in *Una Voce* are not necessarily those of the editor or the PNGAA. In submitting articles, photographs or artwork, please send duplicate copies where possible as, although all care is taken, the Editor or PNGAA cannot be held responsible for any loss or damage.

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON – Sunday, 7 December 2008
Killara Golf Club, 556 Pacific Highway, Killara NSW
11.30am onwards
RSVP 24 November 2008

It's already September and the Christmas Lunch is booked for December 7th, again at the now familiar Killara Golf Club in Sydney. As the new convenor of the Fellowship and Caring Sub-committee I would like to encourage you to come along and share a great day. Together with a valued team of people who have been planning this important annual social get together I look forward to seeing you there.

Cost will be \$47.50 and the booking form is on the enclosed yellow 'Treasurer's Corner' insert.

We are particularly pleased that the honourable Duncan Kerr SC MP Parliamentary Secretary for Pacific Island Affairs has agreed to be our guest of honour and keynote speaker.

To assist us with forward planning, please do book and pay as early as possible with the cut-off date for registration by 24th November 2008. Please also let us know if you would like the free shuttle transport from the station. For those driving – free on-site parking is available. And to remind you, look for the red and yellow balloons at the entrance immediately after Fiddens Wharf Road on the Pacific Highway as you travel north. Entry to Killara Golf Club is *immediately* after the Black Stump Restaurant.

We are seeking donations for the usual Christmas raffle so if any member has a suitable contribution and would like to help please contact Juli Allcorn who is our raffle coordinator on Tel: 94161430 or Email her at j_allcorn@hotmail.com

For queries, or to speak to a committee member, please telephone the Secretary Ann Graham 02 9999 4490

Come along, renew those old friendships, and share the familiar experiences once again at this delightful occasion. I look forward to meeting you on the day.

Harriet Troy

CONGRATULATIONS for Queens Birthday Honours go to:

Hank Nelson AM For service to tertiary education as an academic, researcher and political commentator on the contemporary history of Papua New Guinea.

Colin Gould MBE for his many years work in PNG, particularly with the Ombudsman Commission and for his work with the NGVR-PNGVR Ex-members Association Inc

Mrs Mary Mennis MBE For services to the Bel community of Madang through the recording of their traditional history.

Gus Bottrill OAM who received his award for services to Aborigines in Western Australia. Gus was a kiap from 1946 until Independence.

The Reverend Barry John May OAM for service to the community particularly through chaplaincy roles with the WA Police Service and veterans organisations.

IN 100 WORDS OR LESS – Wartime Wrecks

During my 30 years in PNG from 1960 to 1990 and visits to the Solomon Islands several times in the 1990's I was able to see at first hand numerous wrecks from WWII that lay scattered amongst the ever growing jungle, grass and on the beaches. It was during my five years in Wewak between 1974 and 1979 that I really became heavily involved in searching for and finding wartime



wreckage in both the East and West Sepik Provinces. I took numerous photos and several movie shots at what I found and where. I was also given access to the military archives at Moem Barracks outside Wewak and from here I gained more valuable information where all the main battles took place in those closing stages of 1944/45. I used this information to visit the exact spots where fighting took place and to find wreckage from those battles.

Whenever I came across the remains of guns, planes, vehicles, bicycles, bayonets and various sizes of ammunition from small bullets to large bombs my first thoughts were for the men who were in these vehicles or planes, or for those firing a gun or dropping a bomb. I wondered what their thoughts were at that precise time of battle. I have read many books on the war in New Guinea, from both the Allied and Japanese sides. The severe conditions they fought under and the trials and tribulations they went through every hour of every day is mind boggling. The wreckage that was left behind reminds us all of a futile time where men and women's lives were lost so unnecessarily.

Charles Betteridge

IN 100 WORDS OR LESS – Theme for next issue - UFO's

Deadline for entries: 16 October 2008 - Please write/phone/fax/email

PNG ... IN THE NEWS

► Funds raised from the SP Bikpela Pati 2008 Reunion will buy a set of birthing instruments for Mt Hagen Hospital, delivered directly by Dr Michael Flynn -- a Gold Coast obstetrician who regularly gives of his time and expertise to deliver babies there. ... In one year, Mt Hagen Hospital handles the same number of births as Gold Coast, Tweed and Murwillumbah hospitals put together. Source: http://www.goldcoast.com.au/article/2008/06/20/12673_gossip-news.html

► **The University of Queensland (UQ) and the Queensland Brain Institute (QBI)** have taken initiatives to advance doctoral studies in the Asia-Pacific region with the development of two groundbreaking PhD scholarships for graduates from Papua New Guinea. One PhD scholarship is being offered in Neuroscience at QBI, while the second scholarship will be in Law at UQ's TC Beirne School of Law. These scholarships are in memory of Mr Peter Goodenough who had extensive interests and friends in PNG. Mr Goodenough,

who contracted Motor Neurone Disease, allocated a major bequest towards fighting the disease and this has enabled the QBI to initiate these scholarships. PNG citizens with the relevant degree qualifications need to apply by 30 September 2008. Further information is available by email from: sponsored.students@uq.edu.au or visit www.uq.edu.au/international.

► **Goroka General Hospital** is pleased to announce the launch of the new Hospital's website. A first for a PNG Hospital! They plan to launch an online health forum for practitioners to discuss and share relevant clinical information. See: www.ggh.org.pg Source: <http://www.pnggossip.com/news>

► **2008 Kokoda Reunion Dinner** is on 7 November 2008. It will be at Parliament House, Macquarie Street, Sydney. Any monies raised will go towards the Kokoda Trust.
From Adventure Kokoda Niusleta

► **Air Niugini Expands International Services**

Air Niugini has recently announced its twice-weekly direct flights from Port Moresby to Sydney using a Brazil-made Embraer 190 aircraft leased from Brisbane-based Sky Air World. Air Niugini CEO Wasantha Kumarasiri said the Sydney operation would assist with extra services from Port Moresby to Brisbane on a daily basis to meet the increasing tourist demand. The Embraer is a twin-engine, medium range jet airliner offering a 94-seat dual class cabin.

Source: PNG TPA Issue 78, May 2008

► **TASMANIAN teacher Andrew Hughes** commenced a journey to paddle a kayak around Papua New Guinea on 2nd May. Expected to take up to six months to complete, and nearly 4000kms, it will finish at the northern border with West Papua.

Source: PNG TPA Issue 78, May 2008

► **Air Niugini has a new General Manager** for its Marketing Department. Mr. Colin Lyttle took up the post in February this year. Mr Lyttle has worked for a total of 30 years with the airline industry commencing with Ansett in the 1970s, where he worked for 16 years before joining Qantas.

PNG TPA Issue 79 May 2008

► **Air Niugini has released discounted one way airfares** to Port Moresby from Brisbane, Cairns and Sydney until the end of the year. Brisbane to Port Moresby starts from \$336, Cairns to Moresby \$273 and Sydney to Moresby \$523 - include taxes and surcharges. Air Niugini Media Release 15 July

► **Air Niugini has introduced the 'See PNG Pass'** for tourists visiting PNG. The 4 - Coupon Pass allows tourists to travel to other domestic destinations for an additional USD\$375 or approximately AUD\$508 (excluding taxes and surcharges). These should be purchased overseas prior to arrival in the country. (Source: www.airniugini.com.pg). *PNG TPA Issue 79 May 2008*

► **PORT Moresby's Jackson's Airport will undergo a facelift** after a joint agreement was signed between the Civil Aviation Authority and National Capital District Commission in early May. Chairman Rex Paki said Works, Transport and Civil Aviation Minister Don Polye had been adamant CAA should upgrade Jackson's Airport to an acceptable standard. There are major plans to upgrade all 22 airports and 400 airstrips given the expected economic boom regarding the PNG Gas Project and the increasing influx of tourists. (Source: Post Courier, 05/05/08) *PNG TPA Issue 79 May 2008*

NOTES FROM THE NORTHERN TERRITORY From Jim Toner

Graeme HOCKEY is alive and well in Darwin and not happy with its recently built Convention Centre. Commenting on its external appearance he recommended to readers of the local paper that it be called the Blattodea Centre. No, not a borrowed Aboriginal name but the Latin title of the cockroach family. It takes a former didiman to bring a bit of erudition to the *Northern Territory News*. Apart from architectural criticism Graham who served in the Northern and East New Britain districts amuses himself during retirement as a guide for tour groups to Kakadu National Park.

After assisting the Director of the NT office of the National Trust with a garden problem Graeme mentioned to his wife that her name was Elizabeth CLOSE. Phillipa Hockey - who turns out to be the cousin of our Editor! - recalled that Olive Close was the name of her teacher at Keravat primary school. The Darwin resident is in fact the daughter of that schoolmistress.

Many readers will have found that such PNG connections can crop up when least expected. I found this when in Royal Darwin Hospital recently where a Sister told me that she had the most interesting six weeks of her life in - wait for it - Wapenamanda. As a trainee nurse she had visited her sister who was nursing at the Lutheran Mission there. She had accompanied her on medical patrols to villages, an eye-opener of course to someone just up from South. However she admitted that two of those weeks had been spent on R&R at Madang. Certainly during *Taim Bilong Masta* an attractive European single girl could have enjoyed herself there.

Cricket is a winter (Dry Season) sport in Darwin and Jacob Mado has been brought from Moresby to play for the Nightcliff club. Earlier this year at the Under-19 World Cup finals in Kuala Lumpur he opened the bowling for PNG. Jacob is delighted to be playing on turf wickets as is Vadi Moreau, a batsman, brought along as his *wantok*.

Bob CLELAND points out that additional information on aeronautical misadventure and associated roof-painting in the Highlands of the early Fifties is available via Jim Sinclair's definitive book about Bobby Gibbes titled "Sepik Pilot". Gibbes offered the RAAF 10,000 Pounds for their DC3 which had erroneously landed at Finintegu and was seemingly stranded there. That may not sound much but MAL offered only 1,000 Pounds for it. However the honour of the RAAF being at stake, as Sinclair put it, they decided to extricate the aircraft themselves. Next year, following the misleading painting of the hangar roof at Goroka, Peter Maxtone-Graham and accomplice Reilly were each fined 5 Pounds at the District Court. Which, again, may not sound much but was about half a week's wages for some patrol officers in 1953.

Frank (Life begins at Sixty-Five) LEIBFRIED now has an aerobatic licence and the ex-kiap is temporarily leaving Tasmania for Canada where by August he will be flying upside down over the Rockies. His partner Sushila, a former

accountant at Ok Tedi, has volunteered for some work with Medicin sans Frontiers and will be away for a while in Kzyrgistan which could be even more exciting.

Watchers of ABC TV may have observed an item regarding Kopan Opo, a woman at Minj who had not seen her twins, a boy and a girl, for 40 years. The daughter, Ann-Marie, certainly watched that programme and she and her brother promptly returned to PNG from Australia where they had been taken by their father in 1968 when they were 3 years old. It is reported that he was an expatriate teacher who 'went finish' with his children without saying a word to his wife. Local Western Highlanders turned out in big numbers to see and celebrate the unexpected reunion.

All that was old is new again? The Waigani Seminars initially organised jointly by UPNG and the New Guinea Research Unit of the ANU commenced in 1967 and survived until 1997. They are to resume this year with the PMs of both Australia and PNG expected to open the proceedings. Early participants in what was the Territory's major intellectual *kivung* are to be invited back to Waigani and these included almost every prominent indigene plus of course the usual suspects from Academe. Perhaps some of our members such as Jack BAKER, Bill McGRATH or Frank JOHNSON will be returning to ponder on the effect of papers they delivered some 35 years ago.

Always happy to applaud the success of PNG women fortunate enough to receive a good education I was going to mention that they now hold such offices as Secretary of the Justice Department, Registrar of UPNG, Director-General of the Internal Revenue Commission and not forgetting Nellie James the newly appointed head of the Big Name department (Mineral Policy and Geological Hazards Management). However, a former incumbent in the latter ministry (when it was simply called Mining) complains that DMPGHM has no staff and that poor Nellie is "a head without body or limbs". In a memorable burst of oratory he asserted that **"when a leader is without the led, and the led is without a leader, the organisation gets holed up. Nothing can be done. Nothing moves. Only confusion reigns."** *Oloman!* ▪

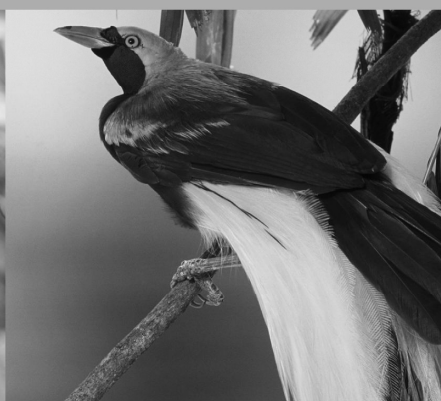
Trash or Treasure!

This is a reminder to members who may be in the process of moving, down-sizing or simply having the annual cleaning of cupboards! If you have boxes of captioned or even uncaptioned photos - and we all do - and correspondence or old magazines to do with PNG and you are sick of them cluttering up the room, think twice before putting them out for the council clear-up. Remember one man's trash is another's treasure and even if your family is not interested, you could be holding something very valuable. If in doubt you can contact the editor of *Una Voce*, Andrea Williams, who will be happy to advise you of the various archive facilities.

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EXPEDITIONS

Letters to the Editor

Readers of *Una Voce* fascinated with the notices regarding the Tolai stone figures called *ingiet* or *iniet* might be interested to know that Peter Sack of ANU has published a paper: 'Just a memory? The *Iniet*-Society and Tolai oral traditions', in *Gestern und Heute - Traditionen in der Sudsee*, ed. M. Schindlbeck 1997, which is volume 65 of the *Baessler-Archiv*, published in Berlin. This and several other papers in that volume are in English, so don't let the German-language title scare you off!

Victorian members can see a large collection of *iniet* figures at the Burrinja Gallery owned by the Yarra Valley Shire Council; or go to <http://www.burrinja.org.au/education/index.htm> and click on Collection Conservation at the top of the page, and you will see a couple of images showing a large number of the figures carefully stored on shelving.

PNGAA member Harold Gallasch of Hahndorf in SA undoubtedly knows more about these objects than most, but it might take more than a beer to get it out of him.
Barry Craig

Mr Ottmar Maier forwarded a copy from part of the 1937 Publication of the *Ethnological Magazine* published in Berlin. He says:

'I worked 16 years under the Tolai people. Before I started my work in ENB I had read many publications in this area...information from these publications are still in use by museums around the world...

I am writing on a book about the Iniet and Tubuan Society. In my time there, I was initiated into the Tubuan Society.

Most iniet figurines on the market today are made for tourists. Father White on Kabaira Mission station told the natives they should keep on making these stones. [To make them look older] they buried them in a specially made mud-hole. Stone carvings from Duke of York Islands and from New Ireland are proper old ones. Copies can easily be detected by scraping them with a fine brush under water. Old patina will not wash away.

Other interesting publications are *Geister in Stein - Iniet* by Gerd Koch and *Iniet - Spirits in Stone* by Gerd Koch, published through the National History Museum Berlin/Dalem.'

My visits to P.N.G. become more exciting each time I return. Having my three eldest sons in Milne Bay has spurred me on to do what I can to help the local community. A lady in Cairns made six beautiful teddy bears which I was able to use as part of the prize list to hold a fund raising dinner for the hospital in Alotau to buy medicines. The airlines and local businesses were very generous with their donations and Masuarina Lodge provided the venue. Two young local men Jeremiah and Ben kept us entertained all night with their very professional guitar playing. It was all a great success and raised two and a half thousand Kina.

I am about to leave Cairns again to help with the interior decorating of the plantation resort my sons are building on Doini Island near Samarai. The waterfront dongas are beautiful on the edge of palm fringed white sandy beaches surrounded by turquoise waters.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (Cont.)

At present a committee is being formed to build a War Museum in Alotau to honour the men who fought and died during the battle of the Coral Sea and to acknowledge the turning point of the Second World War which saved Australia from occupation by the Japanese. If anyone has family or friends who would be interested in donating war memorabilia to the Museum it would be greatly appreciated. My email is colleen.nev@bigpond.com and my mobile phone no is 0418700642.

I would also like to thank all the people who generously donated money to Bear Cottage, the Children's Hospice, after receiving a copy of my book *The Power Of Love*.
Colleen Neville

Charlie Nicholson writes - Perhaps your editorial note on the lack of warm welcome and tatty condition of parts of the [Port Moresby] International Airport was read by someone up there. I arrived mid afternoon on 11th June 2008 on an Air Niugini flight from Brisbane, and was welcomed by a *kundu* and guitar band singing and strumming in South Pacific mode, which is traditional enough because I believe the LMS missionaries from the South Pacific introduced this style probably way back in the 1880s (has anyone researched its arrival in PNG?)

I don't know who paid them (there was no buskers hat on the floor) but I was disappointed at the lack of acknowledgement by my fellow passengers. It might have provided a subliminal welcome but it seemed wasted. Perhaps Australians and returning PNG nationals are not really international travellers. After all, we ran the country for 90-odd years. They all just rushed past in their haste to get to Immigration and Customs. Perhaps the band would be better placed in the Customs area to soothe us while we wait in the queue, although that moved quickly enough by Australian standards. The contrast of frothy South Pacific music with the stunning mural would be very PNG, contrast being the keynote of PNG.

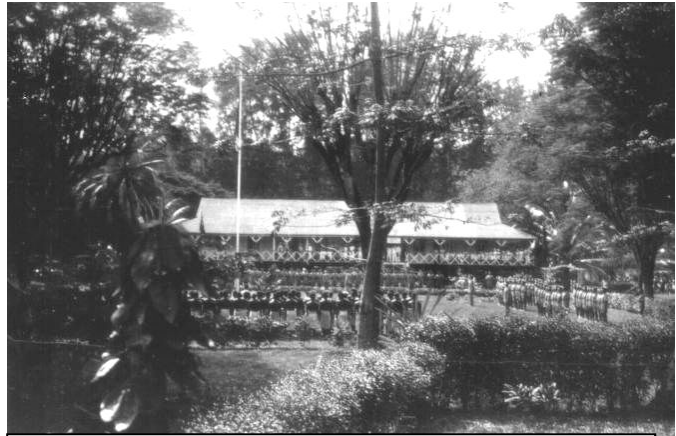
Personally, my favorable first impressions imparted by a welcoming band and the dramatic mural didn't prepared me for the reality. A chaotic and filthy Moresby on the surface, but an immeasurably more extravagant human pulse and tension underneath, compared with my 1970s memories.

As to the validity of music of South Pacific origins as an introduction to PNG culture, my trek across the Kokoda Track, some 35 years after doing some of it as a Central District patrol officer, was immeasurably enhanced by the musicality of our Orokaiva porters, descendants of those fabulous Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels of WWII. Their sweet yet melancholy and wistful original campfire songs with ukulele accompaniment, on themes of being an Oro boy and carrying whitemans' packs across the Track, dreaming of a girl in Australia, were exquisite. This from a fan of Bach, Beethoven and the Rolling Stones. And of Spike Jones, to ukele accompaniment: *As the sun pulls out from the shore, and our boat sinks slowly in the west, we bid you Aloha!*

Can't wait to go through Port Moresby International Airport again, with or without a first impression.

Your recent article in the *Una Voce* (2008 No. 2 June) re the sinking of the *Montevideo Maru* off Cape Luzon, Philippines, 1-7-1942 carrying 1053 Australian brings back painful memories. I understand the Japanese ship was not showing a sign 'Prisoners of War' when torpedoed.

I went to Rabaul from Melbourne with my family in 1927 aged 11 years. Later in my teens after attending Zerchos Business College (Collins St Melbourne) I returned to Rabaul and started work with District Services & Native Affairs - with Mr Cardieu in charge. When married women were not allowed to be employed I was then promoted to typist at Central Administration (C.A.), Territory of New Guinea. The Administrator then was Brig. General T. Griffiths, followed by Sir Ramsay McNicoll until war broke out.



Central Administration Rabaul, TNG. In the foreground is the Native Constabulary on the Parade Ground. Photo: Patsy Weaver

I guess I am regarded as a '3 Before': before Japanese; before Volcanoes, Vulcan and Matupi eruptions; and before Independence. December 1937 I married Rodney Crofton Weaver who was employed by the Bank of New South Wales (now Westpac). We then returned to Sydney via the Solomon Islands.

The Government Secretary was Mr Harold Page - brother of the Right Honourable Sir Earle Page (Acting Prime Minister), Mr Steve Lonergan was Chief Clerk; Staff were Mr Whiteman, Mr Kevin Sheeky and Mr Clive Mears. (During the war Mr Page's son was in the canoe party that entered Singapore Harbour by night placing mines under several Japanese ships. Their famous Mother boat was the *Krait* - Mr Horrie Young the Wireless Operator.)

Mr Harold Page was a Japanese POW. He was amongst a handful of civilians left in Rabaul after the evacuation [who] had only a rifle to fend off the enemy and, when they were captured, had to do filthy jobs. Also the brave soldiers of the 2/22 Battalion who had all dedicated their lives for us in Australia were then herded below deck on the *Montevideo Maru*. [I understand] The Japanese strategy was to capture Australia using the airfield at Port Moresby and the airfield being cleared of vegetation on the Solomon Island of Munda (Coral Sea Battle).

I do hope our Prime Minister Mr Kevin Rudd quickly instigates the quest for locating the resting place of the *Montevideo Maru* with its 1053 Australian POWs and makes a Declaration of the Site as a War Grave.

AVP Weaver nee Patsy Bryant (Rabaul 1927-1937)

Website Walkabout

John McAlpine, whilst putting together a piece on the TPNG/PNG resource survey program carried out by CSIRO 1950-1975 and 1975-2000, came across a couple of websites that other members may be interested in looking at with regard to 'good PNG yarns'.

'For example while trying to cover the story of the air photography program over PNG that was carried out by Adastral Airways (and on which the CSIRO survey was based) I came across this pretty gripping (Boy's Own?) story <http://www.adastra.adastron.com/people/last-fright.htm>

and for those who knew Dick Glassey and his association with Air Niugini and Adastral <http://www.adastra.adastron.com/people/dick-glassey.htm>'

Some other websites members may be interested in:

ASOPA PEOPLE was originally established to provide networking opportunities for people associated with ASOPA but has broadened the brief in recent times to welcome readers who are more generally interested in Australia's relationships with PNG. See: <http://asopa.typepad.com/>

Languages of PNG: http://www.ethnologue.com/show_map.asp?name=PG

A daily photo: www.rabauldailyphoto-jules.blogspot.com/

Photo history of Rabaul: <http://rabaul.history.googlepages.com/>

Source: <http://www.pnggossip.com/news>

Articles submitted for *Una Voce* are greatly appreciated and enjoyed by our readers. It is important that our members contribute memories of their time in PNG to preserve an important part of our history. We do ask though that contributors limit submissions to between 100-1800 words enabling variety in our journal. Articles exceeding this length will be considered but may take longer to appear. Sometimes it may be possible to include an 'extract' in *Una Voce* whilst the longer article is published on the PNGAA website. For members not on computer, the longer article can be personally requested. Thank you for your assistance and understanding.

NGVR-PNGVR Ex-members Association Inc On 1st July about 50 people attended the Montevideo Maru Memorial Service in Brisbane. This year's service was given greater momentum by the 'Finding the Montevideo Maru Foundation' sponsored by Cynthia Schmidt and Clive Troy. Two Liberal politicians, Senator Russell Trood (Qld) and Stuart Robert (Fadden) turned up and said they would be supporting the Foundation's work.

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Scott (16 mths) and David
Montgomery, Mark (4mths) and
Gillian Montgomery, Jack Woods

David writes - 'The report by Maxwell Hayes on the 'Lark' Force Commemoration [*Una Voce* No. 1 March 2008] has prompted me to forward a letter written to Alan Ramsey following an article he wrote in the SMH 'Opinion' January 26-28, 2007, 'Mick and Bill and the Others Remembered.' [copy sent to Editor] Ramsey didn't respond to my letter. ... The coincidence of meeting with Jack Curtis was extraordinary, to meet

again the pilot of that aircraft after 44 years was incredibly moving and a good story. Subsequently I did invite Jack and Ray Seaver to come to the PNGAA Christmas Lunch 2007. Unfortunately they were on

flying duty at the time. My private attempts to contact Bill Cook met with no success.'

David's letter to Alan Ramsay of 30/01/07 says:

'Recently at the Temora Aviation Museum launch of David Lowy's Spitfire MXV1 - Saturday 16 September - I met by sheer coincidence the Chief Pilot of National Air, Jack Curtis. Jack has flown DC3s extensively as a former TAA pilot.

In a casual remark I asked him if the Operations Manager for TAA in Melbourne 1964, Bert Smith was still alive. In August 1964 Bert organised a pilgrimage from Melbourne of 2/22nd survivors by DC3 [to travel] Moresby, Lae, Talasea (West New Britain) and Rabaul. At that time I was a government officer stationed at Talasea with my wife Gillian and our two very young boys. Three people on that flight were our guests for the night - Bill Cook and Jack Woods 2/22 and Bert Smith. Bert may also have been a member of the 2/22.

Relating this information to Jack Curtis and one of his colleagues, Ray Seaver at Temora, Jack turned to me and said 'I was the Captain of that aircraft.'!! I have a photo of Bert Smith and Jack Woods which I believe was taken by Bill Cook. The aircraft left the next morning. I had been asked to assist with landmark identification as we zigzagged our way to Rabaul at lower, much lower, than normal altitude. A memorable couple of days. Up to that time, like many, I knew little of the Tol massacre.' ■

Some Other Airman at ASOPA by Bill Brown MBE

Jim Toner's two recent articles 'An Airman at ASOPA' failed to mention the ex-RAAF kiaps like Frank Anderson, Bob Bell, Jack Bramell, Mert Brightwell, Ken Brown, Bob Bunting, Arthur Carey, Des Clancy, Herb Clarke, Bill Crellin, Pierre Donaldson, Laurie Doolan, Bill Driver, Don Eisenhower, Tom Ellis, Allen Humphries, Bill Kelly, Tom Leabeater, Kerry Leen, Fred Reitanno, Buck Rogers, George Routley, Paul Sebire, Clive Single, Gordon Steege, Ian Thistlethwaite, Mike Tolhurst and Dick White.

Many of them were aircrew and most of them attended ASOPA, many for long periods. Some had brilliant war records, some had distinguished New Guinea careers, a few had both.

With few exceptions, they stayed in New Guinea for the rest of their working lives, but Don Eisenhower resigned while a PO in the early 50s to become a DO in Borneo. A Beaufighter pilot with 30 Squadron, he had flown numerous missions against Japanese targets in New Britain while based at Kiriwina in Steege's 73 Wing. When transferred to Tadj, Flight Lieutenant Eisenhower DFC became acting Commander Officer of the Squadron. ADO Mike Tolhurst, (Flight Lieutenant and Lancaster pilot in Bomber Command) resigned circa 1954 to pursue a career in Australia. Buck Rogers, (Flight Lieutenant in Transport Command) left from ASOPA.

Bob Bell joined the RAAF in 1942 and was a Beaufort bomber pilot with 7 Squadron. From bases at Nadzab and Tadj (Aitape), he flew numerous bombing and strafing missions against the Japanese, until '*both his eardrums were blown out*'. He was hospitalised and eventually discharged from the RAAF in August 1966. Bob became District Commissioner (DC), Kerema. He and his wife are regular attendees at the PNGAA Christmas luncheons.

Bob Bunting joined the RAAF in July 1941, and flew fighters in North Africa, Sicily, Italy, Corsica and France. He became a Spitfire ace in 1944, notching up five kills with 93 Squadron. He received the DFC '*for a lone attack on 50 Luftwaffe aircraft, Italy, 1944*', and an American DFC '*for the destruction of enemy planes Corsica 1944*'. Bob Bunting became District Commissioner, Vanimo.

Four years before he took over the Aitape Sub-district as Assistant District Officer, and one year after he joined the RAAF, Arthur Carey was there as a Wireless Operator Air Gunner in Beauforts with 8 Squadron. 8 Squadron flew in to Tadj in time to take part in the repulse of the Japanese Army's counterattack. Carey's squadron were taking off and bombing the Japanese forces just east of the airstrip. They went on to bomb more of Carey's future postings: Maprik and Wewak. Arthur Carey became DC, West New Britain.

Tom Ellis enlisted in December 1941, and flew Beaufighters with 31 Squadron in the Halameras, the Celebes and Timor. He was Mentioned in Despatches, and received '*an immediate award of the DFC for exceptional bravery. He deliberately drew heavy Japanese Ack Ack (Anti Aircraft) and machine gun*

fire on Liang airstrip, Ambon Island, while a RAAF Catalina aircraft rescued a Beaufighter crew 300 yards offshore ...' Tom tried to avoid the 2-year Long Course at ASOPA, but there was little option – no ASOPA, no promotion. Tom became DC Mount Hagen, Director Dept Native Affairs (DNA), and finally Secretary, Department of the Administrator.

The RAAF taught Bill Kelly to fly before he could drive, and he became a Liberator bomber pilot with RAF 178 Squadron. Based in Italy, the Squadron, tasked with dropping sea mines along the Danube River at night from 200 feet (61 metres), could only fly those operations when the river was lit by the full moon. Between full moons, they bombed the Roumanian oilfields, and targets in Austria and southern Germany. Each mission to drop ammunition and supplies to the Polish Home Army, during the uprising, was an 1800 mile round trip. They flew over the drop zone, central Warsaw, at 500 feet with flaps and under carriage down, to decrease their speed. German and Russian gunfire shot down nine aircraft in less than two weeks. Bill was lucky to survive his 39 missions, to become a PO, DDC and Land Title Commissioner

Paul Sebire, a Spitfire pilot, with 79 Squadron RAAF was based at Kiriwina and Momote under Gordon Steege's command. In a sick Spitfire, he was accompanying Steege and another pilot, both in Kittyhawks, from Manus to Horn Island when Steege lost oil pressure near Mount Wilhelm and had to belly-land on Dibiri Island in the Fly Estuary. Then the second Kittyhawk pilot crashed into the sea. Paul Sebire, now alone in the sky, nursing one very sick Spitfire, decided to emulate Steege's belly landing on the beach at Dibiri Island. They were rescued three days later by Catalina. There is a unique photo in the Australian War Memorial collection captioned: *'P. E. (Paul) Sebire 79 (Spitfire) Squadron always a joker, interrupted in his sun baking, caught half naked'*. More than half naked, he was only wearing a forage cap, flying boots and a fig leaf. Paul Sebire was a District Officer in the Northern District in the early 70s. Gordon Steege was undoubtedly the most outstanding airman of them. Like Wilf Arthur, he was already a Pilot Officer in the RAAF at the outbreak of World War II. He served as adjutant with 11 Squadron based at Port Moresby until May 1940 and sailed with 3 Squadron to the Middle East. As Flight Lieutenant, he was Wilf Arthur's flight commander. In December 1940, flying an antique Glouster Gladiator biplane he was credited with three confirmed 'kills', two 'probable's' and one enemy aircraft 'damaged'. In 1941, flying Hurricanes, initially with 3 Squadron and then as Commanding Officer of 450 Squadron he was credited with another five confirmed 'kills' and four 'damaged'. Returning to Australia in 1942, he was promoted Wing Commander and commanded 73 Wing (three squadrons of Kittyhawks and one each of Spitfires, Beaufighters and Bostons) at Kiriwina, leading the Kittyhawk squadrons in strafing operations. He took the Kittyhawks and Spitfires to the Admiralty Islands in March 1944, where he was awarded a DSO and promoted Group Captain. He was Director of Operations at RAAF HQ, when he resigned his commission to become a Patrol Officer. It must have been a tremendous shock to the old Papuan hands, Cecil Crowley, Mick Healy and Clem Rich, when ex Group Captain Gordon Steege DSO DFC MID was posted to Esa'ala. He attended ASOPA for six months in 1947, was posted to Kairuku, under ADO Kevin

Atkinson in January 1948, to Madang and Bogia in late 1948, and to Manus, as ADO, in mid 1950 from where he resigned because of family ill health. He rejoined the RAAF as a Wing Commander and commanded 77 Squadron in Korea. Promoted Group Captain, he commanded the base at Canberra, was the Australian Military Adviser's Representative at the Military Planning Office, SEATO HQ, Bangkok, 1959-60 and then, for four years, Director, Joint Service Plans, at RAAF HQ Canberra. After being promoted Air Commodore he commanded RAAF bases in Australia and Malaysia before being appointed Senior Air Staff Officer, RAAF Headquarters, Operational Command – the position he held till retirement.

Gordon, accompanied by his wife Jennifer, returned to New Guinea in 2007, to visit Jeanette Leahy at Zenag, and to revisit his old haunts at Madang and Manus. An indomitable 90-year old, he marched on foot at the head of the small 450 Squadron contingent on Anzac Day, despite the rain. More recently, he has been seen rocketing the waves of Pittwater at the tiller of an outboard powered aluminium tinny, and at the PNGAA Annual General Meeting.

He was not ex RAAF but Tony Huelin was a kiap, and he might have been the last kiap to die flying in a war. Tony was a Cadet Patrol Officer at Maprirk in 1966. As Acting Sub Lieutenant Antony Huelin he was killed on 3 January 1969 while flying a RAN helicopter in Vietnam.

With apologies to those that I have missed and to those others, perhaps like Makis Hayes, who were airman, attended ASOPA, but were not kiaps. ▪

Margaret Clancy recently enjoyed a wonderful trip overseas. She writes: 'On the 5th May I left Perth to visit France and England, with a short time spent in Scotland in the large town of Oban, where my father's family originally came from. My French visit involved a wonderful week in Paris where I stayed with friends whom I had met while they were working in Perth some years ago and whose children I had taught in Perth. My ability to speak French was very handy. From Paris I caught the train to Nantes to another friend and enjoyed that beautiful city on the River Loire and seeing Marie Therese again. Next to London where I spent several days, including a coach tour to Bath, Stonehenge and Stratford on Avon. Going on to Newcastle upon Tyne I stayed with Robin and Cia Bosanquet whom we had known in Mendi and who would love to hear from old friends in Australia. (Their email address is RCBosanquet@blueyonder.co.uk) Then from Newcastle to Oban, a beautiful town where I found lots of Mac Dougalls though no immediate family connections, followed by my return to Paris to farewell friends via Newcastle and London and from Paris to home. A truly great holiday.'

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FOLLOWUP ON THE JIMI VALLEY

by Bob McKeowen

Paul Ryan's article on the forest assessment of the Jimi Valley brought back some fond memories. This photograph will give readers some idea of the stature of the Jimis. Paul would have been about six feet in boots.



The Jimi Valley had never been mapped so, prior to our recce, a map had to be produced. The Dept. of Forests had custody of the TPNG aerial photograph library which was made up of some modern photography, a lot of wartime mission photos, plus bits and pieces from other sources. From these aerial photos, using what would now be called primitive photogrammetric methods the first detailed map of the Jimi Valley was prepared. I don't know if the Forestry Dept. still maintains a mapping section but I think not. The need to assess forest resources led to the production of maps for many areas not previously mapped.

Later in 1968 Paul was my best man when I married Diane Flower, daughter of Eric and Jean. Eric was an ANGAU officer, patrol officer and later Co-ordinator of Works prior to his retirement in 1975. His photograph was in the last issue with the first long course at ASOPA.

Eric is now 86 and lives near us at Orana Gardens Lodge, an RSL aged care facility in Dubbo. ■

A Transfer to the Big Smoke by Paul Oates

In 1972 I had just been transferred from Aseki Patrol Post (the bush) to the wonderful metropolitan delights of Wau (the township). I arrived in my Akubra, khakis, hobnailed boots and mud covered gaiters, with muttonchop sideburns and a twirled moustache. As I turned up at the Sub District Office, I noticed that there seemed to be a slight difference in my standard of dress to the laundered white shirts and fresh long socks and shoes everyone else seemed to be wearing. Why, there were even some ladies working at the SDO that were wearing skirts. Clearly I needed to quickly revise my wardrobe.

There were three main 'watering holes' in town. The Golf Club, (where the New Guinea Goldfields management drank), The Bowls Club, (where the many other employees drank) and the Wau Hotel (where you either drank in the salubrious 'Saloon Bar' or 'slummed it' in the cheaper, public bar on the other side).

Both the Golf Club and the Bowls Club had a full size snooker table for their patron's use. The table at the Gold Club on the first floor had suffered from a past Guria (earthquake) and the slate base had moved into many odd angles and you had to remember where each individual slope and bump was in order not to fall foul of someone who played there often.

On fronting the bar at the Golf Club, Eddie the barman asked me what would I have? I asked for a "Meri Buka and coke", (local slang for Rhum Negrita with Coca Cola).

Austie Ireland and another old soldier settler mate were sitting at the end of the bar having a quiet beer or three. Austie picked up his ears at the words 'Meri Buka' and mused to his mate, "Rum! Now there's a drink you don't hear much about these days. A lot of the old timers used to drink rum. They used to freight it in overproof by the barrel and break it down with water and port. Old Kedge was the favourite brand, if I remember correctly."

"Yes," said his mate, "But it did for 'em awl in the end."

"Ah, yes," said Austie wistfully, "But they were pretty old when they died." ■

CEO's Get Together on Central Coast (NSW)

Inspired by their experience of the ASOPA Reunion held in Brisbane last October (see *Una Voce* Issue No. 4 December 2007) a group of former Cadet Education Officers (1958/59/60 vintage) enjoyed a mid-week overnight stay on the Central Coast on 29/30 January 2008. The event was meticulously planned and generously hosted by Kay and Bob Cochrane, and Jean and Dale Fotheringham. Bob and Jean (nee Edgar) were members of the 1958/1959 course. Grateful recipients of the hospitality (which included a banquet on the Tuesday and brunch on the Wednesday) were: Barbara and John Groenewegen, Eric Johns, Jan and Allen Muscio, Barbara and Ian Robertson, Rosalind Smith (nee McCarthy) and Bob Turner. Apart from providing ample opportunity to indulge further in reminiscences of ASOPA and TPNG, the gathering had special poignancy for the seven former CEO's for whom it was almost exactly 50 years ago that they began their ASOPA experience, blazers and all!

John Groenewegen

SO, WHO'S EVER HEARD OF OMKALAI?

Maxwell R. HAYES.

Well, thanks to the internet, a search of the word 'Omkalai' on Google, will reveal over 5,000 references, about 99.99% from world wide travel agents who will fly you to this exotic highlands village where 'luxurious hotels will accommodate you and give you access to fascinating and exotic village life'. Omkalai even has an international airline code of OML.

Although I haven't been to Omkalai for 48 years, I venture to state that not much has changed since then. In 1960, when I was enjoying a little sojourn from my police duties at Rabaul, I was attending the first Summer Institute of Linguistics course of some five weeks at Goroka, in the Eastern Highlands, and was fortunate in being asked by a Qantas pilot to accompany him on Saturday 16.4.1960, for the weekly flight to Omkalai and Kerowagi.

It was a wonderful experience to be sitting up front in this single engine Otter zooming between valleys on the short flight to Omkalai. The scary part was the landing; the pilot expertly approached the strip, full flaps down, did a sudden 90 degree turn to the left, sat down with a bump on the end of the airstrip, and with the engine at full throttle revved to climb to the top of the strip and skewed the plane at right angles to the airstrip.

Omkalai was (perhaps still is) a very small remote patrol post with a few village hamlets and although only 31 miles from Goroka, flying time of probably 15 minutes but on foot could take many days. This one way airstrip, literally carved out of the slope of the mountain range, opened in 1959 at an altitude of 5,740 ft, was 1,800ft in length, 250ft lower at the bottom end with an uphill slope of 13.4% which gives it a gradient of 1 in 7.5. This makes it PNG's highest and most precipitous airstrip and one of the scariest, as there is a sheer drop at the airstrip's end of some 1,500ft to the Wahgi River which flows through a gigantic gorge at this point. Other legendary PNG airstrips include Wau, Tapini and Kagua, but Omkalai 'takes the cake'. For the technically minded, the co-ordinates for Omkalai are longitude 144deg 57' 0" E and latitude 6 deg 11' 0" S and you can see where Omkalai should be on Google Earth.

The kiap, whose name I cannot recall was pleased to see us, a few local villagers rolled up to inspect the planes under belly to determine what sex the plane was, a couple of police unloaded the cargo and a few minutes later at maximum engine revolutions we were heading for the precipice at the end of which the plane doing a sharp 90 degree right hand turn actually dropped a hundred feet or so, before gaining altitude. Bungee jumping had nothing on this take off. Kerowagi was a 'piece of cake' and we were back in Goroka, all within an hour and 40 minutes.

Perhaps in the last 4 decades, Omkalai, which could now be in the Gumine sub province of Simbu Province, has developed but I cannot ever see a Jumbo 747 landing there disembarking hordes of international passengers flying this impossible journey promised by travel agents who will take them there to 'luxurious hotels to view exotic village life and fauna'. A lesson there, beware the internet promises. ■

HOW THE HAGEN EAGLE FLEW TO MOUNT HAGEN

By Peter Skinner

Over the years I have seen several references to the Hagen Eagle, the bronze eagle that at one time was perched atop the monument at the grave of the acting German administrator Curt von Hagen. Von Hagen was shot dead in August 1897 by a renegade Buka policeman named Ranga who had escaped custody. A recent mention about the Hagen Eagle was in Terry Hewett's item on Stephansort (*Una Voce*, March 2008), the location of von Hagen's grave, in which he mentions the eagle's being 'mounted after the war on a concrete pillar in Mt. Hagen'.

While I am not sure who removed the eagle from von Hagen's monument, I can shed some light on how it wound up in Mount Hagen, in October 1956. At the time my late father, Ian Skinner, was DC Western Highlands, and it was he who got the eagle to Mount Hagen after it was 'presented' to my mother Marie while she was at the Lutheran Mission hospital at Yagaum for the birth of my younger sister, Julie-Marie. To digress, the legendary Dr. Theodore Braun delivered Julie-Marie, and as it happened the day before my own eleventh birthday so I figured I had received a baby sister as a birthday gift! Secretly, I would have preferred a tree kangaroo but in the long run a younger sister was the better deal. Also, while we were in Hagen, Patrol Officer Barry Griffin who was stationed at Tabibuga in the Jimi Valley did acquire a tree kangaroo for me so I was more than happy. (The tree kangaroo, Jilly Sikau, was coveted by David Attenborough when he stayed with us in Mount Hagen but I placated him with a possum which he duly named Peter. The possum was destined for the London Zoo but I don't know its fate.)

Now back to that bronze bird. An accurate account of who handed over the eagle is in Jim Sinclair's sentinel book *Madang*. Long after its removal from von Hagen's monument, the eagle had found its way into the care or custody of well-known Madang identity Hec Longmore who had resisted attempts by several kiaps including Tom Ellis and Ian Downs to get their hands on it. According to the account in *Madang*, while attempts to 'bully me into giving it to them' did not go over well with Longmore, he eventually acquiesced when a more diplomatic approach was taken. "The only one who asked me for it nicely was Ian Skinner, when he went to Mt. Hagen. He wrote to me and said Hec, I'd like to put the Hagen Eagle up here, can you see your way clear to letting me have it? And that's how it got there," Longmore says in *Madang*.

There's a little more to the story. As my mother told me, Hec Longmore visited her in hospital at Yagaum one day with a rather heavy object in a hessian sack. Without any pomp or ceremony the sack was dumped in a corner of the room and Mr Longmore said something along the lines of "Congratulations on the baby, hope you're doing well and I think Ian is interested in having this." And indeed Ian, who duly arrived after sorting out the aftermath of a skirmish in the Jimi—and that's another story—was! My mother did not say who actually

carried the eagle into the hospital—it is very heavy—but at that point the eagle was in Skinner hands, en route Mount Hagen.

So, when my mother and six-day old Julie-Marie, returned to Hagen, presumably the eagle flew with them. Given that Julie was born on October 16 and had her first plane ride at less than a week old, the date would have been October 22, 1956. It's very possible my father and I were also on the same flight. I remember the flight to Madang more vividly than the return journey. So I could visit Mum and Julie-Marie in hospital I had been given a ride from Hagen to Madang on a DC3 loaded with cargo and a line of native workers. I certainly remember details of that flight, especially sitting atop a cargo net to keep out of a steadily growing pool of vomit as most of my fellow passengers threw up. They were terrified and had linked arms and moaned in fear as we took off. The venerable DC3s, with their metal seats facing into the aisle, were not the most comfortable planes—no air conditioning, in-flight service or movies—and it wasn't long before one poor bloke was sick; his mates soon followed suit. I scrambled onto the cargo net to stay dry, as it were. One of the pilots looked back and saw me, a rather bemused 11-year-old, sitting above the mess while trying to ignore the stench. He kindly invited me to join them up front for the rest of the flight so I carefully climbed along the row of seats—over and around the occupants who probably didn't even notice me—while avoiding the floor, to the cockpit. From my point of view it was a memorable plane ride to Madang but I can't recall the flight back to Hagen. It's quite possible we were all on the same plane, in which case I also flew with the eagle, albeit unknowingly. I was oblivious to its presence until it appeared at our house—at one stage it was stored in my room—before being moved to the District Office where it at times was perched on the DC's desk.

Chips Mackellar, who was a patrol officer in Mount Hagen at the time remembers the eagle being on the DC's desk and recalls asking my father how the eagle got to Hagen. He was given the stock reply. Chips recently told me: "When I saw the eagle in your father's office I asked him, 'How did the Hagen Eagle get here, sir? And he replied, 'it flew here.'" My father was not being facetious. He was, in a way, telling the truth, because as far as I can ascertain, the Hagen Eagle did fly to Mount Hagen in the same plane that I flew in when our family returned from Madang.



The Hagen Eagle on the desk of District Commissioner Ian Skinner in the Mount Hagen District Office, circa: 1957. (Photograph: Ian Skinner).

Cont →

Presumably my father had aspirations for an appropriate monument and display. At the time he took it to Mount Hagen the eagle's original site was probably vandalised and neglected, its future uncertain. I don't know when or by whom the eagle was duly mounted on the pillar where it now stands.

While on a return visit to Mount Hagen in August 1999, my first time there since 1963 when en route from Mendi to Australia, I found the eagle on its pillar looking rather forlorn and lonely, smaller than I remembered and with no descriptive plaque to explain its significance (I was told there had been one but it had disappeared). Although an inanimate object it brought back memories of Mount Hagen in the 1950s and I am sure quite a few of the locals who strolled by were curious why I was so absorbed by it. Finally, I took a few photographs and left the eagle to its solitude and its future, whether in Mount Hagen, Madang or Bogadjim (Stephansort).

(If anyone can elaborate further on the Hagen Eagle, Peter Skinner would be interested in hearing from them. He can be contacted at prsskinner@bigpond.com.)

**CHILDREN VICTIMIZED BY *HIV AIDS* IN PNG
and
A LONG-TERM PROJECT TO HELP THEM**

In *Una Voce* of March 2007 (page 9 of No. 1 2007) Rebecca Hopper spoke of her distress and that of her mother Pat at the fact that Papua New Guinea, a "country which had give so much to us" is being ravaged by AIDS and its children are being "orphaned and ostracised from their villages". She was so moved that she organised a fund-raising venture to help which was a wonderful effort.

Just one year later, the ABC's *Foreign Correspondent* programme (on 4th March 2008) showed that over the intervening months, more than a dozen corpses of children who had died of AIDS had accumulated in the Port Moresby Morgue because nobody wanted to touch them...showing the need for continuing proactive action to prevent this situation.

In an article which appears at page 48 of this issue of *Una Voce* I draw attention to one organisation (set up by fellow PNGAA member Brian Barnes) which is already providing real assistance, not only to children with AIDS but - even more so - to children who are suffering because their parents have AIDS and are no longer able to look after them. And I also draw attention to an organisation based in Australia, 'INNOCENTS RELIEF', which not only supports 48 'Centres' world-wide, which educate children who are in need, but it is also approved by the Australian Tax Office so contributions have 'tax deductibility'.

If you wish to help Papua New Guinea survive, please write to 'INNOCENTS RELIEF', Box 1384, MILTON, Queensland, 4064, nominating Archbishop Brian Barnes' HIV/AIDS Ministry as the 'Centre' you wish to support.

With many thanks
Paul J Quinlivan, Member No. 2003, PNGAA
Vice-President of 'INNOCENTS RELIEF'

AN INCIDENT IN POROMA, SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS by G C Yates

The beautiful gently undulating valley of Poroma was the place we had decided to set up our business as a trading company. This was way back in 1968. The three of us with very limited funds and a great deal of help from the Commonwealth Bank in Mt Hagen had set up a tent [borrowed] not far from the neat Patrol Post where Noel Wright was the OIC.

Our main supplies came from Hagen by air, as the roads were slow and not very smooth! My partner and I flew off to Hagen to order stock for our new store and freezer supplies for us. Flying back to Poroma in a Cessna 206 [VH-GKM] were two of us in the rear of the aircraft and a pile of goods up to the roof between us and two pilots in the front.

The correct flight approach to Poroma strip was a left turn within the wide valley and on to the 1500ft strip; however most pilots flew along the Erave River turning left over a saddle in a ridge and on to the strip. The pilots were in good spirits trying to scare us with such remarks as 'What happens if I push this button?' My colleague, a nervous flier at the best of times, was suitably terrified. It was a cloudy morning (not unusual) as we approached our destination; we flew down the river and turned over the saddle on approach [but] noticed that we were flying too high and not descending properly.

Two thirds of the strip had gone by before we touched our wheels on the wet grass. My companion and I were saying our prayers!



The pilots attempted to do a 'ground loop', an emergency procedure to wipe off forward speed, immediately the nose wheel dug in to the soft earth and over we went. We were hanging upside down in our harnesses whilst the curious locals were approaching; some with their newspaper cigarettes alight! The pilots exited, but our doors wouldn't open because the flaps were fully down (up) blocking the rear doors. The hinge-pins were pulled and we tumbled out...to the smell of avgas and battery acid!



We were very relieved to note that we had flipped a few metres before the end of the airstrip, where there was a small drop off of two metres or so!

The aircraft had to have its wings cut off and they were loaded in a twin otter and flown to Mendi, the fuselage was wheeled by the locals over land and flying foxed over rivers to Mendi. I have flown since in the repaired aircraft, with a little trepidation!

Photos taken by the APO Poroma, 1968.

WAGGA AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE 1966 GRADUATES in PNG

Where they worked and what are they doing now

by Graeme Hockey

Of the 36 who graduated from Wagga Wagga Agricultural College in 1966, seven worked in PNG (one is still there). The following provides a brief run down of their careers from College to today. All recall their times in PNG fondly (the frustrating times have faded).

Bill Gornall - Commenced at Taliligap in ENB in 1967 as a Didiman followed by postings to Talasea and Kandrian in West New Britain, then to Kiunga in Western District in 1970 overseeing the first rubber production in that area. In 1973 he was posted to Kapagere in Rigo sub district and later to Port Moresby before leaving PNG in late 1976. The family moved to Auckland NZ and Bill worked for Merck, Sharp and Dohme in pharmaceutical and veterinary chemical production in the quality control division. In 1983 moved to Brisbane (warmer climate) joining the Chermside branch of the Queensland Ambulance Transport Brigade, later transferring to Malaney and finally Beerwah as a paramedic before retiring in late 2007. He has probably delivered a few aging PNG stalwarts from their homes to hospital over the years. Bill and wife Elisa now live at Golden Beach on the Sunshine Coast or at their second home in Apia, Samoa, Elisa's birthplace.

Reg Hill - Reg also commenced at Taliligap in 1967 at the same time as Bill, followed by postings to Tinputz, Wakunai and Konga, all in Bougainville, returning to Australia in 1970 to work with Ciba Geigy in Shepparton. In 1979 he joined the Victorian Department of Agriculture initially based in Benalla before moving to Ballarat in 1985, obtaining a Master of Science degree along the way. He joined Wrightson Seeds Australia in 2001 as Head of Research, a position he currently holds.

Graeme Hockey - Commenced at Taliligap in early 1968 followed by postings at Warangoi and then Vudal Agricultural College in ENB teaching livestock, pasture and associated fields. In mid 1970 took himself off to Bougainville to work for a French company Dumez as a plant operator on the concentrator site at Panguna for six months. Back to DASf as a Didiman and married Philippa, second daughter of Patricia and Dion Coote of Vunapau Plantation Keravat. His next posting was to Kagua in the Southern Highlands with coffee and cattle and his final posting was to Popondetta in the Northern District on cattle projects. In 1974 they returned to NSW to the family farm at Moruya, moving to Darwin in 1977 where Graeme worked for the NT Government, initially for 10 years in the Pastoral Branch followed by stints in Aboriginal Lands, Aboriginal Housing and Land Use Planning until retirement in 2003. After a day to reflect, he rejoined the work force in private enterprise as a sales rep, and now works part time in the tourism industry as a tour guide in the Top End.

Nick Knight - Nick and then wife Lyn arrived at Ilimo Northern District in mid 1968. In 1970, they moved to Popondetta Ag Training Institute (PATI) where Nick taught agriculture, botany, zoology and surveying. Finding that he

was more interested in politics and political theory, Nick returned to uni in 1971 obtaining degrees from University of Queensland and University of London. With particular interests in Chinese Communist politics and history he became a successful university teacher, researcher and finally Professor of Asian Studies at Griffith University where he has taught for the last 27 years. He retired in early 2008 and he and partner Jill continue living in Sunnybank Qld in winter and at their new home at Launceston for the rest of the year.

Neville Semmlar Neville worked for Australian Fertilizers before departing for Kiapit in the Markham Valley in August 1970 with wife Pam and son Adrian where they spent the next four years. Neville was initially involved in coffee and small cattle projects, then in-service training schools for PATI (Popondetta) and HATI (Mt Hagen) graduates at Kiapit. After returning to NSW in 1975 they commenced share farming at Barellan in the Riverina before buying their own property. In 2004, before the drought arrived, they retired to Diamond Beach in NSW. During his farming career, Neville was involved in many local and government organisations including Oat Marketing Board, Prime Wheat Growers and was an inaugural director of Graincorp.

David Thorold - David worked with Stanbroke Pastoral Company on properties in Queensland as a ringer before arriving in Port Moresby in 1971. He commenced with Dept of Lands as a Land Use Officer, then transferred to Mount Hagen with DASF. Between 1974 and 1988 he was based in Kavieng, then Port Moresby until 1994 when he returned to Kavieng. He was involved in cattle extension work in all of his postings. In 2003 he moved to private enterprise as manager of Dumpu cattle station in the Markham Valley before the owners, Madang Butchery sold to Ramu Sugar in 2005. Since then David has been with Coconut Products as Inland Agricultural Development manager (cocoa, coconuts, cattle and balsa) based at Vunabang Plantation on the Gazelle Peninsular. He is now into his 37th year in PNG.

Roger Clough - After College he joined NSW Agriculture as an agronomist with postings to Lismore, Temora, Leeton and Griffith. In June 1978 Roger moved to the Solomons where he worked on a 1000ha rice project that eventually met its demise in cyclone Namu. In early 1985 he departed for Somalia as Deputy GM of a very large irrigated agricultural project. Somalia was "interesting, challenging and impossible. The Government a military dictatorship which practiced 'scientific socialism'. Corruption was endemic and poverty widespread". In July 1986 returned to Australia joining Elders Pastoral as a rice agronomist based in Griffith. In June 1990 moved to Mackay with Qld Sugar with later transfers to Innisfail and Nambour. At the beginning of 1994 commenced with Ricegrower's Australia as Rice Production Project manager in PNG. The initial pilot project commenced at Moreguina (Cape Rodney) but was later relocated to Morobe Province with initial efforts concentrated on rice projects with two secondary schools at Bugandi and Bumayong. He commenced a newsletter 'Rice Relay' that is still running today and still submits an article every issue (www.Trukai.com.pg). The newsletter has now been extended to the Solomon islands. In 1999 after almost 6 years in PNG, Roger transferred back to Australia with Ricegrowers, now SunRice, and is based in Leeton. ■

MISSING HUDSON FOUND IN NEW GUINEA.

By Bob Piper (Military Aviation Research Services – Canberra)

A RAAF Hudson bomber, that disappeared during an attack against enemy shipping in New Guinea during 1942, has been found by an American missionary and his son in the hills behind the target.

Mark Reichman, a missionary, and his son Jared discovered the wreckage of the Hudson, high on a ridge behind Gasmata on 5 May this year. The fuselage, of which part was still relatively intact, still bore the clearly stencilled number of its original identification, A16-126, on the side of the inverted bomber.

An air force team visited the crash site of the Hudson in June 2008 and confirmed the identification of the aircraft. The bomber was in several large pieces with the cockpit and part of the fuselage inverted. Bullet holes from the enemy fighters were evident in the tail section and linked machine gun ammunition from the aircraft's guns still lay about. However, of the original bomb load there was no evidence.

Another air force forensic team plans to return to the site in the near future for a more intensive investigation which will include dividing the crash area into grid squares, clearing vegetation and conducting a more careful search for human remains, personal items and military artefacts.

On 11 February 1942 three RAAF Hudsons, led by then Wing Commander John Lerew, departed Port Moresby to make a low level attack against Japanese shipping at Gasmata, on the south coast of New Britain. During the bombing runs Lerew's aircraft was believed damaged by the explosion of one of his bombs or anti-aircraft fire while that of another pilot, Flying Officer Graham Gibson, was last seen being pursued inland by three Japanese fighters.

Lerew in the lead Hudson, A16-9, was to later describe his experience as "at the bottom of the dive got a big bump, like all the bombs had gone off together". "Gunner rushed forward and said: We're on fire". From this aircraft only Lerew eventually escaped by parachute through a forward hatch. As he floated down he saw Gibson's aircraft being pursued by three enemy fighters. Of the three RAAF aircraft that had attacked that day only one came home, that of Flight Lieutenant "Pedro" Pedrina.

After a nine day ordeal in the jungle behind Gasmata Wing Commander Lerew contacted some civilians still in the area and with the aid of a leaky launch they escaped from New Britain. Lerew's crew of three were last seen moving towards the back of the aircraft to attempt to parachute clear. It is assumed they were overcome by smoke and flames and failed to make a safe exit. Immediately post war Hudson A16-9 was discovered behind Gasmata and the remains of the three men recovered.

However, Gibson's Hudson had eluded post war searchers and it took 66 years and the dedicated work of Mark Reichman, his son Jared as well as Daniel Kovi and other local Gasmata people to solve another of the RAAF's wartime mysteries.

Those men that were aboard Hudson A16-126 the day it disappeared were:

Flying Officer Graham Ian Gibson (657) – pilot.
Pilot Officer Frank Leslie Oliver Thorn (4014710 – co-pilot.
Sgt Arthur Edward Quail (404748) – crew.
Sgt Barton Irving Coutie (405543) – crew.

At the time of writing the families of three of the men have been located by the Department of Defence. Those of Sgt Quail, who came from Biloela in Queensland, are yet to be relocated and notified.

Flight Lieutenant Pedro Pedrina DFC, pilot of the only Hudson to escape on 11 February from Gasmata, later lost his life from ground fire while flying supplies in to Buna in a Hudson on 15 December 1942.

Two other Hudsons, from 32 Squadron, were also lost on a night raid against Gasmata on 2/3 March 1942. While one (A16-165) was found on Urai Island offshore after the war the other (A16-101) is still listed as missing. Shattered aircraft wreckage recently found and photographed by the Reichman family in shallow water at Gasmata Bay may be this latter aircraft.

Post war records now reveal that the ships attacked on 11 February raid were the *Kinryu Maru* and *Kozui Maru* escorted by destroyers and other naval ships. The Japanese fighters sent aloft from Gasmata aerodrome were four obsolete navy Mitsubishi Type 96 *Claude* aircraft with fixed undercarriage, open cockpit and armed with light machine guns. One of the Japanese pilots, Ensign Satoshi Yoshino, later "claimed" to have shot down both Hudsons. Yoshino, later flying a Zero, was himself shot down near Cape Ward Hunt and killed on 9 June 1942 by an American, 1st Lieutenant Curran L. Jones, flying a P-39 Airacobra.

The intensity of the air war in New Guinea in 1942 is illustrated by the number of losses of aircraft and aircrew of the RAAF, our American allies and the Japanese.

Acknowledgements:

Justin Taylan and his Pacific Wrecks website.
The late GPCAPT John Lerew DFC.
Mark and Jared Reichman of New Britain (New Guinea).
Great Air Escapes – book by Robert Piper. ■

HELP WANTED

After the Japanese occupation in Rabaul in early 1942 the prisoners were permitted to write a brief letter home. If anyone has a copy of one of these letters they would be able to share with me for further research into this unusual event, could you please contact **Rod Miller** at 48 Delange Rd Putney 2112 phone 9808 6294 or email: rmmiller@optusnet.com.au . Thank you.

* * *

When I was the Government Mining Liaison Officer on Misima in 1987-88, I spent many an hour yarnning with the late Eric Ryan who owned what had been the old Burns Philp store at Bwagaoia. When I departed Misima, **Eric gave me the gold scales that had been in the old Bwagaoia store when he purchased it from BP's** in the early 1950's. I would be very interested to hear from anyone who has photos of these scales in use or knows anything about their BP history. Eric also gave me copies of pre-war photos of Bwagaoia and Umuna Mine if anyone is interested.

I am also interested in information about the vehicular bridge that was built in the late 1960's across the Tauri River on the bench cut between Kaintiba and Kanabea. A film was made about it, possibly called 'Getting through in New Guinea' and I would ideally like to get a copy of it. If anyone can help it would be appreciated. Deryck Thompson PO Box 14 Machans Beach Email: dandy51@bigpond.net.au

* * *

Myra Kennedy Macey would like to contact **Barbara McKay** who lived in Port Moresby in the seventies and did voluntary work at Gemo Hospital. If you can help, please phone Myra on: 03 6221 5407 or write to: 107/319 Macquarie Street, South Hobart, 7004. Email: maceyrodmyra@westnet.com.au

* * *

Colleen Neville would like to get in touch with **Paul Conroy and Geoff Booth** who served with her late husband, Ron, at Telefolmin. It would be appreciated if you are able to let Colleen know their contact details or alternatively pass this message on and ask if either one or both of them could contact Colleen via email at: colleen.nev@bigpond.com or phone/address: PO Box 193, Clifton Beach QLD 4879.'

* * *

Would anyone know the current whereabouts of photographs, movies and personal collections of the late **Sepik 'Robbie' Robinson** who worked in New Guinea from the 1930s until the 1960s? Dr George Corbin, Professor of Pacific Art History in New York has spent several years cataloguing an archive of Sepik River images from 1953-54 by ornithologist ET Gilliard. Amongst the photographs is a sketchbook, given to Sepik 'Robbie' by **Alfred Austin Bloxham** which includes arts from the Sepik River, the Ramu River and the Siassi Islands. Dr Corbin intends to write a paper on the images contained in the sketchbook. He is also interested in information about the artist/patrol officer Alfred Austin Bloxham. If you can help, please contact **Dr Corbin** at: 41 West 96th Street, 8D, New York, NY 10025 USA Email: corbinart@aol.com

* * *

If anyone knows **Kathy Frazer (nee Woolcock)** from Camborne, Cornwall; Goldsmiths College London 1959-61, who taught for several years in TPNG, could you please ask her to contact **Anne Pritchard (nee Harland)** at 18 Mentone Terrace, Edinburgh. EH92DF Scotland or Email: anneatno18@yahoo.co.uk

* * *

Peter Timmins is trying to contact **David Evesson** who worked in PNG, possibly in the public service, for the purposes of a school reunion later in the year. If you are able to help please contact Peter at (02) 83569622, Email: timminsp@ozemail.com.au. or 2004/73 Victoria St Potts Point 2011. Any help will be appreciated.

* * *

The following photos were found in the Paddy Ethel collection, circa 1937. Can you help with any identification please? Please contact Dr Peter Cahill on Ph: 07-3371 4794 or Email: p.cahill@uqconnect.net.



Genealogical index to Australians and Other Expatriates in Papua New Guinea 1888-1975

CD - published by the Queensland Family History Society: May 2007

ISBN: 978-1-921171-13-0 - \$49.50AU + \$2 postage worldwide.

www.qfhs.org.au/index.html

This CD presents as a pdf file the index compiled by Joan Ainsworth in 1981 to a wide range of records relating to Australians, Germans, Pacific Islanders and other expatriates in Papua New Guinea. It was previously published on microfiche by the Queensland Family History Society in 1992, originally titled Some Expatriates of Papua New Guinea. This re-release on CD makes the resource much more accessible and allows searching of the text of the full publication using Acrobat Reader.

The full index covers approximately 15,000 people, with multiple sources for many, and the full file represents over 600 pages of indexes and other information.

This material on this CD is a unique and extremely valuable resource for research on expatriate families in Papua New Guinea. It covers a total of 38 sources from across the country, with some information such as the monumental inscriptions no longer available as time and vandalism have taken their toll on headstones. With very few Papua New Guinea records available, this CD is an essential resource for researchers with Papua New Guinea interests. ■

BOOK NEWS AND REVIEWS

The Battle for Wau New Guinea's Frontline 1942–1943 by **Phillip Bradley**
ISBN-13: 9780521896818 Hardback Published April 2008 304pp incl Foreword
by Peter Ryan, maps, half-tone photos, bibliography and index. Available from
Cambridge University Press, 477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC
3207, Australia www.cambridge.org Cost: \$75 plus postage or contact your local
book shop.

Publisher's note: The Battle for Wau brings together for the first time the full story of the early World War II conflicts in New Guinea, from the landing of the Japanese at Salamaua in March 1942 to their defeat at Wau in February 1943. Phillip Bradley draws on the recollections of over 70 veterans from the campaign and on his own first-hand knowledge of the region. Beginning with the early commando operations in Salamaua, the story unfolds with the burning of Wau, the clashes around Mubo, the Japanese convoy to Lae and the United States air operation to Wau. The book climaxes with the fortitude of Captain Sherlock's outnumbered company. Desperately fighting an enemy regiment debouching from the rugged unguarded ranges to the east, Sherlock's men fought to hold Wau airfield open for the arrival of vital reinforcements.

Brutnall's Follies by **Martin Kerr & Harry Brutnall**

ISBN: 978-0-9804903-0-5 (pbk) Published 2008 Avbl from: MaskiMedia, PO
Box 757, Ravenshoe, QLD 4888 Email: publisher@maskimedia.com.au T/F 07-
40976940 (cheque or money order please) or www.maskimedia.com.au Cost:
AU\$24.50 plus p&p AU\$7.50 with Australia (p&p \$15 elsewhere)

Publisher's note: 'Martin Kerr and I have been having a regular drink together. Usually we'd talk about the old times in New Guinea and any other subject of interest...Martin stopped me one day and said he was going to take everything down.'

'This is a record of Harry Brutnall's life as a miner, sailor, diver, ship owner and farmer. He reflects on major events in his long life with modesty and humour. Unique for many readers will be his understated comments on people and events seen from the eyes of a country lad who has well and truly served his country.'

His first diving job was to retrieve bodies of his mates from HMAS Kuttabul in 1942. He cleared the propeller of a ship sent urgently to Timor to pick up Australian commandoes, retrieved Japanese aircraft parts in Darwin harbour, built a slipway in Port Moresby, secured spent torpedoes in Pittwater, installed moorings in Cockburn Sound and blasted away underwater hazards in Fremantle...Harry went on to have many adventures in Papua New Guinea...'

Seafaring men like George provided a life blood to the New Guinea Islands and along the way the experiences were rich and varied.

BOOK NEWS (Cont.)

Finding Darcy by **Sue Lawson**, ISBN 9781742030234, Published 2008 by Black Dog Books, Paperback 272pp, Ages 10+, Cost: \$18.99 plus p&p. Available from Black Dog Books, 15 Gertrude St, Fitzroy, VIC 3065 Ph: 03-9419 9406 or www.bdb.com.au

Publisher's note:

"Then I found what I was looking for. A photo of a man in army uniform. Written in pencil, on the back of the photo, was Darcy Charles Fletcher, 1941." When Darcy Abbott is sent to live with her surly grandmother and silent great-grandmother (and a TV curfew of 9.30 and no internet access) for three months, she discovers a mystery regarding the death of her great-grandfather, Darcy Charles Fletcher, during World War II.

By Finding Darcy, Darcy Abbott discovers exactly what she has been searching for all her life — except she didn't know it.

From the author of the award-winning Allie McGregor's True Colours comes this powerful story of the damage that secrets can wreak over generations — and the healing liberation of truth.

Nominated Golden Inky, 2008 Inky Awards

'The Inky Awards were created by the State Library of Victoria's Centre for Youth Literature to encourage reading for pleasure amongst teenagers.'

http://www.slv.vic.gov.au/about/news/media_releases/mr_071113.html

Flying With My Angel – surviving religion, sex and helicopters by **Phil Latz**.

ISBN 978 0 9804451 0 7, published 2008 by Zytal Press, 416 pages, many colour plus B & W photographs. Cost: \$29.95 incl p&p within Aust. Contact Phil Latz at 02-6677-9388, by mail, C/o PO Stokers Siding, NSW, 2484. Email: pjlatz2@tadaust.org.au. Details, www.phillatz.com.

Publisher's note: 'Even before Phil Latz was speared at age four while growing up on a Lutheran Mission in Australia's desert heartland his angel was working overtime. Join him and his ethereal guardian on a remarkable adventure as Phil makes the transformation from a feral outback kid growing up with Australian Aborigines, to a cosmopolitan high-flying pilot of the world's largest helicopter. His worldwide experiences may even inspire you to begin the career you always dreamed about while using his many travel hints and tips about different countries' local customs.'

Love on the Run A Temlett Conibeer Story by **ACT Marke**

ISBN: 978 1740274807 Printed 2008 Prepared by Ginninderra Press

Available from Frogmouth Press, PO Box 90, Ainslie ACT 2602 Ph: 0428 833 212 \$25 or \$30 Posted

Publisher's note: 'Contains vivid imagery that gives the reader a good sense of being in the area (New Guinea) also very amusing and humorous.

Interative Press.

'Being a Papua New Guinea Field officer's attempt to remedy lost years of sex and romance.'

REUNIONS

2008 Samarai & Milne Bay Reunion

26th-29th September at Gladstone, central Queensland.

Please contact: Sharon Catford, Reunion Function, PO Box 569, Gladstone BC QLD 4680, phone 07-4978.2140. *Email* scatford@bigpond.net.au

* * *

Madang Re-Union/Yearly Get-Together

For the last 26 years, a large group of Madang-ites has come together on a yearly basis to renew old acquaintances in a very informal atmosphere. Each year a number of people turn up for the very first time and some of them claim that they had not been aware of such an event. In order to rectify this situation, anyone who has spent time in Madang and who has fond memories of the best place in PNG, is asked to please note the following:

- The re-union is held each year on the second Sunday in November. This year it will be Sunday 9th of November commencing at about 10.30am and going through to 4.00pm or later.
- It is easy to find. The location is Ajax Park on beautiful Bribie Island just North of Brisbane. Ajax Park is located on the corner of South Esplanade and Toorbul St. Just drive along Welsby Pde past Bongaree Bowls Club.
- Lots of parking, toilets etc. A folding chair or two might be handy for the old timers.
- Bring your own everything – lunch, drinks, memories etc.
- Everyone is more than welcome. We always get a good roll-up of Madang-ites ranging from early post-war to current models.
- You may like to make a week-end of it by booking accommodation for a night or two at one of the motels, hotels or caravan parks on Bribie Island.

If any further information is required please contact John Maksimas on Ph: 0410602549 or Email maksimas@bigpond.com

* * *

Calling all EX and current New Irelanders to a ...

New Ireland Reunion: Sunday 15th March 2009 11.00am – 5.00pm
Sofitel Hotel, Broadbeach, Queensland

Sit down Smorgasbord Luncheon, including welcome drink: \$60 per person
Cash bar operating and a variety of surprises planned.

We are getting a good response. As there is a numbers cap set by the venue please register early. Full payment is required by November 30th. No extensions, sorry.

Optional breakfast and dinner on Saturday and breakfast on Sunday planned.

Whether you are from Kavieng, the East Coast, the West Coast, the islands, Namatani, or beyond – we would love you to attend and catch up with some old friends! If you know anyone else who might be interested please pass this information on. If you would like to attend or are interested in finding out more about it, please send your name, address, email address (if any), home phone number, and mobile phone number (if any) *as soon as possible* to:

Tony Thomas P O Box 840, North Lakes. Qld 4509

Email champjt@bigpond.net.au - 07 3886 5116, 0437 558391

Anne Peters at annepeters30@gmail.com OR 23 Palmer Street, Rocky Point NSW 2259.

ACT OF REMEMBRANCE HONOURS PAPUAN INFANTRY BATTALION

An Act of Remembrance was held on Wednesday October 17, 1945 in honour of fallen members of the PIB Papuan Infantry Battalion. The battalion, formed at Port Moresby on 1 June 1940, saw action in:

Papua	between July 1942 and April 1943
New Guinea	between May 1943 and November 1944
Bougainville	between May 1945 and August 1945

The roll of the names of those who died in service, both indigenous and non-indigenous, was read out in their honour.

The service was conducted in both Motu and English with the address being given by the commanding officer Lt.-Colonel S Elliott-Smith.

This address included the following:

‘We soldiers have seen much and learned a lot which we did not know before. We have learned to work together. Men from all languages and all tribes have fought side by side and learned to trust each other, and to be friends. We must remember that when we go back to our own country.

We must tell our village people that we soldiers have found out that Papua is one country and one people, and that we can make our country a better place if we think first for Papua and afterwards for our village or District.’

An address by the unit chaplain included the following words:

‘It is possible that one man still lives who was a child when Dr Lawes landed in Papua in 1871, so that, in the life-time of one old man, you Papuans have learned much. First you learned to live at peace with each other along the coasts and also between coast and inland. So you were able to travel around freely in peace and you saw that others were your fellow Papuans. Now you have fought together as one people.

What you learned in peace, you have proven in war, so taking one more step to being truly one people. ...

Just as you learned to live at peace with your fellow Papuans, so it is the will of God that all shall learn to live at peace all over the world. But peace does not just happen. It has to be carefully built, just as people have to take care in building a house to put the right parts in the right place, and so the house stands. They give thought and work to making it; and we must give thought and work to building peace, not alone in our own land, but in all lands. That is the will of God.

The first thing to learn, the biggest thing of all, is that we must each think of others just as much as of ourselves...

God grant that we may have the strength to live even as they had the strength to die.’

Complete details of the service and the Honour Roll can be found on the PNGAA website. We thank the son of NX165149 Warrant Officer Albert RR Davis of 2nd Mountain Battery RAA for sending us this programme. ■

DONATIONS TO THE PNGAA COLLECTION – FRYER LIBRARY THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND LIBRARY

Dr Peter Cahill

J.M.Jenkins: photographs of (mainly) Methodist Chinese school children, Rabaul, 1933-1939. Includes school groups on steps of Overseas Chinese School; solo and group photographs; brother and sister water-carriers in Chinatown; Malay schoolboys; picnics at Nodup; street scenes in pre-war Chinatown; Kamerere street showing Catholic Yang Ching School; Miss Jenkins and Chinese teacher Mr Yip; postwar view of Dowsett Street (later Ah Chee Avenue, Matupi Farm Chinatown) showing Captain J.H. McGregor Dowsett with Chinese friends. **Marjorie Head:** brief details of the Rev. Henry Matthews' (Rector of St John's Anglican Church, Port Moresby, 1927 – 1942) family and associated papers; material relating to the Apex Club of Port Moresby ca.1960-1973; Competitive Rules and General Information for the Third South Pacific Games, Port Moresby, August 1969; scrap book of Games cuttings; material relating to the 4th South Pacific Games, Papeete, Tahiti, September 1971, including *Charter of the South Pacific Games Council*

4th ed., Regulations, general information, programmes (sic), transport arrangements, photos (in booklet) and list of PNG team. **Hedley Clarke Schmidt** (courtesy Mrs M. Head): selected photographs 1942-1945 of Port Moresby, Oro Bay, Scarlet Beach (Finschhafen) showing munitions/vehicles dump Waigani/JuneValley, landing barges (?Scarlet Beach), 2 painted signs at Scarlet Beach: one records the landing of three Jap barges on night 16-17 October 1943, the second notes the engineering achievements of 9 Aust Div after the enemy had retreated; generic photos of planes, tanks, trucks, ships; New Guinea Gold Theatre at (?) Finschhafen; group of native males in loin cloths (not *laplaps*); pre-war views of Port Moresby including radio masts (?) APC headquarters at Badili; view of native gaol on Gabutu Motu Motu, Koki; view of Australian Army Canteen Service C108 (later RSL Club, Ela Beach); carved ceremonial entry posts, Oro Bay; native constable with 1935 style uniform and (?) Lee Enfield rifle; swinging bridge over Laloki river; newly laid out Bomana War Cemetery; view from Government House grounds towards Hanuabada village; MV Macdhui under attack by Japanese bombers June 1942.

Geoff Brazier: wide range of police related photographs including parades at Kila Kila Barracks; first PNG officers training at Bomana Police College; NG police force detachment at Snake River, Watut, early-mid 1930s; departure of Senior Inspector Sandy Sinclair; four pre-war native police including Ludwig Somare Sana; 2nd intake of police cadets 1960-1964; parade inspections at Kila Barracks; weapons training Bomana Officers College 1960-1964; opening of Mt Hagen police headquarters (?date); Papuan Armed Constabulary Kokoda Detachment, November 1928; police band meeting the *Marco Polo* December 1976; RPNGC contingent to coronation 1952; poster for RPNGC Centenary Ball 1988; coffin of Sir Hubert Murray, late Governor of Papua, at Port Moresby wharf 1940. **Michael Baker:** CD of newspaper cuttings relating to the murder by villagers of Jack Emanuel, East New Britain District Commissioner, 1973;

Wendy Glassby: copy of *History, identity, fiction: re-imagining Rabaul* – Dissertation presented for the Degree of Bachelor of Arts with Honours at Murdoch University, W.A. 2008. **Rosalie Thacker:** photographs of 1930s

Samarai street scenes and major buildings (particularly the Cahill family home which I've never seen before!); Sunderland flying boat which evacuated residents on Boxing Day, 1942; Samarai buildings burning in scorched earth policy January-May 1942; memorial to Christopher Robinson, former Governor of Papua, who died 1904; typescript articles: *The Evacuation of Samarai, Boxing Day, 1942* and *Gay ghosts haunt war-torn Samarai Isle* by a (?Chicago) *Herald Tribune* journalist 1944; photographs of Rabaul town centre and *bug* 1960s. **"Jimmy" Ernst:** Francis Mihalic, *Grammar and Dictionary of Neo-Melanesian*, 1957; Joan & Gordon Carter, *Coral Shores: a Pictorial Record of the Coastal; and Morobe Regions of Papua New Guinea*, 1957; album of approximately 160 colour slides of Port Moresby, Samarai and Goroka (all identified and dated!); **Gail Burke:** theatre programs for various London, American and Brisbane productions (amateur and professional), the Port Moresby Arts Council (in its various names) and Lae Festivals of Drama 1960s/1970s; Port Moresby Teachers' Graduation Ceremonies 1966-1971; **Bob Blaikie:** biography/career path as *kia* in PNG; letter 181068 to Director of DDA, Konedobu, on the Hahalis Welfare Society, Buka; diary only of Bogia Patrol Report No.2 of 1953/54; full Patrol Report no.3 of 1953/54 to the Kominimung Area – Guam River (note: PR no.3 is an expansion of PR no.2). **Arthur L.(Paddy) Ethell*** (courtesy Mrs M.Head): biographical details; large quantity of photographs Port Moresby (note lattice-work on Papua Hotel), Laloki river, Kikori & Purari patrols 1937, showing village life, patrol officer accommodation (basic), native customs/dress/canoes; *Dictionary of Police Motu*; (?unpublished) stencil copy 1980 of *How to give away Territory, Foreign Affairs Style: Torres Strait* by James Griffin. **Michael Arthur:** large colour photos of September 1973 Mt Hagen Show: native huts, hundreds of locals, dancers wearing Bird of Paradise plumes, forehead pearl shell discs, and bucket-shaped head gear, kundus, the PIR band and the Star of the Show – the Elefan (Elephant) brought in by SP Brewing Company (and complemented by a subtle display of SP ads and banners). **June Dowling (Mossman):** photos of Rabaul, Kavieng, Vulcan eruption including: Kavieng Sports Day, Anzac Day, 1937; view of Rabaul showing W.R. Carpenter bulk store (formerly Norddeutsche Lloyd building); Malaguna Road with (?Catholic) church spire; Simpsonhafen with large ship dressed with flags; native market(*bung*) Rabaul; water polo at European Baths, Rabaul, 1941 (and postwar showing extensive damage); Burns Philp store; New Guinea Club; W.R. Carpenter store; Public Works Department office; Supreme Court; Rabaul Public School; Dept. of Agriculture office; Museum; 2 native women; vulcanologist's hut 1941 eruption; Matupi (W.R. Carpenter plantation) post-eruption showing shattered palms; 12/22nd camp during 1941 eruption; labourers cleaning plantation after 1937 eruption; same showing wrecked tractor and grass-cutter.

more detail in the December *Una Voce

Dr Peter Cahill will be in Darwin early September if anyone has any small donations they would like to pass on to the PNGAA Collection of the Fryer Library. Please contact Dr Cahill and discuss with him: Phone: 07-3371 4794 and email: p.cahill@uqconnect.net. ■

2008 PNGAA Committee



Keith Jackson AM

President

When did you arrive in PNG?

In November 1963, a week before John F Kennedy was assassinated

Why you went there

As an 18 year old newly trained schoolteacher just out of ASOPA, in search of an adventurous life

Where you lived

Wewak, Goroka, Kundiawa, Gagl, Moresby, Rabaul, Kieta,

Moresby

Where were you employed? For the Education Department, the ABC, the Dept of Information and the National Broadcasting Commission

When did you leave? 1976

What current work/interests do you have?

Chairman, Jackson Wells - a public relations company.



Harry West

President Emeritus

When did you arrive in PNG?

I was discharged from AIF as Lieutenant in ANGAU on 15 March 1946 to become a Patrol Officer with the re-established Civil Administration of PNG.

Where you lived: Served as a Kiap in Morobe, Highlands, Sepik and New Britain till 1972. Finally, one year in Moresby as First Assistant Secretary, Department of the Administrator.

When did you leave? 1973

What current work/interests do you have? For the last 26 years I was Secretary, then President of PNGAA.



Pam Foley

Deputy President

When did you arrive in PNG? March 1946

Why you went there? Attached to the military hospital in Rabaul with the Australian Army Medical Women's Service (AAMWS)

Where you lived: Late in 1946 the Provisional Administration offered work and accommodation for women so, with five others, I was discharged. We had various jobs and lived in a converted Quonset hut.

If you worked, tell us where? I worked for the head of Liaison Group which organised the transition from military to civilian control. After I married Patrol Officer Michael Foley we moved to various coastal and highland districts.

When did you leave? 1973

Current work/interests? Regularly volunteering at the Mater Hospital and DARTS - an organisation which provides transport for people confined to wheelchairs attending recreational and cultural activities.



Ross Johnson

Finance and Membership

When you came to PNG? 1935

Why you went there:

Parents went to live in Edie Creek (1935-1940) - they were then evacuated late 1941.

Where did you live? Edie Creek, Wau, Madang, Aiome, Bogia, Henganofi, Kainantu, Kerowagi, Raba Raba, Samarai, Alotau, Port Moresby

Where were you employed?

Cadet with NGG Ltd, Wau (1950-52); Joined DDS & NA in 1952 as a Cadet Patrol Officer; (Snr Liaison Officer to 2nd House of Assembly Select Committee on Constitutional Development). Transferred to Dept SD & HA as Assistant Secretary Management Services (1972-74).

When did you leave? 1974

Other information: Joined Standards Association of Australia (SAA) December 1974- before retiring as their Company Secretary in October 1993.



Fred Kaad OBE

When you arrived in PNG and why:

In 1940 I enlisted in the army and first arrived in PNG with the 2/7 Battalion serving in the Wau area. In 1943 I transferred to ANGAU serving in the District Services section. In 1946 I was discharged from the AIF and returned to PNG as a patrol officer after attending No 3 Short Course on Pacific Administration at Duntroon.

Where you lived and worked: As a member of the Australian administration in PNG, I worked and lived in Samarai, Namatanai, New Hanover, Kavieng, Higaturu (just after Mt Lamington erupted), Goroka, Maprik, Wewak, Rabaul, Port Moresby, Madang.

When did you leave:

In 1964, after a plane crash in the Finisitere Ranges resulting in T12 paraplegia.

What current work/interests do you have: As a result of becoming a paraplegic, I became involved in many associations with the aim of providing assistance to the disabled and I am currently a director of SpinalCure Australia.

Any other information? 1951, OIC following the Mt Lamington eruption. 1952-3 Attended No 3 Long Course for Field Officers at ASOPA; 1962 appointed Secretary Select Committee on Political Development of the Legislative Council of PNG which led to the first House of Assembly and universal voting. 1963 Executive Officer of the Commission on Higher Education in PNG which led to the first universities in Port Moresby and Lae. After hospitalisation and rehabilitation following the plane crash, I began lecturing at ASOPA and also interviewed applicants for appointment to PNG public service. Represented PNG Boy Scouts Association on Australian Council of Boy Scouts until PNG's independence in 1975. Awarded Masters degree (Hons) in educational administration by Uni of New England in 1972, maintaining my links with PNG by continuing as a lecturer and counsellor and later, course director at ASOPA/ITI; membership of Retired Officers' Association of PNG, now PNGAA Inc; [Fred was the second editor of *Una Voce* 1978-1988] friends; and former students.



Ann Graham (nee Young-Whitforde)

Secretary

When you arrived in PNG

Arrived PNG December 1953

Why you went there

Husband was a Patrol Officer

Where did you live?

Mostly in New Britain

If you worked, tell us where.

Employed with the Dept. Health as School Nurse

When did you leave? 1970

What current work/interests do you have?

Current interests are reading, music and travel.



Marie Clifton-Bassett

Assistant Secretary

When you arrived in PNG? 1954

Why you went there

Met my husband-to-be at ASOPA

Where did you live?

Posted to various District Headquarters, the first was Samarai; the most interesting were Mendi and Madang.

If you worked, tell us where: I worked for a time in the Local Government Office, Madang. As the wife of a District

Commissioner, I was kept busy helping to entertain official visitors. Young Papua New Guineans had few opportunities to travel, so I started up the Madang Youth Travel Association. Over a four year period, the Association sent 79 PNG students to Australia on a three-week educational holiday.

When did you leave? Des and I left PNG prior to Independence just as our girls were finishing high school.

What current work/interests do you have? I was editor of *Una Voce* from mid-1996 to end 2003. Recently I have become involved in environmental issues.



Andrea Williams (nee Coote)

Editor *Una Voce*, Publications and Communications

When and why you were in PNG? 1955

My parents, Peter and Margaret Coote, lived on Langu Plantation in the Witu Islands. My father's parents married in the Solomon Islands in 1916 and moved to Pt Moresby by 1918. My father, Peter, was born in Samarai. His father managed Burns Philp in Rabaul before WWII and was reportedly lost as a civilian POW on the *Montevideo Maru*. Grandmother and aunt were evacuated on Macdhui Dec 41.

Family returned to Rabaul to develop a cocoa plantation after WWII.

Where did you live? Witu, Rabaul, Lae, Port Moresby

If you worked, tell us where: At first I was with Talair in Sydney. When I returned to live in Rabaul I joined RTC World Travel.

When did you leave? 1988

Other information: In 2005 I walked the Kokoda Track and Easter 2008 Laurie and I returned to Rabaul for the PNG National Gamefishing Titles.

**Robin Mead**

Papua New Guinea Relations

When did you go to PNG? 1980

Why you went there? Initially to visit my family who moved to PNG after more than 20 years in West Africa. My father was Vice-Chancellor of the University of Technology in Lae. After graduating in the UK I had no thought that I would work in PNG, however while there I was offered a job in commercial aviation, a lifelong passion of mine, so I cancelled my plans to go back and

work in England. Between aviation and PNG I was hooked from then on!

Where you lived? Lae, Goroka, Kiunga, Daru, Mt Hagen

Where were you employed? Talair, Talair... What an amazing organization! For three years I ran the Fuel Division, based out of the Head Office in Goroka, but travelling regularly to check the 15 or so locations around PNG where we had fuel facilities; then I transferred to Traffic and was a Branch Manager in various locations.

When did you leave? 1988

Other information: Am always interested in the PNG aviation and history connections, and also in how we can work together to grow our Association and positive links between our two countries.

**Harriet Troy**

Fellowship and Caring

When did you go to PNG? 1971

Why you went there? Seeking adventure

Where did you live? Lived in Lae then Port Moresby.

When did you leave? 1974

Other information: Spent many years travelling then living in the Philippines for an extended period, raising four children; working as Liaison Officer for an Australian Trading Company and Chief Designer for Ballet Shoe

factory. Currently Harriet is a company secretary in Australia. Her interests lie in Dress designing; Yoga & fitness; History Reading.

**Riley Warren AM**

History and Scholarship

When did you go to PNG: 1972

Why you went there: To teach

Where did you live?

Goroka, Kainantu, Port Moresby and Lae

When did you leave?

Initially left at the beginning of 1979. At the beginning of 1985 I was appointed Headmaster of Lae International High School and was there for four years (1985-1988

inclusive). Altogether eleven years service in Papua New Guinea.

What current work/interests do you have?

I have been Headmaster of Macarthur Anglican School since 1989.

I have a Bachelor of Education degree from Canberra University. I was made a Fellow of the Australian College of Education in 2003 and was honoured to be appointed a Member of the Order of Australia in 2006.



Joe Nitsche

When you came to PNG: 1951.

Why you went there? My parents lived at Aiyura and worked at the Highlands Agricultural Experimental Station.

Where you lived and worked:

I joined the Department of Agriculture, Stock & Fisheries in March 1957 as an Agricultural Extension Officer. My first posting was to Kapogere, an Agricultural Station near Kwikila/Rigo. From there to Chuave, Goroka, Kainantu, Goroka in EHD. Here I worked in various agricultural field

and administrative positions and later also covered all districts within PNG advising farmers on the coffee culture.

When did you leave? I completed my contract with the PNG Government and returned to Sydney in June 1984.

What interests do you have?

After renovating my home and establishing my garden I joined PNGAA in 1984. Became Secretary in 1985 until 1999. In 1986 I joined the Social committee, arranging luncheons, sing sings etc until 2008. In 1986, I was also involved in the running of Forestville Arts and Crafts Centre as a volunteer, student and teacher until 1999. From then I had to curtail my activities to help in the care of my late mother who passed away in 2004 aged 100 years.

Today I am involved with the Killarney Heights Probus Club, in church and family activities. I have visited PNG a number of times to visit friends. Further international travel is in the pipe-line once some health problems are rectified.



Nancy Johnston

When you went to PNG? December 1946

Why you went to PNG? To join my Patrol Officer husband, William James Johnston.

Where you lived: Bwagaoia, Misima Island: Kulumadau Woodlark Island: Sehulea, Normanby Island: Esa'Ala, Normanby Island: Kikori, Gulf District: Madang: Bogia, Madang District: Lorengau, Manus District: Popondetta, Northern District: Port Moresby.

If you worked, tell us where: Home Economics Officer, Post-Primary School, Lorengau Manus Island; Chief District Clerk, Department of the Administrator, Popondetta, Northern District; In 1970 joined Intelligence and Security Branch, Department of Foreign Relations and Trade. Voluntary work: Administration Women's Clubs, the Girl Guide Movement, the Country Women's Assn., Parents' & Citizens' Assn.

When did you leave? 30th September 1975

What current work/interests do you have? Family first. Keeping PNG information that interests me up to date and contact with my long time PNG friends.

Any other information? The distortion of PNG history from 1946 to say the sixties, produced by people who were not there, such as academics, professors, authors etc.etc. etc.??? !!!

**Marie Day**

When you went to PNG? 1953

Why you went there? Had been travelling and wanted somewhere different to go.

Where you lived? Pt Moresby and Rabaul

If you worked, tell us where: 1953-1957 Treasury Dept, Pt Moresby. 1957-1959 Treasury Dept, Rabaul. 1959-1969 Treasury Pt Moresby. 1969-1975 DASF Pt Moresby

When did you leave? 1975

**Juli Allcorn**

When and why where you in PNG?

Born Namanula Hospital Rabaul in 1960. My father, Ross Jennings, was working in Rabaul in the early 50s. My mother, Barbara, joined him when they married in 1954.

Where you lived: Rabaul

When did you leave? Went to boarding school in Year 5 and my family left in 1972 due to my father's ill health.

What current work/interests do you have? Currently working as an art teacher; also running Imagination &

Creation art classes. I am a practising artist with a number of successful exhibitions behind me. Also running Outback Revisited - taking artists/creative people on location to a sheep station called Oxley Downs for art workshops set back in time to 1861. Inspired by my time as the Squatter's wife on the ABC reality television 'Outback House'.

**Margaret Komarek**

When you came to PNG: 1969

Why you went there? With a sense of adventure and to work

Where you lived Port Moresby and Goroka

If you worked, tell us where: DDA Port Moresby and the District Office Goroka

When did you leave? 1970

What current work/interests do you have?

Librarian/researcher

**Jacky Lawes**

Could you tell us about your interest in PNG?

This stems from my heritage – my great-grandfather was WG Lawes one of the first LMS missionaries and he and his wife Fanny Wickham Lawes were the first white people to have lived permanently in Papua, mainly around Port Moresby from 1874-1905. His name lives on because of his work and places named after him. He built a small church at Ela Beach and he greatly emphasized the importance of education, building a

college for local people to become church leaders.

I visited PNG once – on a trip on the *MV Sepura* up the Fly River in November 2006, captained by Ann Collins' sons Tony and James. However I am interested to visit Pt Moresby, to learn a lot more about PNG's history and care for its future. I originally had a social work background but later took up horticulture and now work casually as a bush regenerator. I am interested in land management, environmental issues and social justice.

Based on an address at Adelaide Annual PNGAA Lunch 11 November 2007

MTT to MD in 30 YEARS
A Human Metamorphosis
Dr Roy Scragg OBE MD FRACMA MPH

1947-53	Medical Officer	Lae	Sohano	Rabaul	Kavieng
1954-57	Acting Assistant Director Konedobu				
1957-70	Director of Public Health				
1970-74	Foundation Professor Social and Preventive Medicine UPNG				

My mind still holds the big picture but many who worked with me tell stories I've long forgotten. In Liverpool England the other day Peter Pharaoh, who completed the lipiodol/cretinism Jimi study in 1970, reminded me that his first follow up patrol found only 60% of the injected women. I was not satisfied with this proportion and wrote, 'try again'. On the next patrol, he found 90% but I still wasn't satisfied, so out he went yet again and got 99%. He, thereby, was able to be the first to prove that iodine deficiency of the mother caused cretinism in the foetus from conception. Pharaoh was one of many who sought and obtained answers to the health problems of PNG and in so doing became a world renowned epidemiologist and the Professor of Tropical Medicine at Liverpool.

In 1947, I first considered working in Arnhem Land and was interviewed by JB Cleland and NB Tindale. However, my contemporaries were going into the army in Japan and medical officer in Papua New Guinea sounded more interesting. Through my church connections, I had heard a lot about PNG and met people who had been evacuated from Port Moresby. I arrived on August 19th 1947 to join the existing 12 doctors for the 21 month tour and worked at Lae then Sohano and in and out of Rabaul relieving Bruce Sinclair.

In this review of my 27 years in PNG, I have defined five eras – Epidemic, War, Curative, Preventive and Independence, and within these eras I have described events in Medical Research, Treatment, Prevention and Education. The expectation of life at birth is a broad measure of the quality of health services, and in each era heading I have shown my estimate of this statistic for the country as a whole during that era.

EPIDEMIC ERA 1880-1941 Expectation of life 25 years

The epidemic era started when the first European vessel brought people with diseases new to the country. In April 1880 the first western doctor, Dr Goyon, arrived with the First Marquis de Rays expedition to New Ireland to establish the capital of Nouvelle France which included all PNG and the Solomons. As the Rabaul settlements had no doctor, he was called to do a placental removal for Mrs Danks at the Duke of Yorks Methodist mission. Later, Goyon ignored the Marquis and got settlers away from malaria ridden New Ireland to Australia.

The five doctors with the 1898 Cambridge Anthropological Expedition to the Torres Strait wrote six anthropological treatises but produced only one page in the British Medical Journal. Epidemiology started with the studies by Robert Koch of malaria in 1899 followed by Breinl of dysentery in 1913, Cilento of depopulation in

1920 and in the 1930's by epidemiologists from the Australian Institute of Tropical Medicine, Townsville and the School of Public Health, Sydney who studied skin, bowel and venereal diseases.

Just the presence of a doctor was of value to the Europeans but doctors rarely visited villages and for many years all services were limited to the towns. The German doctors trained illiterate village men to be medical tultuls (MTT) but only a Supervising MTT gave arsenical injections (NAB). The first doctor to go into the community was Walter Strong, Chief Medical Officer Papua. He initiated the training of patrolling native medical assistants and in 1934 sent primary school leavers to Sydney for further training.

The Rockefeller hookworm campaign included PNG, and patrols used NAB to treat but not cure yaws but prevention was minimal. The only effective medicines were quinine and NAB until the first sulphonamide, M & B 693, became available in 1939. Eric Wright, as a medical assistant, used it to try to control an influenza epidemic that killed about 12% of the Woitape people in 1939-40.

In 1972, on Yule Island, I unearthed books recording family (*Status Animarum*), births (*Baptizorum*) and deaths (*Defunctorum*) kept by the priests of the Catholic Mission by date starting in 1875 including the Mekeo from 1885. An analysis of these books show deaths exceeding births in most years due to frequent epidemics of measles, whooping cough and influenza reported in the Annual Reports for Papua. Study of records in New Guinea also show a decline in population in Buka from 1915 and a rapid decline in New Ireland from 1908.

WAR ERA 1942-1946 Expectation of life 20 years

The war generated research into scrub typhus, malaria and other diseases that could affect the Australian troops. There was little prevention but other sulpha drugs and new anti-malarials became available. The Australian New Guinea Administrative Unit of the army (ANGAU) brought regular medical patrols to villages to balance the privation the people suffered. Education of primary school leavers as native medical assistants, and illiterates as orderlies, continued. Even though there was no fighting, deaths exceeded births in the Mekeo and significantly exceeded births where fighting occurred.

CURATIVE ERA 1947-1959 Expectation of life 40 years

1947 Estimate 1,300,000 persons

In 1947 the date of birth and cause or age at death was rarely known. Total population was an estimate as large tribes were yet to be contacted. Malaria, pneumonia and dysentery were recognised as important causes of disease and death but the causes of the high infant and maternal mortality and of the declining population in some areas were unknown. However there was no high blood pressure, diabetes or obesity.

The 1947 New Guinea Nutrition Survey Expedition lead by Eben Hipsley assessed the impact of the war and the tropical environment on the health and nutrition of 5 villages. This basic research and later studies were made easier by the compliant sick people who accepted doctors studying them and taking samples. *Cont. →*

On a Buka Island patrol in April 1948 I saw 7,000 people. This was of no value to them or to me as I only felt spleens, treated skin conditions and checked for anaemia. Seeking an understanding of individual health, I selected over 1,000 people from a coastal village and an inland group of villages to study in detail. The catechists had wrapped church journals dating from 1915 in banana leaves and hidden them in caves during the war. From these records, the Catholic Mission priests knew everything about everybody and they allowed me to use them to establish the vital records of these communities.

I went on leave in 1949, Joy Hann and I were married and I did the Tropical Medicine course in Sydney in 1950. Posting me to Kavieng, New Ireland, John Gunther suggested I look into the depopulation that Native Affairs and anthropologists considered to be caused by culture contact even though the population of the Tabar Islands had fallen from 8,000 in 1908 to 1437 by 1950.

I patrolled Tigak around Kavieng and the Tabar Islands and compared their population distribution with the Buka samples. The New Ireland populations were aged like Australia in 1941 with few children while those in Buka were young like Australia in 1901 with many children. The crude birth rate of 22 in New Ireland and 57 in Buka and infant mortality rate 71 and 319 respectively defined infertile unions as the cause of the declining population

77 infertile married couples were selected and investigated as a fertility specialist would have done at that time. The cause of most of the infertility was fallopian tube obstruction due to gonorrhoea – Chlamydia, another cause today, had not been discovered. This study was accepted for the Degree of Doctor of Medicine at the University of Adelaide in 1954. In 1960 in Atlanta I detailed my study to D A Henderson of smallpox fame, he remarked that I was an *epidemiologist*, a title new to Australia.

From 1947 until 1957 Gunther was director and in his 'lobectomy' letter, written after his surgery in 1949, set out the four main divisions of the Public Health Department. In 1954 he detailed a medical training plan including content and projected numbers for education in every health discipline. Posted to Port Moresby as relieving assistant director I edited the first issue of the PNG Medical Journal in 1955. It included the seminal article by Gunther on how malaria was making those it did not kill sick and sabotaging every aspect of development of PNG. In Buka I had seen malaria kill many infants and in New Ireland, cause enlarged spleens and poor school attendance.

On Christmas Day 1956, Vincent Zigas wrote to Gunther about a new Parkinson's like disease called Kuru. On 15 February 1957, Gunther called me to his office and told me 'I've promised mad Zigas I will go next week and see four patients he has brought in. I am going to Canberra so would you go?' I went to Kainantu on my birthday 19 February, and saw these patients and was fascinated by Kuru and its possible cause. On the next Monday I went to John's office and said, 'Can Ben take me to the hospital?' He said, 'No, I'll take you' and dropped what he was doing. Before we reached the corner of Spring Garden Road he said, 'I've been appointed as Assistant Administrator and I'm leaving the Department next Monday (March 4th 1957) and you're to take over'. That was my introduction to my future years guiding the health service. On my third day as director, I had a visit from an

American contemporary, Carleton Gajdusek, and infected him with my fascination with Kuru that led him to discover the prion in 1966 and to be awarded the Nobel Prize for Medicine in 1976.

As a 33 year old with Gunther aged 47, I hoped to work with him for many years. Within the department, Terry Abbott about 43 and Harry White 53, each thought he should have succeeded to the position. I asked Ken Todd 63, the Medical Education Director, why was I selected. He responded, 'Well, Roy you're a strategist'. Robert Burns long ago wrote '*Wad some Pow'r the giftie gie us to see oursels as others see us.*' The structure John Gunther left gave me the opportunity to help define answers to the disease problems of PNG and develop a service to improve the health of the PNG people then and into the future.

One of the important things I learnt from Gunther was how to ensure that the Department was aggressively resourced. At the midyear review of finance, departments that were unlikely to spend their annual allocation would lose money to those who could. Through this process, the Department of Public Health, with access to Australian medical and nursing personnel and the ability to construct temporary buildings for new hospitals and clinics, received an annual percentage increase in staff and services greater than initially budgeted.

By 1957, appointments had been made of Stan Wigley – Tuberculosis; Douglas Russell – Leprosy; and Wallace Peters – Malaria. Clinical specialists in the essential categories were drawn from the European migrant doctors and by appointments from Australia. Frank Schofield was appointed Assistant Director Medical Research in 1959 and later defined the prevention of neonatal tetanus. Research into Kuru, endemic goitre and cretinism started as well as the continuation of my own studies of depopulation.

In 1947, four aid post orderly schools were established under the Commonwealth Reconstruction Training Scheme providing staff for many new aid posts. By 1960 sixty secondary school students had been sent to Fiji for training in medicine but eventually only 13 graduated. These worked alongside Australian and European doctors making 130 in all. Joan Refshauge initiated infant and maternal welfare and nursing training in 1948 and Eric Wright the first formal nurse training in 1958. Penicillin and improved anti-malarials became available at all health units. Pertussis vaccine prevented whooping cough and was followed by the widespread use of triple antigen. Church family records mentioned earlier and government records show that population in the coastal areas started to rise from 1950 but remained static in the highlands.

PREVENTIVE ERA 1960-1975 Expectation of life 50 years
1966 Census 2,150,313 persons

Research by individuals was always encouraged and by 1975, 15 medical doctorates had been earned by PNG residents and 5 by Australians for significant contributions to human understanding of various diseases. Many others helped sort out significant health problems. Most of these studies were done by doctors in addition to their role in medical care as the sick always had priority. *Cont. →*

Of note, Tim Murrell defined the aetiology, cure and prevention of pigbell, Frank Schofield proved that tetanus vaccine of mothers would prevent neonatal tetanus, Lawrence Malcolm and others elucidated growth and nutrition problems and Kuru studies continued in the research division which became the Institute of Human Biology in 1968. Studies initiated by Terry McCullagh into iodine deficiency diseases confronted Basil Hetzel as a clinical endocrinologist and the pneumonia problem confronted Bob Douglas as a clinical physician. Both doctors had an epiphany when they came to PNG and metamorphosed into epidemiologists to spread the knowledge they gained to the world.

An epidemiological culture had developed within all divisions of the health department where the fertile climate of unstudied diseases and enquiring minds given the opportunity to study and define causation, prevention and cure generated the understanding of many diseases. Young Australians who were infected by this culture and became epidemiologists of note include students Tony McMichael and Fiona Stanley and Stephen Leeder who spent two years as the doctor at the Bayer River Baptist Mission.

Whilst the Health Department was expanding, the mission health services were also expanding into new clinics and hospitals with better contact with the village people. Antibiotics became more available along with effective medication for tuberculosis, malaria, and leprosy. Between 1960 and 1975 the number of doctors working at all levels from specialists through to field doctors increased from 130 to 230.

The malaria eradication programme using teams of spraymen applying insecticides to huts and orderlies distributing anti-malarials was responsible for most of the improvement in national health. The immunisation of infants and children with triple antigen removed the risk of whooping cough epidemics and tetanus. PNG used the Sabin polio vaccine to control an epidemic in the Sepik and later for immunisation of children while the NHMRC of Australia questioned its value. All of the health measures provided meant that more children were surviving. The first national census in 1966 gave an expectation of life at birth of 43.5 years. The coastal populations doubled between 1950 and by 1975 was 2,800,000 increasing at 2.7% per year. Even though family planning advice was actively provided by clinics there was only a limited uptake.

The health programmes applying both the results of research on epidemic and endemic diseases added to the medical advances of the time ensured that students at all school levels attended their studies daily and that the massive national education investment achieved its objective. Disease no longer strangled the education process as it did for 50 years pre-war. In due course healthy people helped Papua New Guinea become an independent nation in 1975.

Secondary school graduates started training as medical officers, dentists, nurses and health extension officers providing national staff at all levels in the health system. In 1960 the first appointments were made to the Papuan Medical College and this intellectual resource expanded when the Australian government was persuaded in 1970 that there should be a degree in medicine. Students entered the UPNG Medical School in 1968 and five graduated in 1972 but only one was from PNG as many first year students could not cope with the course. In 1965, the

medical profession organised itself into the Medical Society and took over the PNG Medical Journal.

INDEPENDENCE ERA 1975 ON Expectation of life 55 years

1980 Census 2,978,057 persons

2000 Census 5,190,786 persons

The Institute of Human Biology became the PNG Institute of Medical Research and continued the research studies including kuru, pneumonia and malaria. The PNG Medical Journal helped maintain the epidemiological culture in the country.

Since independence there have been new medical problems that any government would find difficult to handle. Births still exceed deaths with no change in the high population growth. Population drug resistance, mainly an individual matter in Australia, affected the whole community when the malaria parasite became resistant to anti-malarials and the TB bacillus to all medications. New problems of obesity, diabetes and high blood pressure, rare in 1975, are now major problems affecting personal health. In 1987 the first cases of HIV-AIDS occurred and now thousands are infected and many more affected. The social environment indicates that HIV-AIDS could become as serious as it is in Africa. The Public Health Department and particularly the disease control programmes have problems of distribution of materials, management and finance. The net result today is a minimal fall in fertility, an increase in mortality and a reduction in the expectation of life could occur.

Since 1975, there have been increased numbers of medical graduates each year from the university. Today there are many in private practice but the projections that Gunther made have never been matched. The standard is set high enough to generate specialists in all areas to serve a country of over 6,000,000 inhabitants and to allow PNG graduates to practise in Australia. In PNG the doctor ratio is still about 1 for 10,000 people while the ratio in Australia approximates 1 in 500.

In retrospect

During my last visit to Tabar in 1987, I was completing my village visits at Tugitug on the east coast of Tatau and sent a message ahead that I was coming but only found a man and a dog. We exchanged greetings and I asked, '*Ol e stop we?*' and he replied '*O numba wun. Tok e cum long dokta tasol. E no tok long yupela.*' (We were told A doctor was coming. Not *THE* doctor). In record time the whole village assembled. During this visit the Tabar population was recorded at 2,500 and the people were cognisant of the population growth that followed my regular visits in the 1950's. However the reason for the reversal was not my counting heads but community wide use of penicillin in the Yaws campaign and the continued use of antibiotics for the treatment of episodes of venereal disease.

In my 27 years in PNG there was a massive Australian investment in the widespread provision of health services and the education of children through to matriculation. These were linked to provide a national health service that brought to the country the benefits of the great medical advances of the time. My contribution was matched by many of the multitude who worked with me to bring about this metamorphosis.

Thank you.

Footnote: References are available from the author. ■

The AIDS EPIDEMIC in PAPUA NEW GUINEA

By Paul Quinlivan

We have all heard of the AIDS epidemic in Papua New Guinea, but do we really know how bad it is? In my advertisement at page 22 I mention HIV/AIDS Ministry (a comprehensive organisation founded by our fellow PNGAA Member, Brian Barnes) which sends its members to the Port Moresby General Hospital on Tuesdays and Thursdays of each week to console the patients in the AIDS wards. They report that “three or four AIDS patients die each day” in that hospital alone!. They also report that most of the AIDS patients are under 25 and have not been able to look after their children for some years so, with the assistance of sponsorships from members of INNOCENTS RELIEF, Brian’s organisation has, for the last four years, been providing education – from pre-schooling to First Year University - for between thirty and forty of those patients’ healthy children, as well as six to eight children who themselves have AIDS. Two important things to note are (firstly) that, although we often say that HIV/AIDS is “caught” by not wearing a condom, the situation in Papua New Guinea (and in some other former colonial countries) is that many people have been acquiring the virus (Human Immuno-deficiency Virus) in utero. And the constant refrain is that “It is not fair!”. The second is that, unless there is some assured way of providing a decent education for the children of these young parents in whom the virus has become manifest, the future of Papua New Guinea - a nation we helped get on its feet, and our nearest neighbour - looks bleak.

Before I go on to describe INNOCENTS RELIEF and how it helps Brian’s project, I feel that I should introduce myself, by using the internet, because it is some years since anyone has heard of me. If you go to www.pngaa.net, and then click on “Our Contributors” at the bottom of the opening page, and then on my name, you can run down to the number I will give, as I talk. The first is No. 60, my article with the title: “Ma Scannell’s Place” and in it I mention a Wewak incident where I became terrified when I found myself stranded in a crocodile-infested swamp. Luckily, knowing that I was a “new chum” to the Territory

“a Vanimo policeman named MOI had followed me Quietly he led me out to safety and then he let forth a tirade of pidgin. earlier I would have said I did not understand a word of pidgin but I understood him perfectly”

In my view, a nation which produces people like MOI should be supported in its time of need! And it was not that MOI was unique! There was

BUKUMBANGI the Chimbu policeman who barged into my donga after I defended two Goilalas who were charged with murdering a Chimbu, and I got them both acquitted. He told me, in a no-nonsense tone of voice, that he

did not want any more Chimbos charged with murder so he had no option but to protect me! And, in his “no-nonsense” way, he not only did that but he instituted some miraculous form of intelligence-gathering which told him where I would be next week! (see No 54). Also, there was a Police Bugler and

TONDANGIN – a mere child! – who set themselves the task of teaching me pidgin and I became the only lawyer who ever spoke it, apart from Monte, the

legendary Chief Justice! (see No. 43). Also, there was my friend SUNI who saved numerous Europeans despite the fact that he knew that they did not trust him (see No. 50) and there was a whole group of Chimbos who set up camp next to my home in Port Moresby saying that, since I was “family” (see No. 31 “Return to Reality”), they would protect my wife and my four school-age children from raskals when, as a Judge, I was out on Circuit most of 1981. All of these memories are, admittedly, they are purely personal but I mention them because Alison Marsh spoke glowingly, in “Growing up in Papua” (at page 11 of *Una Voce* No. 4 of 1997) about two Papuan crewmen who saved her mother’s life (and damaged themselves irreparably by doing so) when the ship on which she was travelling sank, and I am sure that most of us have memories of Papua New Guineans who helped us because they felt that it was “the right thing to do”. And I feel that, for us Australians, it is “the right thing to do” to help them in this current emergency.

For those of us who, because of circumstances, have not personally felt that they were helped I would quote what Chief Judge Sir Beaumont Phillips said when welcoming me to TPNG in 1952 – the full text of his speech in the article at No. 8:

“Another feature which is quite unique is the protection given to the Coastwatchers during the Japanese OccupationWe Australians should be forever grateful ... that the men and women of the Territory helped us in our time of need In addition to being eternally grateful, we should ask ourselves: Why, when other territories have MauMau, did our people save us at such constant peril to themselves?” (my underlining)

When he said that, I had no idea what he was talking about. Less than a month later, however, my eyes were opened because of what happened in the very first trial I conducted in TPNG. It was the case of The King against Peter James Jameson, held at Kavieng in February, 1952 and a report of it is at No.11, under the title: “Planters, Traders – and Monte”, and at 12 and 13. Jameson was an Australian official charged with stealing £221/5/7 (about \$500) from 50 New Guineans who, by law, were required to sell their copra to him. Although \$500 averages out at only \$10 per head and would probably not be prosecuted in most countries, the trial lasted eight days and, although New Guineans packed the courtroom every day, they always made room for eight Europeans and two Chinese who sat there throughout the whole trial. I assumed that they were graduates from the recently completed ASOPA “Long Course” who were learning about Court Procedure but, when I said this to the District Commissioner, he laughed and said:

“They’re not Kiaps! They’re Planters and Traders! And they want to see this bastard go for a row! Some of them were caught up in the Japanese Occupation and owe their lives to growers he fleeced. Others employed one or other of the growers and want to show their support!” (my underlining)

Largely because of this I not only asked for my two-year contract to be extended (and I remained more than 30 years), but I did some research and, as a result, I agree entirely with Anne McCosker’s lament, in her “Return to Rabaul (at page 44 of *Una Voce* of December, 2007) that there is a general lack of “knowledge and understanding about pre WW11 New Guinea Even early post WW11 history seems vague to so many”.

She mentions the “coast road to Put Put and beyond” as being impassable and says:

“this is the road the majority of European men in 1942 fled south on”.

As I mentioned in No 5 –“ Stiffly Starched White Coats. And Other Differences”, my friend and mentor Ivan Champion rescued 153 of those men in the Papua Government boat, Laurabada. But we forget that Ivan did not sail her on his own! He had to recruit a crew and, after he explained the grave dangers involved, he was inundated with Papuan volunteers! And we also “forget” that hundreds of other Australians who fled down that road (and many other “roads”) were rescued – and protected – by New Guineans! This national lack of awareness caused me (in No. 55) to reissue Sir Beaumont’s plea in what I called “Re-statement of why I am writing these “Snapshots”. I said: “In the books we use in schools, Australia should have featured the fact that, whereas the dependent races in the British, French and Dutch colonies threw out their former masters when the Japanese invasion gave them the opportunity, Papua New Guineans, by and large, rallied to the aid of countless Australians who were trapped.”

And, in continuance of that, I now ask that we rally to the aid of the children whose education is in peril because of the AIDS epidemic in Papua New Guinea.

But how can you be sure that the organisation you support will not collapse and fail to do what you want it to do? This brings us to INNOCENTS RELIEF, which gets its unusual name because, in the late 1950s and early 60s, the United Nations ran a “Save the Children” campaign, describing them as innocents in need of relief. To provide that “relief” the U.N. got governments to issue postage stamps featuring the words “Freedom From Hunger” but a handful of ordinary Brisbane people felt that selling postage stamps was not going to help needy children so they decided to do something on their own. They could not go out and personally help the children because they were tied to “ordinary” jobs, but they could help organisations which were helping children. In their first year (1962) they collected \$920 and sent it off, split amongst six groups, three of which looked after Aboriginal children, and three were overseas - one, in Korea, cared for part-Korean children who were ostracised because they were fathered by Allied Servicemen serving in the 1950-1953 war. Another, in India, cared for Dalits (ostracised as “Untouchables”), and the last cared for children left orphan by inter-religious strife in The Philippines. In the late 1960s a change in Australian Government policy ruled out further assistance to Aboriginal children so INNOCENTS RELIEF became exclusively international. And, on 27th July this year it held its 47th Annual General Meeting and its auditors announced that, in the year just completed (2007-8) it had distributed \$235,911 to 48 “Centres”, including Brian’s HIV/AIDS Ministry.

How did it manage to survive for so long, and to distribute more than the contributions it received? The answers are very important. From the very beginning, Members resolved to do all the work themselves but they soon discovered that, by working at home, they had no way of training a replacement if a Key Worker was transferred to an office interstate. To overcome this, Key Workers all work together, and on regular days. And at each Annual General Meeting all Members are invited to come along and learn how the

various jobs are done so that, if a Key Worker is unavailable, the gap is immediately filled by someone who already knows the job. In addition, the Bank of Queensland offers us lower than normal transfer fees, the Auditor works pro bono and wonderful friends provide office space so that our records and computers are held in one spot, and are safe and secure.

From small beginnings in 1962 they were distributing \$6,000 each year by 1968. By the 1980s – which is when I retired from New Guinea and joined them - they averaged ten times that amount and, in 2003/4 we broke the \$100,000 per year barrier and have always increased. And, as I have said, we received \$230,016 in contributions in 2007/2008 and we distributed \$235,911 to more than 48 “Centres” world-wide, including Brian’s HIV/AIDS Ministry in Port Moresby. Our distribution of more than the contributions received is an almost regular occurrence and is explained by the fact that, in addition to as many contributions of \$135 they wish to make, each Member pays a \$15 annual membership-fee to cover transfer fees, postage, office equipment and so on, and (except when we have to purchase new computers) there is usually something over. When you consider that well-publicised charities have administrative burdens which may eat up 30%, or more, of contributions, it is a record of which we are justly proud.. I say “we” because, having joined them in the 1980s, I became Publicity Officer in 1999. I have been Vice President since 2003.

If you would like to help Papua New Guinea survive the AIDS crisis, a good way to do so is by joining INNOCENTS RELIEF. Our Members have educated many of the middle-level leaders of countries in which we have “Centres”! This brings us back to Brian’s HIV/AIDS Ministry which is already educating 30 to 45 deprived children. It is a fact - as I mention in the advertisement – that, since 1997, he has been the Catholic Archbishop of Port Moresby but this should not be a baulk because, as the news-item at page 24 of Una Voce for September, 1997 says, he was appointed “Chaplain to all denominations” for the TPNG Police Force in 1968 and he served, with great distinction, in that position for twenty years. The overriding factor is the future of PNG and that can only be assured if there is a reliable system which is oriented towards educating children who need support. And the two organisations I describe are the only ones I know of which are able to guarantee that, and to ensure tax-deductibility for Australian residents. ■

Flying With My Angel – surviving religion, sex and helicopters by Phil Latz

ISBN 978 0 9804451 0 7, published by Zytal Press, 416 page paperback, many colour plus B & W photographs. The author grew up with indigenes in the NT, in the 40’s. He walked off Mt Otto, PNG, alone in 1964, barely surviving. Returning several decades later as the chief pilot for Hevilift he recounts harrowing personal events. Tribal mayhem, deaths and achievements as only seen by helicopter people – rescues, aircraft accident sites. Includes his eyewitness description of the Porgera explosions and the Mt Kare saga as a contractor to CRA. Plus life and flying/management ops on all continents provide an unforgettable read.

Cost: \$29.95 including postage in Australia

Contact: pjlatz2@tadaust.org.au. Details/buy at: www.phillatz.com or Amazon

LOST and NEARLY FORGOTTEN
Grave of first resident European Missionary to New Ireland
by © Jim Ridges

By the side of the United Church building at Pinikidu in Central New Ireland is a memorial stone, made in Sydney, to 37 year old Ethel Pearson and her three-day-old daughter Muriel Ailima who 'died at Lakurafanga'. It may be thought by anyone knowing that the Pearson's were stationed at Pinikidu at that time, that they may be buried nearby or that the stone may actually mark the grave. This is probably not so.



Whilst George Brown is famously the first European missionary to bring Christianity to the New Guinea islands it was Fijians and Samoans who lived in a small part of south west New Ireland from 1875 until 1901 when George and Ethel Pearson arrived from England to live at the Methodist Mission at Eratubu, on the west coast of New Ireland – actually Neu Mecklenburg at that time - opposite what, three years later, would be the new Namatanai German government station.

George was a lay missionary at that time and found many converts there already so that by June 1902, at the first Quarterly meeting held in New Ireland, he was able to baptise 134 at a service attended by two thousand people. George and Ethel's three month old daughter, Ellen Malila, died on 23 March 1904 and is buried at Eratubu.

In June 1902 the Catholic Mission opened their first two stations in New Ireland, also on the west coast, nearby and on either side of Eratubu, at Ulaputur and Bom (Marianum) occupied by Fathers Anton de Jong and Josef Abel respectively.

In 1906 George and his wife went to Kudukudu, on the east coast south of Namatanai - replacing William Cox who had opened the station there in 1902. In the second half of 1908 they went to open the new station in central New Ireland at Pinikidu, although at that time it was often called Panakondo. The Fijian Eparama Sailoa and several pastor-teachers accompanied them from the Laur circuit.

The intention had been to build at Kimadan where land had been purchased in 1907 - when Pearson and Missionary Fellman walked up the west coast but crossed to the east and realised there was a greater population over there - but the prefabricated house ordered from Australia was unloaded in the wrong place, and the extensive mangrove swamp between Pinikidu and Kimadan made it impossible to transport the house to Kimadan. A road through the swamp was not completed until about 1914.

Pinikidu was regarded as a difficult station; unhealthy because of the nearby swamp, and the people - who were well known cannibals with forked tree branches permanently jammed into stones on their reef ready to hang up and prepare the bodies for cooking - showed little interest in the mission or in sending their

children to school. In addition the Omo circuit in Kavieng, opened in 1905, was vacant for 18 months from late 1908 and Pearson had to look after both circuits.

In 1909 George's wife Ethel became pregnant. She had had other children but they were not in New Guinea. Although Pinikidu was on Boluminski's road to Kavieng 155 kilometres away, there were then no plantations beyond Fissoa, 55 kilometres away, so that Pinikidu was quite isolated except for the occasional government patrol, visiting recruiters and small Chinese trade stores.

Following a visit to Pinikidu by the Kavieng doctor, probably Dr. Runge at that time, he found some problems and advised that Ethel go immediately to Omo near Kavieng to be near medical attention. There was no carriage of any kind available, so a small party started out on 29th November to walk, carrying Ethel on a long chair or stretcher. The first 40 miles she bore the journey well but after that was in much pain so that when they reached the house of Assunto Costantini at Fileba plantation they could not go on and rested for 15 hours.

During the evening of 30th November Ethel was seriously ill and by 1.30 am a message was sent to Captain Griffith at Lauan to send urgently for the doctor to come at once and meet the party as they travelled on the road. The message should have been delivered in about four hours but was not received until 33 hours later. Fileba was left at 7.00 am and, walking through heavy rain all the way, they reached Lakurafanga plantation by about 2.00 pm, 57 kilometres from Kavieng, where Mrs Pearson could go no further.

They were welcomed and offered the use of their house by the owner Charley Ostrom and his wife, and Ethel was made as comfortable as possible. At about 4.00pm she gave birth to a premature baby girl and it was hoped the worst was over. Soon however Ethel knew she was dying and without fear of death she managed to say 'Goodbye' at about 7.30 pm. As it was too far in the climate to carry her to Omo, she was buried next morning 2nd December 1909 at Lakurafanga in the plantation cemetery. It was hoped that baby Muriel would live but next day she was buried beside her mother. No doubt husband and father George conducted the services.

Pearson wrote on 12th December 1909 to the General Secretary of the Methodist Mission in Sydney about the death and that the help and hospitality received from the Ostrom's could not have been better. He also thanked Captain Griffith for his help and support and Arthur Krockenberger of Katu plantation who made the coffin and came to the funeral, and Mrs Krockenberger who sent a wreath.

George Pearson had worked hard looking after the two circuits, and that, together with the loss of his wife, caused him to become ill himself so that before the end of 1910 he had left Pinikidu and New Guinea.

Whilst away he became ordained and before he returned to the islands in 1912, to be posted to Kabakada near Rabaul, he had married Margaret. Tragedy struck again when another daughter died at Kabakada in 1915. He again became sick and finally left New Guinea in December 1915. Eparama Sailoa who in the meantime had been ordained, departed Pinikidu and New Guinea and returned to Fiji in 1916.

So Ethel, the pioneer wife of the first resident European missionary in New Ireland who lost two children there, the first white woman to live in the Namatanai and central districts, who died far from home after living nine years in New Ireland,

arriving only one year after Boluminski, and experiencing first hand the initial contact between people of a very different culture and the then very strict Christian lifestyle and beliefs of the Methodists, and her daughter Muriel Ailima, lie in unmarked graves at Lakurafanga. The general area is known and overgrown, but the precise location of the graves is not, nor is there a marker, except that beside the church at Pinikidu 100 kilometres away.

Threlfall, Neville 'One Hundred Years in the Islands' Trinity Press Rabaul 1975

George Pearson – Letter 12.12.1909 to General Secretary Methodist Mission, Sydney, extracts quoted in 'The Methodist' 2.1.1910 page 2.

28.11.2005 visit by Jim Ridges. Wording on memorial stone at Pinikidu – 'In loving memory of ETHEL wife of George Pearson Methodist Missionary born at Hatcliffe Lincolnshire England June 27th 1872. Died at Lakurafanga 1st Dec. 1909 aged 37 years, also of MURIEL AILIMA daughter of above died 3rd Dec. 1909 aged 3 days. Una luk ra buk na Vavarike 21 1-5 Andrew Bros. Sydney'

Photo of the Pearson's Plate 274 'Pictorial History of New Guinea' – Gash & Whittaker 1975. ■

LIEUTENANT WILLIAMS' TRAGIC FLIGHT by Geoff Basket

Following the article 'Payroll Plane May Not be Missing' by Bob Piper in *Una Voce* No. 1 March 2008, I thought this article would be fitting and of interest to your readers.

At that time, Higaturu was the site of the District Office for the Northern District. Captain Allan Timperley was the District Officer and I as a Lieutenant, was the Assistant District Officer.

I wrote the following on page 103 of my autobiography 'Islands and Mountains':

(At Higaturu) 'I was once again with Allan Timperley and my duties included village patrols, courts, and occasionally relieving the ADO at Dobaduru. On one of these occasions I was grateful for a narrow escape from death.

As we had several hundred Papuan labourers working for the Army who had to be paid regularly in shillings, it was the custom to send an officer to Port Moresby to accompany the cases of money being forwarded from Port Moresby to Dobaduru. I was assigned to one of the flights, but at that time I had a Lieutenant Williams staying with me in my tent. He was waiting for a plane to take him south on leave, and as he had some time to spare, he was ordered by the Army CO at Dobaduru to do the trip to Moresby in my place.

We heard later that after collecting 2,000 pound in shillings at Moresby, the courier plane with Williams on board flew east along the coast to Milne Bay. Then after taking off again the pilot could not find his way through the clouds. He turned back to the airstrip, but poor visibility forced him to fly very low. It appeared that a wing hit the water, the plane crashed into the sea and all on board were killed.

I was very upset when I heard the news as, although I was grateful for having been saved from death, I knew that Williams was engaged and had planned to be married very soon.' ■

SURFING THE BREAKS IN NEW IRELAND

By Richard Jones

SURFERS from around the globe are always searching for the newest, untouched spot of ocean to indulge their lifelong passion. For Newcastle-based brothers Kirk and Brett Owers they found their paradise in the unlikely setting of Nusa, in the New Ireland Province. The Owers boys were alerted to the Nusa Island Retreat, PNG's only dedicated surf camp, by Ian 'Smiley' Osborne. Osborne had surfed in PNG's remotest corners in the 1970s. Just recently he returned with a dozen surfing mates to Nusa, a small, sand-fringed island off the coast of New Ireland. The Owers, Osborne and the others found seven good reef breaks within easy reach of the retreat with more surf options a short drive away.

After their flights from Moresby the Aussies were met at Kavieng airport by a driver who ferried them across a narrow channel to their island home. Kirk Owers says surfers are somewhat obsessive. "We tend to holiday away from a renowned surf coast only under duress. PNG certainly qualifies as a surf trip, but it's an enigmatic one," he writes.

"PNG tends to attract older surfers because the waves are less challenging and less crowded than in nearby Indonesia. There's no need to compete for waves so cordiality, rather than antagonism, develops. It's a good vibe as they used to say," he says.

The PNG Surf Association has minimized surf overcrowding with a surf management plan. Each of the nation's reef zones has been designed a maximum quota of visiting surfers who must pay a daily fee of \$A10. The money goes towards community projects and the local surf clubs. The president of the PNG Surf Association Andrew Abel says he developed the system after seeing how local people in some countries were "bystanders in their own land", unable to benefit from surf tourism.

The Owers boys join local tour operator and head of the Kavieng Surf Club Luke James. He takes them in a squeaky SUV to a beach simply called 'Ribs' after a guy who broke his.

"Ribs packs a punch. We surf for an hour then late in the afternoon we have a second surf in front of the Kavieng High School.

"The waves break quickly across a dangerously shallow reef ledge and barrels for just five or six metres before running aground. It's not a great wave, but it's exciting.

"Brett and I push each other into bigger and more dangerous waves --- hooting and hollering. Brett paddles around grinning: "Look at this? How about this! Papua New Guinea!"

Oh, and the accommodation at the Nusa Island Retreat consists of traditional island-style bungalows which are fan-cooled and sleep up to six. There are also over-the-water bungalows with ensuites plus a large, two-storey bungalow.

Kirk Owers' story appeared in the Melbourne Saturday Age's regular Traveller liftout on July 12, 2008. ■

THE STAFFS LAMENT or BAMU BLUES

By Fred Kleckham

In the lower Bamu where natives are few
And dry land is scarcer than scanty,
One J J Murphy came out with the furphy
That he'd det up a DNA shanty.

Now the Bamu heard with wonder the word
And biri* collected in a hurry,
But the whole lot stank and gradually sank,
In the slime of the Bamu slurry.

But our Murph was a bird who'd not be deterred
And he gathered his finance together,
For with McKinnon and Kleckham on the back of his neck
He could lose it at the flip of a feather.

Now a year or two in the lower Bamu
Is nothing to native or mission,
But the P/O to go said "Oh Christ no!"
I've come to a different decision.

So lathered in paste he departed in haste
For a district with far better clime,
But still undeterred was our wily old bird
As he said "don't worry chaps it takes time".

Near two years have gone by and have given the lie
To the fabulous Bamu post,
And all but old Murphy have forgotten the furphy
And long since given up the ghost.

* "BIRI" is the pidgin name for split black palm flooring.

Fred (jnr) writes that this poem was written by his father Fred Kleckham when based at Daru in the Western district about 1956/57. Fred (snr) was the then Agricultural Officer for the district.

It is about the local District Commissioner, J J Murphy, wanting to institute a Dept of Native Affairs post at Bamu.

Ken McKinnon, mentioned in the poem, was the Education officer for the Western district, and later became Director of the Education department. He went on to become eminent in the world of Australian universities, becoming vice-chancellor of Wollongong University, and later, it is believed, head of Darwin University. ■

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

Jack (John) GOAD (4 August 2008) - we hope to have details in December.

Phil HEAD (02 August 2008) - we hope to have details in December.

Kevin WONG (9 March 2008 aged 67)

Kevin Wong was born in Rabaul and was very young when the Japanese invaded New Britain. His family left the town to live where they could – they were not allowed to travel to Australia with other evacuees. His mother died when he was two. His sister died of peritonitis, unable to receive medical treatment in time, when he was six. He had an unsettled childhood but loved his years at St Peter's Lutheran College in Brisbane. He was a House Captain as well as captaining many different sporting teams. After working as a plantation manager, he was accepted as a Cadet Education Officer and attended ASOPA in 1960-1961. Back in New Britain he was a devoted teacher initiating a revival of local Tolai customs and crafts long before this became Government policy. He also became an international referee in basketball, officiating at the South Pacific Games in Noumea and Port Moresby. He met his beloved wife Wanda in Rabaul in 1967. After Independence Kevin lived in Canberra for 22 years and again initiated many new ideas in his teaching including healthy eating and Aboriginal studies. He was a science and maths consultant for many years having obtained his Bachelor of Education from Canberra University. After a couple of health alerts Kevin and Wanda took early retirement to Witta near Maleny in 1998. There they turned a lantana wilderness into a beautiful environmentally friendly garden. About four years ago Kevin developed a severe neurological illness, but he remained the cheeky smiling Kevin his friends knew so well until close to the end. He is survived by his wife Wanda, two sons and a daughter, and three grandchildren.

Gaye Speldewinde

Renee Marie O'CONNOR (21 March 2008)

Renee spent her early life on Rawdon Island, Hastings River, on the mid North Coast of NSW. She moved to Sydney in her mid-twenties and it was here, when working for a Real Estate firm, that she met Kevin O'Connor in late 1967 - now long time member of PNGAA, who had just gone finish as the manager of the Commonwealth Bank at Mount Hagen (1964-67). They married in October the following year.

Renee was an attractive, gracious lady. She and Kevin attended many Association functions over the years mostly in company with Mt Hagen expats. She was a champion golfer, a great cook and later on became 'hooked' on quilting. In early 2004, Renee was diagnosed with a terminal disease, multiple myeloma, a cancer of the bone marrow. She accepted her lot with great fortitude and dignity and without complaint. Her great religious faith was constant support.

Renee was a most respected, honoured and loved wife of Kevin, mother of Roderick and his wife Fiona and sister of Zilla, Naida and Lola.

Kevin O'Connor

Jack Benham PAGE (2 June 2008, aged 88 years)

Jack's formative years were spent in Adelaide where he became a talented sportsman. After War Service with the 13th Australian Field Regiment and being involved in the battles of Buna, Gona and Sanananda on the North Papuan coast, Jack returned to Australia in early 1943 and in May that year married Phyllis Burford. He then enrolled in the Field Service for PNG and undertook training at the Australian Army School of Civil Affairs in Duntroon, Canberra (later to become ASOPA). He was posted to Rabaul, New Britain, in 1946 - the first civilian Patrol Officer in the region. Phyllis and baby son Ben joined him in 1947 and their second child, Susan, was born there. After further postings to Talasea, Manus Island and Rabaul, and the birth of their second daughter Stephanie, Jack became District Officer of the Madang Region in late 1956 - here he introduced local government and established village councils. In December 1957 he oversaw the evacuation of 4,000 people from Manam Island following a volcanic eruption. While at Madang his fourth child, William, was born. After a period as Assistant District Commissioner, Jack became Senior Commissioner of the Land Titles Commission in 1969. His primary responsibilities were to adjudicate on native land disputes and re-establish pre-war land titles; his jurisdiction extended over the whole country. Apart from his official duties, Jack will be remembered for the huge contribution he made to the establishment of golf in PNG; he served as President of the PNG Amateur Golf Association. Jack left PNG in 1974 just prior to Independence. He is survived by his wife Phyl, children Ben, Susan, Stephanie and William, six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Kenn LOGAN (7 March 2008, aged 60)

Kenn became a kiap in PNG in 1970, having attended ASOPA at the beginning of that year. He spent three years at Tabibuga in the Western Highlands, then transferred to Bukapena at the base of Mount Hagen as ADO and Local Government Officer. Kenn and his family stayed on in PNG after Independence. Kenn held the positions of Executive Officer of the Mt Hagen District Development Group, Provincial Census Officer, Provincial Statistical Officer and Provincial Planner (Social Services) in the Western Highlands. The family departed for Australia at the end of 1984. Two years later Kenn returned to PNG to work at the Porgera Joint Venture (PJV), specialising in land issues, and later became Coordinator, Land Administration. His Porgera tenure ended in October 2007, and in 2008 he was retained as a consultant to PJV for various community affairs issues. In late February 2008 Ken experienced a tear to a vessel leading to his heart. Sadly, appropriate cardiac services were not available in North Queensland at the time, and he suffered irreversible damage. Kenn is survived by his wife Lois, his children Duncan, Mercedes and Opal, and four grandchildren.

Lois Logan

Phyllis KEENAN (21 December 2007)

Phyllis married John Keenan in 1942. John was a patrol officer in Kieta, Bougainville. They had two sons, Adrian and Clive.

Joan Hayes

Dawn Minto (nee Skelly) (06 May 2008 aged 82 years)

Born at Hula (South East coast) Dawn spent most of her early years in Samarai. She was evacuated on Boxing Day 1941 to Sydney via Port Moresby and returned in late 1946 to Samarai to be immediately recruited by Stan Middleton to work in the District Office until her marriage in 1950. After residing in most port towns, mainly Rabaul, Dawn left with husband Jim and family for retirement in Queensland in 1980. Dawn is survived by her husband, children Grace and Stephen and sisters Rosalie and Leonie.

Jim Minto

John Alan STANDING (15th April 2008, aged 63 years)

John lived in Melbourne and was educated at Trinity Grammar, Kew before becoming involved in pottery and publishing in the years before going to PNG. He joined the Administration in August 1970 and served his entire career in the Milne Bay Province at various postings including Esa'ala, Iamalele, Rabaraba, Samarai, Bwagaoia, Tagula and Pambwa. He married Elizabeth in 1973 and they went on to have four children.

Amongst the highlights of John's career were his large role in the construction of the Pambwa Airstrip (Rossel Island) and his major part in the detection and conviction of a member of an infamous terrorist organisation. He was the Provincial Lands Officer in Alotau in 1982 when he left the Administration to enter business on his own account operating an agency service for Misima Mines and others, a large second hand clothing warehouse, and a general store and news agency in Alotau. He finally departed PNG in 1992 into full time retirement to East Keilor in Victoria and more recently South Yarra. He devoted himself to his family and was heavily involved in the school councils and the Uniting Church Op.Shops and distribution centres at Footscray. He also applied himself to his hobbies of video and book collecting acquiring over the years huge collections.

John had not been in good health for some time and finally succumbed to Legionnaires Disease. He is survived by his wife Elizabeth, his children Christina, Lisa, Kylie and Rowan, his mother and sister and four grand children.

Jon Bartlett

BISHOP SIR George Ambo OBE KBE (6 July 2008, aged 85 years)

Bishop George became the first Papuan bishop and the first native bishop of the South Pacific. The consecration occurred on October 28, 1960 and Bishop George made Northern District his home for the next 23 years.

Through traditional dancing, singing, drumming and miming, George took the first step toward making the teachings of the church clear and meaningful for his people. He did not know that this idea would be one of his greatest contributions as a bishop in the indigenous church. In 1946, George married Marcella Karau of Gona. In 1951 George was told he would train as a deacon the following year at Newton Theological College at Dogura. On January 25, 1958, George was ordained priest. He gained his government registration as a teacher toward the end of 1959 and was posted to Boianai mission. He succeeded Bishop Sir David Hand as Archbishop when the former retired in 1983 and retired himself in 1989.

Info from Post Courier 11 July 2008

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
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Mr K R GASCOIGNE	Curtin, ACT	13 Colstan Court, MT ELIZA, VIC, 3930
Mr F HERSCHEID	PO Box 38	258 Aumuller St, WESTCOURT, QLD, 4870
Mr M J KENNY	Burringbar	5 Bourton Road , MERRIMAC, QLD, 4226
Ms E L KLECKHAM	Forster (Nee Kleckham)	Unit 12 13 Chandler Street, BELCONNEN, 2617
Mr I LEWIS	Spring Hill	PO Box 1296 MCC METRO MANILA, MM 4117, PHILIPPINES
Mr J B PAGE	PO Box 42	"Terka" PO Box 242, WILMINGTON, SA, 5485
Mr L W PARKINSON	Manly West, QLD	2 Reginald Avenue, ARANA HILLS, QLD, 4054
Dr J A ROBERTS	28 Ruskin Row	PO Box 108, AVALON BEACH, NSW,
Mr F J WATTS	Valley View, SA	11 St Albans Street, ST ALBANS PARK, 3219
Mr R A WEBB	PO Box 503	55 Hawkesbury Road, SPRINGWOOD, 2777
Mr N T WEBSTER	Wavell Heights	5 Avocado Lane , MALENY, QLD, 4552

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Mr R P BARRIE	PO Box 3105 , RHODES, NSW, 2138
Mrs Ronnie BEATON	13/11 Brewery Place , WOOLNER, NT, 0820
Mr M V BLADWELL	184 Leybourne Street , CHELMER, QLD, 4068
Mr D B CAIRNS	22 Cooberrie Street , CORNUBIA, QLD, 4130
Mrs T S CASSAR-EVANS	PO Box 700 , NORFOLK ISLAND, NSW, 2899
Mrs So Gay CHAN	PO Box 837 , CHATSWOOD, NSW, 2067
Mr P G COCKBURN	10 Somerset Avenue , NORTH TURRAMURRA, NSW, 2074
Mrs Rita FLYNN	21/2 Queenscliff Road , QUEENSCLIFF, NSW, 2096
Mrs Elaine GRUNDY	36/2 Spruson Street , NEUTRAL BAY, NSW, 2089
Mr P HEALEY	55 The High Road , BLAXLAND, NSW, 2774
Mrs Bettyann HUGHES	123 Hillview Crescent WHITFIELD, CAIRNS, QLD, 4870
Ms Sally JACKSON	1a Little Dowling Street , PADDINGTON, NSW, 2021
Mr Simon JACKSON	44A Wyndora Avenue , FRESHWATER, NSW, 2096
Mr G J JOYCEY	9 Bauhinia Court , CURRIMUNDI, QLD, 4551
Mr J S KELLY	98 Renown Avenue , PUNCHBOWL, NSW, 2196
Mrs S McKENZIE	Unit 209, 6 Jersey Place , CROMER, NSW, 2099
Prof. K R McKINNON	14/1 Sutherland Crescent , DARLING POINT, NSW, 2027
Mr A J MISPEL	PO Box 44 , BALMAIN, NSW, 2041
Mr J F MOFFATT	122 Lugarno Parade , LUGARNO, NSW, 2210
Mr C NICHOLSON	12 Herbert Street , NORTH FREMANTLE, WA, 6159
Mrs Phyllis PAGE	78 Pineview 3 Conyngham Street, GLENSIDE, SA, 5065
Mr S PETRUSMA	3 Balook Street , LAUDERDALE, TAS, 7021
Mr Patrick REGAN	7 Wollongong Road , ARNCLIFFE, NSW, 2205
Mrs M STEVENS	8 Allan Street , ROSEVILLE CHASE, NSW, 2069
Mrs E M SYMONS	11 Olympiad Crescent , BOX HILL NORTH, VIC, 3129
Mrs Harriet TROY	4 Welham Street , BEECROFT, NSW, 2119
Mr D W WEEDEN	27 Massey Street , EVATT, ACT, 2617