



# Una Voce

JOURNAL OF THE PAPUA NEW GUINEA ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC

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

## Annual General Meeting And Luncheon

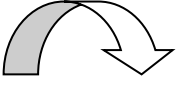
To be held on **Sunday 27 May 2012** at Killara Golf Club in Sydney. Full details are on page 3 of this issue; booking slip and payment form are on a separate yellow insert.

*The Management Committee would like to thank all those who sent Seasons Greetings.*

If you do not wish to have your name and address included in the **MEMBERSHIP LIST** which is published in the **June** issue of *Una Voce*, please advise the Secretary.

We are also considering the inclusion of email addresses this year - please E: editor@pngaa.net if you would like yours included.

## ARE YOU UNFINANCIAL?

 If you notice a **red dot** on the **address label** of your copy of *Una Voce*, you are **unfinancial**. Please complete the **Membership Renewal Form** on the **yellow insert** or **renew via the website** – please also include your membership number.

Please note: Membership Fees \$25 pa.

**Electronic copies of *Una Voce* available from the Editor**



**Have a say!** Visit the

**FORUM** on our website:

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

## In this Issue

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING	3
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE UPDATE	4
DEVELOPMENTS ON THE PNGAA WEB SITE	6
NOTES FROM THE NORTHERN TERRITORY	7
LATEST FROM PNG	9
PNG...IN the NEWS	10
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR	11
PNGAA CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON 2011	15
DEDICATION OF RABAU AND MONTEVIDEO MARU MEMORIAL	16
NATIONAL LITERATURE IN PNG	189
PNGAA 2011 ADELAIDE REUNION	20
JEANETTE LEAHY 1920-2011	22
NORSEMAN	25
CAREER WITH A FUTURE CAREER WITH A CHALLENGE	26
MEMORIES FROM PRE-WAR NEW IRELAND	28
MASTA LAPUN	31
50th ANNIVERSARY OF THE MOROBE SHOW in LAE	32
ANOTHER NEAR MISS	34
HELP WANTED	36
REUNIONS	38
BOOK NEWS	41
DONATIONS TO THE FRYER LIBRARY	43
KIAP REUNION 2011	46
Why Office Hours Ended at 4.06pm	48
WILLIAM MANNING EDWARDS CMG MBE MID	49
THE JOURNEY HOME	52
LIFE ON THE BENCH IN PNG	54
RELIGIOUS HYSTERIA IN THE STHN HIGHLANDS	57
EVACUATE! BE READY ... in FOUR HOURS	62
Popondetta Memorial Park to Mt Lamington Eruption	64
VALE	65
NEW MEMBERS	72
CHANGE OF ADDRESS	72

**'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](mailto:editor@pngaa.net) By submitting your article/story for publication, you agree that we may, after publication in *Una Voce*, republish it on the internet unless you advise us to the contrary.

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

**Advertising** is available - please contact the Editor.

**Website:** [www.pngaa.net](http://www.pngaa.net)

**Membership is available to any person having an interest in PNG.** Annual subscription - \$25. 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.

**PNGAA Office Bearers –**

**A/President**

Andrea Williams

Phone 02-9449 4129

Mob: 0409 031 889

Email [president@pngaa.net](mailto:president@pngaa.net)

**Secretary**

Marie Clifton-Bassett

Tel/fax 02 99583408

Email: [admin@pngaa.net](mailto:admin@pngaa.net)

**Treasurer**

Nick Booth

Phone 02 9868 2197

Email: [treasurer@pngaa.net](mailto:treasurer@pngaa.net)

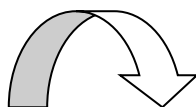
**Editor**

Andrea Williams

Phone 02 9449 4129

Fax 02 9449 4196

Email: [editor@pngaa.net](mailto:editor@pngaa.net)



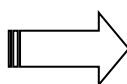
**We encourage members to please pay membership fees by direct deposit to the PNGAA account as follows:**

BSB: 062 009 Account No.: 0090 7724

Please ensure you include your Membership Number. If you could also notify our Treasurer by email that would be appreciated. Thank you!

\* \* \* \* \*

**Deadline for June issue of  
*Una Voce*: 17 May 2012**



**The PNGAA collection  
at the Fryer Library can  
be accessed at,**

<http://www.library.uq.edu.au/fryer/ms/uqfl387.pdf>

**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.

## **NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND OF MOTION FOR SPECIAL RESOLUTION**

The 61st Annual General Meeting of the Papua New Guinea Association of Australia, Incorporated, will be held in Sydney on Sunday 27 May 2012 at the Killara Golf Club, 556 Pacific Highway, Killara, NSW, commencing at 11:30 am.

**Please note that it is intended to move a special resolution at the meeting to alter the association's rules. A notice of the proposed special resolution, an Explanatory Memo and a Proxy Form for those unable to attend are provided to members with this issue of *Una Voce*.**

If you are mailing your proxy, please ensure that it is received by the Returning Officer, PNGAA, PO Box 1386, Mona Vale, NSW, 1660, **by 5PM Friday 25 May 2012**. Proxies may be handed to the Returning Officer prior to the start of the Annual General Meeting.

A Luncheon has been arranged starting at approximately 1:00 pm.

### **AGENDA**

1. Members present and apologies.
2. Confirmation of the Minutes of the 60th AGM (circulated in June 2011 *Una Voce* p61)
3. Business arising from the Minutes
4. President's Report
5. **Special Resolution** for alteration of the Association's rules in accordance with committee's recommendation as per Notice published in *Una Voce* March 2012.
6. Treasurer's Report and Receipt of Audited Financial Statements
7. Certificate required by Section 27 (1) (b) of the Associations Incorporation Act 2009
8. Correspondence
9. Election of Honorary Auditor (Refer Rule 37 of the Constitution)  
Mr Len Bailey, CPA, a Life Member of the Association, offers himself for re-election
10. General discussion

### ***AGM Luncheon Details***

Please note that alcoholic beverages will be available from a cash-only bar. Members together with their families and friends are all welcome – but please let us know if you wish to come to the luncheon by completing the booking form and payment details on the separate yellow insert and returning it as soon as possible. Anyone with special dietary requests? Please let us know so we can arrange something suitable. Again you may indicate if you wish to sit with particular people or pre arrange a table of 8 or 10.

Please let us know if you would like transport from Lindfield station which has lifts and a ramp - phone Harry West #9418 8793. Public transport # 131500. There is free on-site parking available to those driving – look for the red and yellow balloons at the entrance immediately after Fiddens Wharf Road on the Pacific Highway as you travel north.

The cost is \$50.00 per person – this does not include liquor or soft drinks - those

attending need to pay by 16 May, please, and not at the door. If you wish to confirm any seating preferences or that your payment has been received, please ring Juli Allcorn on Ph: 02-9416 1430 Mob: 0405 625 912 or Email: juliallcorn@gmail.com prior to 16 May.

Cancellations advised to Ann Graham (02 9999 4490) by Friday 18 May, 2012 will secure a full refund. This is the date we inform the Club of final numbers – after this date the Association must pay for those unable to attend.

**Please complete the booking form and payment details on the separate yellow ‘Treasurer’s Corner’ insert and return by 5pm Friday 16 May.**

**The objects of the Association are:**

1. to strengthen the civil relationship between the peoples of Australia and Papua New Guinea;
2. to foster and encourage contact and friendship with Papua New Guineans and promote friendly association among members;
3. to foster and maintain an interest in contemporary and historical events in Papua New Guinea;
4. to provide appropriate financial, material or intellectual assistance to projects of benefit to Papua New Guinea as an Association individually, or in conjunction with other agencies;
5. to publish journals, magazines, newsletters, websites, books and other media to inform and educate people about Papua New Guinea and to provide a means of communication among members of the Association and others;
6. to encourage the preservation of documents, historical and cultural material related to Papua New Guinea; including the production and recording of oral and written histories.
7. to safeguard and foster the retirement conditions of superannuated members of the former services in Papua New Guinea.

In pursuance of these Objects, the association:

1. Will not be involved in, nor engage in partisan politics, however this does not prohibit the association from engaging with members of parliament or public servants in pursuit of its objects.
2. May raise funds for its approved projects.

In so far as the original association was formed to safeguard and foster the retirement conditions of superannuated members of the former services, including conditions applicable to their widows and dependants, the association shall continue to represent such members, their widows and dependants in all superannuation matters appropriate to their prior service in the former services. ■

## MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE UPDATE

Andrea Williams

It is with regret that we advise that Dennis Doyle has resigned from the Management Committee of the PNGAA. We thank Dennis and Jane most sincerely for their energetic efforts for the PNGAA particularly Dennis' successful negotiations with the North Shore Corporate Centre which has provided the PNGAA with stability and continuity in regard to its finances. We wish them well for the future.

Enclosed with this *Una Voce* you will find explanatory notes and a proxy form for a Special Resolution to alter the Rules of the PNGAA. The proposed changes will, in the main, ensure timeliness of nominations for elections so that nominees can be announced in the March *Una Voce* during election years and will also bring the Rules up to date so that committee meetings can be conducted with the aid of contemporary technology. **The changes are endorsed by the Association's Management Committee.** It is hoped that these recommendations will also be endorsed by the members when put to them as a Special Resolution at the Annual General Meeting. Please ensure your proxy is received by the Returning Officer, PNGAA, PO Box 1386, Mona Vale, NSW 1660 by Friday 25 May 2012.

**A Special Resolution requires a three-quarters (75%) majority of those voting in person or by proxy to be passed, so please exercise your rights as a member.**

Please remember that, to vote, you need to be a financial member. Subs were due on 1 January – if you are unsure of your status please contact the Secretary, Marie Clifton-Bassett.

On January 1 a new search facility went live on the website, with search buttons in the library and photo gallery. We hope to soon extend this search function to cover the full contents of *Una Voce* so, please, watch this space! What a wonderful resource that will be! Our thanks to webmaster Nick Booth for much behind the scenes work on this.

With two committee members in Rabaul for this Anzac Day, the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Japanese invasion of the New Guinea islands, and another committee member travelling to Crete, we have moved the **Annual General Meeting and Luncheon to Sunday 27 May** – please mark your diaries and accept via the enclosed Treasurer's Corner. Following the successful Christmas Luncheon, we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible along on the day.

At the recent Management Committee meeting the committee appointed me to fill the casual vacancy for the office of President, and Nick Booth to fill the casual vacancy for Treasurer; both appointments are for the remainder of the respective terms, expiring at the AGM 2013. The change on the Management Committee means that we are looking for someone to take on the Editor's role. I can assure members that it is a hugely rewarding role and will suit someone with a keen interest in PNG and who is happy to communicate at a variety of levels. If you are interested, in any way, please contact me.

## DEVELOPMENTS ON THE PNGAA WEB SITE

### Nick Booth, Webmaster

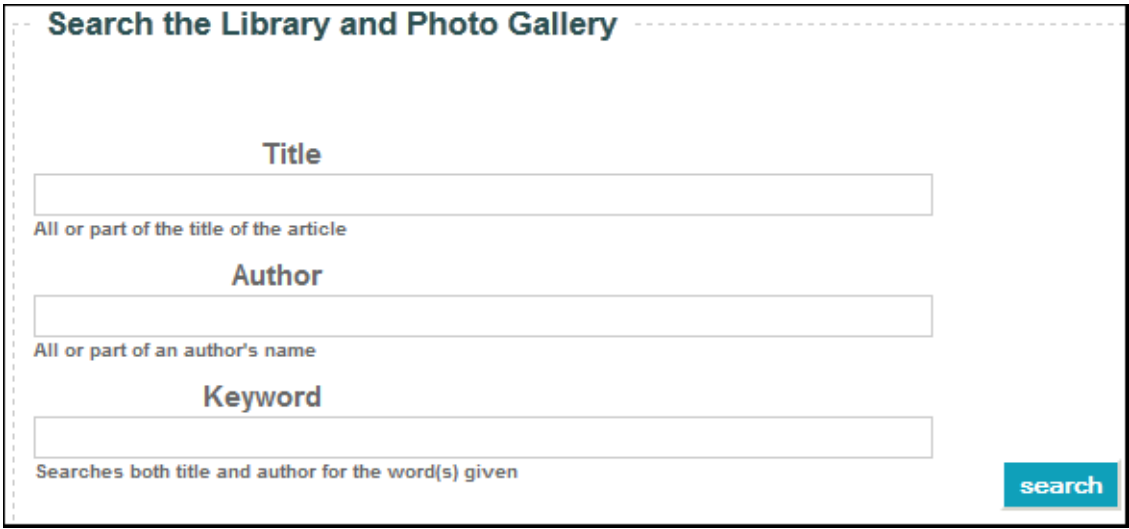
The PNGAA web site is now a significant resource on the history of Australia's involvement in Papua New Guinea.

The **Vale Section** has several hundred obituaries of people associated with Papua New Guinea, mainly Australians, with an alphabetical listing for ease of use.

The **Photo Gallery** has several hundred photographs of life in Papua New Guinea, many of considerable historic interest.

The **Library** has about 200 articles on all aspects of life in Papua New Guinea, mainly during the time of the Australian administration.

A new feature introduced this year is an enhanced ability to search the Library and Photo Gallery. The Library pages now have a Search button at left and the main page of the Photo Gallery has a Search link. Click either of these, and you see this form:



The image shows a search form titled "Search the Library and Photo Gallery". It contains three input fields: "Title", "Author", and "Keyword". Below the "Title" field is the text "All or part of the title of the article". Below the "Author" field is the text "All or part of an author's name". Below the "Keyword" field is the text "Searches both title and author for the word(s) given". A blue "search" button is located at the bottom right of the form.

As you can see, you can search by a word in an article title, all or part of an author's name, or by content in either title or author. When you click the Search button, another screen is displayed, showing all the matching items in the Library and Photo Gallery. Click on the "Web version" link to see the article.

We are currently investigating the possibility of extending this search function to cover the full contents of *Una Voce*, but there are a number of technical difficulties to be overcome.

**Other facilities** include information about the PNGAA, including its Rules; a number of useful links to other web sites relevant to PNG; and the ability to join the PNGAA or renew membership.

**The web site is at: [www.pngaa.net](http://www.pngaa.net).**

## NOTES FROM THE NORTHERN TERRITORY from Jim Toner

Katrina KADIBA, a member of the Papua New Guinea Social & Cultural Group in Darwin, has opened a store specialising in PNG fine jewellery. Her refreshingly modern showroom, *Bling Jewellery*, is located in a more elderly remnant of what was once Darwin's Chinatown. Katrina who has been living here for nearly thirty years is the daughter of Colin MADDEN, a 1967-68 ASOPA chalkie who went on to be a school Principal in PNG. Together with his wife, Esther, from Tufi and also a teacher, he spent much time in Manus and ENB (Kokopo, Keravat and Rabaul). Their daughter likes to visit Tufi when she is able to see her maternal relatives.

Katrina sells attractive and genuine PNG handiwork crafted in Port Moresby at the House of Gemini and made from Lihir (New Ireland) gold or silver. The jewelled *plauas* and *bataplais* will appeal to *wantoks*. Members never likely to visit Darwin can examine the pictures on <[blingwebsite.com](http://blingwebsite.com)>.

In a previous issue the exploit of a Darwin boatie in crossing the Torres Strait single-handed in a 15 ft dinghy was described. A problem motor caused him to be washed up on a Western Province beach halfway between Daru and the Papuan border and he found himself to his surprise welcomed by the 200 villagers of Sibidiri. This was in 2008 and while it made a good yarn once back in Darwin what he saw impressed Craig ('Crackers') HAND enough to found a charitable group with a website ([www.friendsofpapuanewguinea.org](http://www.friendsofpapuanewguinea.org)).

So he sailed back in 2010 taking all sorts of donated gifts in particular a solar powered VHF radio which put the isolated village in touch with Thursday Island thence Cairns. The importance of this was the occasional need to canoe very sick people many kms to Boigu Island to receive Australian medical attention.

Fund-raising in Darwin and generous sponsorship by local firms met partial costs of that visit and supplied basic tools and first aid items for Sibidiri. This year 'Crackers' has organised evening functions at two venerable Darwin institutions, the Railway Club where there was roasted pig on a spit and the Trailer Boat Club where the main event was cane-toad racing. The money raised will be used for this year's gifts to PNG villagers of whom he had never heard three years ago.

Remember, remember the 14th of December... I shall because after switching on Sky TV multi-view offering a choice of News from Sydney, London or Wellington I found myself watching for the first time EMTV from Moresby. Its sudden newsworthiness was of course the PNG constitutional crisis and the camera within an excited Waigani parliament roved from the gowned, bewigged Speaker to back-benchers from the Highlands in full oratorical flow. My only previous experience of the legislature in session was at the old House of Assembly on Tuaguba Hill where emotion was distinctly absent other than from a lady seated in front of me in the visitors' gallery. When Percy CHATTERTON rose to speak she leaned forward, visibly tense, holding one hand to her mouth and only relaxed once the Member had concluded without a stumble. She had accompanied him as a new bride to Moresby in 1924 where

they both taught at the LMS school in Hanuabada and forty years later she was clearly devoted to her husband. He was knighted in 1981 and I believe she predeceased him which was a great pity if so.

There is comment elsewhere on the departure of Sir Michael SOMARE from the PNG government but with four decades in politics not to mention his earlier life in the Sepik it is certain that many *wantoks* will have known the future Grand Chief quite well. One would be Darwin resident Harry COEHN who when a Headmaster in Wewak took him on the golf course and helped him improve his swing and putting and now remarks that he found him a quick learner. Another would be Margaret Clancy in Perth who recalls that she taught the Somare children, Bertha and Arthur – who became respectively her father's Press Secretary and a Cabinet Minister - at the Ela Beach Primary School.

What is it about former Lancaster bomber aircrew? Is it some version of "Catch 22" whereby if they reveal their Air Force past they will be forced to fly five more missions over Germany? I have previously written in *Una Voce* that the late kiap and Land Titles Commissioner Bill KELLY never in all the time I knew him mentioned that he had been a Lancaster pilot.

And now we have it revealed that Johnny HERBERT who died last May was a rear-gunner on the bomber – not the safest seat on that plane.

I saw a good deal of the Police Inspector at the Rabaul District Office when he was assigned to solve the 'deserter' problem in ENB (workers employed under the Highlands Labour scheme who had quit their plantations). When John went off to University for a year to pursue a degree he asked me to house-sit while he was away. Presumably, though erroneously, he thought that the mild-mannered District Clerk would not hold wild parties and wreck the joint. However, it was eventually handed back intact before John went off to higher duties in Konedobu. Never in all that time did he mention that he had been in the RAF let alone a Tail-End Charlie on a Lancaster.

As Max Harris/Peter Cahill said in their Vale notice Johnny Herbert was a man who inspired trust and he had no trouble following Independence in gaining important jobs 'down South'. RIP

**Congratulations to the organisers of the recent annual luncheon in South Australia** for yet another successful gathering!

Perhaps others in regional areas may be encouraged to keep members in touch in a similar way.

If you could find the time and would like to nominate yourself as a point of contact or organise a small gathering in your area- perhaps for social reasons, to welcome new PNGAA members in your area or to support a particular goal or PNG related project, please let either the Secretary, Marie Clifton-Bassett E: [admin@pngaa.net](mailto:admin@pngaa.net) or Ph: 02-9958-3408 or Juli Allcorn E: [juliallcorn@gmail.com](mailto:juliallcorn@gmail.com) Mob: 0405 625 912 know.



## **LATEST FROM PNG by Stuart Inder**

It's been a busy and at times difficult few months politically in PNG. Since Peter O'Neill's appointment as Prime Minister last year, his government has made many changes, particularly in attacking financial corruption in the previous government and the misuse, in fact theft, of government funds. There is a good possibility that the difficulties have not yet settled down, and that there is more unrest after this issue of Una Voce goes to press in February.

**FERRY INQUIRY.** The inquiry into February's ferry sinking in PNG is set to investigate whether any criminal act contributed to the disaster. The terms of reference have now been released for the inquiry which will be headed by Australian Judge Warwick Andrew. Justice Andrew has been asked to report into the causes of the disaster on February 2 when the Rabaul Queen with 350 people on board capsized and sank nine nautical miles off the PNG coast in Vitiaz Strait. At least 100 people are thought to have died.

**ARMY MUTINY.** Those who incited the mutiny at Port Moresby's Murray Barracks, or played a part in encouraging it, would face the full force of the law, Prime Minister O'Neill said. O'Neill's warning came after police arrested retrenched Army colonel Yaura Sasa and charged him with inciting mutiny. Sasa, who led a group of 40 soldiers, placed PNG Defence Force commander Brigadier-General Francis Agwi and other senior military officers under house arrest in an attempt to take control of the military. The move was short-lived with Agwi restored to his position later that day. O'Neill said two members of parliament aligned to Sir Michael Somare – Andrew Kumbakor and John Pundari – had admitted that their camp was responsible for getting Sasa to stage the mutinous act. He said Sir Michael had issued a statement which suggested he had endorsed Sasa's actions. "Let me make this clear – no one is above the law," O'Neill said. "If there is evidence of politicians having a direct hand in this mutinous act, they will be subjected to the full force of the law." However, the government granted amnesty to the mutinous soldiers, who handed over 42 military firearms they had taken together with motor vehicles hired for them by the officers. Sasa remained in custody.

**AGE RESTRICTION ON FUTURE PMs.** In December, the PNG Parliament, voting 68 to 3, put an age limit of 72 on anybody elected Prime Minister. They can be a parliamentary member, but not Prime Minister, and would have to stand down from that post at 72. Somare was born in Rabaul in April 1936, and thus will be 76 this April.

**DAME CAROL KIDU LEADS PNG's OPPOSITION.** In February, PNG's only female MP, Dame Carol Kidu, became the leader of the Opposition. She said being the single member of the Opposition was an impossible task, and invited others to join her. Dame Kidu is a 15 year veteran of PNG's male dominated House.

### **LANDOWNERS BEGIN LANDSLIDE INVESTIGATION.**

The affected landowners of Tumbi Quarry landslip in Tari, Hela Province, have engaged an investigation team to establish the cause of the disaster. The landslide which occurred on January 24 was described as the worst in the country. It claimed 25 lives, damaged properties worth thousands of kina and cut of the road linking Tari and Komo. The investigation team of engineers, surveyors,

geologists, doctors, lawyers, environmental scientists, and foresters conducted two days of investigations. They were to compile a final report on the actual cause



of quarry landslide because the people hadn't experienced a worse disaster. The landowners believe strongly that the landslide was man-made, due to the Exxon Mobil activities with liquefied natural gas, but the company maintains that it was a natural disaster.

### **PNG...IN the NEWS**

► **On 12 and 13 April 2012, a two-day conference** will explore the opportunities and challenges for a Papua New Guinea seeking security and prosperity. The conference is hosted by the Alfred Deakin Research Institute in partnership with the Parliamentary Secretary for Pacific island Affairs, Richard Marles MP. It builds on the success of a symposium held in May 2011 in Melbourne., and seeks to broaden engagement and mutual understanding between Papua New Guinea and Australia. Further information: <http://www.deakin.edu.au/alfred-deakin-research-institute/events/png-conference-2012.php>

► **Royal Dutch Shell recently opened an office in Port Moresby.** Shell is working closely with PNG government owned Petromin pursuing potential oil and gas deposits.

► **A \$1 million upgrade was recently announced for the Kokoda Track Memorial Walk in Ferntree Gully, Victoria.** The March 2011 *Una Voce* provided details about the return walk from the picnic ground to One Tree Hill which is about 5 km. The upgrade will occur ahead of celebrations for the 70th anniversary of the battle for the track in August 2012.

Many joggers currently use the steps. New health and fitness steps will be built on Lyrebird Track as an alternative to the popular walk.

The upgrade will include information panels, shelters and seating for commemorations on days such as Anzac Day and Australia Day.

Source: *Knox Weekly / Victoria*, 9 November and [www.asopa.typepad.com](http://www.asopa.typepad.com)

► **'Splinters', a PNG surfing documentary** that world premiered in New York in August 2011 has taken out a first place award at the London Surf Film Festival and the 2011 best surfer documentary award at the Hawaii International Film Festival.

► **Sarah Snook won the AACTA Award for Best Lead Actress** in a Television Drama for: *Sisters of War* (2010) (TV). Sarah played the role of PNGAA member Lorna Johnston nee Whyte in the television drama.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**Chris Williams:** I often read wonderful stories with fascination from the past before and after I lived in PNG in *Una Voce* and other journals. I lived in PNG from January 1980 to October 1985, just sort of six years, and although I am probably considered a 'Johnny come lately' by the 'old timers' I can relate to the stories no matter what period of the last century they are concerned about.

I consider myself extremely fortunate as [my employment] enabled me to visit almost all of the PNG mainland centres and remote posts and islands throughout the period of my tenure. I cannot stress enough how that country gave me such a different outlook on life. I grew both mentally and physically to such an extent that everything I did prior to living in PNG seemed insignificant. It was without doubt the most important time of my life. I have never ever, or expect to ever experience anything like that time again. Many who have never had the honour to live in PNG may think of it as a primitive backwater not worthy of a second thought but the characters who one comes across there are usually the most interesting and rewarding people anyone could wish to meet.

Recently a friend of mine saw me reading a copy of *Una Voce* and he remarked, "What? Living in the past?" This man has also travelled extensively but never to PNG and never for long periods of time as he visits oil rigs on land and sea, in and out never staying long, and he has no idea just how different and exciting living in a country like PNG is.

*Thank you Chris, many would agree with you - Ed*

### **Rod Noble**

While thumbing through *Una Voce* 2010, No 1 I came across a book review I had missed the first time – "Hell and High Fever" by David Selby.

This triggered memories of half a century ago. After two years as a Cadet Patrol Officer I had regretfully decided to resign from the service and enrol at Sydney University. This meant that I reverted to an impecunious student living with my parents. And this was after my time living in a three bedroom house with just enough money to buy an occasional luxury and having staff to do cooking and housework.

Among the subjects for first year students in the Faculty of Law was a minor subject – Divorce. When the day came for the first lecture we were directed to the adjoining theatre.

Some 300 of us were delighted to recognise a lecturer with a common sense attitude and a sense of humour. We had already become aware that there is no training for two things in life – parenthood and university lecturers. David Selby, then a barrister, introduced the subject and encouraged us to purchase a Penguin edition of "Holy Deadlock" by AP Herbert. This book resulted in the English law of divorce being changed by showing up in a humorous fashion that this law was an ass. It was also mentioned that if we attended the final lecture of the course we might get an idea of the nature of the questions to be answered. We did.

One of the students mentioned over a cup of coffee that this lecturer had just published a book. I purchased a copy of "Hell and High Fever" and read an account of outstanding courage and dreadful privation. This note is being written in 2012 when our TV screens are full of the bombing of Darwin and the loss of Singapore during WW11.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (Cont.)

**John Holland:** I was reading with interest December's issue of *Una Voce* - George Oakes: *Some Flying Memories*. The same kind of event happened to us. About 1951 we as children boarded the Qantas Empire Airways (QEA) DC3 from Rabaul via Lae, Port Moresby, Cairns and Townsville. As we were all buckled in our seats the pilot started the left engine. The right one refused to start so some of the Dept Civil Aviation (DCA) men and parents used a long length of rope to try and start the engine. After several attempts without success they then used a jeep to try and start it. Not sure how it happened, perhaps the compression may have been too great, but the jeep ended up on its nose near the wing.

Eventually it started and we flew off to Lae. On crossing the Bismarck Sea the right engine burst in to flames. The pilot asked all children to sit on the left side of the aircraft and instead of going to Lae he diverted to Finschaven. He had been a wartime pilot and knew there was marsden matting on the strip and it was covered with water. We did land with lots of water helping to extinguish the flames. QEA put us up in the army hospital until another aircraft was able to land and take us to Australia. Our parents thought we were at school and the boarding school had no idea where we were - we had just disappeared; very exciting for school kids!

Another trip we were in a QEA Catalina flying boat from Port Moresby to Lae via Samarai. The adults were in the side canvas seats all luggage stacked in the centre with a cargo net over it. Some of the children sat on top of the luggage and a few of us sat in the bubble at the rear of the aircraft. What appeared to be rivets popping out of the bubble concerned one of the adults who told the pilot that the children must be removed from the bubble. The pilot did not appear to be very concerned. The adult male became very angry as the rivets continued to pop off the bubble. Eventually the pilot informed the male passenger all was okay as the co-pilot had been eating cherries, had opened the window and was spitting the seeds out the window and they were bouncing off the bubble. We all had a good laugh.

**John Richardson:** Just a note re the destruction of the offices and laboratories at Keravat. The first part of the building was put up in 1953. The construction company was UBC (United Building Company) of Rabaul. Jackson and George Seeto were the owners. George was the foreman/project manager. At the same time UBC built eight two and three bedroom houses on the station and this relieved the chronic shortage of accommodation for staff and allowed for the expansion into plant pathology, chemistry and for more agronomists to be employed. It was sad to hear of the loss of the records dating back many years. Regarding the insect collection, I think the main contributors were Barney O'Connor and Gordon Dun with additions made by Peter Bailey and other resident and non-resident entomologists as well as visiting experts from overseas, eg Dr. Gressitt from Hawaii. Joe Szent-Ivany was never a resident at LAES but visited on occasions and would have made contributions to the collection. Joe's passion was micro-lepidoptera, (small moths), and I'm sure many of his 'little darlings' would have been lost in the fire.

**Dick Doyle:** Ralum Country Club Kokopo held its 50th anniversary on 3 Dec 2011 with over 150 attending. President Peter Lung,,,Committee members James Bell, David Macmurray, Mary Han, Paula Cholai, the late Peter Lavender and many others contributed to a great evening.

Stan Carswell came up from Cairns for the event. Although Stan was in Mt Hagen at the time of foundation, he had lived in Kokopo prior to that.

Only two Foundation Members still live in PNG – T Tse and D Doyle

Since the theft of the original founder list some time ago, the only documentary evidence [of the Club's origin] shows a meeting in Kokopo 2/11/61 where an interim committee was formed of J Beechey, J Shultz, J Aquiningo and T Tse to get things going. The proposal was for a 'social and sporting club, to be known as the Ralum Club...It is hoped that this club will be truly representative of all sections of the community.' A second meeting was to take place 'in the house on Revalien Plantation which it is proposed the Ralum Club acquire as club rooms. This house is the site of Queen Emma's original home which has such historical local significance.'

A foundation member receipt dated 9/12/61 for Richard Doyle for 10 guineas is the only other document.

The ADO of Kokopo, Bill Kelly, helped to get it all together and the club was established 26/11/61.

Guest speakers at the 50<sup>th</sup> celebrations were Tommy Tse, Stan Carswell, Sir Rabbie Namaliu with a brief talk from Dick Doyle. The evening was enjoyed by all.

**Ralum Club**  
KOKOPO

No 253

9th December 1961

RECEIVED from Richard B. DOYLE (Foundation Member)

the sum of TEN Pounds

TEN Shillings and — Pence

£ 10 : 10 : —

With Thanks  
RALUM CLUB, KOKOPO

Per [Signature]

Stamp Duty

Cheque No A 953624

**Phil Latz:** I write with regard to the June 2011 edition of *Una Voce* which I mislaid and have just completed reading.

This letter concerns Grahame Morgan's entry regarding the death of John Hurrell, a good friend and previous workmate.

I wish to clear up slight errors in Grahame's story about the helicopter crash on Mt Otto, which he relates with regard to John's adventurous life.

I was the engineer he speaks of, before I began flying choppers, and the jumping out with an axe occurred at a different location, not Mt Otto. It already had a cleared landing area and helipad. The crashed chopper was not on the pad. I did subsequently clear away obstructions to enable John to fly the bits of chopper out separately, after I dismantled it.

Also, two pilots were involved in the crash mentioned. John flew them out, not a pilot and a passenger. George was in the process of checking out Wally on mountain top landings without dual controls when Wally rolled the

machine over. Fortunately the radio still worked, even though the chopper lay upside down.

Minor points, but I wish to set the record straight. The whole operation and my three days alone up there, plus my solo walk off Mt Otto during which I was lucky to survive, are all described in my book - see [www.phillatz.com](http://www.phillatz.com)

**Donald Daniels MBE:** Her Majesty the Queen has commanded (I love it when there is a command) that there will be a Service in St Paul's Cathedral London on 7 March 2012 for all members of the Order of the British Empire. A number of members of the PNGAA have had the honour to become members for service in Papua New Guinea.

Upon contacting the Secretariat, I was advised that there would be a ballot for invitations HOWEVER, overseas members of the Order would not be in the ballot and could also invite one guest. Details are online at [www.obeservice.org.uk](http://www.obeservice.org.uk) See you in London!!!

**Glenys Kohnke will be having an exhibition of 52 artworks to be officially opened on Saturday 24th March** at midday by the Papua New Guinea Consul General to Queensland, the Hon Mr Paul Nerau. The exhibition will also be open to the general public on Sunday 25th March with a sausage sizzle to raise funds for a proposed Museum and Art Gallery for Kavieng, New Ireland.

Gleny says: 'All my archival research material, photos, voice recordings and the old shark caller's shark calling equipment which was presented to me at his death will be housed in this proposed museum. I am very excited about this project as New Ireland traditional culture, traditional art and contemporary art and artifacts need a home on New Ireland. I have seen some amazing exhibitions of New Ireland art, but always overseas. I believe there is an urgent need for a museum in Kavieng and will start the ball rolling on the Sunday at my exhibition.'

The exhibition will be held at 'The Rocks', just outside Yandina, on the Sunshine Coast, inland 10km from Coolum Beach.

Anyone wishing to attend the exhibition who would like to stay for the weekend or longer can obtain a discount on accommodation. Just go to the [www.coolum.com.au](http://www.coolum.com.au) website and type in "The Rocks" Yandina in the search window.

If anybody would like to get in touch with me please email: [glenyko@hotmail.com](mailto:glenyko@hotmail.com) or through the website [www.glenykohnke.com](http://www.glenykohnke.com) or Ph: 0402371897

\*\*\*

### **Website Walkabout:**

**Due to open June 2012: Jackson's Hotel, Port Moresby:**

<http://www.jacksonshotelpng.com/> Conveniently located at Jackson's Airport, Port Moresby, the hotel will offer comfortable and affordable accommodation.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bulbophyllum\\_nocturnum](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bulbophyllum_nocturnum)

**A mysterious new orchid, discovered on New Britain, is the world's first orchid that flowers only at night.** Scientists found the new flower, named *Bulbophyllum nocturnum*, in a logging concession. The orchid opens around 10pm and closes at 10am. Scientists believe the flower may be pollinated by night-flying midges.



## PNGAA CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON 2011

by Julianne Ross Allcorn, PNGAA Events Coordinator

Commemorating the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Evacuation of Women and Children from PNG in 1941.

What an amazing day we all had on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December at the Killara Golf Club.

Fiona Schubert (right with Juli Allcorn) sang both the Papua New Guinea and Australian National Anthems for us, two Christmas Carols and then finished off with the *White Cliffs of Dover* and *Till We Meet Again* which had us all joining in and set the mood for the day.



It was a challenge that I enjoyed immensely to come up with something that would honour those we always remember and to spend time with our friends we look forward to seeing each year.

After talking to Ross and Pat Johnson I discovered the Christmas Menu that was served to those evacuated on the ship the *Katoomba*. It was this that gave me the idea to recreate the menu in the same style placing copies on all the tables. Another centrepiece on the table was bringing together an image of Santa Claus from a card in 1941 with the Bird of Paradise and wrapping these images in the Frangipani and Hibiscus. We then completed the presentation with a Special Commemorative Edition Booklet of some of the stories of the Evacuation for all to keep. We have limited copies still available if you would like one and were unable to attend.

A display of historical information and photographs about the evacuation provided by Ross and Pat Johnson was greatly appreciated. On the screen a number of images were shown throughout the day bringing memories alive and conversations to the fore. All this would not have been done without the immense help from Andrea Williams and Louise Smith.

I would like to make special mention of Sigurd Lappegaard a visitor from Norway who spoke to us about the Norwegian side of the evacuation. Many were moved by his talk and we thank Sigurd very much.



The day continued to unfold with raffles and silent auction items kindly donated by Rebecca Hopper, Miss Muriel Snell, Paul Munro, Harry West.

I thank all the committee members for their help; the amazing selling energy of Giselle Hare on the raffles and last but not least to all of you for coming and making the day a very special and memorable one.

L-R: Anne Bartlett, Barbara Morris, Janice Steinfurth, Dick

Dunbar-Reid, Prue Allquist, George Oakes, Jan Dykgraaff, Peter Coote

**DEDICATION OF RABAU AND MONTEVIDEO MARU  
MEMORIAL AND 70<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY MEMORIAL  
LUNCHEON – CANBERRA**

**30 JUNE/1 JULY 2012**

**The dedication of the *Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Memorial* will be held on SUNDAY 1 JULY 2012** at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, ACT. If you would like to attend please advise Andrea Williams.

The Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Society will also be hosting a luncheon in Canberra on Saturday 30 June 2012.

**SATURDAY 30 JUNE 2012**

**Luncheon** 12nn – 5pm (Drinks available from a cash bar)

**Master of Ceremonies – Ray Martin**

**Venue:** National Press Club, 16 National Circuit, Barton ACT 2600

**COST \$60 per person**– Payment will confirm booking.

**PLEASE RSVP** as soon as possible and prior to 8 June 2012.

Andrea's contact details are: Ph: 02 9449 4129/0409 031 889

E: [andrea.williams@bigpond.com](mailto:andrea.williams@bigpond.com) 24 Melaleuca Drive, St Ives, NSW 2075

Payment can be made to the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Society as follows:

**Electronically.** Transfer funds to the Society's bank account:

Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Society

BSB 082-401 Account 16-083-2367. Bank NAB.

Please include your name and the words '**Memorial 70**' for this deposit.

Also, please notify the deposit by email to: [richard@isaunders.com.au](mailto:richard@isaunders.com.au).

**By mail.** Cheque to Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Society, PO Box 1743, Neutral Bay NSW 2089.

**RABAU AND MONTEVIDEO MARU MEMORIAL –PASSAGE**

**ARTIST: JAMES PARRETT**

James Parrett has been commissioned to construct the Rabaul & Montevideo National Memorial in time for its dedication on 1 July 2012, the 70th Anniversary of the sinking of the *Montevideo Maru*.

In creating his design, *Passage*, James Parrett acknowledges "My immediate response was to create a work that would 'protect' the memory of the people who lost their lives as well as the tragedy of the event itself. I want people to remember but also to learn."

Parrett sought to provide an abstract design for future generations that was timeless, both physically and aesthetically. The work would be fabricated in





stainless steel, and be approximately 3.5 metres high. The design is based on the manipulation of circular forms, and refers to themes of physical and personal journeys, and the ocean. This symbolic design provides a peaceful way of reflecting upon the fall of Rabaul, the New Guinea Islands and the sinking of the *Montevideo Maru*. A brief explanatory text panel will be positioned adjacent to the memorial.

The location for the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru memorial is in the Australian War Memorial's award winning Eastern Precinct. This site commands views across the National Servicemen's memorial and ANZAC Parade and will be positioned not far from the bronze sculpture of Sir Edward 'Weary' Dunlop.

The design has been approved by the Australian War Memorial Council and the National Capital Authority.



### **ARTIST STATEMENT**

When reading many articles about the events of Rabaul and the New Guinea Islands, and the *Montevideo Maru*, what struck me was the importance of creating a timeless work allowing people to comprehend the magnitude of this disaster whilst simultaneously feeling at peace.

The ocean is a powerful force, it can be devastating but I also strongly feel that it can also be protective, peaceful and calming. The events in New Britain, New Ireland and on board the *Montevideo Maru* all centre around the ocean, so I would like to create a memorial that symbolises the ocean and how the ocean is now embracing the victims while also ensuring that the event is appropriately commemorated.

*Passage* possesses all of the grand elements of a major sculptural work, capturing and balancing both the powerful and peaceful nature of the ocean. The work has a great deal of movement and the circular 'wave like' forms will harmonise with its surrounds, with its angled base evocative of a ship's bow steaming through the water. It also creates the sense of protection for viewers standing under or around the piece whilst simultaneously conveying the emotion attached to this tragedy.

The title *Passage* refers to many things including: A boat's trajectory; the ocean and movement of the waves; different people's experiences within the event; the journey of the families and loved ones who live on; the span of forgiveness; life and lifetimes; moving on

### **JAMES PARRETT PROFILE**

James Parrett (b.1976) is a Melbourne based sculptor. In 1998, he completed a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Sculpture) at Monash University, Caulfield and then in 2002 attained a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) at the Victorian College of the Arts, Southbank. Parrett has been a finalist in numerous important awards and exhibitions. In 2008 and 2009 he was a finalist in Sculpture by the Sea, and in 2005, 2007 and 2010, was a finalist in the nationally respected McClelland Contemporary Sculpture Survey and Award, at Langwarrin in Victoria. His work is held in public and private collections throughout Australia. ■

***The following is the story of Barbara Morris (nee Bryant)'s evacuation from Rabaul on the MV Macdhui in December 1941. Barbara is a 'half' sister to the late Roma Bates and PNGAA member Patsy Weaver. She visits Sydney to attend the PNGAA Christmas Luncheon each year.***

Things I remember and what I have gleaned from my parents over the years as they never really talked about this terrible time.

"I was born in Rabaul and in December 1941 when word went out for all women and children to be evacuated from Papua and the Mandated Territory of New Guinea, I was only 3<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> years old. Evacuated along with me were my mother, Doris Bryant, and my young sister Leonie, who was 11 months old. We only had one suitcase on boarding the MV Macdhui which had all portholes blackened out and were put in a 2 berth cabin along with five other families with a cot placed in the middle of the cabin for the babies (I often wondered how the mothers organised their sleeping arrangements). We sailed without lights and came down inside the reef as it was thought we were being trailed by a Jap Raider or Sub.

We lost everything in that terrible war and on arriving in Australia unfortunately we were not treated very well; we were called dirty bloody refugees and spat upon. Mother eventually got us to Melbourne, Victoria, my Father's home town, where she found a flat in Caulfield. As we had nothing, just what we stood up in, the Red Cross supplied us with blankets and a selection of utensils only to have someone report that we were imposters so the Red Cross came and took away the blankets and other items. I remember Mother putting the scatter rugs off the floor over us at night to keep us warm (it gets very cold in Melbourne) and her cooking in jam tins.

My father Leo (L K) Bryant, a World War 1 veteran, who was the Chief Mechanic and Transport Officer as well as the chauffeur to the Administrator at the time in Rabaul, stayed behind and eventually found his way out to Lae. Along with others he was told he would have to walk. He was issued with a gun and ammunition that did not fit the gun as well as a cane knife. My father (LK as he was known), age 56 at the time, walked the Bulldog Track in 1942. He described not seeing the sun for days, seeing luminous mushrooms and beautiful butterflies. After escaping he also described sitting on the wharf at Port Moresby watching the MV Macdhui being bombed and sunk by the Japanese [18 June 1942].

Father arrived in Melbourne later in 1942 and was in hospital for many months, he lost all his teeth and was very thin and I remember could hardly walk. He was recalled back to Port Moresby in 1944 working in Transport (as he said to help put the place back on the map). Mother, my sister and I returned to Port Moresby, now the capital when all women and children were allowed back in 1946, to restart our lives.

I loved every single minute of my time in Papua New Guinea and have many wonderful memories. I left PNG in 1962 and have lived in Melbourne these past 50 years, I have never been back."

## **A SOCIETY TO PROMOTE A NATIONAL LITERATURE IN PNG**

**By Keith Jackson**

In early February, the newly established Papua New Guinea Society of Writers, Editors and Publishers opened its register for members.

The Society sprung out of the Crocodile Prize national literary awards, in which a number of PNGAA members are involved at an organisational level.

In parallel with the first year of the awards in 2011, a workshop for emerging Papua New Guinean writers was held.

Part of the workshop was spent in discussing the future direction of a national creative literature in PNG, and one idea to emerge from this was to establish a society that would cater to the interests and professional development of writers, editors and publishers.

The Society was incorporated in PNG late last year and since then has developed a draft constitution, appointed an interim board and, just recently, begun to recruit members.

Its first annual general meeting will be held in Port Moresby in September, at which time a wholly PNG board will be elected.

This whole project has represented a fine example of Papua New Guineans and Australians working together at a civil level to achieve commonly agreed objectives.

Amongst the most important of these, the Society will administer the Crocodile Prize literary contest, promote a creative writing culture in PNG, publish local writing for a local readership and assist members to publish their work.

Society membership is free for PNG citizens and, for non-Papua New Guineans, associate membership is available at an annual membership fee of \$A50.

Meanwhile, the Crocodile Prize has expanded its horizons with major sponsorships from companies including Steamships, Ok Tedi Mining, British American Tobacco (PNG), PNG Chamber of Mines and Petroleum, AustAsia Pacific Health Services and the Mineral Resources Star Mountains Group.

Of particular note is the institution of the Cleland Prize for Heritage Writing, sponsored by PNGAA member Bob Cleland in the names of Sir Donald and Dame Rachel Cleland.

A group of ex-PNG schoolteachers, including many PNGAA members, have also sponsored the Chalkies' Yokomo Prize for Student Writing.

Each of the major awards, and there are seven altogether, offer a K5,000 prize.

For further information you can contact me at [kjackson@jacksonwells.com.au](mailto:kjackson@jacksonwells.com.au)

## **PNGAA 2011 ADELAIDE REUNION**

### **Graham Taylor and Jan Kleinig**

Fifty South Australian members and friends of PNGAA attended their 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion luncheon at the Public Schools Club in Adelaide on Sunday 30 October.

Graham Taylor extended a warm welcome to our Special Guest, Therese Kemelfield and two local authors, doctors now in retirement Clive Auricht and Ken Clezy; and Senior Curator of Foreign Ethnology at SA Museum, Barry Craig.

Graham then read out 'words of greeting' from Dennis Doyle, President PNGAA.

Introducing Therese Kemelfield, Peter Bailey reflected that he first met Therese not on the Gazelle Peninsula, where both spent some time, but at Blackwood, where both have since settled. Here, Therese is active in a community garden care programme at Coromandel railway station which has been going on there for a few years now.

In her address – entitled *'Bougainville to Adelaide ... My 'Journey' so far!'* – supported by a powerpoint presentation, Therese spoke of her father's origins in the Mono (Treasury) Island in the very north of the Solomon Islands and her own childhood at Siuwai on mainland Bougainville. She explained how she had been educated under the watchful eyes of Catholic Marist nuns at St Mary's High School at Asitavi in the Wakunai District and later at Kabaleo Teacher's College near Vunapope in East New Britain.

For three years Therese taught at Bovo primary school at Arawa. During her seventeen years as a teacher she spent thirteen as a Primary school principal.

In the late 1970s when Bougainville (North Solomons) was granted provincial government, Therese participated in a local research project set up by the University of PNG. Its purpose was to encourage village children to learn their traditional languages as a core subject. This project led to the adoption of the **'Elementary Schools'** policy currently operating in Papua New Guinea.

In the course of this project Therese met and married her late husband Graeme Kemelfield. They came to Canberra in 1990 where Graeme worked at ANU. While in Canberra Therese enrolled in a research programme of linguistic studies at UNSW where amongst others she met Jose Ramos Horta now President of Timor Este.

Also during this project Therese met a Japanese linguistic student researching her native Bougainville languages. She continues to be associated with a Linguistic Research Unit in Kyoto Japan which she visits very two years.

In 1991 Therese and Graeme with their children moved to Adelaide where he took up an appointment at UniSA. Since her husband's death and now as a mother of four grown children Therese works as an Out of School Hours Care advisor to the SA Education department and she also advises and is an assistant guide in the

PNG section of the SA Museum. She has many other active interests in social work supporting PNG residents, students and visitors coming to Australia. Therese remains passionately concerned for the ongoing education of her people and she is determined to ensure that their cultural heritage, especially their customs and language are protected, preserved and documented.

In a heart-warming conclusion Therese recited her poem '*Bougainville my Home*'

*"The old weathered ancestral home stands  
within its gigantic blue cave (the sky)  
enshrined by hues of hibiscus, frangipani and bougainvilleas,  
it stands as it stood  
haunted and in misery  
while frogs croak and waves thunder  
drizzling rain thrums away  
and cicadas throb to their tune*

*The all weathered ancestral home stands  
within the luminous landscape, spiked by remembrance of torture and grief  
but it stands as it stood  
waiting to be opened  
as owls hoot and turtles splash in eerie darkness writhe around."*

Elaine Bailey thanked Therese for her detailed and informative account of her busy life. It will be clear to everyone that she has made and was continuing to make a very considerable contribution as a very alert, active, committed and dedicated ambassador of her Siuwai and Mono peoples.

Listed on the programme as The Three Authors: Dr Clive Auricht gave a summary of his recently published memoirs '*Medicine Beyond Kokoda*' describing aspects of his work in the Eastern Highlands of New Guinea and the Northern District of Papua and research into the 'Kuru' disease. Dr Ken Clezy in '*Now in Remission – A Surgical Life*' recounted aspects of his experiences as a surgeon in Papua and New Guinea and in more recent times his experiences in Yemen. They generously donated a copy of each of their books as the prizes in a raffle which attracted great support. As the third co-author and editor Barry Craig, Senior Curator of Foreign Ethnology at SA Museum, highlighted aspects of the immensely detailed and published publication of PNG artifacts ...'*Living Spirits with Fixed Abodes: The Masterpieces Exhibition of the Papua New Guinea National Museum*'.

The association's Kundu lapel pin badges again sold well.

The luncheon ended with appropriate votes of thanks to the local organizing committee: Robyn Radford, Ron Storer, Peter Thomas, Jan Kleinig and Graham Taylor. There was common agreement that a 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion Luncheon should be programmed late in October 2012.

## JEANETTE LEAHY 1920-2011

By John Pasquarelli



I first met the Leahys at their Zenag property in 1962 after extracting myself from the Department of Native Affairs to shoot crocodiles and trade with the locals on the Ramu and Sepik Rivers. Fresh from Melbourne University politics in the late 1950s, I became aware of Mick Leahy's political jousting in the columns of the *Post-Courier* and searched him out. That first meeting was the beginning of a friendship with the Leahys that has endured.

The Leahys are well recorded in PNG history but it was Jeanette the secretary, typist and bookkeeper who kept the Leahy family business, Highland Products' head above water for many years – dealing with Mick's battles with the Australian Administration of PNG as well as coping with creditors and debtors, maintaining good relations

with the local landowners and all the complicated politics that came with that.

Married at nineteen, Jeanette Leahy never got to know anything about a boring life. WW2 saw her and firstborn Richard aged six months, evacuated from New Guinea on board WRCarpenter's Lockheed Super Electra VH-ADT(Caronia 2) on December 21, 1941. Jeanette maintained a lifelong friendship with Margaret Dovey which began at the Sydney Church Of England Girl's School. Margaret Dovey went on to become Margaret Whitlam and it was indeed ironic that Jeanette's best friend's husband sent PNG off to its independence in 1975.

Post WW2 at Zenag saw the births of Tim, Chris, Phillip and Megan and with that came their education in Australia with all the associated costs. Richard dropped out of law and became an experienced PNG commercial charter pilot until his terrible crash which had Jeanette fearful of burying one of her children. Tim is a small business entrepreneur, Chris succeeded in the law, Phillip became a vet and Megan is a pharmacist.

Christmases at Zenag were a meeting of friends with often visitors from abroad and Australia and I welcomed the opportunity to take a break from the Sepik, enjoying the cooler weather at Zenag and the wonderful hospitality of Jeanette and her staff. Sitting on the verandah at Zenag looking over the valley below and chatting over a few drinks are now cherished memories. At other times, a procession of people from all walks of life made their way to Zenag to see the Leahys.

In 1968 I took the famous artist Margaret Olley up the Sepik River and she later met the Leahys when she visited her cousin Lionel Crawford who had a coffee plantation at Wau, further up the road from Zenag. Lionel was a character who had wonderful avocado trees on his property, described by the locals as 'bata bilong diwai' – 'the butter of trees.' Oll and Jeanette had ties with the North Queensland sugar town of Tully where Jeanette's father Stanley Best had managed the sugar mill and where Oll spent time as a young girl before being sent to boarding school at Townsville when she was five. The two women became friends and when Jeanette was staying at her Cremorne flat in Sydney during breaks down from Zenag, she often visited Margaret at her converted hat factory,

residence and studio at Duxford Street Paddington where Jeanette's keen sense of humour accommodated the artistic shambles that was Olley's workplace and entertaining area. I also brought Pam Bell who had been so instrumental in getting Oll off the grog, to Zenag and she and Jeanette enjoyed each other's company. Pam was a poet, a member of The Australia Council and the niece of 'Ceb' Barnes, the then National Party Minister for Territories so politics were off-limits during her stay.

Jeanette and Mick were also suitably entertained at Zenag by my good friend, Clifford Bertram Batt who was colonial New Guinea's version of a buccaneer when he ran the Western Islands' Plantation group. Jeanette was fascinated by Cliff's colourful but true stories about his life and his friendship with Ian Smith of Rhodesia fame and it was at this time that some of us had 'Recognise Rhodesia' stickers on our cars.

When Mick Leahy died in 1979, Zenag was already undergoing considerable change under the direction of Phillip and this was very encouraging for Jeanette who could start seeing some positive rewards for all her dogged years of keeping the family business on track. The expansion at Zenag involved large scale poultry production with high levels of demand leading to further growth. Some well organised overseas travel as well as time out at her Cremorne unit in Sydney, allowed Jeanette valuable time for relaxation and the company of her family in Australia and old and new friends. Whenever I was passing through Sydney and Jeanette was in town I always knew I had a bed. It was during this time that I fluked Luddenham Lass, a good racehorse that won 6 races and placed 13 times in Sydney and I remember taking Jeanette to Randwick where we had a fun time.

Due to our links with Margaret Olley, Jeanette and I often discussed the arts and those particular artists associated with Oll, including the very famous Jeffrey Smart and Justin O'Brien who Jeanette met at Olley's house. It took little to encourage Jeanette to buy an Olley which she did after some lighthearted bartering with the artist at the Duxford Street studio. Later, she purchased a nice study of a woman by Arthur Murch, 1902-1989. I remember a William Dobell hanging at Zenag and the artist was a guest there when he visited New Guinea in 1949 and 1950.

Jeanette maintained an active interest in the Papua New Guinea Association of Australia Inc, better known through its journal '*Una Voce*'. In December 2005 when she was taking one of her breaks from Zenag, she attended a luncheon at Sydney's Mandarin Club, held to celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of PNG's Independence and she regularly attended the Association's end of year get-togethers.

Margaret Olley was two years younger than Jeanette when she died aged 88 on July 26, 2011 and Jeanette and I commiserated with each other over the death of our friend and great Australian. Jeanette was realistically aware that her health was deteriorating and she finally made the decision to leave her second home at her Cremorne unit and move into a nursing home at nearby Neutral Bay. More than once Jeanette told me that 'I've had enough' and I could understand that.

Making a decision to relocate from central Victoria to Townsville in order to have one more shot at getting involved in the mining industry on the Sepik, I drove to Sydney en route to Queensland and visited Jeanette at her nursing home on Sunday, July 17, 2011. Jeanette and I had a long conversation and she was very



frail but intellectually alert. When I took my leave I wondered if I would ever see her again.

I spoke to Jeanette on Tuesday, November 8, 2011 and she told me she felt 'terrible' and then the news of her death on Friday, November 11, 2011. Jeanette was still using her computer right up to the end and listening to Alan Jones surrounded by her paintings. On Sunday, November 13, 2011, it was a moment of great sadness and finality when I deleted Jeanette's email address from the list of brave people who receive my political rants. To all those who are still around that had dealings with the Leahys over the many years, Jeanette Leahy's death was indeed the end of an era. ■

**A Plaque Unveiling Ceremony of the Australians of Chinese Heritage War Memorial** was held at the RSL Veterans Memorial Garden, Sunnybank, Queensland on 04 February 2012.

This project honours the past and present involvement of Australian Service Personnel of Chinese Heritage in the Defence Forces. Organisers explained that it was not just about erecting a monument. The memorial also serves to educate school children and the broader community. The Bowl and Structure are made out of Stainless Steel.

Designer of the memorial, Sarah Batchelor, said:

'My inspiration for this design was taken from lots of research into the Chinese culture and way of life. I have no Chinese background myself so felt very nervous designing a memorial for a culture which I knew so little about. I found that in traditional Chinese culture, when someone passes away, loved ones burn incense or joss paper at the entry to the home or at the foot of the grave. The burning of Joss paper is symbolic in that it resembles passing on good fortune to the after-life. My design encapsulates this idea while also considering the merging of Australian and Chinese cultures for the Chinese Australian Soldiers who fought for our country. The giant bowl of the structure is what holds the burning incense and joss paper, the curves that come around the bowl indicate the flames and smoke from this burning. They also represent the two cultures of Australian and Chinese people coming together - the flames meet together at the top of the bowl.'



L-R: Ralph Seeto, John Holland, Doug Ng, Jesse Chee, Mike Zimmerman

Several members of the PNGVR Ex-members Association played a significant role in the achievement of this memorial.

Photographed here are members of the PNGVR Association who attended the plaque unveiling ceremony. ■



## **NORSEMAN by Rod Noble**

George Oakes' article in *Una Voce*, Dec.2011 mentioned one of the Gibbes-Sepik pilots, Peter Manser.

The previous year, 1954, whilst I was at Wewak and Angoram I got to know him and the other pilots flying in the Sepik District, chatting at the club or sitting in the right hand seat of the Norseman.

I was unaware that the plane was fitted with an automatic pilot because he would always hand over the joystick to me after reaching safe flying height and the direction for our destination.

Unlike George I had never before sat in a plane cockpit. In fact when the Department of Territories paid for my ticket to Port Moresby it was my first flight in any sort of aircraft. What I saw in the cockpit was an array of instruments and dials, less than half of which made any sense to me. However Peter did show me the artificial horizon and explain the use of foot pedals and the joystick. Never once did he comment on the wobbly flight path caused by my over-corrections. When I could see the destination I would give him a nudge and he would replace the penny dreadful he had been reading back in the door pocket. I would swing the joystick back to him and with one finger he would level the craft and commence the landing procedures.

On one occasion I left the office at Angoram and went to wait at the strip after hearing "*balus I kam*" from a local with the hearing acuity of Radar in "Mash". I was chatting with Peter in the shade of the wing while the freezer goods, mail and cargo were being unloaded. It was the weekly "milk run" and most of Angoram's residents came to collect mail. He told me that the following week a new pilot would be doing the trip in a DH89 (a twin engined bi-plane) widely used in the UK before the war. I do not remember that pilot's name but he was a Polish air ace and very experienced.

The following week I met the new pilot and asked if I could hitch a ride with him to Ambunti about half an hour's flight up-stream. He agreed and I again marvelled at the huge sinuous river and the backdrop of the highlands on clear mornings from a few thousand feet up.

In the club at Wewak I had overheard pilots discussing the characteristics of the various airstrips in the Sepik District.

I had heard that at Ambunti one had to touch down as soon as possible after crossing the river because the DH89 did not have the power to go around again before coming into contact with the large hill not too far from the end of the strip. It was no trouble for the Norseman. Well, I may be the only one alive who can attest that it can be done in a DH89, even if there were branches in the undercarriage when we landed safely.

In 1958, I received a phone call from Peter in Sydney. He had got my details from "The New Guinea Book" which was held behind the bar at Usher's Hotel. It contained the names, contact details and dates of PNG personnel on leave or who had "gone finish" as I had. I invited him to dinner the following night to which he agreed. I told Barbara that I had invited a New Guinea pilot for dinner and she cooked up a great dinner for our first guest as a married couple. One other flight I recall was with the other Gibbes-Sepik pilot based at Wewak

then (Shaw, I think). I had received permission to come to Wewak from Angoram to see DC Sid Elliot-Smith. I wanted to get a missionary sued for arson because he had burnt down a *haus tamberan* some way upstream of the Sub-Station. I was told I could try but I wouldn't get far.

It was on the return flight that I experienced the acrobatic abilities of this aircraft which the factory declined to put in a more powerful engine so Bobby Gibbes did it himself. The pilot was in an exuberant mood as he had just been granted a higher commercial rating of his licence by DCA. He warned me, then headed for a nearby cumulus cloud. The experience of entering that cloud was just as good as one of the rides at Brisbane's Ekka. And quite safe too.

Writing of these vivid memories of those long ago days seems like reading Rudyard Kipling's tales of the British Raj on the Sub-continent or Somerset Maugham's short stories of the British colonial days in Malaya.

It is so sad for me to read in yesterday's paper (12/11/11) of the race riots in Lae which the Police took days to subdue and that the Chief Justice had issued arrest warrants for the Deputy Prime Minister and the Attorney-General while he has been himself served with a dismissal notice by the government. And I quote from the Gold Coast Bulletin (16/11/11) "Acting Police Commissioner Tom Kulunga said half of the \$468 million in claims against the state came from "abuse, assault and ill treatment of ...the public (by the police) whom we have sworn to protect". He has urged the police force to clean up its act.

It seems that there is only bad news coming from our nearest neighbour. All of the 2000 *kiaps* and personnel of all the other departments and the many private enterprise individuals who lived and worked in this wonderful land would have wished for a better outcome of the granting of independence.

*Disclaimer:* As most photos and all letters home from my Cadet Patrol Officer days have been lost, the above notes are from memory alone and may contain errors, although I have tried hard to avoid selective memory syndrome. ▀

---

## **"CAREER WITH A FUTURE CAREER WITH A CHALLENGE"**

### **Chris Warrillow**

So read the heading on one of the pages of a booklet for school-leavers circulated when I was completing my "Intermediate" (Year 4) the year after I had arrived in Melbourne as a *Pommie* migrant. It was 1956 and I was fifteen. My curiosity was aroused.

Searching a couple of libraries I found Colin Simpson's books "Adam with Arrows" and "Adam in Plumes". I was hooked!

By the time I had completed my Leaving Certificate in 1957 I knew more about "New Guinea" than most of my cohorts. I also had the minimum education required for the position of Cadet Patrol Officer (CPO). However, the minimum age requirement was 18! Family circumstances dictated that I leave school and find work!

I joined the Victorian Railways as a Junior Clerk and enrolled in night school to study a couple of Matriculation subjects purely to enhance my chances with the Department of Territories. By the end of 1958 my application for the

February, 1959 intake was in Canberra with my argument that I would be 18 by the time the new recruits were actually posted to outstations (in April). It was refused on the grounds that I was too young to apply.

I reapplied and was accepted for the second 1959 intake. On August 24 I joined twenty four newly recruited CPOs at ASOPA, Mosman (Sydney). There we spent five weeks attending the Orientation Course before going to “TPNG”. The flight was in a QANTAS Super Constellation, via Brisbane and Townsville, thence to Moresby arriving just before 6 am. We drank the plane dry well before any of the three landings!

By late October we had completed the three-week Introduction Course at Konedobu and were ready for our postings. I was devastated to learn that I had been given Central District and not one of the Highland’s Districts for which I had applied. So it was that I arrived in Kairuku, Yule Island just sixty miles up the coast north-west of Port Moresby. I had travelled in a canvas ‘bucket seat’ at the rear of a Patair operated Auster.

A couple of weekends after my arrival it was the turn of one of the married couples to invite the single boys to their place for dinner one Saturday evening. ADO Ken Brown and his wife Rosemary; Co-operatives Officer Eric Pyne and his wife Joan; and Area Education Officer Bob Brownlie and his wife Gretchen apparently took monthly turns to give the bachelors a good wholesome dinner. It was the Pyne’s turn.

I shared a house with the Sub-District ‘European’ Clerk, Pat Howard. The other single guy was Patrol Officer Pat Dwyer. These two advised me that my usual daily garb of starched white shorts, white shirt and long socks would have to be replaced with something more formal by way of long strides. I only had one pair with me having left most of my warm-weather clothing in wintery Melbourne.

Thus it was that I duly arrived at mine hosts’ place attired in my bright Glowave nylon shirt; purple jeans and blue suede shoes!

It was much later that I heard rumours that Pat Dwyer had, after that dinner, confided to our hosts and Pat Howard, (and later ‘warned’ Ken Brown and no doubt the rest of the small expatriate population), that the new *pommie* Cadet was rather wet behind the ears; an Elvis Presley fan and definitely “Won’t last”.

I think it was local business entrepreneur Ron Slaughter, or his wife Maureen, who dubbed me Wiz Corrollow, Kairuku’s new rock star!

When I turned 60 in 2001 my contract with the PNG Government was not renewed. I finally left the Country in August 2005 and returned to live in Melbourne. Apparently *Una Voce*’s Darwin correspondent, Jim Toner, got wind of my departure from PNG. He mentioned it to Pat Dwyer in Perth during one of their telephone conversations.

I am reliably informed that goof friend Pat Dwyer who, so long ago, helped ease the green pommie’s assimilation into Territory life, dryly responded with:

“Not surprised - I said he’d never last”!

▪

## MEMORIES FROM PRE-WAR NEW IRELAND

### George D Oakes

I was born at Vunairima near Rabaul in 1934. My parents were Methodist missionaries at the time in the Duke of York Islands. When I was about 15 months old, my parents moved to Pinikidu Mission station in New Ireland where my Dad would be looking after the people of the central part of New Ireland, the Lelet



Plateau (about 1,500m. in altitude) and the Tabar and Lihir Island groups.

Later in 1934, my mother heard that the Methodist missionary and his wife on the north coast of New Britain, near Cape Hoskins, had not had one baby but twin girls. My mother packed up some baby clothes including some baby dresses and sent them down to

the Malalia Mission station for the twins, Edna and Nancy. (Twenty four years later, I married Edna and now 53 years later again Edna still has a doll wearing one of those baby dresses!!).

The house at Pinikidu had 4 rooms down the middle which were mosquito proof, surrounded by verandahs. At the front of the house in the middle, the verandah was wider and partly enclosed and this was the lounge area. The kitchen was in a separate building at the back joined by a walkway to the house. The bathroom was on ground level near the tanks. At the back of the house there was a large mango tree and beyond this, the garage and a storage room. (After the war, the mission station was not re-established at Pinikidu but a little further down the coast at Kimadan. In 1969, when I visited Pinikidu the concrete blocks that supported the house were all still in place but the house had been destroyed during the war. I considered the size of a house built on these blocks and thought it was much smaller than I remembered. Then it dawned on me that the last time I saw the house in 1941, I was only 7 and only a small boy and of course, the house would have looked much bigger. The concrete steps that were at the front entrance to the house were still there.

The remains of our Chev. utility, which had been bought in 1939, were next to the house. The mango tree was huge. We visited the site again in 2002 and only the steps were there – the concrete house blocks had been taken away and supported teacher's houses for the Pinikidu Upper Primary School which had been constructed on the old mission station site. The mango tree had been cut down but the stump was still there – about 3m. in diameter.)



I used to play under the mango tree with children from Pinikidu Village and had a swing from a branch of the mango tree. When I grew older, I climbed up the

mango tree which had many branches and gave lots of shade. I remember on one occasion Mum got cross with me and I ran and hid under the house where she could not get me as the floor was only about 600mm above the ground. On another occasion, Dad found a 5m. python in one of the boxes in the store room. He had the box carried out into the open then shot the python which was then taken away and eaten by our helpers.

I had several trips back to Sydney by ship with Mum, sometimes Dad and later my younger brother, Parker. Mum told me later that I had travelled on the Neptuna, Montoro, Malaita, Bulolo and Macdhui.

In 1937, we got a pinnacle from the west coast of New Ireland near Namatanai to Rabaul. As we approached Rabaul, we went through lots of pumice floating on the water – the volcanoes had only erupted a few weeks earlier. I asked my mother if I could get out of the boat and run on the rocks next to the boat. I was firmly held on the boat after that.

A few times a year, we would go to Kavieng, about 180kms. away, to do some shopping and meet other people at such places as the Kavieng Club. I always looked forward to these trips.



At Pinikidu, we often had visits from plantation people who lived in the area. Mum was particularly friendly with the Chaddertons and got on very well with Mrs. Chadderton. She had a daughter Denise who was a little over a year older than me. We used to play together a lot and I always would look up to her and do what she said. When we left New Ireland in 1941 our families went their different ways and

I often wondered where Denise was. (Years later when our daughter was born in 1961, I convinced Edna to name our daughter – Denise! It was not until 2002 that I made contact with Denise again and found that she had retired with her husband to Ulladulla.)

In 1939, Dad constructed two concrete water tanks at each end of our house, one 4,000 gallon and one 5,000 gallon. This gave us a lot more water for household use. (In 1969, when I visited the house site again I found that the hand pump on one tank still worked. The other tank had had a hole cut into it during the war and I believe it was used as a shelter. When we visited the site again in 2002 the hand pump still worked on the tank.)

In 1939, we went on the 'Bulolo' to Sydney. All of us children on board had breakfast first before the adults. One morning in Rabaul we were having breakfast when we heard two shots fired. There was a mass exodus by us kids from the dining room whether we had finished breakfast or not. We raced up on to the deck and saw that the Captain had shot a big shark which was not far from where some Tolais were swimming. The shark was then towed around the ship to the shore. None of us kids went back for breakfast.

When I was five, Mum started teaching me correspondence lessons from Blackfriars in Sydney. She always had a job getting me to settle down to lessons –

I preferred to be outside playing. (I do not think she was very successful in teaching me as I had to start school almost from scratch in Sydney.)

I remember in about 1939, I got a lot of tropical ulcers on my legs and I had to rest a lot. Pinikidu had a lot of swamps nearby. (Even now I can see all the scars from these ulcers on my legs.)

Our cook at Pinikidu was Iotam who came from the Duke of York Islands. I always got on well with Iotam. (Years later, in 1964, when I was Patrol Officer at Kokopo, I met Iotam again on a patrol to the Duke of Yorks.)

In 1941, everyone became worried about the possibility of a war. Japanese ships had been seen around the islands. My mother was not well and it was decided because of the conditions, for her to go to Sydney and take my younger brother, Parker and me with her. Dad decided to stay until 1942 when he would have completed 10 years' service with the Methodist Mission and then resign and join us in Sydney. We left Kavieng on the *Macdhui* and waved goodbye to Dad. I never saw Dad again.

P.S. I found that I could remember little of my early life at Pinikidu as I left at 7 years of age. Mum told me quite a bit and I learnt more from letters and papers and especially from my Baby Book in which my mother recorded everything carefully. However, I do remember that I had happy days at Pinikidu. ■

---



**MOUNT HAGEN, 1938** – Do you know these people?

Can any of our readers help identify or confirm the identity of the people in this group photograph taken by Cadet Patrol Officer, Ian Skinner, at an airstrip near Mount Hagen, circa: 1938.

The men are standing in front of the Ford 5-AT-C Tri-Motor aeroplane, VH-UTB, operated by Guinea Airways, with Mount Okka in the background. On the left is pilot Tommy O'Dea, in the centre, Patrol Officer Murray Edwards, and on the far right, District Officer Ted Taylor. It's possible Nep Blood might be in the group. Could the other person be Ken Spinks? Any help would be greatly appreciated by Peter Skinner who is trying to identify people and locations in pre-war photographs taken by his father Ian Skinner who served in PNG 1937-71 including several years as District Commissioner Western Highlands. Peter can be reached at [prsskinner@bigpond.com](mailto:prsskinner@bigpond.com) or at PO Box 456, Golden Beach, QLD 4551 Ph: 07 5492 4990



## **MASTA LAPUN by Jeanette Fox**

*Memories: It just takes an old timer to reminisce and tales from the past come flooding back.*

*Masta Lapun!* He was the miner in the claim next door (which usually meant two or three miles away). Well into his seventies, he was a veteran from the Klondyke, Ballarat and the Queensland sapphire mines. We met him in the goldfields of New Guinea.

*Masta Lapun's* real name was Tim P Skiffington and he was one of the many fizzers or bullockies in 'We of the Never Never' by Mrs Aeneas Gunn. I am told he had quite a vocabulary but, to me, he was the dearest, gentlest man who loved poetry and sunsets. He would sit next to me on a claim and say, '*Now, ain't that grand, now ain't it?*'

*Lapun* meant 'old man' or 'ancient one' in pidgin. His house was a child's fairytale; made out of Hardman's biscuit tins, the large square dry ones, the tins themselves were metallic and shone so you could see your face in them. The natives and others would be fascinated by their own image and *Masta Lapun* and I would hide behind a boulder and double up with the fun of it.

Mother was one of the only nurses on the fields and was frequently on emergency call with Dr Joblin to a landslide or whatever, so Karbiatai, my nanny of a kind, would dash off with me to *Masta Lapun*, or *Masta Laws*, two dyed in the wood bachelors of pioneering vintage, and land me in their laps, nappies and all. They lived either side up the track on the Kaindi Road, about 22 miles from Wau. There was a homemade truck that travelled the road which was so steep it took seven goes to make a turn.

One of the great tales told about *Masta Lapun* was when his wall was pierced by a native spear. The local people had pierced a bag of rice and were sucking the highly expensive food out. All food was brought in by air, having been freighted from the south, then usually brought up by hand, so was precious indeed.

I too was treasured by these wonderful men. Every birthday and Christmas I was given a nugget by them and I now have two beautiful bracelets; one of Bulolo gold, and the other made with silver from Edie Creek up near the source.

When I went to a Brisbane boarding school, *Masta Lapun* would visit me with a small square suitcase of lollies and I was the most special girl in the school (I only saw my parents once a year) and when old enough I was always invited to midnight feasts. TP Skiffington knew the way to a child's heart. His Irish lilt won many hearts.

Tom Skiffington was killed logging well into his nineties. A pioneer and a little girl's hero for many, many years. ■

## **50th ANNIVERSARY OF THE MOROBE SHOW in LAE, 15-16 October 2011 by Lady Barbara Jephcott**

The first Morobe Show was held in 1959, but on three occasions the Show had to be cancelled. In 1983 Lae was isolated by floods; in 1991 law and order problems caused a curfew to be imposed from 6am to 6pm; again it was decided not to go ahead with the show and in 2009 an outbreak of cholera in the province made it unwise to have a large gathering of people.

This year a huge effort from the President (Mr Mike Quinn), the Councillors, committee members, volunteers and sponsors ensured a vintage show.

The festivities started a week before the Show with a nostalgic Lae Show Ball in the smartly decorated Pavilion. After twelve years of no Show Ball, the Papua New Guinea Police Band was back playing a variety of good music as the guests arrived and throughout the excellent dinner provided by the Lae International Hotel. When the Police Band retired a good dance band appeared, playing for the formally dressed guests until the early hours of the morning. The Belle of the Ball was Mrs Karen Quinn in an elegant black lace ball gown.

The Golden Anniversary of the Morobe Show commenced in earnest on the morning of Saturday 15 October with judging of the livestock. About seventy cattle mostly Brahmans (Lae is in the wet tropics) were judged by Mr Don Hurrell, assisted by steward John Mok. The cattle came from Ramu Agri-Business' Leron Plains station, Tru-Kai's Erap property, local village projects and Markham Farm.

There has been a big change in the cattle numbers in the area with Dumpu and neighbouring Gusap's cattle paddocks now completely planted with Palm Oil. The sugar is still there. The old Ramu Sugar Ltd is now managed by the largest shareholders, New Britain Palm Oil, which provides the management and the new name. Leron Plains is still stocked with cattle. The overall winner in the cattle section was Ramu Agri-Business. They also won the best commercial exhibit.

Don Hurrell, who was born at Wau, may have been at the First Show in 1959 as a child. He also judged the horses. The days when the European horse women, children and men competed at the show are gone. A few old horses owned by Jan Clark still reside in the stables on the showground, including 33 year old Grey Arrow originally from Dumpu. The horsemen competing were the cowboys from Leron, Markham Farm, Erap and village projects. Their skills and those of the horses they rode were variable, but the best were very good. About forty horsemen competed for Best Presented Rider, Best Horse, Show Jumping and novelty events. Other animals to be judged were pigs and goats.

The numerous exhibits scattered around the arena were interesting and well arranged. They included exhibit of Coca Cola Amatil, the Grand Champion sponsor of the MDAS over 20 years. Other sponsors and exhibitors included Trukai (rice traders), Bank of South Pacific, Morobe Mining, Inter-oil, Lae Biscuits, PNG Forest Products and PANMEX (traders in food) who were selling sample bags.



The Pavilion was a mass of orchids from Port Moresby organised by PNG Gardener Justin Katchenko. Orchid plants were for sale, as were plants from smaller impressive village exhibitors of flowers and other plants. Michael Dom from NARI helped with the produce displays, including cocoa and vegetables, and Lucas Nathaniel, another young delegate to the Royal Agricultural Society of the Commonwealth of which MDAS is a member, was present.

The Coffee Marketing Board had an impressive spread. Betty Higgins, the trout farmer from Kegilsugal near Mt Wilhelm had a small exhibit in the Dept Primary Industries one near the Member's stand. It was her first visit to the Morobe Show. She said she would come again with a larger display. On the Sunday morning I walked around the outside of the Main Arena to see all the displays which included good quality simple timber furniture and other simple creative ideas, food and soft drinks were readily available (I ate Prima sausages for breakfast.)

Highlight of the ring events for the large crowd in the stand around the ring was the performances of the FMX DEMON's Freestyle Motorcross displays. They are from Sydney but enjoy coming to PNG where they receive such an enthusiastic reception, not just the polite clap in Sydney. They were very skilled and performed six times.

The ring events were varied and some unusual – there was an archery competition, the Cowboys novelty events, a marching competition, the show girl competition included a junior showgirl and of course the sing-sings.

On Sunday the programme was unique – mounted games; the marching competition with groups from schools and other groups; the official opening by the Governor-General, His Excellency Michael Ogio in the presence of the Morobe Governor the Hon Lukah Wenge; the sing-sing groups from all over PNG including the traditional Mudmen from Goroka, and the Hagen's with their spectacular head dresses of Bird of Paradise feathers along with other traditional groups. There were more women and children's groups than a few years ago. The showgirls, including a junior girl, were at the front of the arena during the opening. The archer final was held.

A few quiet village cattle were led into the arena to be decorated by the Governor General and I. The Motorcross men gave their last display before a final fireworks display. Where else in the world would there be so much variety from traditional to modern?

The President, Mike Quinn, the Secretary, Rene Cluff, the councillors and all the volunteers - some of whom, including Jan and John Clark, Hans and Tea Meltz and Karen Quinn - have worked in the hot arena for years, are to be congratulated on a great Golden Anniversary of the Morobe Show. As the only person present who had participated in the first Show in 1959 I appreciated the quality of the 2011 Morobe Show. ■

**On 21 March 2012**, Michael Waterhouse will be giving a talk at the State Library of NSW titled **Adventures on the New Guinea Goldfields Between the Wars**. 5.30 to 7 pm. Entry is \$15. Bookings can be made with the Library.

A short silent film about the goldfields will also be shown. This film was shot in the 1930s by Michael Waterhouse's grandfather and an associate and is in both black & white and colour. It includes footage rarely shown in Australia since World War 2.

The talk and film mark the 80th anniversary of the launch of the first of eight massive dredges, every bolt of which had been flown in on two planes to a remote, inaccessible location and then assembled by many of the men who had earlier worked on the construction of the Sydney Harbour Bridge. It was a feat that had never previously been attempted elsewhere in the world.

### **ANOTHER NEAR MISS by Phil Latz**

Toward the end of 1969, beginning a new tour of duty, I found myself at Wewak on the mainland of Papua New Guinea. Again flying a two passenger Bell G3B1 turbo charged machine. This time, to join a survey team based at Frieda River searching for copper. One of our unlicensed engineers, Barry, was my passenger out of Wewak. He had helped me change a time expired engine, for which I signed the certification paperwork, being licensed to do so.

On the trip back to camp we were laden with supplies for this two hour plus flight. It was new territory for me, so I constantly referred to my map. It was hot and humid so our windows and vents were open.

Half way to Ambunti, my map blew out. It was the first time this had happened to me. In Australia, I'd heard from others that this was not necessarily a problem - just circle down with it, watch it land, then do likewise and retrieve it. I had no chance here with solid jungle below. What to do? It was mid afternoon and to turn back would mean most of another day lost. As the aircraft had already been away for several days we were urgently required back at camp.

'Barry, you've been at the camp for weeks, can you direct me to it?'

'Sure, no problem.'

'You reckon we can find it okay?'

'Yeah, yeah, let's carry on.'

Ambunti, on the wide, muddy, Sepik River was not difficult to find and after refueling we continued on upriver. Large storm clouds sat on the 3,500 m high central mountain range which stretches for hundreds of kilometers along the central spine of the country. Clouds also obscured the many valleys leading down to the flat country and lightning was busy in the dark clouds ahead. We needed to find the correct valley, our camp being located some distance along it, in steep foothills leading up to the main range. I began to feel apprehensive as fading light coupled with worsening weather and especially, not knowing where we were. After flying for more than an hour over dense jungle and passing many entrances to the high mountains, Barry said 'It's up that valley on the left.'

'Good, I was hoping you'd see it soon.'

Ten minutes later he said, 'Sorry Phil, I don't think we've got the right one, must be the next valley.'

We retraced our route and continued flying west to the next entrance into the damp, cloud shrouded mountains. My heart was sinking quicker than the often inaccurate fuel gauge.

'See the camp yet?' I asked apprehensively after more minutes passed.

'No, it's not this valley either.'

What a situation! I had relied on another person, and as a result we were lost with solid jungle below, storm clouds ahead, low on fuel and limited daylight. My mouth was dry with tension and my knuckles white on the controls.

'Barry, this is getting serious. You better think carefully about recognizing the correct valley entrance. So far I haven't even seen anywhere to land when it gets dark, let alone if we run out of fuel.'

Barry sighed and knitted his brow in concentration.

'I'm quite sure we haven't passed our valley yet so it must still be ahead. The one we are coming to now looks like it.'

'I doubt we have enough fuel to check any more after this. Let's just hope there is somewhere to land safely if it's not the right one. I don't fancy having to fall into the tall timber around here. And we can't give anybody an accurate position if they have to look for us!'

He knew how vital this information was. At that time, most crashed aircraft were not found for days, weeks, or sometimes never, unless the location was known or survivors walked out. The jungle simply swallowed them up. Locator beacons in small aircraft would only be introduced years later and GPS was yet to be invented.

The minutes crawled by in tense silence as we entered another steep sided valley. There was nothing left to say. We could both see the fuel gauge hovering over empty in the dim light.

'This looks familiar, keep going Phil.' Barry leaned forward, as if to get a better view. 'This is it, see the track down to the river. That's where we collect supplies from the canoes when the river level is low. The camp should be another few miles up river on the right.'

Then we saw smoke from a fire. Someone was in the unending greenery below.

'The camp,' Barry squealed. 'See it?'

'Yes, thank heavens.'

After landing, I dipped the fuel tanks; only three to five minutes of fuel remained. It was another near miss and taught me to be extremely skeptical of other people's well-meaning assurances, especially if it could affect my livelihood or health. It was my life and license at stake, and I figured if I kept myself alive, then my passengers should survive, even if I ignored their advice.

For more, see [www.phillatz.com](http://www.phillatz.com)

## HELP WANTED

► **James Sinclair** is researching a major history of **Edie Creek**, from the original discovery of gold in January 1926 to the present day. There have been a number of books written on the Morobe Goldfield/Bulolo Gold Dredging Ltd etc (including several by James Sinclair) but there has never been a book concentrating on Edie Creek itself.

He is seeking to make contact with anyone who has any memories of Edie Creek, **old photos, letters, diaries** etc. Please contact him at

5 Yoomba Crescent, Alexandra Headland, Qld 4572

E: [jpsin@bigpond.net.au](mailto:jpsin@bigpond.net.au) of Ph: 07 54 43 65 97

► **Journalist/author Rick Wilkinson** is currently researching for a book he is to write about **the history of Oil Search Ltd and is seeking any stories of exploits and personality profiles of the company's early petroleum explorers and support staff in PNG during the 1930s-1980s**. Wilkinson's wish list includes employees of Australasian Petroleum Company (APC) the joint operating company of Anglo-Persian (BP), Oil Search and Island Exploration Company as well as government field patrol officers who often accompanied geological and geophysical survey parties during that time. He is also particularly interested in finding out about the people and stories involved in care and maintenance of the Kariava well site camp on the Vailala River during the WWII years.

Wilkinson can be contacted at PO Box 37, Portarlington, Victoria, Australia 3223, Tel: +61 3 5259 3325 and email: [rickwilko@hotmail.net.au](mailto:rickwilko@hotmail.net.au)

► **I am researching Heinrich Wahlen of Maron Island (Western Isles)** and would like to get in touch with anyone who may have visited WAHLENBERG. His plantation was expropriated after World War One, some time in the 1960s his mansion was burnt, and he died in 1970.

My address is **Louise Higham**, Wild Horse Hill, WILLIAMS, W.A. and my email is [rlhigham@bigpond.com](mailto:rlhigham@bigpond.com)

► **Clive Troy** seek would like to know if anyone has contact details for the following people who were in PNG circa 1959/1960: **Leigh Brownrigg of Customs, Kavieng and Arthur & Margo Tanner** – RPNGC, Madang/Kavieng – both circa 1959 – 1960 Please contact Clive at 4 Welham Street, Beecroft NSW 2119 E: [clive.troy@bigpond.com](mailto:clive.troy@bigpond.com) Ph: 02-9868 2123

► **Helen Nottage Moulds** would love to hear from anyone who knew her late father **Stewart Nottage** in Rabaul in 1941. Stewart Nottage later became a prisoner in Japan from 1942-1945. Please contact her at: 22/1 Wattle Grove Wynyard Grove Wattle Park SA 5066 Ph: 08 8431 0479 or E: [hkm2@bigpond.com](mailto:hkm2@bigpond.com)

► **Dr Debbie Argue** is studying Homo floresiensis – the little 'Hobbit' people remains found in 2004 in an archaeological excavation on Flores, Indonesia. She is interested to know if there is any potential for similar bones to be on New Ireland or New Britain.

She therefore seeks help with hearing from Kiaps, teachers or others who may have knowledge of bones located in caves in New Ireland or New Britain; or who knows of anyone who may have carried out formal or informal research into finding bones, or sites containing bones; or anyone who was involved in academic studies conducted in remote locations during their time in PNG. Dr Argue is not interested in modern human burials or burial sites. She is also interested in seeing any images of bones that might have been used in ceremonies.

Debbie can be contacted on phone 0431938517 and email [debbie.argue@anu.edu.au](mailto:debbie.argue@anu.edu.au)

► **Can you put me in touch with any living relatives of WA (Bill) McGregor?** I am writing a history of the Japanese Occupation of the Sepik and have everything that the ANGAU war diaries and PIM say about him. I have also read with interest Jim Sinclair's book Madang and the write up of Bill's brother Roy and his descendants. I have a lot of information on "*Masta Mek*" from Sepik tribal elders I interviewed between 1970-74 when I was ADC Ambunti and I would like to review that with family members if possible.

Laurie Bragge (07) 40552808. PO Box 191 Freshwater Queensland.

► **Many of you would have memories of the Madang Club which is still thriving in its 63rd year.** The current committee wishes to install an honour board in the club, on which will be the names of past presidents and life members. Unfortunately, records of these do not exist. If any of you have any memories or records that could help this project, please post a reply or email. I'll stand drinks at the club's bar for a night for anyone who assists! John Mackerell E: [tinpis@datec.net.pg](mailto:tinpis@datec.net.pg) or P.O. Box 909 Madang.

► **David Mulhearn** would like assistance in sourcing two old documentaries which are:

**Bulolo Gold Dredging Ltd** - produced by Movietone - activities of the company in New Guinea

**The Green and the Gold** produced in 1954 by the Timber Development Association.

If you can help David please contact him at: 14 Coriedale Drive, Coffs Harbour NSW 2450 Phone:(02) 6651 3070

► Ms. Margot Howard the sister of the late **Andrew Parr**, a Pilot with Talair, hopes to contact the only survivor of the crash which killed her brother on 6 September 1984. He was flying BN2 -ISG when the crash occurred near Tabubil. It is thought that the sole survivor of the crash **Kimisen Alonsep**, then a young girl, was later given some care and education by Ok Tedi Mining. If you are able to assist please contact Margot at 22 Highview Crescent Modanville NSW 2480 Ph: +61 2 66282048 Mobile: 0447415148  
E: [margot.howard@scu.edu.au](mailto:margot.howard@scu.edu.au)

## REUNIONS

► **Samarai Reunion 2012 will be held 7th - 9th September 2012.** Ridges Oasis Resort, Caloundra. All ex-residents of Samarai and Milne Bay are invited to attend. If you wish to stay informed phone Jack Medley on (07) 5497 2405 or email [samarai.reunion2012@gmail.com](mailto:samarai.reunion2012@gmail.com) or check the web site <http://loosenuts.com.au/SamaraiReunion.html>

► Just when you thought it was all over.....

**The last of the fortieth anniversaries of the Port Moresby AFL Club premierships has passed and opened up the way for the fiftieths.** The first of these will be conducted in Tasmania 16<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> March, 2012. Those who were in Moresby during the 50s and beyond know of the close ties which developed between the “Demons” and The Colts Cricket Club. Also remembered are a lot of the good times which occurred in and around the shared club facilities (burnt down in recent years).

The link has survived fifty years and members of both associations will gather to share the March event. Kerry and Graeme Tilyard are co-ordinating the weekend and have a long list of suggestions for those who want to spend more than a weekend in Tassy. For full details, contact Kerry on 03 6248 6540.

Henry Bodman

► **PORT MORESBY HIGH SCHOOL REUNION – 24 April, 2012 – 26 April, 2012**, Kangaroo Valley, NSW.

A group of teachers who were on the staff of the PMHS in the early 1970's are organising a reunion as detailed above. Any interested parties are most welcome to be part of the get-together. The proposed venue is the Kangaroo Valley Tourist Park, 5 Moss Vale Road, Kangaroo Valley, NSW, 2577. Tel: 02 4465 1310. No accommodation has been reserved; this will be the responsibility of anyone who wishes to attend. There are alternate accommodation sites available nearby. For further details please contact:

Bob Ginbey on 08 9457 3955, [bgin@dodo.com.au](mailto:bgin@dodo.com.au)

Ian Mackellar on 02 02 9451 9157, [ymackellar@hotmail.com](mailto:ymackellar@hotmail.com) or

Hugh Maher on 02 6254 9382, [spyke@grapevine.com.au](mailto:spyke@grapevine.com.au).

## BOOK REVIEWS

<p><b>IT STRIKES ME: Collected essays 1994-2010, by Peter Ryan. ISBN 9780980677843</b>, 314pp. \$44.95. Published by and available from Quadrant Books, 2/5 Rosebery Place, Balmain NSW 2041.</p>
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

The December issue of *Una Voce* provided a short description of Ryan's book of 55 selected essays from *Quadrant*, adding, “look for a review in our March issue - and in the meantime add it to your Christmas list!” Well, those who ordered a copy on the strength of that advice wouldn't have been disappointed. Ryan, of course, now 88 but still going strong, is an old New Guinea hand with wide interests - he was general editor of the *Encyclopaedia of PNG*, wrote the enduring World War 11 memoir *Fear Drive My Feet* about his work behind enemy lines in PNG (which had gained him the Military Medal), was for 26 years director of

Melbourne University Press, and has been writing essays (more than 150 of them) for *Quadrant* for the past 18 years. Despite that and his great many other interests, he is a PNGAA supporter, and contributor to *Una Voce*.

The good news for *Una Voce* readers is that Ryan's recollections of his wartime experiences in PNG get a frequent airing in this collection, turning up unexpectedly as he makes a point about this or that, then finds that something or other that happened to him in PNG is an apt illustration. In a piece about the Australian flag, for example, he recalls some of the events of 1942 and 1943, a large part of which he spent "in the mountains behind the great Japanese military base at Lae, my chief companions being a squad of black New Guinea policemen...and pitifully ill-equipped and ill-supplied, and sometimes hungry. But what we wanted most was a flag... Frequently on the run we would occupy some huddle of rough huts from one insecure night to the next. But we knew that a flag flying above our squalid little camp would convert us from a fugitive rabble into a disciplined force which - however tiny - would have to be reckoned with. After many months our flag arrived. It was not provided by the army. My mother had it made in Melbourne, and by amazing stratagems too tedious to relate here, she managed to get it included in a cargo drop to us from Port Moresby. It wasn't always safe to have it flying, and sometimes we hoisted it well concealed from Japanese reconnaissance aircraft beneath overhanging foliage. But whenever possible it would be raised at dawn, and saluted by the police properly drawn up on parade. It was lowered with similar ceremony at sunset."

In his essay in the book on "Humanity's Crimes", Ryan writes, "I can call to mind only one war crimes trial which was, in the end, resolved with the purgative elegance of a Greek tragedy. General Adachi was the brave and resolute Second World War commander of the Japanese XVIII Army in New Guinea. He surrendered to the Australians at Wewak in 1945, and was tried for war crimes. There was no doubt that atrocities had occurred, but whether Adachi had ordered them, or whether he himself was a cruel man, I do not know. He was convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment. In 1947, in the jail compound in Rabaul, he wrote a letter which even today can move to tears. It was a reaffirmation of a soldier's duty and honour, and an eloquent condemnation of the futility of war. Then he killed himself."

In his essay on capital punishment, Ryan writes, "In 1942. at the almost grotesquely geriatric age of eighteen, I was appointed under martial law to be a magistrate of a New Guinea court with power to impose sentence of death. Punishment might not be carried into execution without the personal confirmation in writing of the Commander-in-chief, General Blamey. I remain grateful that no case before me ever went so far as to require the least attention by the General, but the very existence of such a power was enough to concentrate a young man's mind wonderfully on reflective hot nights in the bush."

But enough. While these examples, and many more, stress Ryan's long interest in PNG. the subjects of his 55 essays vary very widely. They embrace education, Aborigines, Aussie politicians, Chinese and Greek restaurants, the Pope's visit, the Carrier Pigeon Service of the Australian Corp of Signals, the rape and murder in Sydney of Anita Cobby, his pleasure in the company of Bonny the mare, and rainbows ("rainbows, viewed in the right spirit, make us feel small. And that's good for us.")

**Stuart Inder**



**Now in Remission: A Surgical Life by Ken Clezy** ISBN 9781743050149  
Paperback 288 pages First published 2011 Wakefield Press South Australia  
[www.wakefieldpress.com.au](http://www.wakefieldpress.com.au)

In the *Foreward* to Ken Clezy's autobiography, *Now In Remission: A surgeon's life*, Allan Scott describes Clezy as 'a remarkable surgeon, a truly remarkable Australian'. A remarkable surgeon for Clezy would perform a range of surgical procedures in which most surgeons would rarely achieve skill in half and a remarkable Australian for as a son of the soil he carried across the world and back the skills he gained as a doctor to treat those in greater need than in Australia, together with his steadfast Christian faith, until he finally retired back to Adelaide, aged almost eighty.

Clezy worked in PNG from early 1961 until 1980, and again from 1984-88. The early chapters of his story cover the usual pattern of most Australian autobiographies – his family's origins and establishment in Australia. His education and training as a surgeon. All is told with the dry laconic humour which is his hallmark as a storyteller and read like another of the famous *Doctor in the House* series of the 1950s.

As a senior medical student Ken Clezy was sent to Rabaul and then to Sohano where, watching the doctor there struggling with the more complicated cases, convinced him that his future career would be in surgery. When he returned to PNG he moved from Rabaul to Madang to Mt Hagen to Port Moresby as regional surgeon, and from these centres he visited many district hospitals as a visiting surgeon. In addition to the extraordinary range of surgical tasks, Clezy devised new treatments to minimise unnecessary surgery of patients, and developed new techniques which he sent to world authorities for comment only to read of these 'discoveries' in their own books years later! Despite the depth of these medical stories which may fly over the heads of some readers, the context, the stories and the humour with which he surrounds them will keep the attention of even the non-medical readers.

Clezy went on to become the first Professor of Surgery and later Dean of the medical faculty at the University of Papua New Guinea in Port Moresby.

After retirement a second time he and his wife Gwen 'set sail' yet again, this time for North Yemen. Here he escaped certain death by going home to breakfast before starting his day's work while his colleagues were martyred by a fanatical Islamist not a stone's throw away from his house.

Ken Clezy is one of those rare people who has left a legacy behind him. His pragmatic approach to everything he does permeates his story, spiced with very frank and humorous incidents, if not character assassinations, of many of the colourful characters which appeared in abundance in the Territory. He does not spare himself in his frank descriptions. Neither does he suffer fools or miscreants easily. His story also includes a number of barbs hurled at the Administration to which those who have served there will relate. Others will sympathise with the manner of his localisation post-Independence which resulted in the country losing its most competent and experienced surgeon, and to the stories of *raskols*, though few will have experienced the level of physical attack, rape and pillage which the Clezys experienced...and yet they stayed on.

His skills were not confined to surgery and preaching alone. He had a broad musical knowledge and played the organ and piano wherever he went. He has



been a stamp collector since his youth, though I doubt the projected re-sale of his PNG acquisitions became his hoped for superannuation.

The last section of the book is concerned with his life in North Yemen where he once again took up his scalpel for several years until once again he was forced out by administrative policy and this time by local religious fanatic. And as in PNG returned again. This part of the story is similar in many ways to that of his time in PNG but will be of less interest to old Territorians. The Clezys (for this story is also very much one of his wife Gwen) finally retired 'home' to Adelaide ....but even there his house was ransacked!

Dr Ken Clezy has been recognised for his work by the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, and with awards from both the Australian and PNG governments.

**Dr Anthony Radford**

## **BOOK NEWS**

Coming soon

**\**Needed, but not wanted: Chinese in colonial Rabaul 1884-1960* by Dr Peter Cahill** - includes photos (some from 1902, others not previously published), maps and hand-drawn diagrams. In his foreword Ken Cheung, President of the Cathay Association in Brisbane, wrote "this book is both shocking and informative".

People can contact Dr Peter Cahill to reserve a copy.

\*Direct quote of Dr Albert Hahl, last Governor of German New Guinea.

**PACIFIC AIRCRAFT WRECKS by Charles Darby** ISBN 0 85880 035 7  
Hardcover 220 pages Published by Kookaburra Technical Publications Pty Ltd  
1979 Photos, map, wreck list Cost: \$20 plus \$5 postage within Australia  
*Please note: \$2.50 per volume sold will be made to the PNGAA.* Cash, cheque or  
Electronic transfer to: Mrs J Pentland Westpac BSB 733-126 Account: 676741  
Available from Mrs J Pentland, 6 Colvin Court, Glen Waverley VIC 3150 or E:  
[jenpen@iprimus.com.au](mailto:jenpen@iprimus.com.au)

**MEDICINE BEYOND KOKODA by Dr Clive Auricht, OAM** 222pp First published 2011 approx 100 colour photos incl; Cost \$25 plus \$5 postage within Australia; Available from Dr Clive Auricht E: [aurichtco@bigpond.com](mailto:aurichtco@bigpond.com) or 8 Wigley Drive, McLaren Vale SA 5171 Ph: 08 8323 8316

Clive Auricht has written a lively account of his pioneering experiences in Papua New Guinea. His anecdotes recall the day to day happenings that were the personal and family experience of all doctors.

Clive, a son of the cloth, regularly heard of the needs of the people of the Pacific and set his mind early in his life to work as a doctor in PNG. Clive and Ern Urban went to Madang as 4th year Adelaide medical students in 1956 and gained confidence assessing the common medical problems. In 1957, he was appointed as a salaried Cadet Medical Officer obligated to work in the PNG for 5 years. The next year end vacation Clive helped Dr Vincent Zigas and Dr Carleton with their kuru village studies. He then deferred his internship in 1959 to establish kinship records for genetics professor John Bennett to try to define a genetic origin for kuru.

Clive describes how he and his wife contracted pneumonia and had a dramatic retrieval by Carl Gannon from a jungle village on bush stretchers. His

epidemiological records were handed over to Dr Bronte Gabb and continued later by Dr Michael Alpers, both from Adelaide. The genetic theory vanished when chimpanzees injected with kuru cerebral tissue developed a kuru like condition..

After completing his internship Clive became the DMO for the Northern District at Saiho hospital supported by an EMA but without trained nurses. He describes the memorable medical emergencies he faced at Saiho and driving his new Landrover over tracks cut by streams from the Owen Stanleys and Mt Lamington.

He describes how a poliomyelitis epidemic started in Gona in October and quickly spread to villages in other areas. At that time Sabin was neither approved for use nor available in Australia but in March 1962 PHD obtained a limited quantity of Sabin vaccine from USA to stem a small polio epidemic at Maprik. Clive organised government and mission staff and the students at the infant and maternal welfare school to distribute the vaccine and successfully aborted this poliomyelitis epidemic.

He has complemented his interesting and readable autobiography of his five years in PNG with 154 photographs illustrating places and events in Adelaide, Madang, Okapa and the Northern district. He regretted leaving PNG for family health reasons but the experience and organising skills he developed in PNG gained him an OAM in South Australia. That story is about to be told. **Dr Roy Scragg**

**Snapshots On A Journey: Home At Last**, An authobiography by **Ian F. M. Saint-Ives**. ISBN 978-1-4567 7885-9 Print Published 2011 by Author House 1663 Liberty Drive Bloomington, Indiana, 47403. Available from [bookdepository.co.uk/](http://bookdepository.co.uk/)

Dr Ian Saint-Yves has written the story of his wanderings and his interesting activities in PNG, Solomons, Arabia and Scotland. The quality and quantity of his recall of his dealings with friend and foe indicates a personal diary.

Ian was born in India in 1936 to a Glaswegian maiden married to a British marine engineer of French extraction who wandered the Indian Ocean and transmitted the wanderer gene to Ian. After schooling in Scotland and Western Australia he studied medicine in Glasgow. With the clear objective of working overseas, he studied Tropical Medicine and Hygiene at the Liverpool School under Professor Sir Brian Maegraith, a celebrated Australian.

He applied to Territories to work in PNG in 1962 and had his tropical initiation in Lae as a GP obstetrician in 1964. An epiphany occurred when Ian went to the Sepik as DMO in 1965 and discovered the importance of community medicine. Over this same period PHD recognised his innate ability. In 1967, he joined the Malaria service to provide administrative support to Dr Jan Saave and eventually became the head of that team. His five PNG years only cover a small portion of his story but his experiences there set the path he took through to his retirement. The PNG story has errors of fact such as: the 'plague' he mentions in West Irian was cholera; Maori Kiki was from Kerema not Menyamya.

After Ian left PNG he continued to apply his qualifications and experience to improve the quality of life of those he served. He completed his training as a malariologist over 4 years with Australian army then spent three years in the Solomons for WHO. There he wrote his MD thesis on the impact of malaria eradication on population dynamics: another doctorate to add from the 20 generated by the epidemiological culture which was the heart of the PNG medical profession in the pre independence years.

In 1976, Ian was home in Scotland as a GP for eight years but the tropics lured him back as an epidemiologist in the Northern Territory for four years. This was followed by two years in Arabia, then four years back in Scotland. He returned to Arabia for two years then found a restful haven on the Isle of Arran in 1996.

Ian's story brings to my mind the wisdom of another Scot:

"O wad some Pow'r the giftie gie us

To see oursels as others see us!"

**Dr Roy Scragg**

## **DONATIONS TO THE PNGAA COLLECTION, FRYER LIBRARY**

### **THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND**

**December 2011 and March 2012**

**NGVR Museum, Wacol** (courtesy John Holland): Supplement to Official Handbook 1937; photograph of truck on Barawon Road (Rabaul/Kokopo) with Chinese/mixed race driver and native assistants; folder with photos of graves of J.K. McCarthy and J.L. Chipper, Rabaul 1982; photos: 2/22<sup>nd</sup> Street sign and Japanese tunnel 1982; entry badge Western Highlands District Agri-cultural Show; map of Gazelle Peninsula 1979; report of party of Japanese landing at Pondo, New Britain; notes on arrival of Australian soldiers at Cairns early 1942; series of undated (possibly 1950s) colour slides: Mt Hagen show, Manus shell, Paramount Luluai Golpak memorial ceremony, logging Kerevat/Warangoi, scenes Rabaul, native foods, spiders. **Albert Speer MBE**: bound copy E.F. Bishton's *Part of my life in New Guinea* with Appendix *German Raiders on Emirau*; *War Diary Mesopotamia* 1916; letter of Sister Berenice's experience as pow of Japs in Rabaul; letter from Clarrie James concerning observation tree used by Coastwatchers to spy on Japs in Salamaua; photocopy *Remember Rabaul* booklet; material concerning Jap attack on Rabaul January 1942 and massacre of Australian troops at Tol plantation, New Britain; photocopy *Montevideo Maru* memorial service Rabaul 230146 wreaths laid by L/Col. A.G. Cameron and M/General K.W. Eather; photo 1934/35 monument at Kabakaul for Australian soldiers killed 110914; correspondence on commemorative plaque in Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney, to mark the departure of Australian Naval & Military Expeditionary Force (ANMEF) to German New Guinea 1914; photograph of two scaffolds, Rabaul, for hanging Jap war criminals; laminated photo of Samuel Terarup Cham of Matalau village, New Britain – first native TPNG artist to have his work on a postage stamp; typewritten account "FROM RABAU TO LAE – Progress of transfer of NG Capitol (*sic*) Rabaul 011241"; Alan Gow photo album (collected by Phyllis Mitchell) scenes 1939-1941 Lae, Gasmata, natives (Kukukukus) dated and identified, Gasmata house and grave/s of Imelda Rose Johnson and Phyllis Imelda Gow; Jean Chambers' CV and report of Ewan Maidment, PAMBU, on Mrs Chambers' designs of posters teaching native mothers how to care for infants; postcard WW2 Jap landing barge, Rabaul; pamphlet for Kokoda Track memorial Concord Repatriation General Hospital (Sydney) and another detailing Bray's Bay development plan incorporating the Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway; photocopy Bertha Burtin-shaw's 1914 Diary describing voyage of Australian medical staff Sydney-Rabaul to join ANMEF forces; correspondence with Sister Berenice, J.J. Murphy family, Joe Nason, Alf Baker, John L. May. **Max Hayes**: letters 141241, 311241 from Barry O'Neill to fiancée in Melbourne (O'Neill was a member of B company 2/22<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, AIF, captured during Japanese occupation of Rabaul and later lost on the *Montevideo*

*Maru*); three part photocopy of Rabaul ca.1908. **Peter Cahill:** pamphlets of colour prints of H.S. Holman LO, OAM, and Witzig Gallery of PNG contemporary art; **H.E. (Lynn) Clark:** Nomad River photographs 1962: native man holding two smoked heads, two men with three smoked heads on a stick, two native men with bows and arrows, young native girl with bark cloak and silver cross on forehead, three native men squatting on rocks, native man in daily dress, RPNGC constable standing beside skull on post; Australian soldier escapees from Jap occupation of Rabaul: group of six, on upper and lower deck of *Laurabada*; arriving Fairfax Harbour (Port Moresby) on *Laurabada*, soldiers waiting to board *Laurabada*; bombed remains of Buna Gov't Station 14 Jan 43, parade of soldiers (most armed with long sticks), "fuzzy-wuzzy" angel leading blinded Australia soldier; Army officials inspecting RPNGC parade (?Papua). **David Lo** (courtesy Ken Cheung): copy of the *Heaven-help Stone* – Rev. Lo Shui Kwong's autobiography as Methodist Minister 1927-1982 in various centres including Rabaul 1948-1963, photos of Chinese basketball-baseball teams, Rabaul, 1950s+, decorated floats for Coronation celebrations, Rabaul, 1953. **Adrian Geyle:** 477 wide-ranging collection of slides identified and dated (gold star to Adrian): including Green River, Border Mountains, Iuri house, Iuri visitors at Green River, DC Elliott-Smith addressing Iuri, various scenes Port Moresby, Gogodala dance, Fly River delta, Ambunti, Lower Sepik, confluence of August & Sepik rivers, oil company motorised canoes, interior men's house, middle Sepik, Madang town views, various *kiaps*, Wau/Bulolo mining views, yam festival Kamdudnum village lower Sepik, Dumpu village scenes, saluting the flag, Dumpu airstrip, helicopter wreck. **John Norton:** impressive collection of slides contrasting 1951 and 1972 developments in various districts and places including Saidor, Dumpu, Gusap, Finisterre range, Popondetta, Mt Lamington, Balimo, Rabaul, and Bitapaka. **Rob Parer CMG MBE:** Allied Geographical Section Southwest Pacific Area – Terrain Study no. 65 Area Study of the Sepik District Volume 2 (excellent photographs), Terrain Study no. 77 Locality Study of Aitape-Vanimomo with text and maps. **Rev. Neville Threlfall (held over from December 2011):** large file of notes and correspondence with former residents of Rabaul seeking material for history of Rabaul. Photographs: assorted including two negatives of George Brown College students 1928-29; Rapindik native hospital, Rabaul; Methodist Mission house, Malakuna; general scenes of buildings post 1937 eruption; decorated floats for 1937 Coronation celebrations; photocopies from journals/newspapers of significant items including Queen Emma's mother, the "House on the Hill", Matupi, giant snails on a tree trunk; Rev. W.H. Cox, Pero To Kinkin and his wealth in *Tambu*, Sir Donald Cleland taking the salute at a military ceremony (?date), PIR soldiers marching, inspecting a visiting Australian naval vessel, apprentices/trainees at (?Malaguna) Technical School, Rabaul, Chinnery residence, Malaguna Road, Rabaul, series of 1930s photos (all Rabaul) of Rapindik Native Hospital, Harbour, waterfront, canoes, power house, bungalow, Hotel, Park Street, arrival of plane with first official airmail 1938, New Guinea Club, 1938 and 1948; Rabaul after 1941 eruption of Tavurvur, others including Ingiyet (secret society) figure and Bitapaka war graves. *Islands Newsbeat* magazine issues vol.1 no. 3 October 1969, 5 December 1969, number 6 January 1970; file Sundry Correspondence (History & General); Rabaul 1981, various notes; album mainly Rabaul 1933 (?formerly Forsyth family) buildings and places, includes some of Samarai, Salamaua, Lae (14 have been removed) and a copy of Ela Beach, Port Moresby, painted by Marjorie Hall. **Pip Earl:** CD of photos, newspaper

articles, memorial plaques of Athol Earl (uncle) and others who died in the eruption of Mt Lamington, Northern District, Papua, 210151; **David Montgomery:** CD General photos PNG 1961-1962, (property of Fred Watts), PNGAA luncheon March 2002 program to commemorate 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of wartime evacuations with individual accounts of experiences, Lunch program for Rabaul & *Montevideo Maru* Society, Barton, ACT, 020711, three self-adhesive stickers featuring PNG artefacts, copy of Your Guide to Papua New Guinea September 1976, David Willis sketch on card of Okapa man, holiday brochures for Melanesian Tourist Service and Kings holidays; **Charles Betteridge:** CD (1) of East and West Sepik Provinces 1974-1979 with views of Vanimo, Aitape, Dagua, Muschu, Kairiru Islands, Wewak and surrounding areas road reconstruction and bridge building; CD (2) On the mighty Sepik River 1975-1977 views of Marienberg, Angoram, and Ambunti – silent , with captions; CD (3) Wewak and the second world war and its aftermath; (CD 4) A brief history of the second Pacific Islands Regiment (2 P.I.R.). **Michael Waterhouse:** 7 small photos of Tavorvur (Matupit) eruption 280537 followed by Vulcan, 3 small photos of volcanic damage to Yara (Casuarina) Avenue and a bungalow; 10 large photos of post-eruption scenes: abandoned car, Central Administration building, Mango Avenue, Rabaul Hotel, Lands & Mines office, aerial view of Tavorvur erupting; **Fr Greg Bourke ofm:** Custody of St Francis Bulletin vol.28 no.4 September 2011, The Aitape Tsunami Three years on – an exhibition in the PNG National Museum and Art Gallery on the third anniversary of the disaster, Sr M. Quentin's "The ride of my life" a visiting (Catholic) nurse on horseback in darkest Sepik; **Ian Grundy (courtesy Pauline Grundy):** West Sepik Timber Development Pty. Limited March 1971 – A Proposal for development of an integrated forest industry based on the Vanimo Timber Area, eighteen papers (booklets) of papers presented largely by PNG Forestry staff to the 21st AUSTIS Conference March 21st - 24th 1971, authors include N. Endacott, S.J. Colwell, R.G. Gardiner and K.J. White; **Sir John Yocklunn:** book 2011 *One of us: an insider in Papua New Guinea 1967-1983*, records his association with the development of the PANGU Pati in PNG and his close working relationship with Michael (later Sir Michael) Somare. **Rev. Neville Threlfall:** *AIR NIUGINI* – An Interim Report by the Ombudsman Commission, Port Moresby, 1980; Jean Guillou, *L'inférieure Utopie de la Nouvelle France en Nouvelle Guinée* (the Marquis de Rays' expedition to southern New Ireland 1879-1881); loose photographs including *Montevideo Maru* memorial, Rabaul; Bishop Saimon Gaius unveiling Memorial to four Fijian missionary martyrs, official opening Airmen's Memorial School, Evase, 110764; crowd at Molot for Mission Centenary celebrations 150875; cloth map (probably from Dr H. Schnee's *Bilder aus der Sudsee*) of German New Guinea with handwritten annotations; envelope with two slides of William Watlugan with family and Braille scriptures; various centenary souvenir programs and mission news-sheets; large album of PNG photos including devastation in Rabaul after Tavorvur eruption; (Goroka) mud men and Western Highlands and Manus dancers in feathers, pig tusks and shells; 10 Kodachrome boxes of slides of PNG scenes all identified and dated. **Steven Cottingham:** patrol reports: Kabwum 4 of 69/70, 5 of 69/70, 8 of 69/70, 11 of 69/70 (cancelled), 15 of 69/70; Boana 3 of 69/70; Wasu 1 of 70/71; Kabwum 1 of 70/71, 5 of 70/71; Siassi 1 of 71/72; Pindiu 10 of 71/72, comment on 12 of 71/71. 13 of 71/72; Siassi 1 of 72/73, 2 of 72/73, 3 of 72/73, land investigation report 161271; Finschhafen 12 of 72/73; circular instruction 67-1-1 of 070872. ■

**KIAP REUNION 2011**  
**KAWANA WATERS HOTEL, QUEENSLAND SUNSHINE**  
**COAST**



The co-organisers: Helen Faithful, Lee Allmark and Heather Fayle

It was the biggest Kiap reunion ever. A total of 309 kiaps, wives, family and friends attended. It was a brilliant day, a festive occasion, a terrific venue, and a memorable gathering at the Kawana Waters Hotel on the Queensland Sunshine Coast on Sunday 13 November 2011.

Those of us from out of town began arriving early. In some cases, one day early, arriving at the Kawana Waters Hotel or other nearby motels on the day before the scheduled meeting time, and as on previous occasions, the reunion continued on into the following Monday with breakfast on the waterfront at Mooloolaba. For purposes of accommodating so many people near to the event who had to come from so far away, the organisers Bob and Heather Fayle and Denys and Helen Faithful had years ago chosen this particular venue and, as in previous reunions, it was the best place to gather.

With a large contingent of kiaps now living in Southern Queensland, it could be expected that most of the people attending would come from here. Yet we were honoured by those who travelled from far away just to be together again. Thirty-nine came from New South Wales, Twenty-five from Victoria, and twelve from South Australia. Mike and Judy Collins and Frank and Sue Cotton came all the way from WA, Lloyd Warr and Ross Henderson came from Tasmania, and Des, David and Laura Fanning, together with Mike Press, and Kerin and Precy Taylor came from the Top End. And from almost as far away, from far North Queensland came Laurie and Mai Bragge, Martin and Anna Kerr, Bob Lock, Archie McArthur, Rod and Ginni Donovan and Chris Makin. Also honoured by their presence were those kiaps who live in Australia but who still work in PNG, who made the break to be with us for this reunion.

There is no doubt that the popularity of these Sunshine Coast reunions is a by-product of their informality. It is now legend that these reunions are strictly informal, and we thank the Faithfuls and the Fayles for that. There are no boring speeches, no guests of honour, no set-piece table places, and no official starting time or finishing time. People arrive when they want to, and leave when it is time to go home. People sit anywhere, and move around the venue whenever they want to. These gatherings are not bound by rules but by mystique – the bond by which we served together in PNG and which continues to draw us together now that we



have long since left there – the shared memories which reunite us after decades of separation, and which allow us to continue conversations as though we were never apart. I last saw Chris Makin in 1980, yet we sat together at the reunion and laughed over events as though they only happened yesterday. I last saw Mark Sage in 1970. He is still flying aeroplanes now, just as he did back then, and we talked about his flying experience as though we were continuing a conversation begun last week.

The other amazing feature about these reunions is how some of us never seem to change. Just as well we all wore name tags, because those of us who are fat and bald and old and crotchety would not have recognised each other. Yet some of us are remarkably unchanged. I had not seen Mark Sage since 1970, yet he did not look much different. Dave Hook's hair has turned white, but otherwise he looks the same as when he first went to PNG in 1953. Vin Smith doesn't look much different than when I first saw him in 1956. He hasn't got much hair now, but he didn't have much then either, and his face is still the same. Bob Cleland is easily recognised because he looks like his father, Sir Donald, and Ross Johnson looks a bit weather beaten, but he is still as slim and trim as he always was back in PNG those many long years ago. Bob Hoad is still as skinny as a rake. He became skinny when walking the mountain tracks around Tapini. He is still walking mountain tracks, but these days the tracks cross over the Andes, the Himalayas, and Nepal, and he is still as fit now as he always was back in those days in PNG. It is kiaps like these who have changed little over the years who keep our memories of PNG alive; not the PNG of today, but the PNG back when we were all together there, just as we are together again at these reunions.

There are two other ties which bind us now which we did not have back in PNG. One is UNA VOCE, our newsletter, and we thank its dedicated editorial committee for keeping it going and for continuing to keep us in touch with each other. The other is a more modern version of communication, the exkiap website, begun and maintained by Peter Salmon, and we thank him for his dedication to this very essence of kiap affiliation. Peter also did a top job helping with the mail-out for the reunion, and we also thank him for that.

Finally, we thank Bob and Heather Fayle and Denys and Helen Faithful for bringing us together for these Sunshine Coast kiaps reunions. May there be many more such reunions. Best wishes and thanks to you all. Chips Mackellar

### **Glimpses of the 2011 Kiaps Reunion**



A permanent fixture at these reunions: Bill McGrath (right) and his Pacificbookhouse book stand.



Dave Hook and a bevy of beauties: (from L to R) Chris Hook, Roseanne Biscoe, and Barbara Bell



Bill Brown, Ross Henderson and Pam Brown



The Architect of the exkiap website, Peter Salmon and Pip Earl.

Other photos of the reunion can be found at [http://www.exkiap.net/social/111113\\_kawana\\_reunion/imgp1090.html](http://www.exkiap.net/social/111113_kawana_reunion/imgp1090.html) courtesy of Peter Salmon.

### **Why Office Hours Ended at 4.06pm by Chris Warrillow**

The Honourable Mr Justice Graham Ellis, in his *Una Voce* December article, is quoted as stating that:

“Government office hours in PNG are 7.45am to 4.06pm (please don’t ask me why 4.06pm).”

Until the early 1960s Public Servants were required to work five and a half days a week. The working week was, in the “old days”, 40 hours until reduced initially to 38 hours. Our lunch break was 12-1.30pm and we worked on Saturday mornings.

In the mid-60s the then Public Service Association won an award cutting out Saturday morning work – but, for some reason still unknown to me, only for Gazetted towns. Thus, we on the outstations still worked 8-12 on Saturdays.

However, the award also reduced the working week to thirty six and three quarter hours!

Not too long afterwards the award was extended to “field staff” and we were no longer required to open up the office on Saturday mornings. This of course didn’t stop aircraft movements nor other Government staff nor missionaries demanding that the mail be sorted if it arrived over the weekend, nor did the village population take happily to the new hours if they happened to walk in for their various needs, such as banking, until long after the new hours were introduced!

Anyhow, the 36.75 hour-week is not achieved by working 7.45am-12noon (4.25 hours) and 1-4pm (3 hours) X by 5 = 36.25 hours.

So, by ‘working’ the extra 6 minutes a day for 5 days we added the necessary half hour to complete our 36.75 hour-working week!

## **WILLIAM MANNING EDWARDS CMG MBE MID**

**By PHIL AINSWORTH**

***Edwards, William Manning CMG MBE MID, Colonel, NGX455 - the story of an Australian Private soldier who stormed Gallipoli 25 April 1915 and became the CO of NGVR, 1 NGIB & PIR during WW2***

Bill Edwards was born in Enmore, Sydney on 27 February 1896. His father was WI Edwards who resided at 115 Enmore Road, Enmore. Bill was 18 years and 7 months when he enlisted 25 September 1914. He was described as being dark complexioned with blue grey eyes and brown hair. He weighed 66 kg and was 1.625m tall. For the previous six months he was a Military Science Student at Sydney University. He was attested and posted to D Company, 13 Battalion, 1 AIF with Regimental Number 381. The 13<sup>th</sup> was formed in NSW and raised just 6 weeks after the commencement of the war. It was part of 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade under the command of Colonel Monash. Edwards was promoted to Corporal 1 October 1914 and embarked for overseas in Melbourne 22 December 1914 on the *Ulysses*.

The 13<sup>th</sup> took part in the landing at Gallipoli arriving late 25 April 1915. For the first four months it undertook defensive operations establishing the ANZAC beachhead. The breakout was attempted 8 August. Corporal Edwards was made Acting Sergeant 3 May 1915 after the Platoon Sergeant was wounded. On 11 May 1915 Edwards was wounded and was transferred to a hospital ship. He was discharged from hospital and arrived in Weymouth Depot, in the UK, on 14 September 1915. Weymouth was the Depot for the ANZAC Gallipoli casualties sent to UK hospitals for treatment and for discharge as convalescent's.

Edwards was discharged from the AIF on 6 October 1915 when he applied for a commission in the 11<sup>th</sup> East Surrey Regiment of the Imperial Army. He was appointed 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant 25 December 1915 after attending an Officer Training Course at Pembroke College in the University of Cambridge commencing 11 October 1915.

The East Surrey Regiment has a long and distinguished history. During WW1 , it comprised 18 battalions of which 1 to 4 were Regular Army battalions with the remainder being part of the Territorial Force. The 11<sup>th</sup> was formed in Devonport 1 November 1914 as a service battalion. It moved to Dartmouth 10 April 1915 and became a reserve battalion. It moved to Colchester mid 1915 and converted into 21 Training Reserve Battalion of 5 Reserve Brigade 1 September 1916. A 16 July 1916 letter to Lieutenant WM Edwards addressed to 12<sup>th</sup> Service Battalion, British Armies, France is on his file. He left the British Army in 1919 as a Lieutenant. His 1 year and 12 days service with 1 AIF qualified him for the 1914/15 Star, British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

In September 1922 Edwards was sent an Army letter addressed to him in the Public Health Department at Rabaul. His records show an address for Edwards 5 September 1934 on the New Guinea goldfields at Edie Creek on Kaindi Mountain south of Wau.

Cont over...



Photo: NGVR, Lae 1940 - the CO, Major Bill Edwards is 4th from left in centre row.

In April 1941, NGVR was deployed in Rabaul (Battalion Headquarters), the New Guinea (NG) Goldfields and the NG Coast. The NG Goldfields comprised the Bn 2/ic located in Wau with a Rifle Company and a Machine Gun (MG) Company, and in nearby Bulolo there was an Australian Army Medical Corp Detachment. The NG Coast was made up of a Rifle Company HQ with a MG Platoon in Lae, while Salamaua and Madang each had a Rifle Platoon.

Bill enlisted in the Militia at Nadzab on 14 August 1941 giving his NOK as Jessie Clydesdale Edwards, 2 Natal Avenue, Edithvale, Melbourne. There were two children and his given occupations were planter and labour superintendent. He had a plantation a few kilometres west of Lae on the Nadzab Road, perhaps a soldier settlement lot? His Regimental Number was NG2000 and he was brought on strength as either a Sergeant or Lieutenant. He was promoted a Temporary Major on 15 September 1941 at the time he assumed command of NGVR when its Headquarters were transferred to the NG mainland in Bulolo after the deployment of Lark Force to Rabaul lessened the significance of NGVR there. Edwards was also Adjutant and he and his 2/ic, Major E W Jeynes, also a WW1 veteran, 'encouraged the detachments to develop independent units, preparing escape routes, observation points and stores dumps in their own regions. Although most were not mobilised until 21 January 1942, they continued to give their best without pay'.

Lae, Bulolo and Salamaua were bombed midday 21 January. The Administrator handed over civilian administration to NGVR and Edwards set up NGVR Headquarters on his plantation west of Lae. The civil population was moved by late afternoon to an emergency camp about 6 km west and plans were made for all unfit males to be evacuated, a group east along the coast to Papua by boat, some through Salamaua to Wau and others including the Chinese civilians escorted from Nadzab to Bulwa and by truck to Wau. Bill Edwards whose nickname was "Mudguts, .... had to be taken seriously as a commander of considerable intelligence".

After the Japanese landed in Lae and Salamaua on 8 March, NGVR's dispositions were 4 officers and 70 other ranks (ORs) in the Salamaua area, 5



officers and 80 ORs in the Lae/Markham area, 2 officers and 100 ORs in the Wau/Bulolo/Bulwa area and another 30 ORs in the Madang/Ramu area, a total of 291 of which only 100 were fit and trained. Estimated Japanese numbers in the Lae/Markham were 1,800 and 300 in Salamaua. 'NGVR had to keep in touch with the enemy and dominate the patrol areas without threatening the Japanese enough to provoke them to reinforce and attack in overwhelming strength beyond the limit of the road to Nadzab or beyond Mubo from Salamaua.' NGVR were the 'Keepers of the gate'.

NGVR was reinforced late May early June when Major Keen's larger 2/5 Independent Company was flown into Wau. Although Edwards retained command of NGVR, he handed over to Lt Col Fleay, when Kanga Force was established soon after. NGVR was an exhausted unit by September, although some troops remained in place until early 1943 when NGVR was officially disbanded.

In late 1943, it was decided to form 1 New Guinea Infantry Battalion (NGIB) with Major WM Edwards as its founding commander. Capt BG Dawson, formerly of the 2/22 Bn, was the Adjutant. Edward's initial work was to recruit his soldiers, with the first recruits arriving in camp 20 March 1944. Edwards returned to Camp Diddy, which was situated near Nadzab, in September and was promoted Lieutenant Colonel. 1 NGIB continued its training until late October when the rifle companies were posted to their operational areas. The companies would operate distantly from their headquarters in different theatres of the war under the command of various Australian Brigades and Battalions. The companies were deployed as follows: 31 October, B Company to Jacquinot Bay, South Coast New Britain; 19 November, A Company to Bougainville and from 3 June 1945 to Jacquinot Bay; November, C Company to Madang; and 10 December, D Company to Open Bay, New Britain.

In November 1944, Lt Col Edwards was promoted to Colonel to command the newly formed Pacific Island Regiment, which comprised 1 PIB and 1 NGIB and 2 NGIV, with 3 NGIB to follow in August 1945. As the battalions had specific and increasing recruiting, training and supply needs and were active over a number of widely spread operational areas, the requirement for a regimental headquarters became a matter of urgency. PIR Headquarters was the old 1 NGIB site at Camp Diddy near Nadzab until 10 September 1945 when it moved to the Bumbu River, Lae. On 10 October 1945, at the age of 49 years, Col Edwards retired from the command and was succeeded by Col. HT Allan. Edwards ceased full time duty 7 March 1946 and transferred to the Reserve of Officers 2 December 1946.

Other than that he made an application on 22 May 1963, from an unknown address, for benefits under the Repatriation Act for WW1 as Number 318, 13<sup>th</sup> Bn, nothing further, unfortunately, is known about his post war life.

*Sources:*

*"NGVR 1939-1943, A History" by Ian Downs, 1999, ISBN 1 875150 03 X*

*"Green Shadows, A War History of the PIB, 1,2, & 3 NGIB", by G M Byrnes, 1989.*

*Service records of WM Edwards from NAA*

*Google re: 11th East Surrey Battalion; 13<sup>th</sup> Battalion and Weymouth Depot.* ■

*One day you're walking down George Street in Sydney. Next day you're stranded with a landslide on Daulo Pass on the way to Kundiawa. The stark and sudden contrast is never easy to reconcile. This is the story of one of those twenty four hours that many of us have experienced.*

### **THE JOURNEY HOME By Rod Noble**

For most people, going home is a necessary task rather than the adventure of leaving home. When we lived in New Guinea, getting home was more of an adventure. We lived in a little weatherboard house only 300 kilometres north of Cape York but that closeness was deceptive. Ihu on the Vailala River is still only known by less than a hundred people fifty years on from when I talk. Let me take you with us on that journey.

We start on a rainy Tuesday evening in January. Unfortunately the plane has been delayed two hours and the travel sickness pills are fully effective. We are assisted on to the plane like a couple of drunks and resume our helplessness. Our seats are just behind the wing so we can vaguely witness the starting procedure. There is a fire engine beside the plane with white overalled men operating a huge battery machine. One by one the DC6 engines splutter into life. Firstly there is a splutter, a cloud of smoke and a spurt of flame. One of the men below gives the thumbs up to the pilot so it must be all right. The plane just sits there shaking with the wings vibrating. Taking off was another contrast to today's fluid drives. The DC6 stands there with brakes jammed on, working its engines up to a full throated roar that only four Rolls Royce engines can manage. Brakes released, the plane struggles up to take off speed along a flare lit path.

On the two hour flight to Brisbane there is none of that rushed plastic meal you get nowadays. You got to use real knives and forks and eat real roasts with fresh gravy. The four hostesses (never flight attendants) are there to respond to the buzzers. An extra cushion, a magazine ranging from 'Walkabout' to 'Pix'. There are only seventy six passengers but they keep them running. A seat full of Americans keep those buzzers going but most of us are too polite to inconvenience the hostesses too much. At Brisbane there is lightning playing on the horizon far out to sea. At Eagle Farm the air is steamy from a thunderstorm with pools of water everywhere. We wait for an hour in the 'Reception Lounge' which is actually a hangar with canite walls forming rooms. The illusion is lost when the walls shake on closing a door. If you look up, there is no ceiling, just steel roofing twenty feet up. I have time to take delivery of 100 day old chickens from Wynnum. I hopefully consign them to the unpressurised baggage compartment with the rest of the Brisbane cargo.

At 11pm we're off again on the all night flight to Port Moresby. It seems incredible to us when five years later we fly direct from Moresby to Sydney in a jet airliner but we are still in 1962 as we drone on in full moonlight above the Coral Sea.

By 3am all lights are out and most of us are dozing. We hit one of those huge air voids that the trade quaintly dismiss as 'air pockets'. Some passengers hit the roof as the aircraft drops several hundred metres. As we hit the brick wall of solid air again I see the trusty Douglas wings flex like hack saw blades while the engines drone on without a break.

For the next fifty years I never fly without my seat belt fastened. We bump onto Jackson Field strip at 6am at first light. As the door swings open that familiar wave of Moresby smells hits you – a combination of heat, vegetation and Koki market. At the terminal we have to stand up sandwiches while they locate our cases and chickens. This is my first bite since last night as I am a notorious bag clutcher in the air (and on the sea).

By 7.30am we're on the harbour launch heading out to the Catalina flying boat. We climb in through the bubble and strap ourselves along the walls like WW2 paratroopers. Down the centre of the floor between the passengers are strapped down cases, boxes, bundles of sugar cane, a piglet in a crate and our chickens. The Catalina starts its whirling around on single engines and lines up across Fairfax Harbour. We're off! More or less. The deafening Pratt and Whitney engines thunder on with the spray blanking out the glass bubbles. Up above you the exposed control wires move along the roof. Up front you can see the bare legs of the pilots on a higher level; (where are you now FO Semmler). Once airborne, a dusky attendant climbs over the cargo serving out black coffee in plastic cups.

We land on Kerema Bay with only 6mm of aluminium between our feet and the water. It's like being towed over concrete on a sheet of iron. Ack Verran arrives in the bomb scow to top up the aircraft for Kikori and Lake Murray. Ten of us are squeezed down one end of the scow while the other passengers swelter inside. Ack and his crew pump madly out of 44s. In accordance with DCA regulations, Ack issues a formal warning: 'Now don't any of you buggers light up or we'll all go up.' With benzene and water slushing around our feet it was a timely warning. After we chugged ashore the Kerema mob made their way up to the station while we waited on the beach with our gear. The communication system swung into action. A fire is lit on the sand and smoke is made with coconut fronds. As always the ferryman is across the bay but he gets the message and is soon ferrying us across in the canoe with his trusty Archimedes outboard (remember them!)

Bert Cousel's tractor and trailer is waiting for us and we scramble aboard. We've got to beat the tide to the Vailala River.

By 4pm we reach the village of Vailala East. We are triumphantly informed that the ferryman has gone up river with his father to float down a canoe log so we're stuck in the village for the night. We bunk down on copra bags in the Coop. store and feast on Sao biscuits and lolly water. Sydney is only twenty hours behind us but a million miles away.

Kaivamore the ferryman is there beaming at us at 8am and promptly paddles across to Vailala West. I walk the six miles to Ihu station to fetch the Landrover.

'I thought you were coming today on the K boat' was left unanswered.

Soon we were safely under our house peering with wonder at the two day old Australorps feeding on Uncle Toby's Oats and tearing around their enclosure. Only two chicks had died and the other ninety eight little miracles were enjoying their new found freedom. They'd never understand the forty hour odyssey that they had just experienced in the simple task of 'Going Home.'



## **LIFE ON THE BENCH IN PNG**

**By Justice Graham Ellis**

With thanks to the New South Wales Bar Association

This article was first printed in Bar News, Winter 2010

Part 2 of 2

The workload is the mental equivalent of running a marathon since, in addition to the trial and appeal workloads, I have two additional tasks. First, my judicial administration duties. Judges in PNG are expected to contribute to what is known as judicial administration. Not long after I arrived, the chief justice appointed me to chair the Ethics Committee. Our primary task is to prepare a Code of Conduct. Recently, I have been given the task of establishing and chairing an Audit Committee.

Secondly, I should not overlook what might be called my human rights duties. The PNG Constitution has, since Independence in 1975, contained extensive human rights provisions. For example, section 37(17) provides that:

*‘All persons deprived of their liberty shall be treated with humanity and with respect for the inherent dignity of the human person.’* More importantly, section 57 provides that those human rights (called basic rights) shall be protected by the Supreme Court or the National Court either ‘on its own initiative’ or on application by any person who has an interest in the protection and enforcement of those rights.

Add to that the requirement for prison visits and you have a recipe for excitement. One of the reasons I was assigned to Enga is that there is no prison in Enga Province! I was given the task of correcting that situation on the understanding that I would only be required to achieve miracles immediately and the impossibilities may take a little longer.

My approach in PNG has always been to inspect where remandees and convicted persons will be held before either denying bail or sentencing anyone to imprisonment in that locality. For that reason, I went to inspect the prison in Baisu, near Mount Hagen, where the prisoners from Enga Province are housed. At Baisu, prisoners are a three or four hour drive by truck from Wabag and seven or eight hours from Porgera. That makes it difficult for families to visit them and for their lawyer to meet with remandees to prepare their defence.

The first thing I noticed in the women’s section was a remandee, who was obviously suffering from a mental disability, chopping firewood with an axe. Checking the court files revealed that she was awaiting trial for murdering her husband with ...! I conducted a fitness hearing as soon as possible. The decision became easier when the remandee said she wanted to be released so she could live with her husband. She has now been moved from prison to a suitable hospital environment.

However, the greatest surprise was when I found 83 remandees housed in a cell built for 40. When I asked them to assume their sleeping positions they could not lie down without someone’s head being on someone else’s legs. There was only one toilet for those 83 men and it did not flush. There was a drum of water near the Asian-style, hole in the ground toilet with a metre long piece of hose nearby. It was used to suck water from the drum to flush the toilet and, when not used, it was left on the toilet floor. It did not take long to decide whether those conditions breached the requirement to treat those remandees ‘with humanity and with

respect for the inherent dignity of the human person'. I was able to take photos and publish a 20 page next working day judgment which hit the front page of the national newspapers for a number of days. Rather than exercise my Constitutional powers to order certain people to do certain things, I chose to do no more than request a number of things. Not surprisingly, the relevant people responded better to requests than to orders, with one notable exception.

That judgment also outlined the situation in the police cells in Wabag which had been condemned by the Department of Health more than a year earlier. Additionally, I was able to point out that there was, in Enga Province at Mukurumanda, a prison with no prisoners! Housing for the guards had been completed but not the cell blocks. Luckily, I noticed a nearby building which was suitable for housing as many as 80 prisoners.

As a result, by the end of the calendar month there was an interim remand facility established and operational at Mukurumanda and a Steering Committee established to fast track the completion of that prison facility in Enga Province.

Regrettably, the Police commissioner did not respond to my requests. Rather than get upset, make orders and threaten to have him arrested (which another judge was already doing at the time), I spoke with the court staff and we began cleaning the police cells. Since our cleaner at the court is Seventh Day Adventist, we could not do it on Saturday, so we began to clean the police cells every second Sunday. Ten members of the court staff and two police officers assisted me. Consistent with the proposition that cleanliness is next to Godliness, cell cleaners were able to go to church on Sunday morning and clean the police cells on Sunday afternoon.

You would not believe the shock wave that went through the country when it transpired that a Supreme Court judge was cleaning toilets. There followed a rush of activity to not only fix up the police cells straightaway but also construct new police cells as soon as possible. I should add that the dozen people who joined me in the cell-cleaning exercise may have been influenced by the fact that everyone who assisted has had their name placed in a barrel and, when the new police cells are completed, some lucky person will win a pig.

You need to know that pigs are highly valued in Enga Province and are often seen as a measure of wealth and status. On one occasion I was having difficulty understanding the evidence in a murder case arising from an argument over a pig until I realised that the pig was sleeping inside the house. He (or she) was, to use a local term, a 'house pig'. On another occasion, in Kavieng, when the evidence involved a number of references to Ramone, I asked whether Ramone was going to be called to give evidence only to find that Ramone was not the name of a person: it was the name of a bus!

Another memory from Kavieng was when I thought I would reduce the backlog by conducting a joint trial for six people each charged with the murder of a man believed to be engaged in sorcery. When the prosecutor indicated that there were another six people charged with the same murder, I found myself running a murder trial with twelve accused.

Since they would not all fit in the dock, and as there were two rows of seating for the public in the back of the court, I decided the front row would be for the accused and the back row for the spectators. In order to rearrange the seating I said:

*‘anyone who is involved in the death of (name), please raise your hand’.* I have yet to tell the prosecutor, who was facing me, that there were thirteen hands raised!

I have appreciated letters and e-mails from colleagues at the bench and bar. However, please excuse any delay in replying. A letter from a judge took three weeks to arrive because it was sent to Port Moresby. (It would have been longer if it had been sent to Wabag.) I was not able to reply to an e-mail from a silk for a number of days due to electricity blackouts followed by the telephone lines being out. My new found skills include walking around the house in the dark and keeping food where the ants can’t find it. Other challenges include feeding a party of seven on circuit to Porgera when their travelling allowance cheques have not arrived before we leave Wabag, a task made more difficult by the fact that there is no bank in Porgera!

For those who may be tempted by a gruelling workload I should disclose the remuneration package. I am told there is a pay rise on the way but I have yet to see it. When I arrived, the salary was around K140,000 (\$A56,000) per annum.

Deducting a third for tax gives about \$A38,000 per annum. There is an additional annual amount equivalent to \$A12,000 for security but I can assure you that is fully expended. Hence, many juniors at the Sydney Bar would earn my annual salary in two weeks, there would be silks who earn that amount in a week and I suspect David Jackson QC would earn that in a day of special leave applications in the High Court. I’m not complaining at having put off my retirement in order to help restore law and order in a remote part of PNG. I don’t just get to talk about the rule of law: I get to do something about it. The only ‘minus’ is living away from my family. I am indeed fortunate to have their support for my work here. You may be assured that it does the reputation of the NSW Bar no harm to have one of its members serving here.

While there is no doubt that there are people in PNG who engage in criminal and corrupt conduct, they represent perhaps only one per cent of the population although they attract 99 per cent of the publicity in Australia. The vast majority of the people of PNG are delightful people and their support for my work is most encouraging. I am pleased to be able to count many of them as my friends. However, to use the oft-quoted tourist promotion slogan from a number of years ago, it is true to say: ‘PNG – land of the unexpected’! ■

## **ARTEFACTS, ART and EARLY PHOTOS**

**From New Guinea, Pacific Islands and Australian Aboriginals**

### **WANTED TO BUY**

We travel Australia extensively so interstate inquiries welcome

Contact Malcolm or Rene Davidson, FREE CALL 1800 068 230

42 Hardy Terrace East Ivanhoe Victoria 3079

## **RELIGIOUS HYSTERIA IN THE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS**

**(“In my name shall they cast out devils;” – Mark 16:17)**

**By Fif Favetta**

In 1973/74 the Lake Kutubu area was awash with religious fervor and new found evangelism with the Protestant missions in the area emphasizing the need for a deep personal religious experience, a realization of personal sin and man's salvation by faith. From ancestor worship to Christianity is a big step and the church's teachings were not always interpreted correctly by the ordinary villager. The following patrol reports bear this out.

### **SITUATION REPORT No.1 of TARI PATROL REPORT No.8 of 1973/74**

Station: TARI Officer Compiling: F FAVETTA ADO District: SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS Subdistrict: TARI

Census Division: BENARIA: LG Council: TARI

F. FAVETTA ADO 2.4.74

(For the reporting of information specifically of Headquarters value and requiring Headquarters knowledge or actions. Information is required on matters of political significance, important trends in the economic and social structure, cult and unrest situations, law and order problems, and miscellaneous matters that Headquarters *needs to know*. One report will be compiled for each specific topic. Each to be submitted to Headquarters in duplicate.)

On Friday 22nd March, 1974 word was received at Tari, via the Asian Pacific Christian Mission (APCM) radio, that there had been a killing at Homa in the Benaria census division, two days hard walking from Tari. There were garbled reports of religious hysteria and that the killing was a sort of sacrificial offering. Two police were dispatched that day to investigate and apprehend the offenders. More distorted reports were received during the next three days. The number of killings were reported as having increased to six or seven and further talk of hysteria, swoonings and visions were received from unofficial and unreliable sources. One such report was heard on Radio Mendi but its source was unknown and as it turned out, highly inaccurate. On Monday, 25<sup>th</sup>, a report was received from the police via the Asian Pacific Christian Mission radio saying that difficulty was being experienced in bringing the people concerned in the killing back to Tari because they were constantly swooning or going into trances. Arrangements were made that afternoon for a helicopter to transport myself and the ADC (Noel Wright), to Homa the next day.

On Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup>, the ADC and Interpreter Lagari flew to Homa to assess the situation. Contact was made with the Police. They were found to be at Tamide, seven hours walk away from Homa and progressing well with no further difficulties. The helicopter returned to Tari and flew myself and a policeman to Homa. The situation was back to normal but I was instructed to remain at Homa for a couple of days, investigate fully what had happened and talk to the people concerning the events. The facts were as follows:

Some time early in the month three men from Homa called Hembere, Munungu and Tamu went to the APCM at Lake Kutubu to collect some

materials for a house. Whilst there they came in contact with certain religious ideas and probably heard talk of or witnessed some of the religious fervour that is sweeping the Lake Kutubu area at the present time. On the way back to Homa, Tamu became "possessed with an inner spiritual light" and believed himself to be a chosen emissary of God whose work it was to rid other people of the Satan within them. The other two men were not affected. At church services that night, on Tuesday the 12th, Tamu addressed the congregation and told them of his revelation and mission. Some of the people became so worked up that they became hysterical and swooned. This only strengthened Tamu's claim and more and more became affected as things progressed. Tamu claimed that God had chosen him to rid people of their evils and everyone must follow him. Numerous persons became "possessed" too and were filled with an inner light which they claimed was God's. People were working themselves up into a fever of religious hysteria and began to swoon or go into trances. This continued on and off till about Tuesday, 19th March..

During the eight days from the 12th to the 19th, Tamu and his fellow "disciples" set about ridding people of their devils. His chief helper was a man called Walango. Tamu called people to the church and there marked the "evil" ones and passed them on to Walango who did the "exorcising" by prostrating and beating the victims. The majority of people were not affected by this hysteria but were too frightened to do anything but comply with Tamu and Walango's ministrations. On Monday, 18th, an old man by the name of Pororo made a statement saying that outsiders should not go to the church at Homa because the people were off their heads. Tamu said this was Satan speaking and told some people to hold him, Pororo, while he and some others beat the old man to rid him of the devil. At this time Pororo managed to escape to his house. The next day, Tuesday, 19th, Pororo returned with a deaf and dumb man and challenged Tamu to restore the man's hearing and if he, Tamu, could not do this he should pay compensation to Pororo for having beaten him unjustly. Tamu again said that Pororo was possessed by the devil and again told some of the people to hold him. Kibili and Wabiri threw Pororo to the ground and held him. Tamu jumped on Pororo's stomach, Walango kicked the old man in the head and a woman called TIMBARU jumped on his throat. Pororo died as a result of this. Tamu, Walango, Timbaru and the others were so worked up that they did not even realise what they had done. They must have known Pororo was dead but this did not register. Walango, who was Pororo's nephew, told Timbaru that it was her job now to look after the dead man and left to continue with his "exorcising" on other people.

Like the woman Timbaru, most of the people were too worked up to realise what had happened and the others were too frightened to do anything. Pororo's body was not mutilated in any way, but the woman did pull out all the facial and pubic hairs from the body. It is not clear why she did this but considering her state of mind, she must have seen some sort of meaning in it.

Tamu and Walango went on with their sorting and exorcising, beating people and throwing them over a steep embankment when the ritual had finished. The death of Pororo had no effect on them and the two continued throughout the day as though this death never occurred. Others were too frightened or too full

of religious fervor to do anything. Later on in the afternoon two APCM pastors and some other Homa people walked in from Lake Kutubu and saw what was going on. The pastors quickly set about restoring the "possessed" ones to normal by talking to them and telling them this was not God's way. This seemed to work and Tamu and the others quickly snapped out of it. Walango, however, was completely off his head by this stage and had to be knocked down, tied hand and foot and locked in a house. The next day, Wednesday the 20th, Walango had snapped out of it too and when told what he had done was at first unbelieving but when he saw the body of Pororo, realization came. He broke down completely and cried saying that Pororo had been like a father to him and he had never entertained any thoughts of killing him or anybody else. By this time, the pastors had brought the people back to normal but everyone was still dazed and frightened. On Thursday 21st, Pororo was buried and word of what had happened was sent to the APCM at Tamide, seven hours walk away. The news was received at Tari on the morning of the 22nd via the mission radio and two policemen were sent to investigate that day arriving at Homa on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

The situation at Homa was now back to normal but the people were still a little dazed and frightened by it all. In all only about 15 people out of 130 were affected by this hysteria and most of these took no active part in the goings on. Tamu and Walango were the "instigators" but at this time they were definitely not in full possession of their faculties and it is certain they had no criminal intent. They believed to be possessed by the Holy Spirit and they truly believed at the time that the work they were doing was the will of God. Neither Tamu nor Walango are "big" men in the village nor are they particularly good Christians. If anything, they were rather mixed up and confused about religion and it was probably this fact which made them ultra sensitive and receptive to the goings on at Kutubu. The other people affected are in the same category but apart from feeling weak in the limbs, braking out in cold sweat, getting headaches and swooning they did little else to actively help Tamu and Walango. The rest of the people had none of these experiences but were too frightened and confused to stop the others.

Unlike Kutubu, this religious hysteria at Homa resulted in a death and the people will be wary and less receptive if this happens again in the future. They have been told to report immediately any thing of this sort in future and I feel their present experiences will not readily allow them to be caught again in a similar situation. During my two days stay Homa the people behaved normally and discussed the past events without fear or reticence. The people who



had been affected were perfectly normal but somewhat ashamed at the way they had behaved and at the way they had been taken in by this hysteria. Now that the people are calm and have had things explained to them, they see in retrospect what utter fools they had made of themselves and are strongly resolved not be caught like that again. Any such happenings in future are to be reported immediately and stopped as quickly as possible. The people now realize this and will not hesitate to report or oust any man who comes to them with such talk or ideas. This "sickness" is spreading from the Lake Kutubu area and it must be stopped there before it propagates further.

#### **PATROL REPORT No.16 of 1973/74**

Station: TARI Officer Compiling: FAVETTA District: TARI Subdistrict: TARI  
Census Division: BENARIA: LG Council: .TARI  
F. FAVETTA ADO 12.6.1974

(For recording of routine information *not* of a situation report nature, actionable at Subdistrict or District level, and of value to succeeding officers. No copy is required at Headquarters.)

The object of this patrol was to exhume the body of a murder victim and perform a post mortem examination to establish the cause of death. The burial site was at Homa in the Benaria Census Division, two days walk from Tari station. A helicopter was utilized to get the patrol in to Homa. Doctor R. Helmer of the Public Health Department accompanied the patrol. No police or interpreter was taken due to the limited uplift capabilities of the helicopter.

The patrol left Tari by helicopter after various delays at 11.30 am on Friday, 7th June 1974. On arrival at Homa the people were assembled and the patrol's objective explained. The people were most co-operative. A party was quickly formed and the patrol left for the burial site one hour's walk away from the village. Camp was set up at the site, the body exhumed and the autopsy carried out without any difficulties. The body had been buried for 2½ months but it was in remarkably good condition and the doctor had no difficulties in performing his work. The victim had a broken jaw and both sets of ribs had been severely fractured. Most of the ribs had multiple breaks. The diagnosed cause of death was asphyxiation caused by the collapse of the rib cage and probable lung puncture.

The death was related to the outbreak of religious hysteria at Homa in March of this year (see Tari patrol report No.8 of 1973/74 for details). There was no opportunity previously to carry out a Post Mortem. Crown Law felt a need for extra evidence so instructed that an autopsy be carried out in order that medical evidence be available for the court hearing. Also, extra evidence was collected and further witnesses questioned re the murder and the material forwarded to Crown Law in preparation for the court case. The helicopter having failed to return on 8<sup>th</sup> June to extract the patrol, it was decided on 9<sup>th</sup> June to walk from the burial site to Tamide mission station 7hrs away. From there a plane was organized to Tari arriving back on 10th June 1974.



## **PATTI HOPPER MEMORIAL FUND by Rebecca Hopper**

The following excerpt is from a letter received from Paul Marshall late 2011:

I am happy to be able to give you some good news (finally) on our HIV-AIDS Clinic Project in PNG. Our first mobile clinic (a purpose-modified Toyota Land Cruiser Troop Carrier) will service the outlying areas in East New Britain's four districts: Gazelle, Rabaul, Kokopo, and Pomio with the following goals:

1. To improve HIV-AIDS testing, treatment and education in under-served rural areas (as per targets yet to be specified).
2. To improve data collection in rural areas.
3. To deliver community-based programs at a grassroots level which: educate effectively about HIV-AIDS ; provide practical and spiritual support for families living with HIV-AIDS; address systemic issues impacting on the epidemic (eg. youth, attitudes towards women and sex etc.)

The money collected for the Patti Hopper Memorial Fund will go towards the K130,000 required to purchase and purpose-modify the vehicle for the mobile clinic. The mobile clinic will be staffed by two nurses from the Provincial Health Board and our own Community Officer to ensure effective service-delivery and the sorts of community-based programming that we believe will have an impact.

As an organisation we have been unwavering in our pursuit of this project. As it turns out our ideas are forming the spear-head of the Council's strategy at this time, and we expect that it will spawn other mobile clinics throughout the country.

---

### **POSMARIS BY Peter Comerford**

I have been playing around with a story I am pulling together and was reading *Una Voce*, the PNGAA journal the other day when I thought I may get some response to the name Posmaris from one of our members.

My father would relate to me stories of a Papua New Guinean who would stay with a family around the Drummoyne area in Sydney back in the years possibly between 1918 and early 1920s. His name was Posmaris and it was tattooed on his chest. He would accompany a family from PNG to Sydney every couple of years, so I am assuming that he was house help. Dad described him as a extremely happy fellow with a huge white smile who wore a lap lap but underneath the lap lap proudly wore a pair of long ladies bloomers. How did they know that? Well he used to go to the local tidal swimming pool, Drummoyne Baths, where as a youngster my dad and his friends would go to swim. Posmaris would take off his lap lap before diving in. Dad said that he had the most incredible breath control and they would have races to see who could swim underwater the length of the pool but Posmaris would easily do a couple of laps without breaking the surface and on the one breath. Posmaris would also locate anything that was thrown into the deeper water near the baths fairly effortlessly. The memory must have had quite an impact as Dad would relate it every now and then or if we went swimming in baths around Sydney. I appreciate that with so little information it may be an impossibility to find out any information ; however in an organization such as this I wouldn't be surprised if someone somewhere may just shed some light on a man called Posmaris. If you have any information please write to Peter at: 233 Woy Woy Rd, Horsfield Bay NSW 2256 Ph: 02-4341 0303 E: petercomerford@optusnet.com.au.

## EVACUATE! BE READY ... in FOUR HOURS

**Dick & Robyn Dunbar-Reid**

The first time that my parents heard of the impending invasion of New Guinea by Japanese forces was on Boxing Day, 1941.

At that time we were at Korandindi Plantation on the Mavulu River in the North Bainings.

To the surprise of my parents a Government trawler anchored in the river and a Government official disembarked. He informed us that the invasion of Rabaul by Japanese was imminent and that we were to pack four suitcases with essential items and were to be ready to leave on the trawler in four hours! What a shock.

On arrival in Rabaul, we were taken to Kurakakaul Plantation where we were to live until evacuation could be arranged.

On January 4th the Japanese began bombing Rabaul from their naval fleet which was standing out in St. Georges Channel. Many people were killed and wounded, including my elder brother Don who sustained a large cut to his leg when he was knocked down by panicking people running to an air raid shelter.

Eventually, evacuation was arranged for my mother and we two children on the *MV Malaita* on January 8th, 1942.

My father decided to stay on to help defend Rabaul. When this proved to be impossible, he fled Rabaul via Vunakanau and the North Bainings. He finally arrived in Australia four months later.

In the meantime, the *Malaita* duly left Rabaul and sailed south through the Pacific Islands, picking up refugees, mainly missionaries and arrived in Australia six weeks later.

We, the passengers on the *Malaita*, were very lucky to survive as Japanese dive bombers followed the ship for the first seven days out of Rabaul. The Japanese did not bomb the ship as we had 70 Japanese internees on board and the pilots were aware of them being there.

Now for an almost unbelievable "small world" story.

Some years after the end of the war, my father was attending a function at the Imperial Services Club in King Street, Sydney. Also present was a veteran of the American Texas Rangers Regiment who had landed on the western tip of New Britain and proceeded up the north coast to strengthen the blockage of the Japanese in Rabaul.

The two men began reminiscing about their wartime experiences. The American stated that they had reached a small river about 100 miles from Rabaul, where they were confronted by a Japanese force who were dug in behind stacked logs on the other side of the river. The American stated that they could have screwed the neck of the person who had cut down the trees which provided such good cover for the Japanese. After some discussion it was realized that the incident had occurred on the banks of the Mavulu River and that my father had, in fact cut those trees down and had them ready for pick-up when we were evacuated in 1941! ■

## **ANZAC DAY RABAUL 25 APRIL 2012**

A 70<sup>th</sup> commemorative ANZAC Day service will be held in Rabaul on 25 April 2012. There will be many visitors to Rabaul during this week and several events planned. Susie McGrade of the Rabaul Hotel has put together the following itinerary for those interested in travelling to Rabaul for ANZAC DAY 2012.

**MONDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> APRIL**

### **6.00 pm Rabaul Hotel: WELCOME RECEPTION**

by Gerry (PNGVR) & Joyce McGrade & family, Rabaul Hotel.

**TUESDAY 24<sup>th</sup> APRIL**

### **6- 8:00 pm RABAUL HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**Welcome Reception at the New Guinea Club**

**ANZAC DAY WEDNESDAY 25<sup>th</sup> APRIL**

**5:00 am DAWN SERVICE at the Rabaul RSL Cenotaph**, conducted by the Rabaul Historical Society

**COMMEMORATION SERVICE OF THE 70<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE TRAGEDY OF THE MONTEVIDEO MARU** – Montevideo Maru Memorial Rabaul Town waterfront (Walk or Shuttle bus)

**RABAUL YACHT CLUB FOR GUNFIRE BREAKFAST** (Walk/bus)

11:00 am Service at **BITAPAKA** - Australian High Commission.

**BUFFET LUNCH at the RALUM CLUB**, historic home of Queen Emma.

4.30 pm Boarding Ship in Rabaul Town, for sundown laying of wreaths in Simpson Harbour (sponsored by Agmark Shipping)

7.00 pm **COMMEMORATION DINNER** – details to be confirmed

RABAUL HOTEL: <http://www.rabaulhotel.com.pg/>

Rabaul Hotel has also secured a special rate for accommodation at the Gazelle International - PNGK280 per night, per room, for two people, including light breakfast. Bookings via Susie at E: [rabaulhotel@global.net.pg](mailto:rabaulhotel@global.net.pg)

All are welcome to attend the various functions however it would be helpful to let Susie know numbers. There will be plenty of buses to bus people in and out of Rabaul and Bitapaka.

### **WANTED TO BUY**

**Pacific Island, New Guinea and Aboriginal Art, Photographs and Artefacts.**

Only Material collected before 1970. Top prices paid.

Will travel anywhere in NSW and Queensland.

**Please contact Bill Evans 469 Oxford Street Paddington NSW 2021**

Telephone 02 9331 4260 Fax 02 9360 1385 Outside Sydney Free Call 1800 818 056

## **Popondetta Memorial Park to Mt Lamington Eruption**

**by Pamela (Cowley) Virtue**

On 21 January 1951 at 10.50am, Mt Lamington erupted, killing over 4 000 people (the unofficial number was about 13 000), including my father, Cecil Cowley, the District Commissioner, and my brother Erl, aged 16 and five days. My mother and I were nearby and barely escaped with our lives.

It took me over fifty years to pluck up the courage to return to honour their graves, in 2003, in time for Eruption Day, which is still commemorated by the Papuans of Oro Province every year. To my utter dismay I found the Memorial Park in Popondetta overgrown and uncared for. My husband and I paid the local people and helped them to have it cleared in time for the anniversary the next day.

Right alongside the Park, however, is the Kokoda Memorial Park which is kept in immaculate condition by the War Graves Commission in Canberra.

Mr Bernard Woiwood, whose brother was also killed, returned two years ago to find it still languishing in miserable condition. He wrote to the Australian High Commissioner in Port Moresby asking for it to be kept in the state that befits those who died in the line of duty to the Australian Government, but [I understand] the letter was simply passed on, and nothing eventuated.

My father died in the line of duty. He had been refused permission by the then Australian Government to evacuate the surrounding community. He remained at his post, with the other Australian staff and with the remaining Papuans. He and my brother died with them in the pyroclastic blast.

The Australian Government erected this Memorial to the Australians and Papuans who gave their lives in this catastrophe, but it is now largely overgrown and forgotten in what appears to be hardly more than a piece of wasteland.

I have written to the Foreign Affairs Minister, Mr Kevin Rudd, asking if it could be arranged for the Memorial Park to be maintained in a way that properly honours the dead. It would be appropriate for the barbed wire fence to be taken down so that local people would be able to walk on the Park and sit in it if they wish.

If nothing is done, I feel it necessary to return to Popondetta and have the bodies of my father and brother removed and re-buried somewhere that they can be given the respect they deserve.

I would appreciate hearing from descendants of others killed in this tragedy and buried at Popondetta. Please contact me at 4 Centennial Glen Rd, Blackheath NSW 2785 E: [pamela@virtue.net.au](mailto:pamela@virtue.net.au) Ph: (02) 4787 5250



**Photo:** The opening of the Memorial Cemetery, Popondetta 11/1952 Albert Speer

**Joan AINSWORTH, nee Decker (3 February 2012, aged 75 years)**

Mother, grand-mother, tennis-player, traveller, librarian, genealogist, Joan Ainsworth was the eldest of four children born to George Shirley and Gladys Decker, who had moved to Brisbane from Warwick in 1931. George Shirley set up a real estate business in Shorncliffe, some 16 km from Brisbane. Joan attended Shorncliffe State Primary School, and completed her secondary education at St Margaret's Anglican Girls' School, Albion. Joan gained a Commonwealth Scholarship to the University of Queensland, obtaining a Bachelor of Arts degree.



Joan Ainsworth c 1970

An accomplished tennis player, Joan represented St Margaret's Anglican Girls' School. She also played in many tournaments throughout Queensland, and was ranked number eight in the State Juniors. She also represented Australian Universities in New Zealand in a series of tournaments in 1958.

Joan found work in the Queensland State Library, Brisbane, and completed her preliminary librarian qualification. This is where she met her husband to be, Phillip when he came into borrow books on Aboriginal art. They married in 1960 and moved to Port Moresby, PNG, where they lived for twenty-one years. Their three children were all born in Port Moresby – twins, Catherine and Barbara in 1961 and Dianne in 1963. Dianne was one of 18 people killed on 30 July 1997 at Thredbo, NSW, when the Alpine Highway collapsed onto the village, smashing two buildings.

When the twins were three years old, Joan returned to work and completed her librarian qualification. Over the next seventeen years, she catalogued books in the Public Library at Ela Beach, the Department of Education Library and the National Library.

In her spare time, Joan played recreational tennis and, as the number one women's player, won gold medals in tennis for PNG at the 1969 South Pacific Games held in Port Moresby. She also played A Grade squash for many years both in Port Moresby and on her return to Brisbane in 1981. Joan may not have been the fittest player on the squash court, but her uncanny skills in placing the ball were exceptional.

Pursuing her abiding interest in history, Joan researched her Decker family history, completing the first edition in 1979. This involved much overseas correspondence and research, and was before the age of the computer and internet. She found great satisfaction confirming her family history research in Britain and Germany on her European trips in 1973 and 1975 with Phillip.

Joan also catalogued the inscriptions of tombstones of expatriates buried in most PNG provincial towns. She added to this information with research from records and gazettes, and published a typed manuscript, "Genealogical Index to Australian and other Expatriates in Papua New Guinea, 1888 to 1975". She donated this publication and copyright to the Queensland Family History Association (QFHA), which published it in CD form. This project was mainly

undertaken before PNG's Independence when documents and records were more accessible, and was many years in the making. Its timeliness has been vindicated by the many requests for this information received by the QFHA. Leaving PNG in August 1981, Joan and Phillip settled in Toowong, about four kilometres from Brisbane. Joan assisted in managing family investments, worked on her genealogical research and projects, and later did voluntary work in a number of community based organisations.

In the 1980s Joan initiated, compiled, and with later assistance from members of the QFHA, catalogued the inscriptions of tombstones in the 34 hectares of Toowong Cemetery which has been open since 1875. The final document comprised five volumes containing over eighty thousand entries. The document and its commercial interest were also donated to the QFHA which republished the volumes in CD form. This mammoth undertaking took Joan about five years to complete.

Always well informed, Joan kept herself abreast of current news and events. She was a modest, unassuming, sincere and intelligent person who had firm views but did not try to impose them on others. In her undemonstrative way, Joan loved her family including her six grandchildren – Nicholas, Alexander, Michael, Meghan, Rachael and Benjamin. Joan died in her sleep on the evening of 3 February 2012, released from her progressively debilitating condition, Parkinson's disease.

Barbara Robson

**Dora DUNN NEE WILSON** (25 December 2012 aged 98 years) – more details June 2012

**Bradley ELLIS** (11 November 2011, aged 43 years)



Bradley (Brad) Ellis, eldest son of member David Ellis and Gwenda Ellis – David was the ABC's Regional Journalist at Rabaul in the 1960s and Gwenda worked at Clarke's Pharmacy – passed away on November 11 after a lengthy battle with cancer of the bowel, the liver and a lung.

Brad was born at Nonga Base Hospital on July 25 1968; he passed away at his home in the NSW Southern Highlands surrounded by his wife Emma, David and Gwenda, his sister Kimberley and brother-in-law Andrew, and his brother Steven and sister-in-law Stephanie and several close friends.

Brad was diagnosed 2.5 years ago and told at the time he "had six months." His doctors said his "extraordinary tenacity and willpower" helped him in his fight, and he worked up until just two months ago despite fortnightly chemo treatment, his condition deteriorating rapidly in the last few weeks.

He is survived by Emma and two daughters by a previous marriage, Abigail (8) and Naomi (6).

Brad and Emma lived in a separate cottage on the same block as David and Gwenda at Burradoo near Bowral in the Southern Highlands; David and Gwenda can be contacted on [ellispr@bigpond.net.au](mailto:ellispr@bigpond.net.au) or (02) 4861 7321



**Ivan Leonard SKELLET (25 February 2011, aged 75 years)**

Ivan was a graduate of the University of Queensland with degrees in Engineering (Civil) and Commerce. As a young graduate, he worked for both Government and private enterprise in Queensland and the Northern Territory before being transferred to Port Moresby in April 1972 as Construction Engineer for Hornibrook Constructions (Papua New Guinea and the Pacific). In 1973 he was appointed Manager of Hornibrook Constructions. At this time Ivan was also responsible for the operation of a steel fabrication and merchandising program in Port Moresby, Lae and Madang, and the operation of a readymix concrete division, Transimix. Major projects carried out included the reconstruction of the runway at Port Moresby Airport (no more Marsden matting!), wharves, bridges and roads in New Britain, Solomon Islands, Goroka, Mt Hagen, Lae, Oro Bay and the building of a wood chip mill at Madang. The building program also included extensions to the Library and construction of a Science block for the University of Papua New Guinea, a telephone exchange on Ela Beach and major extensions to the PNG Bank of South Pacific (formerly the National Bank of Australia). Preliminary investigatory work on potential projects in Irian Jaya and infrastructure for mining projects in the region of the Fly River and Bougainville, as well as trialling of a pilot program for the introduction of skilled labour from the Philippines, were also undertaken.

Extra-curricular activities included Vice-President of the Port Moresby Chamber of Commerce, an Executive Member of the PNG Employers' Federation, Fellow of the Papua New Guinea Society of Professional Engineers and Chairman of its Port Moresby branch, a member of the Rotary Club of Port Moresby, and membership of the Papua Club. In the little spare time Ivan had on weekends, the family enjoyed sailing activities at the Port Moresby Yacht Club as well as occasional sorties in their power boat to neighbouring islands.

Ivan, with his family (by this time a fourth child had arrived), returned to Sydney in September 1977 and worked in the areas of marketing and business development for Hornibrook in New South Wales, Thiess in Sydney and Brisbane and GHD-Vogan in Sydney. In 1992 Ivan established his own financial engineering consultancy, Kooragwin Pty Ltd, and was involved in a variety of small projects for large engineering consultancies and construction companies in Sydney. He was elected Governor of Rotary International District 9680 in 1994-95 and in later years became a member of the Military and Hospitaller Order of St Lazarus of Jerusalem. Ivan retired, due to ill health, in 2000, but retained his interests in and friendships made during the time the family spent in Papua New Guinea. He always looked forward to the receipt in the mail of the Journal of the PNG Society and would read and re-read items that attracted his interest.

Patricia Skellet

**Andrew (Drew) PINGO (25 October 2011, aged 71)**

Drew was a kiap from 1969 to 1978. He and his family, wife Ruth and children Merryn, Bruce and Grant, spent their time in PNG in the Northern District (now ORO Province) based at Kokoda, Popondetta and Afore. He passed away peacefully at home. He is remembered fondly by his many PNG friends and colleagues. Vale Drew.

Fulvio Favetta



**We hope to have further details in the next issue on:**

**Alan ANDERSON** (4 Feb 2012)

**June DENNIS** (6 January 2012)

**Betty PORTER** (24 December 2011)

**John RING** (12 February 2012)

**Alan DUNWOODIE** (01 January 2012)

**Prof Hank NELSON** (17 February 2012)

**Ronald (Ron) George ORWIN** (14 February 2012, aged 84)

**Madeleine Mary PARSLOW** (8 October 2011, aged 97 years)

**Leonore Neilsen nee [Ludwig]** (28th October 2011)

Sister Ludwig arrived in Port Moresby in 1958, after a few weeks was transferred to Samurui, several months later to Lae & then to Wau, on returning from leave in 1960 She was transferred to Sohano, where She met Allan Neilsen they returned to Sydney in 1961 on the MV Tulagi and were married on the 11/11/61 at the methodist church Turramurra, after her marriage, Leonore returned to Hornsby Hospital where she did her training, after the birth of Janette & Katherine She worked at various nursing homes & hospitals, finishing her nursing career as Matron of Winnward House nursing home Wahroonga, Leonore loved to travel & made many permanent friends, She will be sadly missed by family & all who knew her.

Allan Neilsen

**BRIANCOURT Pat**, Died at Svensson Heights (Bundaberg) 13th May 2011, aged 77 after a long illness. Born in London, he served in the Wiltshire County Constabulary. He arrived in Australia in 1953 and became a Cadet in Victoria Police for a year before joining the Royal Australian Army Provost Corps between 1955-1960. He joined RPNGC on 2.11.1961. and served widely in Papua New Guinea, at the Bomana Police College, mobile forces, Rabaul during the Mataungan problems, the Highlands and elsewhere. He was promoted to Superintendent on 15.2.1972 and separated from RPNGC on 8.5.1975. On return to Australia he was a member of the Commonwealth Employment Service and later became a commercial fisherman in South Australia. He is survived by Audrey, a son Wayne, and grandchildren.

MR HAYES

**MERCER, Frederick James**, Died 16 October 2011 at Darwin, aged 80, After joining the New South Wales Police Force on 8.12.1947 he spent 2 and a half years as a police cadet before joining the regular police force subsequently resigning on 14.7.1960. He joined the Royal Papua and New Guinea Constabulary on 18.7.1960 and served at Port Moresby, Wewak, Lae and Rabaul where he resigned on 16.10.1966 to join PNG Corrective Institutions. Between 1966 and 1975 he rose in rank to Superintendent, serving widely in Madang, Kavieng, Kerevat, Lae, Wewak, Mt Hagen and Bomana. He separated from the PNG Administration during the Independence process, following which he spent two years in the Philippines before returning to Brisbane. The lure of running prisons drew him to join the Northern Territory Correctional Service in 1978 and in which he remained for the next 17 years, retiring at the rank of Superintendent in 1995. He is mentioned in Lindy Chamberlain(-Creighton's) book "Through My Eyes", and thereafter lived in Darwin. He is survived by his second wife Marcia, their daughter Melissa and son Dennis, and daughters Vicky and Kim from his first marriage.

MR HAYES

**RAE DONALDSON** (nee Threlfo) (26<sup>th</sup> July 2011, aged 92)

Rae was born in Coraki, Northern NSW. The family lived in Mullumbimby where her father owned a department store.

Often, when he and Rae as a young child, stood at the store's front door step, they would greet and listen to the famous wondering poet, Banjo Patterson. He would read his poems from scraps of paper to Rae's poet loving father and she became entranced with poetry from a very early age.

In time, the family moved to Tamworth, then subsequently to Sydney where she received her high school education and secretarial commercial course diploma.

Rae worked at Sydney Radio Station 2GB in charge of musical copyright matters, and later moved to the NSW ABC State Musical Record Library.

In 1947, she was transferred to the ABC Radio Station 9PA situated at the Five Mile Port. Moresby. 9PA at that time was in a considerable state of disrepair due to previous army occupation and neglect. However, she accepted the challenge and ultimately reconstructed 9PA's dilapidated record library with hundreds of recordings from Australia.

Rae met her future husband Claude in Port Moresby. They were married in Sydney in 1949, returning to PNG where Claude was transferred to Angoram with the then Dept. of Native Labour. The ADO at the time was Ralph Ormsby. Housing conditions at Angoram were very primitive. Relocating to Goroka in the Central Highlands was a welcome change where they spent three happy years. Goroka then numbered ten Government officers and their families. Other locations also included Rabaul and Kokopo.

While in Rabaul, Rae helped to create a local Musical Comedy and Operetta Society in which she participated as a fine lyric soprano singer. She also worked for the PNG Copra Marketing Board – Shipping Section.

In due course, their daughter Anne was born, but because of health reasons affecting her, the family moved to Sydney in 1960 where they built a home at Eastwood.

Rae loved PNG and its people, as well as the beauty of the country. Sadly she endured ill health for two years prior to her passing at Ryde Hospital.

Claude Donaldson

**Ian J DILLON SJ** (April 2, 2011)

Ian Dillon was the Catholic chaplain of UPNG and the Administrative College from 1967. These were the foundation years of the University and he was a steady guide to any student or staff member in search of a comforting listener. He also taught some classes to the Preliminary Year students. He is remembered with affectionate gratitude by former students many of whom came into Moresby and found themselves without any of the traditional tribal supports that had given them strength through their secondary education. They said he knew to "*tok stret*"[talk straight].

His red and white ute was a familiar sight along Waigani Road, ferrying students, or the University Australian Rules team, or women and children from his neighbourhood who were cashing in the bottles they had collected to supplement

their living. Many parties, wedding receptions and discussions took place in his tiny besser block house across the way from the Uni.

When an indigenous chaplain was available to take his place, Ian worked in the Morata and Waigani parishes. He wrote at this time of a child being "wrapped in a laplap and set alight as a result of a very complicated set of beliefs and sheer ill-will"

On his return to Melbourne he became a chaplain with the Industrial Trade and Industry Mission where he worked on the shop floor of several different companies. The boot of his car was full of boots and helmets. It seemed every workplace required different safety gear, and Ian had to don it over his Yakka uniform when he was working.

At the same time he travelled to Kilmore Parish in rural Victoria every weekend and continued working there until shortly before his death.

After retirement from the industrial chaplaincy he moved from Melbourne's western suburbs to Campion House. He was chaplain at Jesuit Social Services for thirteen years and also managed to run retreats for religious and clergy of all faiths.

He enjoyed *Una Voce* and always thanked me for sending it to him. He agreed me that many of the articles described ordinary people who went to Papua New Guinea and "did amazing things".

Kyran Lynch Kheir

### **John Edward Naylor ("JEN") SMITH (30 August 2011, aged 74 years)**

John was born in Lancashire, England, moving with his family to Australia in 1955. He had finished schooling and decided on a forestry career before the move and started his forestry training in Sydney as a TPNG Forestry Department cadet in 1956. After two years at Sydney University, a field year in PNG in 1958, spent in Bulolo, Keravat and Moresby, and two years at the Australian Forestry School in Canberra he started his PNG career in 1961. He met future wife Marie in Canberra in 1960 and, after long distance and on-site wooing they were married in December 1962. His boss in his first posting (Keravat), John Godlee, and wife Ros, remember having Marie stay with them over a three week holiday in 1961 during that process, with earnest entreaty from John to lay on the attractions PNG life with a trowel. They duly did, and the rest is history.

His PNG career saw John based in Keravat (1961-62), Wewak (1963-64; his first posting with Marie), Bulolo (1965-69), Mt Hagen (1970-72) and, after a year in Armidale (NSW) working towards a University of New England Master of Natural Resources, Bulolo again (1974-76). He moved through various levels of management to the position of Regional Forester – Highlands in his Mt Hagen years, but was also involved in research into plantation silviculture and lecturing in management subjects at the Bulolo Forestry College. Forest plantations, especially tropical pines, became his enduring professional interest. Those were formative years for PNG's plantation programs and John contributed significantly to plantation technology and traditions in PNG today.

In 1976 John and Marie returned to Australia with children Eleanor, Gail and Ian, first to South Australia where he worked for the National Parks and Wildlife Service, but in 1979 to Tasmania, where they lived in Launceston and John worked for forestry company APPM Forest Products (later North Forest Products) till his retirement in 1997. His Tasmanian career continued the close involvement with plantation forestry, both company owned and in the farm sector more widely. Indeed he was the National President of Australian Forest Growers, the

farm forestry association in Australia, in 1998-99, and became a Fellow of the Institute of Foresters of Australia (the peak professional association) in 1999. Involvement in Tasmanian forestry necessarily meant involvement in what became the great and ongoing Tasmanian Forestry Debate, and he played an active and ongoing role as an advocate for forestry in that context.

In retirement John discovered and developed a talent for water colour landscape painting and remained active in church affairs. Marie died suddenly in 1995 and John married Helen in 1999. He coped stoically with chronic health problems for some twenty-six years before his death and it was a complication arising from these that finally took him. He is survived by Helen, children Eleanor, Gail and Ian, respective spouses and 9 grandchildren.

Vale John, you are remembered with affection and respect as a thorough professional and a very decent man.

Ian Whyte

### **Sir Sinake GIREGIRE (4 January 2012)**

Pioneer Eastern Highlands businessman and PNG Country Party founder Sir Sinake Giregire was an intriguing, humorous and likeable man, highly intelligent although with only the most basic formal education. He was definitely an ideas man and one with a lifelong enthusiasm for agricultural development. Even in his eighties, Sir Sinake was lucid and full of life and ideas.

He was a gold miner, coffee planter, coffee factory owner and an entrepreneur. Interested in politics and the future of his country from an early age, Sir Sineke was councilor and first president of Asaro Watabung local government council from 1957. In 1957 he also became a pioneer member of Highlands Farmers & Settlers Association (HFSA) and has been president since 1984. Sir Sineke was a founder of the Compass Party, formed in Minj in 1967, together with other expatriate and indigenous Members of the House of Assembly who were aligned with the farmers and planters association: the Highlands Farmers & Settlers Association Incorporated (HFSA). Members of HFSA in Parliament were Ian Downs, Highlands Special (President of HFSA), John Watts (WH Regional), Mike Casey (Kainantu) and Sinake Giregire (Goroka). Sir Sinake was involved in founding Farmset in 1969. From 1964 – 1968 he was a Member of the House of Assembly for Goroka Open, and from 1968-1977 was the Member of Parliament for Daulo Open. He had terms as Minister for Agriculture, Stock & Fisheries and Minister for Posts & Telegraphs.

The PNG Country Party was formally recognized on the floor of Parliament in March 1974 under the leadership of Sir Sinake Giregire. Its policy was focused on the Eight Point Plan of the PNG Government with its emphasis on development of agriculture, sustainable use of resource, rural development and economic growth with urban centers as service centers.

*Info from John Fowke and Post Courier 5 Jan 2012*

## NEW MEMBERS

Ms J LEAN	PO Box 17-217 Karori	WELLINGTON NEW ZEALAND 6147
Mr I ROSS	9 Tamar View Drive	RIVERSIDE TAS 7250
Mr K BLACK	23 Linden Avenue	ELEEBANA NSW 2282
Mr F ALCORTA	PO Box 8401	BARGARA QLD 4670
Mr W HOLLAND	PO Box 1278	KENMORE QLD 4069
Mr C WASHINGTON	25 Cambage Street	PINDIMAR NSW 2324
Mrs J DICKSON	9 Crase Street	KAPUNDA SA 5373
Ms V THORNTON	9 Endeavour Crescent	PELICAN WATERS QLD 4551
Ms G KOHNKE	6 Serenity Court	BUDERIM QLD 4556
Mr F LEWIS	PO Box 1402	PARADISE POINT QLD 4216
Miss E TSA	5/23 Gordon Street	EASTWOOD NSW 2122
S & S CONROY	25 Wade Street	WATSON ACT 2602
Mrs P SKELLET	158/10 Minkara Road	BAYVIEW NSW 2104
Ms A STEPHENSON	13/34 Busaco Road	MARSFIELD NSW 2122
R OBERG	"Laurabada" 89 Boland Road	SOUTHBROOK QLD 4363
Mr D RANDOLPH	PO Box 515	COOKTOWN QLD 4895
Mr G PIKE	1/21 Abalone Avenue	PARADISE POINT QLD 4216
Mrs W RUSTERHOLTZ	24 Currawong Drive	HIGHFIELDS QLD 4352
Mrs M BOSWELL	"Amor" 38 Rosedale Avenue	FAIRLIGHT NSW 2094
Ms G VINCENT	1 Lydia Circuit	GREENWOOD WA 6024
Mr T CONDON	Villa 9 97 Hogg Street	TOOWOOMBA QLD 4350
Mr T GLEESON	685 Aberfeldie Road	MONTO QLD 4630
Mr J MULLER	27 Medina Street	MOOROOKA QLD 4105

## CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Mr R ANDREWS	PO Box 474	YARRA GLENN VI 3775
Mr J C BAKER	77 Sunderland Drive	BRIBIE ISLAND QLD 4507
Archbishop Emeritus B J BARNES	Star of the Sea Friary	
	45 Victoria Street	WAVERLEY NSW 2024
Mr A BRYDE	13-15 Lark Close	CLIFTON BEACH QLD 4879
Mrs S BURSLE	29 Stuart Street	MANLY NSW 2095
Mrs A E BUTLER (Nee Johnston)	Unit 40 Centennial Close	
	118-120 Monash Avenue	NEDLANDS WA 6009
Mr R L CHRISTIANSEN	30 Eve Street	HECTORVILLE SA 5073
Mr T K CULLEN	1 Mango Lane	BOREEN POINT QLD 4565
Mr D J DANIELS	83/282 Silom Suite Condo Sathorn Soi 12,	
	Bangruk BANGKOK	THAILAND 10500
Mr D J DUGGAN	94 Manly Drive	ROBINA QLD 4226
Sr W FLANNERY	2/34 Clarence Street	SOUTH BRISBANE QLD 4101
Mr I C HARRIS	270 Thomas Hill Road	THE RANGE SA 5172
Mr B J HOLLOWAY	Regis Aged Care, Hollywood Village No. 348 (WE),	
	118-120 Monash Ave	NEDLANDS WA 6009
Ms R HOPPER	1/10 Funda Place	BROOKVALE NSW 2100
Mr A S KING	304/2 Albert Street	RANDWICK NSW 2031
Rev. I E KLEINIG	85A, 4 Moore Street	PASADENA SA 5042
Ms M Leahy	19 Jardine Street	STANTHORPE QLD 4380
Miss H V MIDDLETON	PO Box 4692	SUNSHINE COAST MC QLD 4560
Mr C J MURPHY	PO Box 7028	UPPER FERNTREE GULLY VIC 3156
Mr J R PASQUARELLI	PO Box 133	NEWSTEAD VIC 3462
Mr S PETRUSMA	1/167a Tranmere Road	HOWRAH TAS 7018
Ms R K UECHTRITZ	6 High Street	WAVERLEY NSW 2024
Mr P J WILLIAMS	PO Box 416	ALBURY NSW 2640