



# 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

**Note: Annual Membership List** is included with this *Una Voce*.

\* \* \*

## CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON –

This year's Christmas Luncheon will be held on **Sunday 2 December at the Killara Golf Club**, 556 Pacific Highway, Killara (Sydney, NSW.) Keep an eye on the **PNGAA Forum: Notebook** for further information which will also be in the September *Una Voce* with the booking form. We hope to see as many there as possible so put the date in your diary NOW!!

### NEW FACILITY NOW AVAILABLE ON THE PNGAA WEBSITE - PNGAA MEMBERS ONLY:



Search and retrieve from archived *Una Voces*, 1978 to present, now available ONLINE.

Please see page 3

### GOULBURN ART GALLERY

Visit from Sydney **29 SEP 2012**

See page 20. **RSVP 15Aug 2012**

\* \* \*

### VISIT TO THE MOUNTAINS

The annual spring visit to the Blue Mountains: **Thursday 4 October**. George and Edna Oakes at Woodford are kindly welcoming us back again this year. Full details in September issue.

\* \* \*

\*\*\*for latest news, information and discussion, please visit the forum at:

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

## In This Issue

COMPLETE UV AVAILABLE ONLINE	3
PNG...IN THE NEWS	5
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR	8
NOTES FROM THE N T	10
ANZAC DAY 2012 IN RABAU	12
DAWN SERVICE ADDRESS AT RABAU	14
RABAU CENOTAPH 2012	16
AS YOU RIP SO SHALL YOU SEW	17
KOKODA: 70 YEARS ON	18
PACIFIC ISLANDS EXHIBITION	20
WATABUNG PRIMARY SCHOOL	21
THE JIMI VALLEY PINE STANDS	23
A RAW DEAL	24
MT GILUWE	26
UP AND DOWN MOUNTAINS	27
GLIMMER OF HOPE	28
LETTER by Corporal Llew Pippen	31
DEDICATION OF RABAU & MONTEVIDEO MARU MEMORIAL	32
INDEXATION UPDATE	33
GIVING THE BAD NEWS	35
HELP WANTED	36
BOOK REVIEW	36
FRYER PNGAA COLLECTION	38
WALK INTO PARADISE	41
LLOYD HURRELL	44
SO WHAT HAS SCOTTISH LOCH KATRINE TO DO WITH PNG?	45
OUTSIDE: THE LIFE OF 'BILL' ADAMSON	47
TUNNEL ADVENTURES IN RABAU	51
BADHAGWA CEMETERY PORT MORESBY	54
MINUTES of the 61st A G M	57
A/PRESIDENT'S REPORT	58
VALE	63
WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS	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.

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**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.

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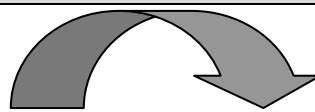
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## Email Addresses.

**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 include your initials and surname, and membership number if known (abbreviated to MN....) Also add ‘SUBS’ if space permits.

If you could also notify us by email

([admin@pngaa.net](mailto:admin@pngaa.net)) that would be helpful.

When you update your email address please also send a test message to: [admin@pngaa.net](mailto:admin@pngaa.net)!

Please also include your membership number.

Also, if you have a ‘limit’ on your mail box, it would help if you would please clear it at regular intervals.

Thank you to all those who do remember to send on their change of email address. This ensures you get timely notice of any breaking ‘news’.

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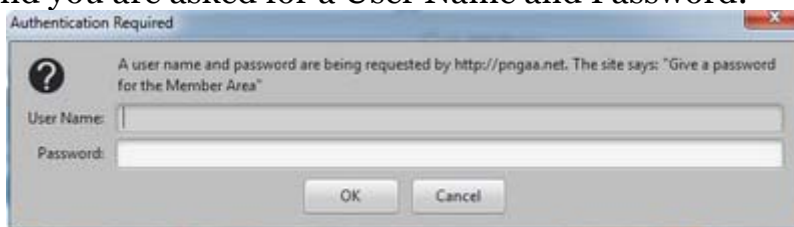
**The Special Resolution regarding changes to several Rules of the PNGAA, as advised in the March 2012 *Una Voce*, were passed at the 61<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting held on 27 May 2012.**

## **COMPLETE UNA VOCE AVAILABLE ONLINE**

**Nick Booth, Webmaster**

**PNGAA members** can now obtain an electronic copy of any issue of *Una Voce* from 1978 to the present from the PNGAA web site, and can also search to find articles by title, author or keyword.

Pages on the web site now have a new button labelled **Search**. Click on this button and there is a screen providing links to three search facilities. The first two link to the existing facilities for any user to search the Library and Photo Gallery, or the Vales. The third links to the new facility to access *Una Voce*. Click on this link, and you are asked for a User Name and Password:



The information you have to give is:

**User name:** pngaa

**Password:** membersonly

The next screen allows you to either select an issue of *Una Voce* or do a search. If you elect to search, you are shown the search dialog:



Fill in all or part of the title you are looking for, or an author's name, and click "Search". The screen showing the search results will have a journal reference in the first column. Click on this reference to download the relevant issue of *Una Voce*.

**Warning:** The *Una Voce* files are large: mostly more than a megabyte. They may take a while to download if you have a slow Internet connection.



### **INTERNET PAYMENTS to the PNGAA**

Could those making internet payments (credit card and direct debit) please:

**\*\*\*Include your initials, your surname and, preferably, your membership number (abbreviated to: M/N)**

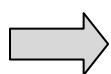
**\*\*\*notify us by email ([admin@pngaa.net](mailto:admin@pngaa.net)).**

This will be a great help and much appreciated!

## **70<sup>th</sup> COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE – 1 JULY 2012 - BRISBANE**

The New Guinea Volunteer Rifles and Papua New Guinea Volunteer Rifles Ex Members Association Inc. will be holding the annual **Montevideo Maru Memorial Service** at the Hall of Memories Cenotaph, ANZAC Square, Brisbane **Wednesday 1 July 2012 at 10.00am. Contact Phil Ainsworth email: [p.ainsworth@kingco.com.au](mailto:p.ainsworth@kingco.com.au) or phone 0418 730 348.**

The Fryer Library at the University of Queensland collects archival material on PNG (photographs, documents, maps and patrol reports). Dr Peter Cahill coordinates this – please contact him on phone 07-3371 4794 or email: [p.cahill@uqconnect.net](mailto:p.cahill@uqconnect.net) The PNGAA Collection in the Fryer Library can be accessed at: <http://www.library.uq.edu.au/fryer/ms/uqfl387.pdf>



**2012 is the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the PNGAA Collection, Fryer Library.** An online exhibition is planned in the future to showcase diverse portions of the collection, however about \$30,000 is required of which PNGAA can provide \$10,000 from the Historical Preservation Reserve. Assistance from outside funding sources is therefore needed to make this a reality and so publicize nationally and internationally the unique material in the Collection. This amount can, if need be, be fragmented into amounts for scanning, photographing, web design etc. If you can assist, please contact Andrea Williams by Email: [andrea.williams@bigpond.com](mailto:andrea.williams@bigpond.com) or Ph: 0409 031 889. Watch the PNGAA website for updates!

Please contact Juli Allcorn if you have an item to donate for the Christmas Luncheon Silent Auction. Members are beginning to eagerly await what surprises are on the table. This wouldn't be the huge success it is without the wonderful donations from our members who have generously contributed. A special project will be decided on. We encourage members to contact Juli if you have an item to donate. Please Ph: 02-9416 1430 or E: [juliallcorn@gmail.com](mailto:juliallcorn@gmail.com)

### **Website Walkabout:**

#### **Speeches from the 28<sup>th</sup> Australia PNG Business Forum in May 2012:**

\*\*\*28<sup>th</sup> Australia PNG Business Forum and Trade Expo 13 to 15 May 2012:

[http://www.apngbc.org.au/business\\_forum\\_2012\\_Communique.pdf](http://www.apngbc.org.au/business_forum_2012_Communique.pdf)

Delegates welcomed the agreement by the 20th Australia PNG Ministerial Forum in October 2011 to form a Bilateral Business and Officials Committee

\*\*\*The Hon Richard Marles MP

[http://ministers.dfat.gov.au/marles/speeches/2012/rm\\_sp\\_120514.html](http://ministers.dfat.gov.au/marles/speeches/2012/rm_sp_120514.html)

\*\*\*The Hon Julie Bishop MP

<http://www.juliebishop.com.au/speeches/993-address-to-28th-australia-papua-new-guinea-business-forum-and-trade-expo-brisbane.html>

Development Policy Blog – PNG Conference, Geelong, 12/13 April 2012  
<http://devpolicy.org/papua-new-guinea-securing-a-prosperous-future/>

**Several of the Pidgin Monologues recorded many years ago** are available through this link: Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden; LikLik Retpela Hat; Tripela Liklik Pik -

[http://soundcloud.com/user2291209?utm\\_source=soundcloud&utm\\_campaign=s\\_hare&utm\\_medium=facebook&utm\\_content=http%3A%2F%2Fsoundcloud.com%2Fuser2291209](http://soundcloud.com/user2291209?utm_source=soundcloud&utm_campaign=s_hare&utm_medium=facebook&utm_content=http%3A%2F%2Fsoundcloud.com%2Fuser2291209)

## **Reporting in, on and about PNG** 19 April 2012

**Sean Dorney** writes:

'I am willingly confessing that I do not think there is a more fascinating country in the world to report in, on or about than Papua New Guinea.

The Australian media generally pays scant attention to our former colony unless there is high drama like the current confrontation between the O'Neill Government and the Supreme Court and the huge question mark over when the next elections will be held.

There is much more to Papua New Guinea than crime, catastrophe and exotica. When it comes to coverage of Papua New Guinea in the Australian media, PNG does itself no favours by making it so difficult for Australian journalists to visit. My advice to PNG is: let them come. As these Australian journalists try to get to know the country they will be as mesmerised as I am.'

<http://www.radioaustralia.net.au/pacific/2012-04-19/reporting-in-on-and-about-png/930554>

### **PNG...IN THE NEWS**

► **Goroka Show:** Eastern Highlands Province, Goroka. 14-16 September 2012  
<http://www.gorokashow.com/>

► **Papua New Guinea's debut in the 20th World Orchid Conference** in Singapore toppled 86 countries to take out the World Orchid Champions.

*PNG tourism Newsletter: 30/01/2012*

### ► **RONIN FILMS Papua New Guinea**

Bikpela Bagarap [Big Damage] A film by David Fedele, 43 minutes

Bikpela Bagarap (Big Damage) reveals the human face of logging in Papua New Guinea. Further titles on PNG are available at:

<http://www.roninfilms.com.au/video/859.html>

► **ONE of the oldest institutions in Papua New Guinea, University of Natural Resources and Environment's (UNRE) Popondetta Campus (formerly Popondetta Agricultural College)** that has trained thousands of agricultural scientists, farmers, business and statesmen and women from both in the country and others from the Pacific will soon be closed. **The only reason is that security for staff and students are not guaranteed by provincial authorities and police in the province. Post Courier**

► **World Famous Film Director James Cameron** who directed 'Avatar', a science fiction 3D film which won three academy awards and became the highest grossing film of all times, visited Rabaul for two weeks in February. The Canadian film director, film producer, screen writer and environmentalist undertook test dives of the deep water submersible in the Jacquinot Bay near Pomio en-route to Guam where he explored the World's deepest part of the ocean, the Mariana Trench.

The New Britain Trench, which is quite deep but also close to shore, provided an ideal testing ground. For two weeks, Mr Cameron and his crew did some diving, took under water photographs, did some filming on shore as well as visit Mt Tavurvur volcano in Rabaul. The group was also able to film a Baining Fire Dance which may be incorporated in a film about their voyage. Information from:

<http://www.papuanewguinea.travel/viewservices/News.aspx?Pop=1&rqEventID=230>



► **The 'Octopus' owned by Microsoft billionaire Paul Allen, visited Rabaul and Madang over Easter.** The 'Octopus' is the world's largest yacht measuring 126m, weighing almost 3, 000 tonnes.

The 'Octopus' has a permanent crew of 60, including several former Navy Seals. It has two helicopters, seven boats, a 10 man submarine and a remote controlled vehicle for crawling on the Ocean floor. The submarine has the capacity to sleep eight for up to two weeks underwater.

► Rabaul's beautiful harbour has also recently been the focus of a visit by Queen Mary II:



### ► **"One Journey, Many Stories"**

The Kokoda Initiative, led by the PNG government, recently launched a video titled "One Journey, Many Stories" which shows the work being carried out in the region. The video tells the story of the many people who are working together to achieve the same vision of sustainable development in the communities along the Kokoda Track.

The Kokoda Initiative brings together a range of Papua New Guinean and Australian stakeholders, including all levels of government, local communities and landowners, the tourism industry and non-government organisations. The video included interviews with local health workers, school teachers, rangers and community leaders, who share their stories about the improvements happening in the region.

The aim of the video documentary is to inform and engage the public as well as encourage an appreciation of the region, its people and the work achieved through the Kokoda Initiative. To view the video, visit:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7rqQYungPqs>

### ► **The Kokoda Track Foundation plans to build a Kokoda College**

This will be capable of graduating 200 elementary teachers, 60 primary teachers, and 60 community health workers each year. After satisfying the local Kokoda

catchment area in the first three years its plan is to open its doors and accept applicants from other regions throughout PNG.

The first priority is to build a college campus. It must cater for the courses offered: A six-week course for elementary teachers, a one-year course for primary teachers and a two-year Community health workers course.

The first pilot teacher training course has been successfully completed. In April 56 new elementary teachers graduated from this pilot course. Building materials have been sourced from PNG forest products and a pro-bono architect has developed the master schematics for the campus layout.

The college campus will cost \$400,000 to build. The course development, staffing and resourcing of the College will cost another \$200,000. It will cost around \$150,000 every year to run.

**If you can help please contact the Kokoda Track Foundation:**  
[gen.nelson@kokodatrackfoundation.org](mailto:gen.nelson@kokodatrackfoundation.org) Ph: +61 412 869 210 or Mr Patrick Lindsay, Chairman E: [Patrick@patricklindsay.com.au](mailto:Patrick@patricklindsay.com.au) PO Box 1674 North Sydney NSW 2059

► **A whole section of Port Moresby's \$80 m four lane Poreporena Freeway** from Konedobu, over Burns Peak, down to outer Moresby was washed out in mid March. Heavy rains and a lack of urgency in dealing with engineering issues on the Freeway led to this disaster



► **An exhibition of 52 paintings and sculptures by renowned artist Gleny Kohnke was opened by PNG Consul-General Paul Nerau** at 'The Rocks', Yandina, in late March 2012.

Gleny has published two books combining her art with firsthand accounts of Papua New Guinea's legends, customs and the shark-calling tradition of the New Ireland people: *The Shark Callers of New Ireland* and *Time Belong Tumbuna*.

Her work has been widely exhibited in Papua New Guinea, Spain, Germany, and Australia, including at the University of Papua New Guinea and the Papua New Guinea Embassy in Australia.

Her works also form part of numerous public collections, including the Papua New Guinea National Museum and Art Gallery, the Japanese Embassy of Papua New Guinea.

Left: Ali Raynor and Gleny Kohnke



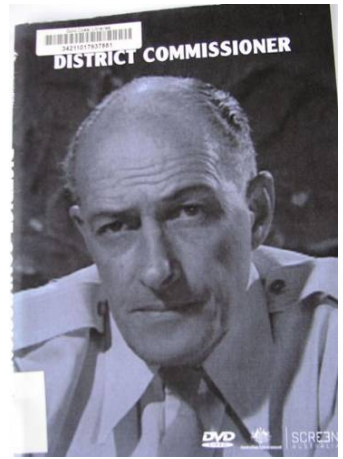
## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

► Just for your information, I was wandering through the Gold Coast local library and came across a DVD 'District Commissioner' It was taken in 1962-3 when Tom Ellis was DC in Mt Hagen and tells the story of early days there. Lots of young Keyups all *lapun* now but just in case our Hagen members haven't seen, try your Libraries .

**Bruce O'Reilly**

► Two comments on Rod Noble's 'Norseman' in March *Una Voce* :-

**The new pilot whose name he couldn't remember** would be Mat Mattus. Mat was one of the Polish pilots flying with the RAF in WW II. He and his wife Lydia were well known in and around Goroka in 1954/55. But I don't think the aircraft was a DH89, the Dragon Rapide. More likely it was a Dragon, DH84.



**Bob Cleland**

**Correction:** *The article in March 2012 Una Voce titled 'The Journey Home' was incorrectly attributed - the author was Ralph Sawyer. Ralph had sent the article in about 18 months previously - Ed.*

**I refer to Rod Noble's articles titled NORESMAN and THE JOURNEY HOME** in the last edition. It's as well that he put in a disclaimer at the end of his first story as I fear that he is sometimes a bit off base when it comes to aviation matters. For example:

Rod mentions an autopilot when Peter Manser (who I've met) handed over the controls to him on the Norseman. None of the ones I saw had one fitted and if he was hand flying the aircraft the autopilot should have disengaged anyway. But properly trimmed, I'm sure the aircraft was very stable.

Rod, I suspect we are both of the 'Biggles' area, when all aircraft had joysticks and the sky was full of 'air pockets.' But nowadays, purists would say that you held the roll and pitch control wheel or horns, as a joystick comes up vertically out of the floor and can't be swung over. (Some helicopters are an exception but it's not called a joystick – it's the cyclic control)

As for 'air pockets', there is no such thing, but there sure can be turbulence, like waves on the ocean. But aircraft ride on air, unlike boats. Just look at how some cumulus clouds 'boil' upwards, or have rolling down 'waves'. Both are fluids but I've never heard of a 'water pocket'.

Also, it's a bit 'iffy' to say that entering a cumulus on instruments is quite safe (without radar) as I flew out the bodies of people who died after the pilot entered a cumulus type cloud (voluntarily or otherwise) on the Sepik Plains after flying out of Vanimo. That cloud, which probably hid or developed into a cumulonimbus, tore the wings off the Islander.

Re Rod's tales about the DC6. Travelling home usually saw us chopper pilots and engineers sitting at the rear of the cabin, ensconced on the semi-circular seats, where we were known to drink the bar dry. It's also usually the safest place to be in the event of an accident. However, I never did see Rolls Royce engines fitted to that aircraft – sorry again Rod. The DC6's I flew in all had Pratt & Whitney engines, which you correctly stated are fitted to Catalina's.

Also, the FO Semmler you mention, were you speaking of Captain John Simler? If you meant him, John is still flying his Tecnam two seater aircraft around at the age of 85. We stayed overnight with him last year. **Phil Latz** Fax/phone 02 6677 9388 [www.phillatz.com](http://www.phillatz.com) [Note: The article mentioned included a note at the end saying it was from memory. Thank you for clarifying - Ed]



► I thank Phil Latz for informing us all the name of the thing Peter handed to me. I was too excited and concentrating too hard to ask him what it was called. I agree that there was no autopilot fitted in any Norseman I flew in. I think I got the idea from a piece by George Oakes who possessed a pilots' licence before he joined us as a CPO. And the plane in which I was a passenger was being flown by the pilot when it entered the white fluffy stuff ie not on instruments. We received some turbulence, I don't remember mentioning an 'air pocket'. I agree with Phil that I am not in any way qualified to have said that the diversion was safe.

THE JOURNEY HOME was an interesting piece - but I am not the author. Phil's comments on that article did however remind me of a DC6 journey . A fellow CPO was aboard and we were too busy chatting up the hosties to ask the maker of the engines. I remember whiling away the long hours, before the days of films and TV, playing cards with Des Murphy and two off duty sweet young things. **Rod Noble**

### ► **Lancaster Doyens**

Ian Downs, writing the Official History of PNG, had Tom Ellis flying Catalinas, and now Jim Toner has Bill Kelly flying Lancasters.

Downs got it wrong. Ellis was never a Catalina pilot. He flew Beaufighters with RAAF 31 Squadron, and he was flying one when he received 'an immediate award of the DFC'. Jim Toner has confused his own words, the ones he wrote in *Una Voce* in December 2008, so, to keep the record straight: Bill Kelly did not fly Lancasters. He was a Liberator pilot with RAF 178 Squadron. But Jim's note leads me to the Lancaster doyens of Papua and New Guinea.

The casualty figures for bomber command aircrew were horrendous – out of every hundred 55 were killed, and only 27 survived a tour of operations. Doyens were, by definition, "the oldest, the most experienced and the most respected members".

Syd Johnson and Des Sullivan were our Lancaster doyens. They each survived two tours of operations, and, only in their twenties, were "the oldest, the most experienced, and most respected", and they were highly decorated.

Flight Lieutenant Syd Johnson, DFC and Bar, joined the RAAF in December 1941, went to England, and straight into 7 Squadron's Lancasters, the Master Bomber Pathfinders of Bomber Command. "He was first in, and last out, in raids over Germany, directing the Lancaster bombers of the main force over the target area. Syd was the navigator set operator - bomb aimer, and qualified for the rare distinction of being both Primary Visual Marker and Primary Blind Marker." In April 1944, Syd's flight morphed into 582 Squadron, Pathfinder Force, which flew its last raid on 25 April 1945, by which time he had completed a double tour of 55 operations. He was awarded an 'immediate DFC' in 1944, and a bar to the DFC in 1945.

Syd Johnson joined the PNG Department of Law in March 1949, and became Crown Prosecutor. He worked in the Department of Law for 20 years, retiring from PNG in 1970.

Flight Lieutenant Des Sullivan DSO DFC also joined the RAAF in 1941, learnt to fly, went to England, and flew Lancasters. Posted to 467 Squadron as Flight Sergeant, he flew on his first raid in June 1943. By the time his tour expired, in October 1943, he had flown 28 operations, most against heavily defended

targets in the Germany, including two raids on far distant Berlin, and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross in October 1943.

Pilot Officer Des Sullivan DFC commenced his second tour as a flight commander with 463 Lancaster Squadron in July 1944. On his second operation, his aircraft was hit by flak, and he was ordered to return to base. He crash-landed with 14700 lbs (6,670 kgs) of high explosive on board. The aircraft was a write-off, but the crew were uninjured. Des flew 18 missions on his second tour, at various times as acting Squadron Leader and acting Wing Commander. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Order in June 1945.

He arrived in Port Moresby in September 1946, and served briefly as a clerk in DDS&NA before becoming Official Secretary, first to Administrator Colonel J. K. Murray, and then to Administrator Sir Donald Cleland.

Both our doyens attained their 88<sup>th</sup> birthdays.

**Bill Brown**

### **NOTES FROM THE NORTHERN TERRITORY - From Jim Toner**

These days more *wantoks* depart the NT than arrive but Geoff PAYNE, a 1968 seniority kiap, now resides in Katherine. The former adviser to Gau Council in the Sepik is operating the Katherine River Lodge. Mike PRESS, a fellow kiap in the Sepik, who lived in Katherine while working in Aboriginal Affairs has moved from Darwin for a while to assist him.

The handful of former PNG field staff resident in Darwin has been further depleted by the passing in April of Dave PERMEZEL, a kiap 1952-1978. In accordance with his wishes his son Stephen will take to his ashes back to Aitape to be cast into the sea.

Talking of kiaps they were expected to handle multiple tasks. But Winnie Kiap really has her hands full. She is the PNG High Commissioner to Britain and Ambassador to Israel and Zimbabwe. Her Excellency has risen high for a Manus girl from Baluan island.

‘Crackers’ Hand, mentioned in the last issue, has set off from Darwin alone in a 4.5M boat for his third visit to Sibidiri village in the Western Province. Music for his farewell at the Trailer Boat Club was provided by ‘Mental As Anything’ and Papuan dancing was delightfully demonstrated by the Hiri Girls, Darwin teenagers with heritage.

Much is printed about retrogression in PNG but some statistics tend to belie this. In 2001 the 18,000 teachers on strength had apparently grown by 2011 to 45,000! The teachers’ colleges had necessarily expanded – there were 900 students on the roll at Madang. A somewhat less helpful growth has occurred with political parties for there are now no less than 33 of such registered to compete for office in this year’s National Election.

Having psyched myself up to clean out decades of jumble from filing cabinets I was amused to find a note written by Jim SINCLAIR in 1995. In which he said ‘I am 67 and don’t know many more writing years I have left in me...’ Since then substantial histories for Lae, the Papua Club, *Mastamaks*, and Lloyd Hurrell and perhaps others have followed his previous 15 publications. Grade A, soon to be 85 Jim, for sterling post-kiap endeavour (already recognised by an OBE and a Hon. D. Litt.) but a C for prognostication.

I have spent a few nights at Yandera, a village eight hours walk from Bundi patrol post or eight minutes in a Kennecott Exploration helicopter. In the '70s copper deposits were being sought and Marengo Mining has now announced that it expects to commence production in 2015 of 25 million tons annually until 2035. It is hard to picture the astonishing change this will bring to that tranquil corner of the Bismarck Range. It is to be a massive open cut operation with crushing and grinding near the site and a pipeline running for 95 kms to take mine tailings down to Astrolabe Bay near Madang. (That construction is to be carried out by a company from Beijing supported by a 70% loan from Chinese banks is a cause for astonishment no longer). The seven clans of Yandera have combined to exert some control over and secure profit from this venture. It remains to be seen whether they will have any more success than the landowners affected by the Ramu-Nico tailings pipeline into Basamuk Bay. George Soros, an American whose name will be well known to readers seeking successful investments, purchased 20% of Marengo three years ago which is indicative of its potential value.

Dr. Sachiko Hatanaka mentioned in last October's edition was not the only lady anthropologist to research in the Highlands. Perhaps the first post-war was Dr. Marie Reay who spent much time around Minj. The TPNG Administration had misgivings about allowing a lone woman to wander the Wahgi and she was given some advice about the desired minimum length of her dress. (No bare knees, please?) It would depend, I have mused, on which of our senior kiaps proffered this advice whether it was delivered in an avuncular or firmly prescriptive fashion. Belatedly I learn that the ADO Minj at the time was Jack EMANUEL. Definitely avuncular. ■

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## ANZAC DAY 2012 IN RABAU

### by Bob Cleland

My recent visit to PNG falls naturally into three parts: the cruise from Alotau to Rabaul, Anzac Day in Rabaul and my return to Goroka after 36 years. I will cover only Anzac Day here to slip it in to the June *Une Voce* at the last minute. Look for the rest in the September issue.

On the previous Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> April, those of us on the cruise had an early breakfast before piling into the Zodiacs to go ashore, before dawn, at Tol. A short walk brought us to the small cairn with plaque erected in memory of the 160 members of the 2/22<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Lark Force, who lost their lives at Tol Plantation while prisoners of war of the Japanese Army.

We were soon joined by the local priest who held a short memorial service including a school choir singing two hymns and the Australian National Anthem. Ex-navy octogenarian Frank Lang movingly recited *They shall not grow old . . .* This simple and emotional little service started our thoughts and emotions building towards Anzac Day.

Several hundred hushed people gathered in the Anzac Day pre-dawn darkness at Rabaul's RSL Cenotaph. The flags of PNG, Australia and New Zealand hung at half mast in the still moist air.

We were welcomed by Tony Avenell, President of the New Guinea Club; we prayed with Deacon Dominic; we heard a Dedication to the Fallen by Major L S Brown of the Australian Defence Staff in Lae; and we were addressed by Phil Ainsworth, President of both the PNGVR Ex-Members Association and also the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Society.



Rabaul Cenotaph as dawn breaks.  
Photo: Ally Martell

Phil gave us the historic context of the Anzac legend and extended that to the tragic events of WW II, particularly in Rabaul and New Britain, the very reason we were all there on this 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the several 1942 events. [See p. 14]

The *Baravon Choir* gave us a hymn in their beautiful harmony and as their last notes faded we watched the representatives of several countries reverently lay their official wreaths. The general public followed including a number of PNGAA members and several from the cruise-ship community. The cenotaph base was a sea of colour and many embedded messages with the wreaths and flower sprays spoke of loss and remembrance.

We listened to the haunting notes of the *Last Post* then bowed our heads in prayer and memory for two minutes. The rousing and stimulating notes of the *Reveille*, played while the flags were slowly raised to the masthead, sounded as the new dawn broke behind the ridge behind us.

Those who were able, walked along a dual lane boulevard, still covered with loose black pumice, and muddied in places by overnight rain, to the next ceremony at the Montevideo Maru Memorial Stone. This was a little different from the last because the emphasis was on the greatest Australian maritime disaster - the sinking of the Japanese ship with 1053 prisoners' lives lost – most of them Australian.



Phil Ainsworth spoke again, but in greater detail about the personnel, their units, and of the actual sinking. He told us about the memorial, about to be dedicated, standing in the grounds of the Australian War Memorial at Canberra and of the efforts so far in trying to have the site of the sinking declared an Australian War Cemetery. Andrea Williams also spoke about the effect on civilians then living in Rabaul and the islands, and acknowledging those with a direct connection who had made the effort to be present.

The *Last Post* was sounded, we prayed and thought for two minutes of the fallen and of loved ones lost, before the *Reveille* brought our thoughts back to the present. We watched as representatives of eight nations slowly raised to their mastheads the national flags of Papua New Guinea, Australia, New Zealand, United Kingdom, United States of America, Norway, India and China.

By bus and car we moved to the Rabaul Yacht Club, a temporary structure built on the concrete slab of the former building destroyed in the 1994 volcanic eruption, where we enjoyed a substantial and much-needed breakfast.



Phil Ainsworth addresses the service in memory of those lost on the *Montevideo Maru*



Montevideo Maru Memorial

Then it was time to tackle the long drive to the Australian War Cemetery at Bitpaka for a third ceremony – this time a more traditional Anzac Day service.

The setting at Bitapaka is very serene and tropical. Over several acres, grave stones lie in straight lines on all sides of the central Cross of Remembrance. Each grave is marked with a low shaped stone on which an engraved bronze plaque shows details of the deceased. Part of the tragedy of war comes to mind when we see the number of graves marked *Known only to God*.

The service was conventional and simple. Hymns were sung by a quite large school choir. Once again we were impressed by the quality of their voices and their harmonious singing. For me, this was the service that moved me most. There's a reverence and mystique about a formal cemetery which substantially adds to the formality of an Anzac service.



**DAWN SERVICE ANZAC DAY ADDRESS AT RABAU**  
**PHIL AINSWORTH**  
**25TH APRIL, 2012**

Good morning - Your Excellency's, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, Boys and Girls.

Anzac Day is the day the people of Australia and New Zealand remember their dead, the fallen in war.

Today, we have present many Australian visitors making a pilgrimage to this focal point, Rabaul, which led to the death of their siblings, fathers, grandfathers and uncles.

It is the anniversary of the day in 1915 when soldiers of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps landed on the beaches of Gallipoli.

It is 70 years, three months and two days since the invasion of Rabaul by the Japanese.

In just a few hours, the Prime Minister of Australia and other dignitaries will be taking part in the Dawn Service at ANZAC Cove, together with veterans and thousands of old and young Australians and New Zealanders, to commemorate that day 97 years ago when the ANZAC legend was born.

As we are gathered in this beautiful setting beside the magnificent Simpson Harbour, which has seen its share of war and suffering, we know that in cities and towns around Australia and New Zealand people are gathering at their own war memorials to remember the dead - around memorials which often bear a list of names so disproportionate to the size of those communities.

We can try to imagine the scene at Gallipoli on this day 97 years ago. Australian soldiers went ashore first. Late in the morning the New Zealanders landed to support their Australian comrades. Both suffered terrible losses.

We can try to imagine the scene here just over 70 years ago when 1,400 Australians soldiers, just over there on the western side of the Harbour, faced the overwhelming Japanese invading force. Chaos was everywhere, soldiers separated from their units and units separated from their commanders.

Like many operations of World War 1, the Gallipoli invasion, however arguably brilliant in conception, was inadequately planned and inefficiently directed by politicians and generals who were not Australian or New Zealanders. It became the graveyard for the bodies of thousands of our best men.

The defence of Rabaul was also ineptly planned and directed by Australian politicians, generals and officers. It also became the focal point for the loss of the majority of the Australian force, during the invasion and aftermath, culminating in the tragedy of the Montevideo Maru.

We commemorate today, therefore, no military triumph - but the more humbling triumph of the human spirit - valour, courage, loyalty and self sacrifice of those who did their duty. They are a source of pride to everyone.

Today, we remember too, the sacrifices made at Gallipoli by British, French and Indian troops. We pay tribute to the Turks who suffered appalling losses, so bravely defending their homeland.

We also pay tribute today to the many Papua New Guineans who lost their lives in a war not of their making; for those who served in many endeavours, as soldiers, as policemen, as carriers, as labourers and the villagers who so loyally supported the Allies.

Gallipoli made us think about who we were. After Gallipoli, we measured ourselves alongside and against the best, and found we were not wanting.

At Gallipoli it is said Australia and New Zealand became nations. The 25th of April 1915 is part of what it means to be an Australian or New Zealander. ANZAC is part of our identity.

Although ANZAC Day started as a day of remembrance for those who fought and died in World War 1, it has come to be a commemoration day for our fallen in all wars, on land, sea and in the air.

The fallen lie, not only in Gallipoli, but in hundreds of burial sites where they fought and died, including Papua New Guinea. Since 1966 it is the practice to repatriate our fallen to Australia for interment.

The graves of many of our fallen are unknown, on mountain tops, in jungles, and beneath the sea. This is particularly relevant to the loved ones of many of us gathered here today. They lie in unknown places in many lands and oceans - but they are not forgotten.

The spirit of ANZAC is based on values held in common by both countries - mateship, courage, equality, self-sacrifice and loyalty.

Today, as well as commemorating the fallen from past wars, we also think about our soldiers, men and women, who are presently serving in Afghanistan, Iraq, Timor and Solomon Islands. We particularly think of those who have died or have been maimed in these engagements.

Our defence personnel also play their part in humanitarian relief and reconstruction when our countries and our neighbours are struck by natural disasters.

The enduring partnership between Australia and New Zealand, bonded in war, continues today in our family, business, cultural and sporting ties. We are neighbours and best of friends; we have our differences, but we are mates.

It is the duty of all of us that those who lost their lives in service did not do so in vain.

Perhaps the words of Kemal Ataturk, the Turkish Commander at Gallipoli and founder of the Turkish Republic are as relevant today as when they were first spoken. They are also a comfort to grieving families of the fallen and an offer of gracious reconciliation.

*"You the mothers, who sent their sons from faraway countries, wipe away your tears.*

*Your sons are now lying in our bosom and at peace.*

*After having lost their sons on this land, they become our sons too".▪*



## **RABAU CENOTAPH 2012 by Gerry McGrade**

For many years, a few Rabaul residents had been gathering at the Cenotaph in Central Avenue, once the civic heart of the town to participate in the Dawn Service ensuring the memory of those who fell at Gallipoli and other wars since, were not forgotten. Despite on going volcanic eruptions and civil difficulties, ANZAC Day Dawn Service had been held at this location.



The energy and sincerity of the organizers and participants at the Rabaul ANZAC events, in these difficult times, attracted the attention of the Australian War Graves Commission representatives. Consequently, Susan McGrade, Secretary of the Rabaul Historical Society, was invited to submit to them an application for funding to restore the degraded monument to its former condition.

There were many difficulties facing the Rabaul Historical Society and its President, Steve Saunders. Who could restore this granite edifice? How much would it cost? The small pool of available advisors were unfamiliar with what would be required to complete such a project.

Susan, like most daughters I know, turned to her dad. DAAAAAAAAAAAAAD!!!!!!!!!! Can you help?

Of course I would! I spent many years as a contractor building projects, large and small, in and around Rabaul. John Holland and I, both members of the PNGVR and employed by Commonwealth Department of Works. Had worked on the monument around 1961. We both stood Honour Guard at the first Dawn Service held there. We both planned to return to Rabaul for the 2012 Service and would stand again at this monument. I was keen to participate and volunteered. It would be my honour to supervise the completion of the project.



My contacts in Brisbane, experts in their field, supplied me with advice, specialized materials and equipment. RMI supplied and erected the splendid flag poles and Agmark Shipping assisted with shipping of material and equipment. A local Rabaul building company 'McGrade Bros Construction' supplied skilled artisans, local



transport and gear. The Rabaul District Local Level Government supplied earth moving equipment. With a great deal of pride the local artisans worked hard, and displayed great skill in erecting and finishing the project. I take my hat off to them. ▪

*Right: Original Cenotaph*





## **AS YOU RIP SO SHALL YOU SEW by Bob Cleland**

‘Julie, have you got a curved needle and some strong thread?’

‘I think so, I’ll look. Why do you want it?’

‘Because I want to sew up a DC3.’

‘Ooooh . . . . You want to do what?’

While she rummaged among her sewing bits and pieces I quickly told her the story.

‘There. Will that do?’ I wasn’t surprised that she found the needle – she had just about everything to do with sewing on an outstation. This was 1959 and Julie and I were living in Balimo, PNG, a fairly remote Government station about 500 kilometres west of Port Moresby.

‘Yes, looks okay. You’d better come with me. Right now, we need to hurry.’

I drove the ten minutes back to the airstrip on the Ferguson tractor (our only mechanised transport) with Julie clutching the curved needle and a reel of strong linen thread, trying to keep her seat in the bouncing empty trailer behind me. We called at the hospital on the way and ‘borrowed’ a reel of four inch wide sticking plaster.

Earlier, just after the DC3 landed on its weekly run, the tractor driver had driven under the wing of the aircraft and pulled up beside the door ready to unload mail and freezer and cargo – just as he always did. He hadn’t allowed for a tall stick, stuck upright in a slot in the trailer tailgate, which a labourer had used to hold on to on the bouncing trip from Balimo station to the airstrip. That stick was just too long. As it passed under the wing, it caught the fabric of the aileron (the only non-metal surface on the wing of a DC3) and left a very neat ten inch, tee-shaped rip in the fabric.

The aircraft couldn’t be flown with that tear, as the rushing air may have penetrated and stripped all the fabric from the vital control surface. The crew gloomily considered being stranded there until a technician could be flown the two and a half hours from Port Moresby. Someone said, only half seriously, “Can’t we just sew it up?”

When we arrived with the DC3 Repair Kit, the crew’s mood changed from gloom to optimism. Between us all we managed a multi stitched and knotted repair that would have drawn admiration from a surgeon. On top of that, several strips of sticking plaster locked it all together and smoothed out the airflow. Both pilots were satisfied.

They had us empty the plane of all cargo, taxied out and took off for a test flight. A slow low-level fly-over enabled us to see that everything was OK so far. A bit of altitude and some severe zig-zagging, and again it looked OK. Then I think they used this test as an excuse to throw that DC3 around as if it were a more agile smaller craft! We had our own private air show, and very entertaining it was too, culminating in a very low, full throttle, wheels-up pass straight at us (a crowd of twenty or so locals by now) with a steep pull up over our heads.

They landed and we could see that the repair hadn’t moved at all; the crew were happy, so we re-loaded and off they went back to Moresby. I’ve sometimes wondered how much the Department of Civil Aviation was told of that incident!

## **KOKODA: 70 YEARS ON**

### **By Charlie Lynn**

Kokoda is a powerful word. According to the Orokaiva 'koko' means place of skulls – 'da' is village. The combination of syllables conjures up 'adventure' in the minds of sedentary beings. It makes sense. Many early explorers and missionaries searching for gold in the Yodda valley ended up in cooking pots.

Then came the war. Kokoda was the first pitched battle fought against the Japanese. It signaled the beginning of a campaign where Australia's fate hung in the balance as our diggers fought a fanatical enemy, treacherous terrain, legions of deadly mites, malarial mosquitoes, venomous snakes - and cold fear.

But the enemy our commanders feared most was the ignorance of armchair generals and politicians safely ensconced in Australia. '*Build a road!*' - '*Blow the Gap!*' - '*Die at Imita!*' they bellowed from the safety of their bunkers.

Years of neglect were returning to haunt Australia's political leaders who relied on mother England's patronage for protection and allowed our military forces to run down to unsustainable levels. Three Australian battalions were sacrificed in a token effort to provide a security screen in the Pacific - Gull Force in Ambon, Sparrow Force in Timor and Lark Force in Rabaul. They were doomed before the war began as no plans were made for their reinforcement or their escape.

Britain's assurance that their Singapore fortress would stop any southward advance towards Australia was soon shattered with the sinking of two frontline warships and the capitulation of their army under General Percival.

By April 1942 Japan's army occupied Malaya, Singapore Island, Burma, Sumatra, Java, the Netherlands Indies, the Philippines, New Britain and the Northern Solomons. Wartime author Osmar White wrote: '*A Japanese Churchill might have coined himself a phrase and said: 'Never before in the field of human conflict has one nation acquired so vast an empire in so short a time – and at so small a cost'.*

Japanese warplanes bombed Australia's northern cities and sank ships off the West Australian coast. Mini-submarines raided Sydney Harbour. Panic spread throughout the country - some even suggested the Melbourne Cup be postponed.

Plans to capture Port Moresby and neutralise Australia by defeating the United States Pacific Fleet were thwarted at the Battle of Coral Sea in May 1942 and abandoned after the Battle of Midway a month later. Their only option was an advance across the mountain ranges separating the north and south coast of Papua and New Guinea.

The government rushed back our most experienced AIF troops from the Middle East and Europe but for some inexplicable reason they were kept in Australia. The defence of our country was initially left to a handful of raw militia troops who were dispatched to Port Moresby to stop the Japanese advance.

Japanese troops landed at Buna and Gona in early July and struck out along the road towards Kokoda.

Neither Australia nor Japan were prepared for the desperate jungle battles they were to fight across the rugged, razorback mountains of the Owen Stanley ranges. The only link between the village of Kokoda and the Sogeri Plateau was the old mail route which became known as the Kokoda Trail. The name is now proudly emblazoned on the Battle Honours of the Papuan Infantry Battalion and the 10 Australian battalions who fought in the campaign. It was officially gazetted by the PNG Government in 1972.

The Kokoda campaign began with the Japanese attacking the small Australian and Papuan force on the Kokoda plateau on 27 July 1942. Over the following months desperate battles were fought at Isurava, Brigade Hill and Ioribaiwa Ridge before our troops rallied on the last line of defence at Imita Ridge and turned the tide as they pushed the Japanese back across the ranges. They were forced to fight for every inch of the Trail as Japanese troops prepared major defensive positions at Templeton's Crossing and Eora Creek.

Australian troops recaptured Kokoda on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 1942 and raised the Australian flag at a special ceremony with General George Vasey on the 3<sup>rd</sup> November.

Another bloody battle ensued at Oivi and Goiari before the Japanese were driven back across the Kumusi River on the 21<sup>st</sup> November to end the Kokoda campaign.

Kokoda tested young men's endurance levels beyond known limits. It was a war where men of both sides feared the jungle more than each other. When they clashed they fought at close quarters with rifle, bayonet, grenade and fist. It has been likened to a knife fight out of the stone-age. Strong bonds of mateship forged in the cauldron of battle have endured the passage of time and will never wain.

Words found etched into a stone in Burma – *'When you go home, tell them of us. Tell them that for their today, we gave our tomorrows'* – are a haunting reminder of the sacrifice, grief and futility of war. ■

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**Aerial photograph of Lae airstrip sometime in the 30s with Junkers parked and the Guinea Airways hanger etc.**

Lae NG 1930; 3 Junkers---  
2 destroyed by Japanese  
Feb 42. One pressed into  
RAAF service.

Jim Eames



## **PACIFIC ISLANDS EXHIBITION: POSTCARDS FROM THE RIM GOULBURN REGIONAL ART GALLERY**

**Date: Saturday 29 September 2012**

A Pacific photography tour from Sydney to the Goulburn Regional Art Gallery - including lunch at Brewery/tour of St Saviours Cathedral/afternoon tea at Gallery - is proposed for Saturday 29 September 2012.

PNGAA members and friends are invited to participate in a bus trip to Goulburn to see this exhibition. At least 40 interested persons are needed for this special day to proceed.

The photographs will have a strong focus on contemporary life in Papua New Guinea as well as some of Australia's other neighbouring countries in the South Pacific - Bougainville; Rarotonga (the Cook Islands), Timor Leste (and represent a number of Pacific Islander ethnicities: Torres Strait Islander, Samoan, Maori). In addition the Gallery will be showing a unique private collection of PNG masks, guaranteed to intrigue visitors.

The photographers involved have been working in various parts of the Pacific for many years and all of them have an intimate knowledge of the people and places whose images they will show in the exhibition. This group exhibition is guaranteed to be a popular show which focuses on an extremely interesting part of the world, one which is of great importance and interest to both Australia and other countries in the Pacific.

The artists involved are listed below along with their websites:

Stephen DuPont [www.stephendupont.com](http://www.stephendupont.com)

Sean Davey [www.pidgin.com.au](http://www.pidgin.com.au)

David Hempenstall [www.davidhempenstall.com](http://www.davidhempenstall.com)

Jon Lewis [info@jonnylewis.org](mailto:info@jonnylewis.org)

Ben Bohane [www.degreesouth.com](http://www.degreesouth.com)

Gary Lee (no website)

**Cost: \$55 per person RSVP 15 August 2012**

**Day Bus trip (Murray Coaches) to Goulburn Regional Art Gallery to view contemporary Pacific photography and visit historic buildings.**

9am: Bus Leaves central pick up point Sydney CBD

12noon: Arrive historic Greenaway designed, Old Goulburn Brewery for a *Bushie's* lunch - meat, cheese, salads and damper including tea or coffee

1.30pm: Arrive at Goulburn Regional Art Gallery for guided tour of contemporary Pacific photography and private collection of PNG masks

2.30pm: tour of neighbouring Blackett designed St Saviours Anglican Cathedral

3.00pm: Afternoon tea at Gallery

3.30pm: Bus departs for Sydney

6pm: Arrive Sydney

**RSVP By Wednesday August 15, 2012 to Jane Cush:** Ph: 02 48 234494

Locked Bag 22, Goulburn NSW 2580 or E: [artgallery@goulburn.nsw.gov.au](mailto:artgallery@goulburn.nsw.gov.au)





Steve Saunders of the Rabaul Vulcanological Observatory (and a PNGAA member) provided a fascinating insight into the Rabaul volcanoes and their monitoring when Andrea Williams and Phil Ainsworth visited Rabaul

recently for the special 70<sup>th</sup> Commemorative Anzac Day services. Steve is also President of the Rabaul Historical Society.

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### **WATABUNG PRIMARY SCHOOL by Trevor Freestone**

All the schools in the Highlands in the sixties and seventies had a major problem. Only one fifth of your year six children, if they passed the external exam, would be able to progress onto high school. Fortunately Watabung like most schools always met their full quota. The problem was what were the other children going to do?

To remedy this Watabung School developed programs to help these students. We built a piggery to teach good pig husbandry. We created a flute business, with our flutes being sold in Port Moresby to the tourists there. We had a coffee picking business and taught the children the basics of running a business. Our craft lessons included a lot of real building work so that the children understood the basics of building. All of these programs helped to prepare the children who would eventually stay in their village.

We had to overcome the stigma of not being selected for high school and had to encourage the children to love and respect village life. Our main emphasis then turned to their culture and in doing so hope that they would gain huge respect for village life.

So it was that twice a year we would have cultural days. Here the parents would dress the children in all their finery and bring them to school where the village elders would teach them customary dances. The older men would be encouraged to tell stories and explain why certain rules applied to village life.

Not only did the children enjoy these days but the elderly villagers and parents thoroughly enjoyed coming into the school and being part of their children's education. Everyone was impressed when the teachers also dressed up in traditional dress.

To encourage the children to dress up we would take their photo and give the photos to them so that their family had a record of the child's participation.

Some of the children's families had wonderful collections of feathers and necklaces which they proudly allowed their children to wear. Some children did not have any feathers but by being creative and using whatever material they could find still managed to catch everyone's eye.

As the school was on the Highlands Highway tourist buses would pass by. Eventually the tour operator asked for permission to stop over at the school. We

were delighted as this meant that the children could practise using their language skills to communicate with tourists who came from all parts of the world. The tour operator gave the school the money to build a picnic area so the tourist could have their lunch and a toilet break at the school. The children enthusiastically set about building this. Whenever we had a cultural day the tourist would be fortunate to see the children dressed up.

I then approached Kia one of the village leaders and suggested to him that his village could take advantage of the tourist's visits. So after arranging with the tour operator Kia had his village build a replica of a Highland house in one corner of the school grounds. Then whenever a tour bus arrived Kia would have his villagers dress up and perform for the tourists. In return the villagers were paid \$90. Everyone was happy and the children learnt that tourism had potential as a means of income even in the village.

As part of our program we tried to incorporate traditional designs into any new buildings. This gave the school a unique look which everyone appreciated.

Our school uniform incorporated a Scottish highland tartan with traditional small grass skirts as Sporrans. The children looked so smart in their uniforms and it made them feel proud to belong to Watabung School. They were really proud of the day our sports team took part in the march past in Goroka. They were dressed in their uniforms, with our traditionally dressed flag bearers who carried the New Papua New Guinea flag. They won the march past and that evening they were the talk of every village at Watabung.

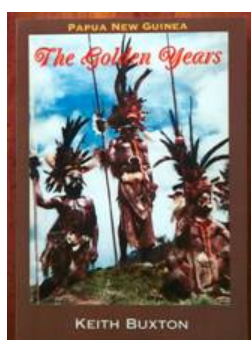
So it came to pass that my turn to be retrenched arrived. The school community decided that such an event could not go by without some form of traditional farewell. The older students arranged a farewell ceremony complete with a school concert. The teachers and parents organised a huge feast and traditional sing sing. The children wore their traditional finery and the teachers joined in wearing their finest feathers. I was dressed in my father in-law's feathers and felt every bit the celebrity. It was a wonderful farewell but everyone felt the emotion of saying goodbye.

I was always so grateful to my staff who worked so hard, to the children's parents and village leaders and especially the children who all made Watabung School what it was. ■

Papua New Guinea

## The Golden Years by Keith Buxton

**A selection of personal anecdotes spanning the years 1956-1988**



Keith Buxton formed close associations with airlines, expatriates and the Papua New Guinean community which brought him in touch with countless numbers of true characters from all walks of life. Many of his experiences are outlined in this publication with a particular emphasis on the humour which was so widespread in the country.

Normally \$26 per copy, **Una Voce readers:**

**Special price of \$15.00 (plus \$15 P & H within Australia)**

30% donation going to PNGAA/Una Voce

Email: [info@keithbuxton.com](mailto:info@keithbuxton.com)

## **A RECONNAISSANCE OF THE JIMI VALLEY PINE STANDS**

**by Alan Ross**

Paul Ryan's most interesting account of his tours of duty in the Jimi Valley of the Western Highlands District in 1968 (*Una Voce* June 2008) brings to my mind the time I was required to carry out a reconnaissance of the Jimi pine stands some eleven years earlier, in the months of July – August 1957. Earlier that year, in 1957, two senior officers from the Department of Forests headquarters flying between Madang and Mt Hagen spotted from the window of their aircraft what appeared to be significant numbers of *Araucaria* pines (Hoop pine and/or Klinki pine) growing in the Jimi Valley, perhaps even equalling in volume the vast *Araucaria* stands in the Wau-Bulolo-Watut Valleys of the Morobe District. Their sightings generated considerable interest, particularly in the Western Highlands and among forestry circles. For one thing, there was the idea that the conversion of high grade pine, such as Hoop and Klinki, to veneer and plywood for the export market might well go towards meeting the costs of constructing a direct road link from Mt Hagen to the Madang coast. Bob Macilwain, Assistant District Officer, was dispatched forthwith into the Jimi in order to ascertain on the ground the extent of the pine stands. I was directed by my Department (Forests) to join Macilwain for a brief 'look see'.

After flying to Mt Hagen I was deposited by vehicle at the Mala guest house on the Hagen-Banz Road and which is near the late Bobby Gibbes' plantation, Tremearne. I entered the Jimi Valley on foot through the Mala Pass and, with the assistance of a local guide, reached by late afternoon Macilwain's camp which on that day was located near the Ganz River in the middle Jimi. Macilwain had already been in the Jimi some three months when I joined him; he had criss-crossed the areas of interest several times, so in lieu of the use of a helicopter (not available those days as they were a decade or so later for forest inventory), he was an excellent guide. Before dawn Macilwain would rouse his patrol – consisting of three or four policemen and carriers recruited from nearby villages – and by sun-up we would have breakfasted, broken camp and be on the move. We traversed the main pine growing areas, the densest stand being located between the left bank tributaries of the middle Jimi, the Gudan and Mawgabin Rivers. Whilst the *Araucarias* – Klinki pine only as it turned out – were impressive, based on what I viewed and Macilwain's observations, they did not match anywhere near in numbers their counterpart in the Wau-Bulolo Valleys.

In Mt Hagen on my way out I met a pleasant young Englishman, David Attenborough. Attenborough and his camera crew were about to travel into the Jimi for a stay of about two weeks. The District Commissioner, Ian Skinner, suggested I accompany Attenborough. The suggestion was tempting, but I believed I did not have sufficient reason to request my superiors to re-enter the Jimi. So I returned to my station which at the time was Bulolo.

As stated by Paul Ryan in his article, cited earlier, a detailed forest inventory was carried out in the Jimi Valley by the Department of Forests in 1968, following which the Government acquired from the local landowners the rights for the cutting and removing of timber for cash payment, or the timber rights as it is usually called. The Jimi was later listed and advertised as a forest development area. It failed to attract a potential developer; there was no interest shown whatever. The main stumbling block to exploitation of the forest resource was without question difficulty of access to the coast. I wrote at the time of my Jimi visit that the Bismarck and Schroeder Ranges to the north looked forbidding, and

they remain so even today. Some pines growing in the Baiyer River area have been felled for processing for the domestic sawn timber market, but the volume of merchantable timber that would be available for export would nowhere meet road construction costs that were likely to be encountered. So a road linking Mt Hagen directly to the Madang coast was not to be. The Okuk Highway, running through Kundiawa, Goroka and Kainantu, remains today as the single road linking the western end of the Highlands to the coast. ■

### **A RAW DEAL by Mrs Dorrie Healey**

*The following letter was sent from Mrs Dorrie Healey to Dr Roy Scragg. It is reproduced with permission.*

7th April 2011

Dear Dr Scragg,

I have just finished reading March 2011 *Una Voce* page 11 and I was extremely pleased to read your comments to the editor re Donald Denoon's remarks 'Enhancing the Role of Kiaps'.

Many articles written lately by Kiaps are far from the truth (they have probably heard a medal is to be given to them). I have rung Harry West and he agrees with me and I think he is also on the committee. Harry's suggestion, 'a plaque or whatever' to be placed in Port Moresby – No Medals – just name and date of all officers opening outstations but not only Kiaps; all departments.

What really annoyed me in the March *Una Voce* some Kiap or Patrol Officer wrote a lengthy tirade about opening Nuku-Lumi airstrip in 1952. NOT TRUE. Father Ferdinand Parer opened the Franscan Mission and built the airstrip in 1948-49, by handing out razor blades to those locals who worked.

We were transferred to Lumi from Wewak with two small children in September 1949 and no house was available for us. Fortunately, waiting on the Lumi airstrip, was Father Denis Dobson and he recognized our predicament and hurried back to the Lumi mission and organised two mission lads to clean up the *Haus Kiap* which they did as it had been used during the war by passing troops and it was in a shocking condition. The tank water was putrid and so Father lent us his milking goat so we had fresh milk for the children, very much appreciated. We also fetched water from the village sump which we had to strain three times then boil before it was fit to drink.

Rhys applied to the District Commissioner Rigby for nails to build a new native type house closer to the hospital - but guess what? - we received a bag of tin tacks so they were sent back on the next plane- no new house!

Six months later, a young Kiap, wife and small child arrived plus materials to build a new house for themselves; plus iron, watertanks, roofing etc. Plus we had to put them up for a few months (talk about a crowded house. Patrol Officer Phil Feinberg apparently was receiving special treatment his brother, David Fenbery was in Port Moresby. Anyway, Rhys decided to carry out a medical survey, a three hour walk to Nuku Mission and take the family, a nice break.

We were in Lumi another 18 months when Dr John McInerney decided we had had enough and moved us back to Angoram as a new house had been built near the hospital. We were ecstatic! But no such luck. On arrival Kiap Zweck informed us the house had been given to the new German Doctor. The Kiap had built two houses with PHD money and gave the 2<sup>nd</sup> house to a single native labour officer.

Once again the Healey's missed out so Rhys himself purchased a nice two bedroom sawn timber house from the local sawmill for \$50. We had no option!

A few months later Dr John received an urgent radio from Dr Gunther that a three ward hospital was urgently needed to be built at Timbunki and then handed over to the SVD Catholic Mission for the nuns to run. Off went the Healey's once again a few hundred miles up the Sepik and we lived inside a very large mosquito net in the village *Haus Kiap* (inside the net by 5pm).

Rhys arranged building materials from various villages close to Timbunki and built three wards, plus a theatre within a month and then handed it over to the nuns. A very successful project. We then moved back to Angoram for the rest of the year.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> January 1952 we were sent to Vanimo on the New Guinea – Dutch border. Again, no house, so we lived in the hospital grounds in a native type house for two months. The Kiap lived in a nice sawn timber mansion on the hill. I would say a three bedroom home. Graham Taylor was the Patrol Officer but I never met him. On the 1<sup>st</sup> March, we moved to Aitape aboard an army trawler – what an experience!

Dr John had told us that a new house for the medical assistant had been built. Rhys only had to build the hospital. What a shock! We were ferried ashore and stood on the sandfly ridden beach until a young Patrol Officer came and told us Kiap George Wearne was on patrol and there was no Medical Assistant's house in sight. The Kiap had a two storey house (very odd) built. The Kiap was living downstairs and the young Patrol Officer (PO) upstairs. The stairs went up on the outside of the house. The young PO moved out and went and stayed with the local trader and his wife so we could stay in the upstairs area of the house. We never found out the reason for this two storey unusual mansion and NO medical assistant's house.

Rhys, with local help, finished building the hospital within the month during which time the Kiap did not return from patrol so we returned to Wewak on the first available plane.

We really missed Dr John. He was an inspiration. I have no idea why PHD only owned one small residence near the Angoram hospital during our seven years in the Sepik area.

There was no house in Wewak either. The old army hospital was still in use so we turned one ward with a cement floor into a house. It was very primitive and finally on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 1952 Rhys travelled to Telefomin with DO Niall to open the station. The rest is history.

In March 1953, we were transferred to Chimbu. Yes, we had a proper house but it was not a very pleasant station. Five years later Rhys reluctantly applied for an accountant's position with Health. We had had enough.

Dr Scragg, I sincerely hope you don't mind me putting pen to paper but Medical Assistant's received a 'raw deal' at the hands of the Kiaps. I have many more stories but they will keep. Especially Kundiawa!!



## **MT GILUWE by David Johnston**

In *Una Voce* of March 2011 I read under VALE of the death of the late Dr Laurence Malcolm, which prompts me to send you the following:

In the late 1950s Laurence was District Medical Officer at Mendi, Barney Madden was District Education Officer and I was Agriculturalist with the Methodist Overseas Mission, also at Mendi. We had flown around the north and south sides of Mt Giluwe the highest mountain in Papua on several occasions, so shared its challenge to climb to the top.

We drove up the old Mt Hagen 'road' to near Timipa, where a few guides/carriers were engaged to accompany us to the top. At first we encountered heavy timber and occasional sweet potato gardens and by sun down we camped in a very rough shelter to arrange our gear for the climb to the top. Rough bunks well above ground level offered some rest, but it was punctuated by very heavy rain with water running through the well-ventilated shelter. After fitful sleeps we arose on the dark, had a quick bite to eat and set out on a cold morning. Crossing a small stream we soon passed out of timbered country and entered a great expanse of undulating landscape, being quite excited at the prospect that lay before us.

Although we could not see the summit and there were no tracks, we headed in a south easterly direction in crisp air. Soon the lack of oxygen in the air made the going very difficult and we slowed down considerably. It was only possible to take a few steps before fatigue made us rest briefly and soon nausea took over, much to our discomfort.

The terrain was not so steep, but very broken with side-ways slope being up to 45 degrees, showing evidence of severe volcanic activity. The grass was harsh and rough and tore at our legs. The high altitude made the going difficult and passing each successive rise only gave way to further peaks with none being obvious as our objective. The volcanic activity had left great sheets of rock at frightening angles, which made our legs pain sharply. At times we mused at why three adults had left the warmth of our valley homes, with wives and families to place ourselves in such discomfort.

At about midday relief came as we could clearly see the pinnacle; however it was not just a stroll. A cleft in the rocks allowed us to crawl to a small plateau with magnificent views to the south towards Ialibu. It is almost breathtaking to look away towards the south over undulating land form. There was a small cache covered with rocks containing a tin in which the names of four or five previous climbers were written. We added ours to this, rested briefly but were forced to head for home as masses of cloud swept in and sleet stung our faces.

Our altimeter read just over 13,000 feet. My thoughts at this time were: Thanks to God for His magnificent creation; awareness of the smallness of mankind and appreciation of good mateship.

■

## **UP AND DOWN MOUNTAINS, PATROL FOOD, AND POLLING**

### **by Doug Robbins**

I was talking recently with my one-time boss at Tufi Fif Favetta about James Campbell's 'Ghost Mountain Boys' written in 2007 about a little-known story of the 126th Infantry of the US 32nd (Red Arrow) Division trekking over the Kapa Kapa Trail during the Papuan Campaign of 1942, and it prompted me to write this short piece about my experience along the middle section and some of the latter parts of the same tracks. This is also some of the same area where my District Commissioner David Marsh searched for survivors of the USAAF C47 'Flying Dutchman' aircraft which crashed ferrying following troops of the 126th to Pongani closer to the battlefield, as told by Jim Eames in 'The Searchers'.

As the Patrol Officer based at Tufi I did the 1972 House of Assembly election patrol starting in the Middle Musa out and about from Safia then up (and it was really up – and down and up again!) the Upper Musa (Moni) to Afore via Ai'are, not far from Jaure, then beyond Afore down the high gorge country of the Bariji River and back to Afore ('uphill of course', as I recorded in my Patrol Diary) to fly out to Popondetta and return to Tufi 17 days later. The only exciting (?) thing was the many cane suspension bridges. Sibia was quite depressing with cold drizzle and mud everywhere and it was the only occasion in all my time in PNG that I couldn't eat what I cooked up for dinner. Can't remember what it was but I think it was something like curry something or other mixed with something else sweet and sour, all out of a tin or packet and cooked with rice in a single pot. The combination just didn't add up! It was so unpalatable I didn't even keep it as morning sustenance for the next day's walk – just threw it out of the rest-house into the rain and mud and I suppose the mangy village dogs ate it. Mind you, the people at Namudi had told me that the election should be held in their village where there is a reasonably large population, but the pre-circularised polling place was notified as Sibia, the next village a further one and a half hour's walk. Explaining to the Namudi villagers that I wasn't stopping there, I pushed on – much to my eventual embarrassment as there were only 14 adults in residence at Sibia! As a result, the people at Namudi didn't get to vote because, as would be expected, they didn't follow me to their neighbours over the river at Sibia who were not-of-the-same-persuasion (as I was yet to find out). From there on things went down hill – but mainly up and down and so on. It was a real effort having to meet the election schedule set by someone who didn't know or care too much about what went on in the field. Namudi was Anglican and as I said, ignoring their otherwise sensible advice I went on to Sibia which, I discovered, was Seventh Day Adventist – the next day being Saturday. Then following that at Ai'are I was back in Anglican territory on the Sunday. Being their respective day of rest at both places, recruiting carriers became another problem to be dealt with, especially at Sibia with so few men anyway! Added to that, the walks prior to polling every day were long. For example, my arrival at Afore wasn't until 7pm and my carriers with my food and gear at 10pm. Admittedly, before setting off from Ufia that morning and after a very cold and lonely night in the bush materials rest-house, I literally bumped into American couple Mike and Donna Olson of the Summer Institute of Linguistics and they invited me to join them for morning coffee and scones. Civilization!

I suspect I was longing for a miracle of any kind. Of the walk up and over the mountain between Sibia and Ai'are, both located next to the Moni River thundering through gorges far below us, I recorded in my Patrol Diary 'why can't we go around these mountains!' adding that it was 'compensated only by the good view back to the Safia area'.

## GLIMMER OF HOPE by Bob Piper

**An RAAF Douglas C-47 transport aircraft with nineteen on board, which disappeared minutes after takeoff from Milne Bay in New Guinea in September 1945, may have been re-located.** An Australian tour boat operator as well as Norwegian and Danish divers has found aircraft wreckage in 20 metres of water in the same location where oil, lifejackets, mailbags and cushions surfaced after the accident.

Rod Pearce, a well-known New Guinea diver who operates his charter boat *Barbarian II* throughout the islands, and Norwegian diver Kasper Sommer as well as Danish diver Roy Torgerson have confirmed the location of the plane. In addition they have recovered a number of items including a propeller, tail wheel tyre as well as aviation cable and a control quadrant part. Both wings, engines, undercarriage and the tail, which match a Douglas C-47, have also been sighted in murky water where sediment from nearby mountain rivers reduces visibility on most days.



A Douglas C-47 at Milne Bay – similar to the one lost.

However, no remains of those on board or positive identification that it is A65-56 (VH-CIJ) and the missing plane, has been made. Pearce, who has just visited Canberra to confer with Defence officials, has assisted the RAAF in other successful recovery operations of remains from submerged wartime aircraft. He also plans to dive and examine the aircraft further in future months.

It is perhaps fortunate and coincidental that detailed reports and a map on the subject by Lieutenant Eddie Stanton, also of ANGAU, have been recently re-discovered by the writer. This paperwork confirms the same position in the original Court of Enquiry and recently provided by the Milne Bay people and which Pearce had marked on his chart. That position is 200 metres offshore on the eastern side of the bay and adjacent to Gurney airfield.

Air force transport A65-56, from 33 Squadron, departed Gurney Strip shortly at 10:15 a.m. on 11 September 1945. On board were its crew of three and sixteen passengers on a routine courier flight to Dobadura, on the northern coast. On takeoff weather conditions were described as “not good with a visibility of 6 to 8 miles”. Heading down the bay VH-CIJ disappeared into the “bad patch”, which quickly moved up the bay and closed the landing field they had just departed from. Minutes after takeoff the Douglas, now enveloped the heavy tropical downpour, radioed back and advised they were “returning and asked to be homed”.

At 1037 hours the aircraft was instructed by Aeraradio to “climb to 5,000 feet and head north east, strip closed, call back”. The transport acknowledged the signal by “okay, will try” and though subsequently repeatedly called; no further signal was heard from A65-56. Nothing more has been seen or heard of the aircraft and those on board for the subsequent sixty three years.

As well as thirteen RAAF passengers on board there were also one navy and two army personnel. Included in the passengers was a crew of four from a Beaufort

bomber (6 Squadron) as well as a RAAF entertainment group. The latter consisted of Corporal Neil Mackay (violinist), AC1 John Haslam (cellist), Sgt Keith Devenish (piano) and a singer.

One of the army men, Lt. Noel Williams, was from ANGAU (Australia New Guinea Administrative Unit) and carrying a payroll of more than two thousand pounds, a considerable amount of money in 1945 and approximately half a million dollars in today's values. Williams was a former Commonwealth Bank employee of Cairns in Queensland.

The pilot of the missing transport aircraft was Flight Lieutenant Eric Beer, of Boort in Victoria, who had earlier seen action with 30 Squadron in Beaufighters. On one of the operations with that unit he had crash-landed in the sea and he and his observer had spent a day and a night in a dinghy before being rescued.

Aerial, sea and ground searches at the time for the missing aircraft initially found nothing. Two of 6 Squadron's Beauforts as well as 33 Squadron's Douglas VH-CUJ scoured the local area. United States and Australian shipping as well as a RAAF crash boat also checked the local waters.

Then village Constable Wahae of Wagga Wagga village, searching in a canoe after having been despatched to the area, sighted two yellow life jackets, cushions and oil floating up to the surface shortly after midday on the 12<sup>th</sup>. Launches subsequently patrolled the area as well as American forces dragging the bottom for the aircraft. Dynamite was also detonated underwater in order to try to break up the wreckage and release the bodies, all to no avail. Although it is reported hard hat divers stood by in water that was only 30 metres or less deep, none were sent down as no wreckage had been snagged in the dragging operations.

Local Papuan people at the village of Duabo, which is perched on the range at 330 metres overlooking the Gumini and Gibara Rivers on the south west side of the bay, did not see the aircraft in the heavy rain but were certain from the sound "well below" that it did not enter nearby Sagarai valley to the south west, or rise to their height, but did hear it crash into the sea. They also stated it only circled twice (probably using the Gurney Strip radio beacon as a guide and reference).

People from the coastal village of Buimui also heard the aircraft and its last anti-clockwise circle of the bay before a loud noise, as if it had hit the sea. One person described it as "like dynamite was being set off underwater". They also described how they had first heard the plane flying very low during the morning over the coconut trees, near the Gibara River, however, they did not see it owing to the heavy rain falling at the time.

Milne Bay, at the eastern tip of Papua New Guinea, is surrounded by 1500 metre high mountains and is often subject to torrential rain and poor visibility. A pilot suddenly caught in these conditions can find himself in a very precarious position, especially shortly after takeoff. Aircrew can either attempt to slowly climb away on instruments to the west, or head east out of the bay knowing that there is a very small gap or cone of safety of only 5 degrees that they must remain inside to avoid striking any land mass or high ground. To the north and south are peaks that require 5,000 feet of altitude to safely clear. In fact Milne Bay is virtually ringed by high country and obstacles for pilots and aircraft flying in instrument conditions.

Cont over...

When caught in desperate situations like this a pilot can also circle down low and try and stay in sight of the ground or water and attempt to retrace their steps back to the aerodrome. The latter is apparently what Beer attempted as his engines were heard very low in the area by a number of witnesses before it is believed he struck the sea and quickly submerged. The other two crewmen lost when the plane disappeared were the second pilot Flight Lieutenant John Mulcahy of Sydney and Sgt Frank Sullivan, the radio operator, of Melbourne.

It is also known that the mother of the pilot of the aircraft, Mrs Beer, wrote where possible to the relatives expressing her regret of the loss of the aircraft and those on board. It is unfortunate that other official letters to the relatives of those on board the aircraft, by the then Department of Air, mistakenly stated that the aircraft was in 100 fathoms (600 feet or 200 metres) of water and as such the bodies would not be recoverable. In fact the known depths of the water then and now where the plane debris surfaced is only 20 or 30 metres (100 feet) deep.

#Gurney airfield and the surrounding tropical waters of Milne Bay was the scene of many air, land and sea actions by RAAF fighter and bomber squadrons during 1942-43. Coincidentally Gurney Field, where A65-56 departed, was named after Squadron Leader Charles Gurney DFC, an early commanding officer of 33 Squadron who lost his life in May 1942 when the American B-26 Marauder he was flying in crashed at Owi Island, north of the Milne Bay area.

Two of the families of men on board contributed significantly to this story - the Rutherford family (FSGT Kevin Rutherford) in Victoria and the Mackay family (LAC Neil Mackay) in Queensland.

The RAAF operated a number of Douglas C-47 squadrons throughout the Pacific during and after the war. The loss of A65-56 remains one of their last unsolved mysteries until now.

*\* The writer and researcher, Bob Piper, once lived in Milne Bay and learnt to fly in New Guinea before returning to Australia. The project on the loss of A65-56 is one that he has been collating small pieces of information (much from the casualty files of those on board) on the jigsaw over twenty years. Aviation mysteries and their resolution have always fascinated him.*

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### **The PNG Securing a Prosperous Future Conference, Geelong, Victoria April 2012**

In April 2012, a two-day conference explored the opportunities and challenges for a Papua New Guinea seeking security and prosperity. The conference was hosted by the Alfred Deakin Research Institute in partnership with the Parliamentary Secretary for Pacific Island Affairs, Richard Marles MP.

*Photo:* L-R: Dame Carol Kidu, the Hon Bart Philemon, Andrea Williams and Dr Jon Ritchie  
*Photo:* Geoff Heard





***The letter was written by Corporal Llew Pippen, a digger from Blacktown NSW, who would have been my father-in-law, had he not passed away before I met his daughter.***

*This letter, I think, establishes the whereabouts of the movie theatre in the photograph that appeared in Una Voce about a year ago.* Mike Lean

17<sup>th</sup> Aust Field Coy

RAF

AUSTRALIA

18<sup>th</sup> January 1945

I arrived at Jacquinot Bay, New Britain on 25<sup>th</sup> November, 1944, landing by barge onto a coconut plantation. All the trees are about six yards apart and it runs for miles along the coast and back into the jungle. I really am a pioneer. It was raining when we landed, the undergrowth was very thick and we had no tents so built shelters out of palm leaves and, of course, got really wet. However one good thing we had stretchers which we carried with us and boy was I pleased to hop on it. The next morning it was fine and a picture to see – the huts we made all shapes and sizes.

Our first job was to build a kitchen. All the timber and equipment was on the beach as there were no roads to cart it away. The ground was too soft to drive a vehicle in it as they would just sink, and it was heavy going walking about as your boots were caked in mud. We had to cart the timber from the beach to our camp site which was about a quarter of a mile. It certainly was hard going especially as the undergrowth was so thick.

We washed in a bomb shell crater and got our drinking water from a spring. The tops were blown off a few coconut trees here and there by our planes when they chased the Japs out of there. The only thing they left behind was a couple of old shacks and a few fox holes, cases of ammo and empty tins and a few skeletons – the remains of a commando raid.

However, in three days we had our kitchen mess and Orderly Room built and the tents up. In a week the Canteen was in action and we had the electric light and showers and a crowd had started to put the roads in. Our chaps built the big Canteens, DIDs and numerous store shed. The pictures started about three weeks ago and now you wouldn't know the place. There are roads all over the place and buildings – it is hard to imagine that the place was bare when we arrived as it is 100% now, with every convenience.

We get a good share of fresh meat and vegetables; have fresh bread twice a day and, as before, two bottles of beer per week.

We are at present working on a wharf. It is interesting work and I like it much better than the Orderly Room – hope to shake off some of this weight.

We get a fair share of rain here, the heaviest being in August when it rains for twenty two days. As for the mossies up here I haven't seen any more than four since I arrived and up to date there have been no cases of malaria. We have a parade each evening at 5.45, taking our Atebrin and rolling our sleeves down – also applying mosquito lotion – so it is just about impossible to get malaria. The only complaints are the usual tropical skin rashes and they are not very bad.

The Japs are forty miles from here and being kept pretty busy by the Infantry. We are 100 miles from Rabaul and as we get closer will give you the office by saying for instance: that block of land is worth £70 or whatever the distance is.

We are working seven days a week, eight hours a day, are going to get our days of rest when the jetty is finished which will be about the middle of next month. The work we have done here is the most and the fastest time ever recorded and this is not self-praise. The place is like a city here now.

There are quite a few Units getting ten percent leave from here, and there is a whisper that we start in March but I would sooner wait and go back as a Unit otherwise may be up here for years.

We haven't had an air raid warning yet and don't look like it; don't take any notice of the papers. The write up they gave about the land was – well, we all laughed at it.

Well I will have to leave you here – hoping this letter finds you all well and happy. I am happy and really like this place. ■

**DEDICATION OF RABAUL AND  
MONTEVIDEO MARU MEMORIAL  
AND 70<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY MEMORIAL  
LUNCHEON –  
30 JUNE/1 JULY 2012, CANBERRA**



The dedication of the **Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Memorial** will be held on 1 July 2012. The Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Society will also be hosting a luncheon at Rydges Lakeside Hotel in Canberra on Saturday 30 June 2012.

**SATURDAY 30 June 2012**

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

**Venue:** Rydges Lakeside Hotel, 1 London Circuit, Canberra ACT 2601

**Guest speaker: To be advised**

**COST of lunch on Saturday \$60 per person** - Payment will confirm booking. 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.

**SUNDAY 1 July 2012**

**Dedication of the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Memorial  
Australian War Memorial, Canberra ACT**

**Guest speaker: Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC CVO,  
Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia**

**Time:** 11.30am. *Please be seated by 11.15am*

Light refreshments will be served after the service.

**PLEASE RSVP** as soon as possible and prior to 20 June 2012 to Andrea Williams  
M: 0409 031 889 E: [andrea.williams@bigpond.com](mailto:andrea.williams@bigpond.com)

## **INDEXATION UPDATE - Tim Terrell**

PNGAA Representative to ACPSRO

ACPSRO and its major Federal member organizations SCOA and DFWA continue the campaign for fair indexation (and fair taxation) of Commonwealth superannuation. While no substantive results have yet been achieved, there are some indications of increasing political support for what we are seeking. The main obstacle continues to be the cost factor and its perceived budgetary impact. And there is still strong in-principle opposition from some influential politicians on both sides of politics.

The debate in the Parliament last year over the Coalition inspired proposal that fair indexation be applied to some military pensions ended in its defeat. The Greens, despite their general support for fair indexation, voted against it on the grounds that it did not apply to all military pensions, nor did it apply to former public servant pensions, but primarily because it could not be achieved without impeding achievement of a balanced budget. The Government's opposition seemed to be primarily based on the budgetary factor but other factors such as its divisiveness were mentioned.

At the present time, the Government's position appears confused. The 2009 Matthews report on indexation, despite its generally negative recommendations, did suggest the Government consider a new index for Commonwealth pensions to replace the CPI, should one become available. The Government appeared at the time to accept this idea. It now appears, however, that it has adopted the excessive cost of change argument and as a consequence the ABS is apparently not doing any work on a new index. ACPSRO is now trying to get the policy on this clarified.

The issue of the cost of fair indexation is a major problem for most politicians and a strong obstacle to its acceptance. There are two aspects of this issue. The first is the actual dimension of the cost. The Government has been citing the extra "unfunded liability" as the true cost of changing the system. This is the cumulative cost over 45 years of meeting all payment that would result from fair indexation. Obviously, this is a large number –many billions of dollars –but it bears no relation to the annual cost of fair indexation to the budget. This cost is well within the scope of the budget and there is an estimated Government cost clawback of 30%. ACPSRO is trying to get this factor better understood by politicians.

The second cost issue is where the cost is to be paid from. The Government's line appears to be that any costs associated with fair indexation must be met directly from the Commonwealth's annual budget. But this need not be the case if the cost were to be met from where Commonwealth pensions are planned to be met from in the future, when the Future Fund is finally accessed. It is readily arguable that the Future Fund already contains sufficient resources to start meeting the cost of fair indexation, without impacting significantly on the purpose for which it was created. However, access to it before 2020 is constrained by provisions of the Act under which it was constituted. These could now be changed, and ACPSRO and several of its member organizations are trying to get the necessary changes made.

Rather than referring to it as a cost, as if it was some new or additional benefit being provided, we should say that it is properly the restoration of what has been surreptitiously stripped from us over many years by the changes that have been made to the CPI.

*Cont over...*

A third cost factor that ACPSRO is looking at, which perhaps, while somewhat technical, is the way in which the unfunded liability costs of Commonwealth superannuation are presented in the Commonwealth Budget. They appear to be overstated by double counting and it would simplify the debate if this were to be clarified.

Whatever happens with these issues, we still have the Nick Minchin factor to contend with. As Minister for Finance and Administration until he lost office in 2007, Senator Minchin consistently opposed a change to fair indexation on the grounds that it was undeserved, unjustified and unnecessary, despite three Senate inquiries all recommending change. He has recently reaffirmed this opposition, which is known to be shared by many of his past and present political colleagues and by some of his opponents. The support the Coalition has shown for fair indexation of some military pensions appears politically inspired and does not extend to civil pensions. This intransigent attitude, displayed by both sides of politics, remains the main obstacle to achieving fair indexation. The fight is far from over.

For more information, please see SCOA's May 2012 Issue of "*Super Time*". Also go to [www.scoa.asn.au](http://www.scoa.asn.au). You'll find there an indexation tool that calculates for you, how much you're losing and what you'll be losing into the future due to CPI indexation. Refer it on to those you know who are also affected. ■



## **AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM – SPIRIT FACES**

**6 College Street, Sydney**

### **New display of masks - open till 30 September**

There are 19 unique masks on display at the Museum made from a variety of materials including shells, feathers, wood, barkcloth, seeds, human hair and animal teeth and bones.

*Photo:* Ceremonial mendaska mask, Baining people, East New Britain Province, Papua New Guinea.

<http://australianmuseum.net.au/event/Spirit-Faces/>

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**In the aviation industry 'chance' meetings are not unusual.** One day, in the late 80s, when flying a Bell Jetranger B3, on a power line survey, I was diverted to rescue a visiting computer expert from inside a coffee factory compound situated just over the

river towards Goroka outside Kundiawa, an often troubled area in the PNG Highlands. Spears and arrows were flying over the walls and it was feared the place would be torched, a favourite trick to force the issue. I was able to land safely and my passenger leapt into the cabin and sat behind me, the other seats being occupied. On reaching Hagen, he quickly thanked me before disappearing rapidly.

Perhaps a year later, at around 11pm, I found myself queuing for scarce taxis outside the terminal in Sydney, having just arrived from Port Moresby via Brisbane. A cab eventually arrived and as the man ahead of me turned to approach it, he saw me and said, 'I know you, you landed and saved me on my first visit to PNG, from inside the coffee factory yard! Now it's my turn to help, hop in to the cab with me and I'll take you home.' He refused to let me contribute to the fare. Phil Latz – for more, see [www.phillatz.com](http://www.phillatz.com)

## **GIVING THE BAD NEWS by Graham Egan**

Kerema, Maprik, Mt. Hagen, Rabaul, Goroka 1967-81

As soon as a girl or boy came into my office and sat down, I would say immediately, either:

*You will be going on to Year 9 or: You will be a school leaver.*

I thought each should know his or her fate immediately, without any ambiguity. I would then give them the results in a brown envelope, that was the same size whether they were going on or not, have a brief chat and show them out.

I hated it. It was the worst job I had to do as Principal of Goroka High School in 1979-81.

Back then, at the end of Year 8, 40% of all students had to leave. There was not the capacity to allow all of them to complete Year 10, which was the normal end of high school. The Year 10 School Certificate was much prized.

The staff would decide who was to go and who was to stay and it was my job as Principal to deliver the news. Most took it stoically, but occasionally there were tears and entreaties.

My heart would melt, but I could not relent. Those who had been given the bad news left school straight away. There was no point in staying around and they were happy to go.

In 1981, however, one decided on a bit of revenge. I had accepted a position as Principal of a school in Mudgee NSW and had given three months' notice. The new job was to start after Easter and in mid March, I sold my car and began to pack. The incoming Principal had shipped his car up to Goroka and told me that

I could use it, until I left. It was a good car too, a top of the line Mitsubishi Scorpion. I felt pretty flash as I zoomed around town in it.

One night a couple of weeks before I left, I woke up and saw flickering lights on my bedroom wall. There was a fire! My house had heavy wire mesh on all the windows and double deadlocks on all the doors, which needed the keys to open from the inside. I leapt out of bed. It's funny the things you do when you are in a panic. I first changed the boxer shorts I wore to bed. I put on my jogging shorts. My sleeping shorts would get smokey and I did not want that. I learnt then that deep down, I am a sartorial idiot.

I was able to get the keys, unlock the door and get outside, where I saw that it was not the house that was on fire, but the superb Mitsubishi Scorpion. Someone had placed a burning tyre, filled with flammable cloth, under a rear wheel. The car was well alight. I rang the fire brigade. Thank God, they answered immediately and said they were on their way. I then turned the hose on and started to spray the car. The brigade came within minutes and the fire was soon out. The Scorpion, alas, was a write off. You can image what the new Principal thought, when I rang to tell him the bad news.

I left Goroka at the end of March and started my new life. The incoming Principal, whom I knew well, told me months later, that the police had discovered the arsonist was one of those Year 8 leavers. There was never enough evidence to charge him, so he got away with it.

I felt a bit sorry for him. Jobs were scarce and a Year 8 qualification was not really enough to be of much use in getting work. He was hitting back at a system that at first was good and helpful but then spat him out, unprepared.

And anyway, it wasn't my car.

▪



## HELP WANTED

The March 2012 *Una Voce*, with anecdotes of evacuations from 70 years ago, inspired me to think about my evacuation from Samarai to Australia with my Mother, my sister, Kay, and two local Suau girls. Dad, Eric, stayed behind and joined ANGAU. Early 1942 would be my guess for the time. **Are there passenger lists of those who were evacuated?** The Malaita referred to by Dick and Robyn Dunbar-Reid sounds like a fair bet if it travelled down through the Islands. Samarai would have been the last but one call on the way south I imagine. But, there were a few other ships taking on evacuees. Would anyone be able to provide further advice please? Please contact **John Owen-Turner** at PO Box 21, BURRUM HEADS. QLD. 4659 Phone 0741295217 Email: [johncot@bigpond.com](mailto:johncot@bigpond.com)

\* \* \*

**Any information on 'Doc' Vernon of the Kokoda Trail who died at Samarai on 16 May 1946** and who was buried on Logea Island would be welcomed by Philip Selth. Information is also required on various memorials to Doc Vernon. On his death a public subscription raised funds for a memorial to be placed on his grave on Logea Island. Later reports say a stone memorial was erected at Samarai. A Dr Vernon Memorial Hospital was built at the Ramu River Mission with the aid of the Regimental Association of the 11th Light Horse. Apparently there is also a plaque in the Kokoda Memorial Hospital.

Philip is interested in finding information about Doc Vernon as well as these memorials and their current condition. Please contact him at **E** [pselth@nswbar.asn.au](mailto:pselth@nswbar.asn.au) or PO Box 1682, Lane Cove, NSW, 1595

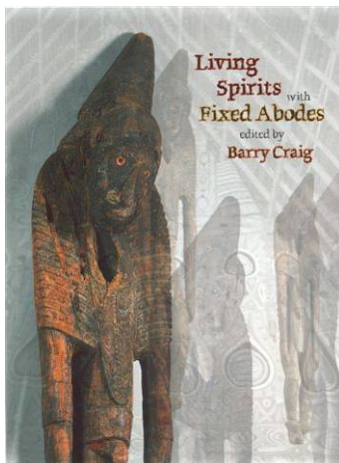
\* \* \*

**Would anyone be able to loan Dr Peter Cahill a copy of HF Bitmead's *Rules of good health for hospitals, schools and homes?*** Bitmead was a Medical Assistant pre/during and after WWII. It's not wanted as a donation for the PNGAA collection (although it would be welcomed) but for a researcher looking into public health in PNG. Please contact Dr Cahill at: phone 07-3371 4794 or email: [p.cahill@uqconnect.net](mailto:p.cahill@uqconnect.net)

\* \* \*

**Ethel Hayden nee Morley** would like to hear from anyone who has information on her paternal grandfather, **Henry Ethelbert Morley possibly William**. He migrated to Woodlark Is in the late 1800s/early 1900s. Please contact Ethel at E: [ethel.hayden@live.com.au](mailto:ethel.hayden@live.com.au)

## BOOK REVIEW



***Living Spirits with Fixed Abodes: The Masterpieces Exhibition***, Papua New Guinea National Museum and Art Gallery **by Barry Craig, Mark Busse and Soroi Eoe** ISBN 9781863332583 286pp Published by Crawford House Publishing Australia. It costs \$89.95. Available at: [www.crawfordhouse.com.au](http://www.crawfordhouse.com.au) to order a copy. It is lavishly illustrated in colour with a few black and white photographs, maps and drawings. Most pages have good quality colour plates. In large format 21x29 cm.

The National Museum and Art Gallery of Papua New Guinea has a multitude of roles. It keeps and conserves cultural, historical and natural collections, carries out

research, educates the public through exhibitions and publications and enforces cultural heritage legislation.

While *Living Spirits with Fixed Abodes* discusses these multitudinous roles the bulk of the book is taken up with a catalogue of the 209 cultural artefacts in The Masterpieces Exhibition on display in the public gallery. In this it is highly successful; the minutia surrounding each item is fascinating.

Barry Craig is the editor and even though he graciously acknowledges help from many sources, this is really his book. He has done the hard yards and his contributions take up well over eighty percent of the text.

The book is very handsome with a beautiful layout and is a credit to the publisher, Crawford House.

Last year we were reading about the appalling neglect of the museum by a seemingly uncaring government. A building so poorly maintained that on more days than not its doors were closed, the power off and the telephones silent.

We shrugged. It was simply just another microcosm of the greed and neglect that is mirrored in similar institutions all over the country. What we didn't read about at the time was what was behind those doors, the *raison d'être* for the building being there in the first place. This book answers that question in style.

Phil Fitzpatrick

## BOOK NEWS

**RETURN TO PARADISE - RETRACING LOST FOOTSTEPS** By **Jillian von Leixner** nee Rundnagel 78 pp Large square – many colour photos Cost: \$104.95 hardcover with dust jacket self-published. Whole book can be previewed at:

<http://www.blurb.com/books/3003568>

In December 2009 I returned to the island of East New Britain with my husband Gerard and son Alexander to revisit old memories and retrace family history. This book is an account of the journey.

***Comprehending West Papua*** is a collection of edited papers from the Comprehending West Papua conference held by the Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies at the University of Sydney in February 2011. It is the most comprehensive volume of its kind, offering analyses of the West Papua conflict from leading global academics and activists. The book is downloadable from

[http://sydney.edu.au/arts/peace\\_conflict/practice/west\\_papua\\_project.shtml](http://sydney.edu.au/arts/peace_conflict/practice/west_papua_project.shtml)

## REUNIONS

### ► **Memories of the South Pacific Islands Are Being Recalled**

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Jim Burton (former resident of Fiji, Vanuatu and Papua New Guinea)

Email - [burtonjf@bigpond.com](mailto:burtonjf@bigpond.com) Ph: 07-3376 3356 (leave a message if necessary)

► **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>

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**DONATIONS TO THE PNGAA COLLECTION, JUNE 2012**  
**Dr Peter Cahill**

**Vince Moore:** *Pidgin English Kuk Buk* by Laurel Levi; two copies of *Black & White* magazine vol1 no6 1967. **Bruce Hoy:** miscellaneous items including Routine of Business, House of Assembly, 260972; Approved Principles for Submissions to Administrator's Executive Council; *Didimag* issues vol.9 nos. 2,3,4 March – September 1977; *Australian Territories* vol. 2 no. 3 May 1962; OSAA *Bulletin* issue 4/85 Aug/Sept 1985; various papers/reports concerning the Australian Staffing Assistance (PNG) Association; Australian Staffing Assistance Group (ASAG); two Newsletters undated/un-numbered, Newsletters of 9th June 1978 (Taxation), 31st July 1978 (New Contract Conditions); **Rev. Neville Threlfall:** copies of *Islands Newsbeat* magazine – vol1 nos. 3 (October 1969), 5 (December 1969), 6 January 1970. Vol 2 nos.1-2 August/September 1970. Very extensive and wide-ranging collection of photographs including: group attending Methodist Synod, Malakuna, 1919; SVD missionary supervising taro planting; Rabaul town and harbour, frangipani on Observatory Ridge; Tavurvur erupting; series of Gaulim Teachers' College; PIR soldiers parading in Queen's Park, Rabaul, ca.1960/1970; six RAN vessels visiting Rabaul ca.1960/1970; police band and constabulary on government wharf to welcome the Administrator back from leave; three views of Rapindik Native Hospital 1928; Government Anthropologist's house Malaguna Road 1932; series of fourteen of building construction at (?George Brown) High School; *next seven are dated 1938*: waterfront Rabaul near *ples Atam*; Rabaul Powerhouse; first official airmail plane; front and rear entrances of New Guinea Club; Memorial service for Rev. Peni To Pitmur; *Luluai* PeroTo Kinkin of Raluana village with coils of *Tambu* (native shell money), woven cane fish traps; natives decorated for Wutun dance; Bainig fire dancers; village women/wild natives Nakanai; sorcerer with skulls and ?acolyte; quantity of other Nakanai photographs ranging from widow with twine on one leg, to elderly native man making canoes from logs; various others including Fr Bernard Franke; wrecked petrol tanker in bush 1947; Bitapaka War Cemetery 1947; Australian troops encampment, and War Disposals Dump 1947; DC J.J. Murphy inspecting parade PNGVR and constabulary 1955; DC 3 'side saddle' travel 1950; remains of a gallows used for hanging Jap war criminals; *luluais* and *tultuls* at a conference 150945; Jap 44 gallon drums used for cooking 1945; photocopies of protest photos at Kerevat during G. Whitlam's visit? 1960s; Whitlam with native and New Britain DC, HW West; Planters' Association dinner; New Guinea Club 1955; Royal NZAF Venture aircraft approaching Rabaul over Tavurvur; Ingiet figure, Vunamurmur, New

Britain; post-1942 eruption photos of damage; George Oakes with parents' houseboy Paulo at Methodist Mission, Pinikidu, New Ireland; Le'utu Taletale (Queen Emma's mother); house of the Wesleyan Mission at Raluana; Fijian Prime Minister Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara at commemorative service at place where four Fijian missionaries were killed and eaten in 1878; Coronation parade, Rabaul, 1937; Furst Bismarck hotel Herbertshohe; members of Queen Emma's family at Gunantambu; Duk Duks; spear fishing in shallows; Kuo Min Tang building, Chinatown, Rabaul; women return-ing from gardens with baskets of taro; two large folders of photos ranging from the Chinese Embassy, Waigani (Port Moresby), to three Baining women. **Bob Brodie:** PNG Golf Day Reunion Perpetual Shield (2) competed for at Bribie Island Golf Club. **Rev. Neville Threlfall:** small spool of film 'Carl Vasey (Ulu & Rabaul) 1937-39'; two large spools film "Historical Material – Mrs Pearson (1913-1914) & Miss M. Woolnough; coloured photographs: German nursing sister Schwester Auguste Hertzer; four Kodachrome slides including friendship statue taken at Airmen's Memorial School, Evase, WNB, November 1963; lever-arch file of photographs including 99th anniversary of murder and eating of four Fijian missionaries near Taliligap, ENB, 060478; their monument; Fr Bernard Franke's Jubilee celebration 1977; children at Sacred Heart International School, Rabaul, 1977; Pat Robert's fuel carrier (Japanese former submersible barge); Synod at Kabakada 1977; induction of Bishop Bevan Meredith, Rabaul, 1977; pictures taken at Jayapura (West Papua), and Wamena, central Baliem Valley, May 1979; typescript *Bikpela Wokabaut* 1979; memorial service and burial of ashes of J.K. McCarthy, Rabaul cemetery; march against ENB Provincial government March 1979; steps of Queen Emma's house, Gunantambu, at Ralum; ship's captain Augustino Stalio's grave; grave of Queen Emma and husband Paul Kolbe; memorial to Methodist clergy killed by Japanese during WW2; Tubuans at Matupit Island; opening of new church ENB; volcanoes at Willaumez Peninsula, Mt Langila near Cape Gloucester, Bamusi, "The South Son" WNB 300780; Rabaul volcanoes and Karkar Island, Madang Province; typescript "A tribute to Robin Cooke" and his burial with colleague Elias Ravian in Rabaul, March 1979; Valmatki Vartabar dancers August, 1979; induction of Rev. Jack Sharp, Matupit Island, 1968; photographs various churches; Dawapia Rocks (Beehives), Blanche Bay; coming of age ceremony for young man Matupit Island 1971; preparing guard of honour Taran-gau, Manus Island 1970; protest march Rabaul 1972; riot squad Matupit Island 1972; after effects of earthquake and tidal wave Matupit Island July 1971; staff Ulu Boys' High School December 1968; Social Studies Pictures Standard 4; audio cassettes: interviews Alex and Gwen Malcolm 190581; MBB Orken (no date); Sister Mavis Green Memories of Vunairima ENB Methodist Training Centre 1930s; Gordon Thomas *Diary* Oct-Dec 43; continuing Diary and articles 1942-1945; Pt 1 *Red Grew the Harvest* written by OLSH Sisters imprisoned by the Japs 230142 at Kokopo (read by Sister Mavis Green); Pt 2 continues; Jack Thurston (no date); J. Flentje- Rabaul & Bila 1940s; C.R. & F.M. Vasey (no date); 1978 Independence Day messages: Governor-General Sir Tore Lokoloko, Prime Minister Michael Somare, Opposition Leader Iambakey Okuk, + [?Justice] Frost Report (no date); Installation of the Governor-General and Prime Minister 160975; Reg Lyme, Memories of Rabaul 1946-1981; D. & P. Coote, J.K. Dowling (no date); ... Wood & [Pat] Boys (no date); Mrs Gertrude Wentzel at Rabaul 1965; ten advertising posters on National Day, Independence, East New Britain Provincial Government Ministers, PNG Constitution, The Constitution of the United Church in Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands. **Don Green:** bound copy of *Rabaul 1942-1945: An Account Of Four Years As A Prisoner of War Of The Japanese*, by Gordon Thomas. 331pp. plus appendices and Indices; **Sylvia Chow:** Sacred Heart School

– for the sake of the Children: The Sacred Heart School [Rabaul] Reunion Committee 2007. **Ian Grundy** (courtesy Pauline Grundy): PNG Superannuation Ordinance – Explanation of its principal provisions; Silvicultural techniques in PNG forest plantations (Bulletin no.1 – Dept of Forests, Port Moresby ?1965); Timber Preservation [by] Dip-Diffusion Process, SJ Colwell, Forests, Port Moresby, nd; P Van Royen – Key to timber trees based on field characters; group photo staff of Department of Forests, Port Moresby, July 1961 (some identified on back); stencilled notes/papers/workshop results; Forest Adult Education Course 1963; Guide to the choice of trees, shrubs and creepers in Port Moresby (KJ White, nd); Prospectus – Vanimo timber Area, New Guinea, prepared by The Tuolumne Corporation Pty Ltd, Port Moresby, October 1967; a Proposal for development of an integrated forest industry based on the Vanimo timber area – prepared by West Sepik Timber Development Pty Limited, March 1971; ditto June 1972. **Charles Betteridge**: DVD “In the Highlands of PNG 1980-1983”. **Anonymous**: private copy of L.R. Healey’s BA (Hons.) Essay, *Australian New Guinea Administrative Unit 1942-1945* UPNG 1976. **Jill Taylor**: memory stick of 182 pre-WW2 photos – mainly Wau, Bulolo, Rabaul, Port Moresby. **Leslie Russell**: pre-WW2 photos of Bulolo and of inscribed Bulolo Golf Club Trophy Cup 1942 recovered from the ashes of the Bulolo Club House destroyed during the Japanese occupation 1942. **Paddy Ethell** (courtesy Marjery Head): 86 ca.1937 photos of Port Moresby town scenes and Hanuabada/Porebada villages; Kikori and local villages; building at Goaribari; not all photographs identifiable because of poor handwriting. **H.E. Clark**: extraordinary collection of photographs taken by C.H. Adamson during the 1936 Bamu-Purari patrol (one of the most significant patrols of north-western Papua) ranging from primitive natives in “wig” head-dresses, typical native houses of the area, and views of houses, food gardens and inhabitants of Southern Highlands villages. A full report of the patrol is with Clark’s papers in the Fryer Library. **Jack Read**: six albums of photos extraordinary in diversity and subject matter (most identified and dated, a few missing) of NG villages/villagers, European residents and buildings, scenes, important events, with local history and anthropological comments in major NG centres 1930s e.g. details of the Wagan ceremony at Yentjan village in the middle Sepik 1932; description of hot springs near Talasea, New Britain; colour-ed photo of Nakanai man and wife; description of Chambri Lake, middle Sepik; native women breast-feeding puppies and piglet; kickball matches/sports day at Rabaul; natives of Leonard Schultze river, a Sepik tributary, on initial contact with Europeans; Waskuk (Sepik) women with elaborate keloidal (abdominal cicatrices) markings; women making saksak on the Sepik; Yellow River natives demonstrating bows and arrows; red photo album of (some) coloured photos of Highlands men wearing pigs’ tusks, small cowrie shells and beaten bark cloaks; group of Highlands women in cloaks and grass skirts; native men with metal washers in septa and ear-lobes; assorted photos of females; young boy with lobster; photos of woman in kimono. **Bob Pulsford** (courtesy Mary Pulsford): CD and print copy of MA thesis *The Changing Attitudes to Illness and Misfortune of the Motu/Koita People (Papua New Guinea)*, Sydney University, 1989; copy of Pulsford and J. Cawte’s *Health in a Developing Country: Principles of Medical Anthropology* 1972; CD Mary Pulsford’s *Unexpected Life* 2011; articles on Papuan myths/folktales and teaching behavioural sciences at the Papuan Medical College and subsequently UPNG; copy of article *Wanted Young Men, Must Like Adventure* – the story of Ian Mack, Patrol Officer, Territory of New Guinea 1926-1933.



### ***Correction to March 2012 Fryer Donations:***

**David Montgomery:** CD: Early Birds of New Guinea – Derek (Jos) Crisp story; 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.

*Note:* Subsequent donations will be held over until the September *Una Voce* ▪

### **WALK INTO PARADISE by Rod Noble**

In 1956, when I was a first year student at Sydney University, I invited two fellow students to see with me a recently released film 'Walk into Paradise'. The hero was well known Australian actor 'Chips' Rafferty who was also well known in the Territories of P&NG for mistaking a *puk puk* for a *pek pek*.

In the intervening half century I had not thought about that film at all. But when James Tyson of Nardoo Nursery at Mt. Tamborine, Q'ld (now at Smithton, Tas.), where Barbara and I had chosen to retire, showed me a copy of a PNG club magazine I was pleasantly surprised to find that my memories of that long ago time were so clear and detailed. The magazine advertised a DVD of the Australian/French financed film, 'Walk into Paradise'.

As a Cadet Patrol Officer I had spent some time in Port Moresby then Wewak, and in 1955 was stationed at Angoram 60 miles from the delta of the Sepik River.

The Sepik District Commissioner Sid Elliot-Smith had sent a signal (telegram) to the Angoram Assistant District Officer advising that a film unit would be arriving at Angoram shortly and requesting that an administration officer accompany the unit upriver.

As I was the only other officer there at the time I got the gig.

The unit arrived the next week on two inter-island trading vessels with about ten persons aboard plus crew. The unit members were invited to the club to meet the local expatriates (9). There I met "Chips" Rafferty and Reg Lye, actors and Françoise, heroine, a young make up lady also from Paris, Jan "Candy" Mitchell a leading Sydney model who was the stand-in for the heroine who disliked the tropical heat and humidity. It was her first time out of France. Also aboard was Lee Robinson, the director and a principle of Southern International Films which was providing half the finance for the film. The camera director was a very pleasant Italian and the camera man and focus puller were English.

As the government vessel based at this sub-district had a top speed from its single cylinder engine of about 4 knots which was barely more than the speed of the river current, it was decided that I should join the unit on board one of the vessels. So next morning, with Mani, my *haus boi*, I embarked for two weeks up river that should have been deducted from my leave because the time spent there had so little to do with my regular work.

*A.D.O. 'Bunny' Yeomans embarking on admin vessel heading up river*



Of course I was there to ensure that there was no abuse or under payment of locals who were used as extras.

As the unit had already been in the Territory for some time shooting the majority of the film in the highlands, there was nothing for me to do in my official capacity. All members were quite relaxed although they were such a tiny film crew surrounded by so many people that they could not communicate with. However, as I was now somewhat familiar with the area and spoke *tok pisin* I did do some location finding and did arrange for lots of grass-skirted, topless maidens to paddle the actors past the camera in large dug-out canoes. On the Sepik River, I do not know about elsewhere, men stand up to paddle and women sit down. For the purposes of the film I did request the young maidens to be upstanding and to wear some token *bilas*.

*'Chips, Françoise and Reg going up river'*

The two weeks I spent upriver with the film unit reminded me as similar in some ways to the military training I had done with the CMF in Tasmania. Both involved good food, lots and lots of just sitting around and chatting with pleasant people. Yes, I do know that the members of the film unit were somewhat more cosmopolitan than my fellow soldiers in Tassie. We were sitting around a lot while the film director pointed his light-meter at the sky. Lee Robinson also looked anxiously upwards as the waiting around was costing his company money. It was also costing his partner, a French company lots of money too.



The fact of dual financing meant that each scene was filmed twice. Both the scenic ones and the dialogue ones. In order to make the dubbing of Chips dialogue into French more realistic looking a cue board was held up with a sort of phonetic translation of the French so that his lip movements would synchronise with the dialogue when dubbed. Françoise spoke excellent English.

*'Candy in front of cue board'*

When I returned and was asked why it had taken so long. After all they had said that there were only a few shots needed for the beginning of the film. I pointed out



that there had been so many cloudy days, not recommended for colour filming. 'Shanghai' Brown told me that it is always cloudy during this season and why had they not asked a resident when would it be clear and sunny.

After filming was completed the two vessels tied up at Angoram's Tobacco Road wharf and a farewell supper for the group was held at the Club. It was bountifully supplied with lots of delicious dishes by Chu Leong. They departed next morning and I returned to office duties. This involved pecking out with one finger on ancient typewriters many reports for the wise ones in Moresby.

The unit's departure did not end my connection with the film. I had asked for and was kindly given "Candy" Mitchell's Sydney phone number. I had nearly finished my first term and would be granted leave shortly. Hence I arranged a stay in Sydney, *en route* to home in Hobart. I rang the number and was invited to a party. Very pleasant. But that's not all. Just after Christmas my parents moved to Sydney as my father had been appointed to his company's head office there.

I had reluctantly decided to resign from the service and enroll at Sydney University. The law faculty had a commencement ball. As Candy was the only female of my own age that I knew in Sydney, I asked if she would be my partner at this function. She agreed. So, on the night, I bought a corsage and picked her up in my father's car. Dancing was no problem, as like all (or most) school children in Hobart I had attended Mrs. Donnelly's Friday night dance classes.



*'Candy (right) and Chips flying out in a Norseman, after filming'*

But I was not prepared for what happened when my partner was welcomed by the band. It promptly went into Latin American themes. Candy responded and I floundered a bit as the others on the floor stood back and applauded her. She made a good Ginger, but a Fred Astaire I was not. The last I heard of Candy was that she left the limelight, married and went to live in the Western suburbs.

When I asked Lee Robinson how were the exposed reels dealt with he said they went into the ship's cool room. When they were returned to Lae, Qantas would see that they were packed in dry ice until delivered to be processed in Melbourne. I do not know what "re-mastered" means but the colour quality of the DVD is remarkable. I can not say the same for the script but it was publicity for Australia's colonial role in PNG. When the film was discussed last year on the ABC it was said that Chips wanted to do a film where he did not have to travel to Europe or the UK. It would be interesting to find out how many stars David and Margaret would award this film.

I'll conclude this recollection with two comments: a) I wonder why more full length movies have not been made in PNG. Many documentaries about the people, the flora, the fauna and of course "First Contact" have received wide acclaim. Political instability, endemic corruption and the break down of law and order in some centres would not encourage an endeavour like "Walk into Paradise" again. However I am sure that if Sir Peter or Jan Barter were consulted they could suggest

great locations where peace still reigns, the scenery is outstanding and the locals very willing to join in: b) I suppose it would not surprise an experienced movie maker but I do note that the 14 days on location on the Sepik resulted in ++ seconds of finished film, ergo, a cluttered cutting room floor.

P.S. Since writing the above I have remembered that I have forgotten a member of the unit – a very pleasant lady with the title – “Continuity Girl”. I had to ask what her duties were as she sat near the camera with a note book. I was told that as film shots are often taken out of sequence she was responsible to check that the actors wore the same clothes even if the shots were days apart. ■

## **LLOYD HURRELL by Margaret Bluett, Cairns – 24 May 2012**

Our family's relationship with Lloyd Hurrell lasted professionally for ten years - from 1965 to 1975 but as a friendship it lasted much longer than that.

He was the first Chairman of Coffee Marketing Board in Papua New Guinea and in that capacity we first met him on the Goroka Air Strip in 1965 when he helped us off the plane. It was a free and easy airport those days no security or restrictions. I remember him saying,

‘You weren't afraid to come here with Sukarno threatening to invade us?’

(Sukarno was the corrupt and rogue leader of Indonesia in those days, a ‘sabre rattler’ who constantly referred to PNG, as East Irian and many believed he was planning an invasion of the Territory.)

My husband was appointed as the first Executive Officer of the newly formed Coffee Marketing Board and it was obvious to me from that day onwards Lloyd cared a great deal for our welfare. He was particularly concerned about our five young children forced to live in an upstairs apartment with nowhere for the children to play. As soon as he could push it through Government circles a four-bedroom house in a large garden was built especially for the Executive Officer and his family.

My husband said that in Lloyd's role as the Chairman of the Coffee Board he was completely and absolutely committed to the task of steering the Coffee Industry from its infancy in 1950 through to Independence in 1975.

It might be interesting to note that the Coffee Industry was one of the most successful undertakings in the world that turned thousands of indigenous subsistence farmers into wealthy men in such a short period of time. This success was in no small way due to Lloyds untiring, dedicated, intelligent and enthusiastic support.

Lloyd was a humble man who never wanted to acknowledge the credit he deserved. His constant efforts to understand the industry he steered saw him reading everything he could find to assist him both as a coffee planter himself and in his administrative role. When he was awarded the OBE for his work with the industry he told my husband,

‘This award is typical of what they say about this thing. OBE stands for ‘other bugger's efforts’ and it should also be given to you because without your help I wouldn't have been able to do this.’

Lloyd Hurrell was a sensitive, caring man who was a gentleman in the true sense of the word, emboldened by old fashioned virtues and a work ethic that was hard to find amongst men of European origin who lived and worked in Papua New Guinea before, during and after World War 11.

Lloyd was a vital cog in the machine that helped turn a land of tribal people into an Independent Nation. His family and those who knew him in his glory years will sorely miss him. ■

## SO WHAT HAS SCOTTISH LOCH KATRINE TO DO WITH PNG?

**Maxwell R HAYES RPNGC**

Named after a Scottish lake, the rusting remains of this once magnificent clipper have been very visible on one of our Papua New Guinea foreshores since 1924. Of the thousands of residents and others most people passing her, or being aware of her, would know little about this once great clipper lying as an



abandoned hulk near Kokopo. The rusting remains have now almost finally disappeared under the sea which very nearly took her more than one hundred years earlier.

This iron, steel, wood and canvas square rigged three masted clipper 226' in length, 35' beam and 23'

PRG 1373/15/4. Loch Katrine  
1880 Courtesy of State Library,

draft of 1,252 gross tons, was once one of the 25 colonial clippers, all named after Scottish lakes and owned by the ill-fated Loch Line of Glasgow (1867-1911) plying between the United Kingdom and Australia bringing immigrants, machinery, materials, textiles and so on and returning with grain, wool and other exports. She was built in Glasgow in August 1869, by J.G. Lawrie and Company and made her maiden voyage under the helm of Captain McCallum from London to Melbourne in the same year taking 81 days and over the years made many uneventful voyages between these countries, On 6.12.1895 en route from Geelong to London she ran aground on the Thames River and total destruction was feared however tug boats saved her from disaster. The Rabaul Times of 5th May 1933 reported that the former clipper was configured as a barque in 1910.

On Saturday 23rd April, 1910, under the command of Captain T B Martin with a crew of 22 and with about 600 tons of cargo the Loch Katrine left Melbourne for Sydney.

Her glamorous career as an ocean going clipper was to end on April 27th, 1910, near Gabo Island, off Malacoota, southern N.S.W. At 2.30am a severe hurricane struck her and in the next few hours all three masts splintered and toppled crashing to the decks along with the crane very luckily not piercing the steel hull, pumps were smashed, one of the main compasses was washed overboard, three lifeboats were damaged beyond repair and she rolled so much to each side that the deck railings came under water. Control was totally lost in very heavy seas. Over the next couple of days the crew worked tirelessly until May 2 to clear the fallen shattered masts and other wreckage as she drifted where ever the tides took her. On Tuesday May 3, with the weather abating, at 2.30pm, with six volunteers under the command of the Chief Officer George Smith with ten days provisions set out in the sole remaining life boat to head for land believed to be about 80-90 miles away.

*Cont over...*



By chance, on Friday 6th the crew of the Swedish steamer Tamanic under the command of Captain Hakamason, en route from Sydney to Adelaide, sighted and rescued the crew arriving at Port Philip Heads, Melbourne, on Saturday 7th, where she dropped off the rescued sailors to a pilot vessel and continued on its voyage.

At Melbourne, signals were exchanged with Sydney shipping agents and the tug Heroic set out, located the floating hulk east of Jervis Bay, NSW returning with the battered hulk and the remaining crew in tow to Sydney on 10th May. Later she was purchased by Dalgety and Coy, wool merchants of Sydney. In 1911 after being refitted over the next few years with engines and a new superstructure, and registered in Sydney she spent the next years carrying coal around the Australian coastline. The Loch Katrine's days of being under sail ended forever. An inglorious career for such a fine vessel.

In May 1924, the Loch Katrine was purchased by Burns Philp and Co. Ltd. and towed to Rabaul where for some years it was used as a coal lighter for ships of the Burns Philp line.

Former Warrant Officer, James Buckingham Stratton (1905-2007), of the New Guinea Police Force 1927 – 1929 whom I contacted in 2005 (UV March 2006) remembered conveying the ringleaders of the mutiny by the Rabaul native police and town labourers, under armed guard, to the Loch Katrine which was to become their temporary prison until relocated elsewhere in the Mandated Territory. Among those confined on the Loch Katrine was a Manus senior Sergeant Major N'Dramei (Rami), nominally the leader of the 200 native police taking part with numerous town labourers in the January 1929 Rabaul town mutiny.

Photo by Dr. H.C. Hosking, May 1937 (lost on MvMaru). At rear the "Golden Bear" and the "Montoro".

Courtesy of his daughter Mary Symons.<sup>9</sup> Interesting as this was about the time of the 1937 eruption



The Loch Katrine hulk was towed to Kopopo and a 1930's picture in Pacific Islands Monthly (August 1964) shows her used as a breakwater for the Burns Philp jetty near the company's store at Kokoko. Eventually she was towed and beached as a breakwater near Vunapope.

Having lost everything which storm, the intensive bombing of Japanese occupied Rabaul during WW2 and the natural ravages of the sea thrown at her, the rusting remains of the Loch Katrine may be around for a few years yet to come, before she finally slips silently below the waters which nearly claimed her more than a century before.



## **OUTSIDE: THE LIFE OF CTJ 'BILL' ADAMSON** **by Michael Bird**

Charles Thomas Johnston ('Bill') Adamson was born on January 17th, 1901 between the proclamation of Australian Federation on January 1st and the first Federal election in March. Bill's father was Charles Adamson, an Australian surgeon living in England and his mother was Margaret Johnson, a descendent of Sir John Murray a member of the Challenger oceanographic expedition of 1872. Bill was the elder brother of William and 'Bun' Adamson. Despite an excellent public school education at Sherborne School in Dorset, he turned away from family privilege upon graduation. After learning the wool trade at Bradford Technical College, he emigrated to Australia in 1923 to work with a shearing team, spending the next few years doing the rounds of the sheds in Queensland. After a period cutting cane in north Queensland he left for Papua to try his luck on the goldfields in 1926.

In Papua he prospected with variable success for the next decade, often the only European, many days from assistance in precipitous terrain. He came to know the Kunimaipa and Tinai Valleys, the Lakekamu goldfields and the Goilala like the back of his hand. Near Mondo on the Auga River he wrote of his prospecting:

*'Worked like a bastard all day and got a good bit of dirt through....Great prospects where Roy (Morris) was but I suppose it will be the usual thing... Wonderful weather and no rain all day. Feeling pretty tired and sore tonight but a man can work OK in this climate.'*

As the depression took hold he augmented his prospecting income by growing coconuts and then running mule transport. He provided transport first for the Archbold expedition to the summit of Mt Albert Edward in 1933 and then for the redoubtable woman entomologist Evelyn Cheeseman in 1934. Of 'Miss Cheese' as he called her he quickly came to the opinion

*'Miss Cheesman made a good trip of it... a good walker and is a game lady. Had a very interesting talk to her in the evening'*

In 1935 Bill joined the Papuan Government service as one of Sir Hubert Murray's 'Outside Men' and achieved a measure of fame for his part in the epic

eight month - and completely bloodless - Bamu-Purari Patrol into the Southern Highlands. This was the longest exploration in Papuan history and the first where an accurate map could be produced by virtue of the party being able to determine both latitude and longitude using radio time signals. At the end of this patrol he commented:

*'I can't say I feel too cheerful as it means the end of the freedom of the bush and the return to being a junior patrol officer again...a lamp arrived and it is a godsend after a month in the dark....So ends our period of privation on Xmas day!'*

After leave in the UK, he returned to government service and helped Ivan Champion open the Lake Kutubu Patrol Post – Bill's *'haven of tranquility'* in the Southern Highlands. Here he spent two continuous years patrolling into the southern highlands, involved in the business of 'first contact' on a daily basis.

At the beginning of WWII Bill joined the Australian Navy and served first on mine-sweepers in the English channel and Western Approaches, (*'The North Atlantic nearly killed me spiritually with its everlasting fogs, gales and cold...'*) then the flower class corvette H.M.S. 'Aster' and then in command a converted Norwegian whaler, the 'Silhouette', in the Indian Ocean. After Japan entered the war in 1942, Bill slowly made his way from Alexandria in Egypt, via Australia, to Papua where he served first as beachmaster at Oro Bay and later in command of the survey ship H.M.A.S. 'Stella' assisting the Allied offensive in New Guinea. In the final year of the war he assumed command of the H.M.A.S. "Taipan", one of the 'cloak and dagger' snake-boats of the Services Reconnaissance Department training out of Freemantle. Of his largely Malay crew drawn from the pearling fleet of Broome he later wrote:

*'I liked them very much. They were always spotless and better turned out than the white crew we carried to work the guns. They were also better seamen'*

After demobilization he returned to Papua in the Government service but found the post-war bureaucracy too hard to bear, leaving after less than a year to become

the owner of the Ou Ou Creek plantation near Kairuku, close to his prospecting base was of the early 1930s. After almost two decades at Ou Ou Creek, in the midst of a deteriorating personal and political situation, he made the decision to 'turn



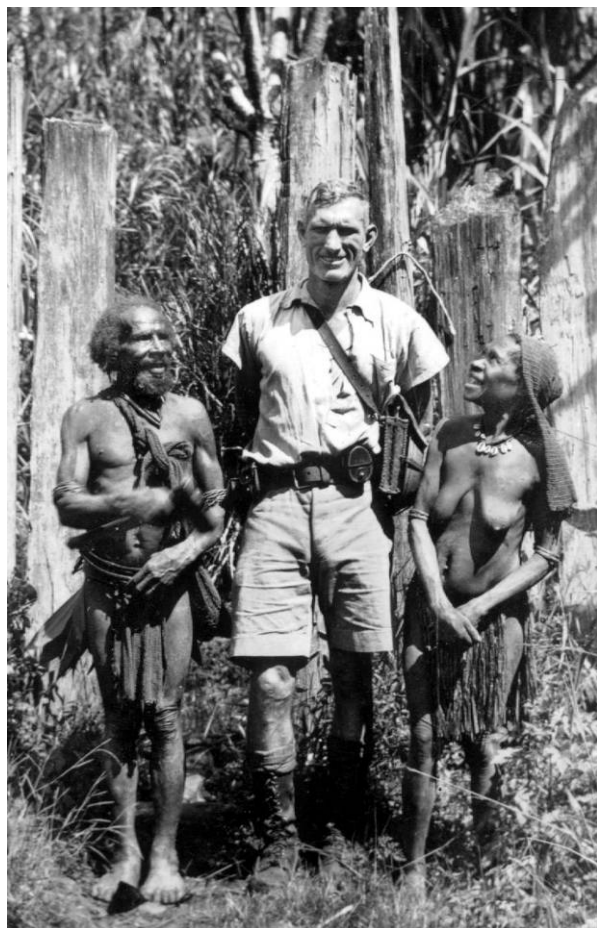
*down the page*’ moving to Cooktown in 1964. The estate of one of his cousins provided enough money to buy some land and, build a house he named ‘Kemenagie’ after the local name of a prominent peak near Lake Kutubu (the sign still hangs on the house to this day). He started recording the weather for the Bureau of Meteorology and in the dry season would take a run up Cape York in his land cruiser, making astrofixes of every campsite at night. He wrote to Syd Smith:

*‘I lead a very controlled life – the same thing at the same time every day – and the days pass very quickly. I have no one to argue with except the dog, since the poor old cat passed away last year at the age of 18’.*

His health began to fail and in 1978, shortly after he was married Patricia Hanush, he shot himself. He left a son, Charles, born of his relationship with Aiva Aua of Oroï village way back in 1933. He also left a surprisingly large circle of relatives for one who vowed never to continue the Adamson line. He is buried in the cemetery at Cooktown.

Bill was well educated and imbued with the ‘stiff upper lip’ values of the British Empire at the turn of the last century. He believed in judging a person by their actions rather than their words. He was a big man who valued sporting prowess, physical fitness and the capacity for hard work. When prospecting and patrolling in the Papuan bush, he carried a load along with his carriers and suffered incredible privations as a matter of course. He was awkward in company but greatly respected by his peers. He played the mandolin and practiced yoga on his verandah at Ou Ou Creek Plantation after the war.

Although he partly subscribed to the prevailing notion of innate European superiority over the ‘natives’ he lived for months at a time with no European



companions and established a deep rapport with indigenous labourers in his employ. Bill was the second best of the pre-war ‘Outside Men’ of the Murray administration of Papua, after Ivan Champion. He did not kill anyone ‘Outside’, although he did try, saying in his diary after an ‘affray’ in the Mubi Valley in 1939.

*‘I meant at the time to kill the bloke who rushed up to the crest but later on Atkinson found that the wind gauge of the rifle I used was out by 1°. This probably saved the man from an early death and myself from a magisterial enquiry’.*

Bill Adamson patrolling in the Augu Valley ex lake Kutubu Police Camp circa 1938.

Bill Adamson lives on in the diaries he wrote – almost a million words. These provide an exceptional window into experiences and attitudes shared by



many Australian men of the Federation generation, and which continue to shape contemporary Australian attitudes: drought, depression, itinerant jobs, the lure of gold and exploration, privation, war, relationships, mateship, reverence of Anzac Day and a cold beer.

Bill was an astute observer at many scales, from observations of his fellows and circumstances on a daily basis, to opinions of world affairs. He commented on events from the declaration of WWII:

*‘Germany has invaded Poland and war looks to be a certainty....I think we are for it this time... Apparently British ships are being torpedoed all over the place and I hope we have not been caught napping again’*

to the sacking of Whitlam (writing to Syd Smith):

*‘the roof certainly fell in on Whitlam... I was so staggered I thought a rum and milk was called for. As the full implications emerged I had another and so on until Dr. Pat and old Wakefield arrived to find me in a glow, so to speak...seems that Australia is not yet ready for Socialism. The local commos were staggered and one actually burst into tears at the pub. The hippy bludgers seem to be aware that all may not be as smooth as it has been for them...’*

In many ways Bill Adamson has sunk into history with barely a ripple, yet a fish *Haephaestis Adamsonii* – Adamson’s Grunter), a bird (*Coracina caeruleogrisea adamsonii*, the Stout-Billed Cuckoo-Shrike) and a grass (Admis grass, local name for molasses grass in the Auga valley) bear his name. For those who remember him, his name resonates as one of the greats of Papuan exploration between the wars.

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Presentation of the Queen’s 50 Year Jubilee Medal of St John Ambulance Papua New Guinea to Colonel Vlas Esfstathis OAM RFD (Retd), Chairman St John’s Ambulance, Australia (Queensland) at a function on 22 May 2012 in Brisbane hosted by Mr Paul Nerau OBE LLB, the Consul-General for Papua New Guinea





## **TUNNEL ADVENTURES IN RABAU by ROD PEARCE**

During the Japanese occupation of Rabaul in WWII, 300 - 500 kilometres of tunnels were dug into the volcanic soil around the Gazelle Peninsular and the caldera wall surrounding Rabaul Harbour. This was primarily to hide and protect the Japanese and their materials from Allied air-raids.

Most of the underground tunnels were dug during the period 1943 to early 1945. Many of the tunnels were dug by Indian, Korean, Indonesian and Chinese labour, captured in Malaysia, China and Singapore and transported to Rabaul. The majority of these were to die of disease, starvation, atrocities and overwork. The Japanese also used local Tolai labour from surrounding villages, as well as their own troops, who saw to the engineering and would at times work in the tunnels.

Allied POWs were also employed. Some 600 British POWs, who surrendered at Singapore were transported to Rabaul and forced to work for the Japanese before being shipped to Ballale in the Solomons to construct an airfield. At war's end in Rabaul 18 were found alive from those transferred. POWs at Ballale did not survive.

The Japanese had many small forges and made a lot of their own tools. They were masters at getting the job done. In the early days most of the picks and shovels were brought in by ships from Japan and Singapore. The POWs used these. Pick and mattock marks can still be seen on the tunnel walls.

The removal of tailings from smaller tunnels was by using woven bamboo or coconut frond baskets. Also used was a two wheel, wheelbarrow. In larger systems small trolley carts on rails and even sleds pulled by the workers were utilised.

On the Gazelle Peninsula 13 Army hospital complexes, housing over 4000 patients, were dug within 6-9 months. In the early days 1942/43 before going underground

these hospitals took troops from Guadalcanal, Bougainville,

Milne Bay, Buna/Kokoda and the New Guinea mainland.

The Navy also had two underground hospitals capable of 1000 patients each. At Gunanur the entrances were in a valley, with a small creek at the bottom which they had dammed to store



water.

There was a small paddle wheel to lift and divert water inside the system. This system had blast doors and electricity, powered by an onsite generator. Insulators could still be seen anchored to the cement walls, however the wire had long gone, although pieces could still be seen protruding from the insulators. Some of the chambers of this system were three metres high, with other smaller chambers going off at right angles from the main passage way. Steps with hand rails were easily defined which lead to exits along the valley floor. The immense tonnage of overburden showed up as "excavations sites" with the lighter colour pumice





showing up clearly against a jungle background. The Japanese hid the tailings by covering the piles with palm fronds.

I recently found a tunnel at the top end of Mango Avenue up against the caldera wall. Washed out in 2010, it had oil lamps and rotting wooden logs still in place, struggling to hold up the tunnel roof. At one stage electricity was used, as light bulbs were found bearing the Japanese characters

and the Japanese “Anchor”, symbol of the Imperial Japanese Navy (IJN)

Most of the larger tunnels or those that were deemed necessary were shored up by timbers. Most of these have now rotted away although evidence can still be seen of the support beams. The design of the tunnels was usually the same with curved or arched ceilings on all small earthen tunnels.

The larger ones were usually used to house supplies. The cement ones were also built with rounded ceilings with arched or flat ceilings complete with buttresses. Most were lit by coconut oil lamps. The more elaborate ones such as command complexes, had electricity. The oil lamps were set into the walls of the tunnels in little recesses, just large enough to hold an oil lamp. Normally lighting was poor, as was ventilation, causing the system to be musty and damp.



The tunnels had at least two exit doors separate from the main entrance in case of accidental cave-ins from allied bombings. There were sometimes many passage ways leading to underground chambers of various sizes for storage of ammunition, stores, sleeping quarters and also workshops as nothing could be done outside the system due to the frequent air raids. Most of them had exits close to AA positions or above ground installations.

Some of the larger tunnels were used to hide barges brought up on rails from the water 200 metres away. Up to five Japanese Daihatsu barges can still be seen inside a partly cemented tunnel on the road from Kokopo to Rabaul at the back of Vulcan. Other larger tunnels are at Blue Lagoon. These are huge tunnels, big enough to drive a truck into and were used as storage systems.

In a system close to the barge tunnels is a complete hospital, which covered three stories of tunnels along with tiled operating theatres, all dug into a near vertical wall of pumice, complete with stair cases and many chambers.

As a small boy growing up in Rabaul in the 50s I remember the tunnels and most of the kids played in them. Rabaul then was a little boy's delight. There are many tunnels within an easy walk of the Rabaul Hotel. The hotel also has its own underground bunker below the restaurant, now a pistol range. The New Guinea Club (now turned into a museum) has a deep cement bunker known locally as

Yamamoto's Bunker. There is a map of Simpson Harbour on the ceiling of the bunker. [Pict. Of Map.](#)

There is a fascinating tunnel system at the top of Tunnel Hill and the road to the Volcano Observatory, where the "Kempi Tai"(Japanese Military Police) had their headquarters.

This is also where the Allied prisoners few of whom survived the war, were quartered. Many references are found in books relating to the conditions of the POWs in the Tunnel Hill complex. Many died here from beatings, sickness and untreated wounds and the tunnels are a direct remainder of what they must have suffered.

At one complex opening, there is a system which not only housed the men and munitions, but was also used for cooking and even had a stream for water catchment area. The stream can still be seen today.

Deeper underground via a spiral stair case carved into the pumice going down 30 metres, you will find the passages are long and wide enough to drive a small vehicle through. Above ground, a spectacular view overlooks both sides of the caldera, Watom Island to the North and Simpson Harbour and the Beehives to the south.

There are another three entrances. On the walls of this tunnel, you can clearly see the marks left by the digging tools. There are also six 75mm high-elevation AAs, all aimed skyward, slowly rusting under a canopy of palm trees. [Pict of 6 AA guns](#)

On Namanula Hill, overlooking Simpson Harbour, we came upon several more tunnels, recently uncovered by the monsoonal rains. The entrances to these tunnels were concrete and had steel doors. On the first tunnel the doors had rusted away allowing us the opportunity just to look in. It was a small cement rendered cavern, going back no more than 20 ft. The end of it looked like it has been sealed off.

The next set of tunnels is further up the road. The road is now an overgrown track and about 12ft above what is now Namanula road. The first entrance was well hidden under a mound of dirt. The concrete arch way was just visible and we managed to crawl in backwards. This tunnel had a couple of corridors going off in different directions; some led to a dead end and others had had cave-ins where exits once existed.

These are the tunnels, my brother and I explored endlessly, back in the 50s.     ▪

Articles submitted for *Una Voce* are greatly appreciate and enjoyed by our readers. It is important that our members contribute memories of their time in PNG to preserve an important part of its history. Space is increasingly being challenged and we ask that contributors limit submissions to between 100-1500 words enabling variety in our journal. Longer articles will take longer to appear. Sometimes it may be possible to include an 'extract' in *Una Voce* whilst the longer article is published on the PNGAA website. For members not on computer, the longer article can be personally requested. Thank you for your assistance and understanding.



## **BADIHAGWA CEMETERY – PORT MORESBY**

### **C. WARRILLOW**

Earlier articles on this subject, by John Norton, are to be found in *Una Voce* issues 2 and 3 of 2006 and 3 of 2011. I spoke briefly with John Norton in Moresby when he visited in 2006.

My first interest in the old ‘European cemetery’ dates back to the late 1980s when fellow-former kiap and friend Dave Henton and I decided to locate former Lieutenant Governor Sir John Hubert Plunkett (‘Judge’) Murray’s grave. Our interest in Papuan history and re-reading of Canon Ian Stuart’s 1970 excellent book about Port Moresby was the catalyst.

It was the dry season and we wandered over all of the identifiable cemetery area. We too noted the absence of any plaques on headstones. It was obvious however that there had been various attachments in the past. We also noted the new graves - flower-covered fresh mounds and holes either partially dug or already dug. It was also obvious that some of the new graves were very, very close to older ones! A number of ‘newer’ graves were surrounded by their own individual fences/cages!



We enlisted the support of a couple of Goilala school drop-outs from the nearby squatter settlement who took an interest in our meanderings. Between us we failed to find Sir Hubert’s grave. We wandered back towards our car, planning to later use our contacts to enlist the help of an appropriate older resident of nearby Hanuabada. Back on the road an elderly Motu gentleman happened to pass as we neared our parked vehicle. After an exchange of a few words (in Motu) we were led a few meters to a site with a headstone lying flat across the few centimetres high cement-rimmed border of a grave.

With the old man’s help the three of us righted the headstone, and ... sure enough, the engraving confirmed that our goal had been successful. We secured it as best we could in the upright position and, satisfied with our achievement, left thanking our helper who appeared to be impressed both with the interest shown by the two taubadas and the fluent Motu of Henton in particular!

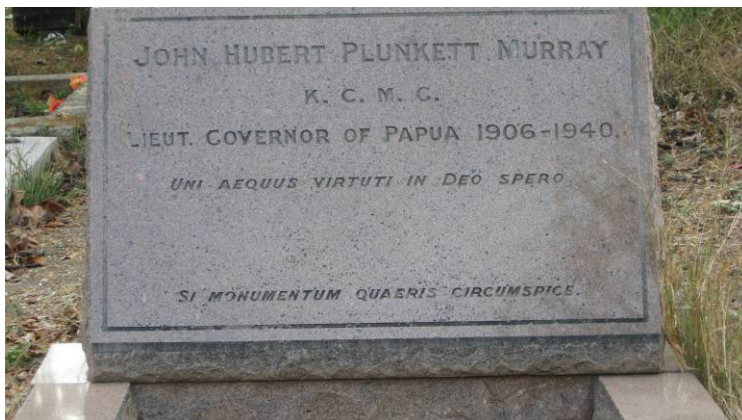


Much later, after Dave had left PNG, I happened to mention our discovery to my old friend and former-kiap Graham Pople, MBE. So, one Sunday we decided to pay another visit. It was the wet season and despite the site’s close proximity to the

road where we had parked our car it took a few minutes to re-locate the grave. Tall grass and even small shrubs covered just about everything except for the several new diggings and mounds.

At least the headstone was still erect!

Graham was a member of the Port Moresby Sub-Branch of the RSL (Canberra, ACT Branch). He was a National Serviceman in the mid 50s. Graham was on the aircraft carrier HMS 'Vengeance' on loan to the RAN to bring a squadron (77<sup>th</sup>) of RAAF Meteors back from Japan after



the Korean War. I had joined as an Associate Member. Monthly meetings were held in the Officers' Mess of the RPNGC Headquarters in Konedobu - the old RSL building at Ela Beach having burnt down and the Boroko Sub-Branch long since defunct. (The latter's premises, for a while, became the ex-seminarians' club).

The RSL had a small amount of cash reserves in its trust account which from time to time it used to donate to, or spend on, worthy causes such as subsidizing education expenses of descendents of PNG ex-servicemen. Another example was that of assisting a Policeman, blinded in the Bougainville conflict, who was able to come out of enforced retirement to become a radio operator at Rabaul Police Station after mastering Braille.

We put it to a meeting of the RSL that Sir Hubert's grave was worthy of maintenance and that a small amount be made available for such in light of his service in the Boer War. We further suggested that it would be nice to promote an interest amongst the students at the Badihagwa High School in the history of their Country. What we proposed was the donation of several books to the school, to be presented after a little '*tok-savi*'. Further that an offer be made of a small cash prize to the student who wrote the best essay on Sir Hubert and that the school be commissioned to keep the grave reasonably well maintained in return for regular donations of books to their library.

The Members at that meeting decided that it was probably more appropriate, and worthy of Sir Hubert, that his remains be exhumed and interred at Bomana War Cemetery where the grave could be properly maintained by the Australians. I objected to this explaining what Moresby meant to Sir Hubert and what was engraved on his headstone:

"Si monumentum quaeris circumspice" ("If you seek a monument look about you" – see Stuart, p. 132).

(In retrospect maybe Bomana is a more suitable location because, as Stuart notes, it does seem that Murray preferred being out of Moresby rather than in town!)

I was supported by Graham and another former-kiap and member of the RSL, Peter Turner and by John Meehan who, for a short time, was President. Long-time President John Mudge also agreed. The 'old-timers' were still in the majority just before the short-lived ECP disaster saw the RSL 'hi-jacked' by the influx of former and current servicemen and AFP peace-keepers etc from Australia who were



pouring into PNG and Moresby in particular. The Committee of 'B4s' was soon voted out!

So it was that Graham, Peter and I attended an assembly of teachers and students at the High School and spoke about Sir Hubert and a short history of Papua. We handed over half a dozen books I had accumulated from spares in my own collection or acquired from Bill McGrath's Pacific Book House. We mentioned the proposed prize for the best essay after any interested students had had time to read some of the books or parts thereof.

Our offer was graciously accepted and we departed after a vote of thanks, pledges of support from the staff and amongst applause from all in attendance.

A couple of weeks later a visit to the cemetery revealed a very tidy grave site, clear of any vegetation, amongst a sea of kunai and other vegetation. The cement borders were now revealed to be the tops of 'walls' above the a lower cement top of the grave which previously had, over the years, been hidden under perhaps 20 centimetres of accumulated earth and gravel.

The dry season came and went and within a couple of weeks of the onset of the next 'wet' the grave was obscured. Nothing had been heard from the school about any essays or further interest in receiving books on PNG.



My recent visits to the cemetery were in November, 2011 and February, 2012. The wet season was late arriving and even in early November the grave was clear and the cemetery looked somewhat parched. However, by February the grave was hidden in the usual seasonal vegetation but at least the headstone was still upright.

A metal fence had also been erected along two or three sections of the (apparent) boundary lines of the cemetery.

In Moresby in late April I was informed by my former kiap and politician Sir Barry Holloway that due to the (usual) disputes that had arisen (governments, landowners, squatters??) fencing work was still incomplete.

Reference/further reading: Stuart, Ian. *"Port Moresby yesterday and today"*. Pacific Publications, Sydney, 1970.

**MINUTES of the 61st ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the  
PNGAA  
HELD AT THE KILLARA GOLF CLUB, SYDNEY, ON 27 MAY 2012**

*Meeting opened at 11.40 am*

**Members Present** (as per Attendance Book): Pat Bradley, Ann Graham, Edna Oakes, George Oakes, Nick Booth, Marie Clifton-Bassett, John Mills, Harry West, John O'Dea, Joan Stobo, Graham Egan, Deveni Temu, Janet Dykgraaff, Rebecca Hopper, Paul Munro, Stuart Inder, Robin Mead, Pat Johnson, Ross Johnson, Kevin O'Connor, Oscar Oberholzer, Jan Kleinig, John Kleinig, Patricia Poircuitte, Julianne Allcorn, Clive Troy, Joe Nitsche, Pamela Foley, Nancy Johnston, Alan Johnston, Peter Coote, Kyran Lynch, Barbara Groenewegen, John Groenewegen, Amanda Warhurst, Iain Mitchell, Andrea Williams

**Apologies:** Jane & Dennis Doyle, Bob & Mary Young, Philip (Hooky) Street, Barbara Short, Jean Lowe, Laurie Kelly, Peter Marvell, David Campbell-Williams, Bob Cochrane, Barry Creedy, Anna Schaafsma, Russell Wade, Phil Ainsworth, David Chandler OAM, Liz Thurston, John Stevenson, Joan Colman

**Confirmation of Minutes of 60<sup>th</sup> AGM** – *Moved G Oakes, seconded J Allcorn, that these Minutes be confirmed* – Carried

**Business Arising from the Minutes: Nil**

**A/President's Report:** The A/President prefaced her report with a tribute to renowned Territorian, Lloyd Hurrell, who passed away this week. The report was received with acclamation (reprinted at the end of these Minutes) – *Moved R Mead, seconded E Oakes, that the report be accepted*. Carried

**Special Resolution for alteration of the Association's Rules as per Notice published in *Una Voce* March 2012:** The A/President called on committee member P Munro to give an overview of the proposed amendments as listed in Attachment A, and distributed to all members in the mail-out of the March issue of *Una Voce*. Comments on the proposed changes were sought from the floor; one member asked for clarification re electronic banking – the procedure and cross checks were explained.

**Voting:** Dr Denis Chow and Mr Lawrence Chow had been asked to act as independent scrutineers to count the proxy votes with the returning officer. The A/President then asked all those in favour of the Special Resolution to raise their hands – a large majority voted in favour. She then asked those against to raise their hands – none voted against.

The President announced the overall result as follows:

Total valid proxy votes – 61, of which 60 were in favour and 1 against

Total floor votes – 33, all in favour

Therefore of 94 valid votes, 93 were in favour and 1 against

The A/President moved a vote of thanks to the returning officer and scrutineers.

**The A/President confirmed that the Special Resolution had been passed.**

**Treasurer's Report and adoption of Audited Financial Statements:** A Williams explained that, in taking on the role of A/President she also undertook the responsibility of Treasurer until an incoming treasurer was confirmed by the Management Committee. This coincided with the 2011 Financial Report. She then presented the financial report for the year ended 31 December 2011. This included statements covering Income & Expenditure, Assets & Liabilities and the Auditor's

Report (an abridged version of these financial statements is shown on p62) R Mead enquired how this report compared with the previous Annual Report - A Williams replied that there was no large (Coastwatcher) function as there had been in 2010 and there was a difference in Insurance cost as two payments were made in 2011 at beginning and end of year, otherwise it was fairly similar. Another query concerned payment of income tax, and R Johnson explained that we pay income tax on our bank interest and on profit from sales of 'Walk into Paradise'. *Moved R Johnson, seconded J Dykgraaff that the Financial Report as presented be accepted – Carried*

**Certificate required by Section 27 (1) (b) of the Associations Incorporation Act 2009:** J Mills *moved* that the meeting authorise Andrea Williams, A/President, and Nick Booth, Treasurer, to sign the documents required by the Department of Fair Trading concerning incorporated organisations. *Seconded J Nitsche – Carried*

**Correspondence:** M Bassett said that most of the correspondence concerned membership status or fees, and any matters needing special attention had been dealt with by the Management Committee. She once again thanked Ann Graham for her continued dedication to her role in the day-to-day running of the Association and for her help and support generally.

**Election of Honorary Auditor:** Len Bailey, who has been our Hon. Auditor for many years, has kindly offered himself for re-election. *Moved R Johnson, seconded H West, that this appointment be confirmed – Carried*

**General discussion:** R Mead suggested we examine alternative luncheon venues as some people found the Killara Golf Club fairly expensive. There were comments from the floor in favour of, and against, the present venue. It was agreed that R Mead and P Johnson, along with Rebecca Hopper, look into the suitability of other venues and report back to the Committee. Robin Mead proposed a vote of thanks to the committee.

*The meeting closed at approx. 12.20 pm.*

### **A/PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Andrea Williams**

I welcome you to the 61<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Papua New Guinea Association of Australia...and a special welcome to those who have travelled far.

**Firstly, I would like to reflect on the highlights of this past year** - most importantly, the tremendous spirit of camaraderie and friendship we have all enjoyed at our functions.

Much behind the scenes work is always occurring and, with support from the committee, Nick Booth has been working on a search and retrieval facility based on the index previously compiled by Ross Johnson and Nancy Johnston and journals that Keith Jackson arranged to have scanned. I have the pleasure of announcing that we now have an amazing and valuable resource on our website. PNGAA members can now obtain an electronic copy of any issue of *Una Voce* from 1978 to the present, and can also search to find articles by title or author. Please use it and recommend the PNGAA (and membership) to others!

Congratulations to Dr Peter Cahill – this year, 2012, the PNGAA Collection in the Fryer Library at the University of Queensland celebrates a milestone – it is 20 years since Dr Peter Cahill and Doug Parrish embarked on the journey of preserving this valuable social history. We appreciate the ongoing support from the Fryer Library which enables the Collection to expand, recognising the important role Australians have played in PNG. Dr Cahill and I met with Laurie McNiece, Manager of the

Fryer Library in early February this year with a view to progressing the digitisation of the collection. The current goal is an online exhibition but it will need assistance through external funding sources.

We are grateful that Tim Terrell continues to capably represent our superannuated members on the Australian Council of Public Sector Retiree Organisations (ACPSRO) in Canberra. ACPSRO and its other major Federal member organizations (Superannuated Commonwealth Officers Association -SCOA - and Defence Force Welfare Association- DFWA) continue the campaign for fair indexation (and fair taxation) of Commonwealth superannuation.

The Association has a large administrative function which requires constant time and attention. The committee has been greatly supported by the Lindfield Executive Centre. This relationship has continued to give our administrative functions stability and is invaluable in ensuring the smooth ongoing operation of the association.

Following the resignation of Dennis Doyle as President last December, I was appointed by the committee to fill this vacancy. Dennis' enthusiastic efforts for the Association oversaw the integration of the business centre - a major achievement. Whilst I have continued with the editing of *Una Voce* this situation is not sustainable for the long term. As this is my ninth year of editing *Una Voce* I am sure it would benefit from a fresh approach, so the hunt is on for a new editor!

I have been privileged that Ross Johnson and Stuart Inder, in particular, have been generous in their assistance and advice with *Una Voce*. Our contributors make *Una Voce* and I thank them all wholeheartedly. *Una Voce* wouldn't reach the members without all the Sydney helpers who gather together to pack *Una Voce* for postage. Helpers are always welcome and it can be quite a social morning at Harry West's residence - I encourage you to come along.

Today we are going to address a few updates to the Rules of the Association. These are needed to ensure that we keep up to date with today's technology and realise the increasing demands on, and time limitations of, volunteers. I thank Paul Munro for his great assistance with this.

In 2013 we will be increasing the membership subscription by \$5 pa to \$30 a year. Since the last increase at the start of 2009 we have introduced the business centre, we have annual storage costs for our archives and we have improved our web facility.

**Recently I was asked what the 'raison d'être' of the association is.** Of course it is the incredible network of people from diverse backgrounds, all of whom have shared the joys and adventures of life in PNG. It will always hold a special place in our hearts or we wouldn't be here. This network is the basis of strong friendships and a deep and enduring bond between the peoples of PNG and Australia – so how best can we use it to further that relationship? Time and time again we hear how the grass roots links are the important ones.

Perhaps we can reflect on some of the activities of our members. George and Edna Oakes have regularly, over many years, kindly opened their home so that members can enjoy a spring day in the Blue Mountains. Our South Australian members gather for an annual luncheon thanks to the efforts of several members. In his regular and slightly sardonic *Una Voce* writings, Jim Toner keeps us informed of the many closely knit ex Papua New Guinea residents who now call the NT their home. It would be good to see more regional gatherings, formal or informal, so please consider hosting something in your area and let us know so that it can be included in *Una Voce*.

We have members involved in a range of voluntary efforts which contribute to strengthening the civil links between Australia and PNG. These might be philanthropic efforts, recognition of our joint history or providing forums that raise awareness of the many links between our countries. No doubt there are many opportunities where our members could assist. Goods are sent to PNG through Rotary, members are involved in Australian Business Volunteer assignments; there are the monthly *Memories* gatherings in Brisbane organised by Jim Burton; the successful Oro Community Development Project which ties together education, health and agriculture...and the wonderful initiative, the Crocodile Prize, created by Keith Jackson and Phil Fitzpatrick which encourages PNG writers.

PNGAA Committee member Phil Ainsworth is also President of both the PNGVR Ex Members Association and the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Society. The PNGVR has an extraordinary PNG historical museum in Brisbane which is highly recommended for a visit – or if you have some spare time to assist, I'm sure John Holland who curates the Museum would welcome it.

This year is the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of WWII coming to the then Australian territory of Papua New Guinea. A major achievement, involving many of our members and myself, will be the dedication of the *Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Memorial* at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra on the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the sinking of the *Montevideo Maru*, 1 July 2012. This has been generously supported by several stakeholders including the PNGAA. I have had the privilege of working with Phil Ainsworth, Don Hook, past PNGAA President Keith Jackson, Clive and Harriet Troy, Liz Thurston, Frazer Harry and other PNGAA members - all of whom have contributed a great effort to raise the \$400,000 needed to ensure that the men who died in the New Guinea islands in WWII will not be forgotten.

Recognition by both the PNG and Australian Governments in the form of \$100,000 grants each towards the memorial reflected the respect they placed on this part of our joint history. I especially thank His Excellency Charles Lepani, PNG High Commissioner to Australia, for his interest and support.

In April I attended the *Papua New Guinea: Securing a Prosperous Future Conference* in Geelong. Again, it was pleasing to see that members of the PNGAA contributed to this successful forum. One of the many highlights was a discussion by several prominent journalists about why the Australian media tends to generally ignore PNG. There are geopolitical issues – there is more interest in the Middle East which has potential for broader issues; PNG is a challenging and expensive place to work – and expensive to travel around in comparison – so there is a disincentive to fund assignments there. It appears that PNG has not impacted on our consciousness. As our nearest neighbour and with our strong historical connection this needs to change.

We enjoy hearing about the many activities of our members so please tell us in order that other members can know about the wide range of grass roots links and have the option to support them should they choose.

It is pleasing that our membership has remained stable during 2011. Pam Foley is kept busy sending birthday cards to 20% of our members who are over 80 years. Sadly, we have also lost many members and our thoughts are especially with those who have lost loved ones during the year. I am grateful to Ann Graham who writes the beautiful notes on behalf of the PNGAA.

Whilst it is understandable that 70% of our membership is in the 60-80 year age group, we have just under 9% younger than 60. With the great interest, generally, from all those who have lived in PNG or been touched by visits to this diverse



country, there is no longer a reason why the membership percentage is so low in this under 60 category.

**We need to improve contemporary knowledge and understanding between Australia and PNG at a community level.** Many of the X and Y generations in Australia have no idea of Australia's historical role in PNG. The Australian curriculum let us down, despite huge efforts to shake the review committee into including more relevant content.

When our Association was formed by members of the former PNG administration the principal common interest and purpose was safeguarding superannuation benefits. Our members are now from diverse backgrounds and the PNGAA's focus has evolved to a more social and historical context.

We have a broad, intelligent, interesting and active membership with connections in a wide variety of fields. Our network brings people together whether it's through the journal, through the website or through the wonderful lunches. Our history shows us that there are generations of people who have lived in PNG and have a strong connection with it.

How do we continue to make the PNGAA appeal to people of diverse backgrounds of varying age groups who all have a close affinity with PNG, whether they have lived there or simply visited?

Attracting and maintaining the interest of this contemporary membership ...people who want to proactively strengthen the civil relationship between Australia and PNG...is something we all need to address.

I have just returned from a visit to Rabaul. It still has enormous beauty and friendly people. Yes, it has its challenges, but PNG is a wonderful country. Those of us who had the privilege of living there have a special relationship with each other and with PNG so, if you haven't been recently, I encourage you to save up and get to know it again!

Voluntary associations need people to be committed to achieving outcomes for the success of the organisation. I thank each and every one of our supportive committee for their very many contributions which are especially appreciated by me – Phil Ainsworth, Juli Allcorn, Nick Booth, Marie Clifton-Bassett, Gima Crowdy, Pamela Foley, Paul Munro and Deveni Temu. I also thank Len Bailey for his time and contribution in auditing our financial statement.

Past committee members Ross Johnson, Ann Graham and Harry West unhesitatingly continue to provide generous assistance proving how important an extension to the committee is. Having worked closely with Ross for a number of years - be assured that he continues to be a valuable part of the association in a variety of areas. I thank all those who help on sub-committees of the association in various ways – people who are happy to contribute or have particular skills which benefit the committee and the association.

Reflecting on this past year demonstrates the dynamic group we have and its enormous potential to strengthen the networks and links between our two countries. Please encourage people you know to become members of this wonderful association so that it continues to remain the focal point for those who have had the unique experience of calling PNG 'home' or sharing in its adventures and beauty. ■

# ABRIDGED AUDITED ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

**For year ended 31 December 2011**

## 1. Statement of Income and Expenditure

2010 (\$)	INCOME	2011 (\$)
801	Donations	2,254
8,918	Functions (gross receipts - AGM & Xmas)	9,534
22,558	Special Function (Coastwatchers)	
1,696	Interest	2,231
34,737	Membership Subscriptions	34,582
2,655	Trading activities – Book and DVD sales (net)	1,339
71,365	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	49,940
	<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	
4,966	Administration Expenses	6,947
636	Caring Committee	-
805	Depreciation	753
9,038	Functions (expenditure – AGM & Xmas)	9,244
17,505	Special Function (Coastwatchers)	-
1,012	Income Tax	855
6,840	Secretarial	8,770
4,767	Storage	886
-	Subscriptions	130
5,052	Donations (Coastwatchers)	-
18,766	Una Voce – printing & distribution	17,309
-	Web Site	541
69,387	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	45,435
1,978	Surplus / (Deficit) transferred to Members Funds	4,505

## 2. Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31 December 2011

2010 (\$)		2011 (\$)
39,795	<b>Current Assets</b>	13,280
32,704	Cash at Bank	5,957
6,851	Stock on hand	6,795
240	Accounts Receivable	528
45,029	<b>Investments</b> - Term Deposits	65,029
869	<b>Fixed Assets</b> (written-down value)	116
85,693	<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	78,425
35,534	<b>Current Liabilities</b>	23,431
7,703	Accounts Payable	-
350	Provision for Audit Honorarium	350
1,012	Provision for Income Tax	855
5,052	Prov. for Donation (Rabaul & MvM Society)	-
21,457	Subscriptions in Advance (next 12 months)	22,226
10,180	<b>Long Term Liabilities</b> -	11,957
10,180	Subscriptions in Advance (> next 12 months)	11,957
45,754	<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	35,388
39,940	<b>NET ASSETS</b>	43,037
	Represented by –	
30,552	General Reserve (see Note over page)	28,230
8,264	Historical Preservation Reserve	10,302
1,978	Net Surplus (Deficit) for Year	4,505
504	Prior year adjustment	
39,940	<b>TOTAL MEMBER FUNDS</b>	43,037

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

## Note to the Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31 December 2011 Movements in the General Reserve - 2011

	\$	\$
<b>General Reserve as at 31 December 2010</b>		29,194
<b>Plus -</b>		
Transfer of surplus from 2010 financial year operations	1,978	
Badges expensed during 2009 financial year	504	
	<u>2,482</u>	
Sub-total		31,676
<b>Less -</b>		
One-off cost of Indexing all Una Voce Journals on Website (*)	1,409	
Transfer of net proceeds (2010) from 'Walk Into Paradise' DVD sales	2,037	
	<u>3,446</u>	
<b>General Reserve as at 31 December 2011</b>		28,230

(\* rounding adjustment of \$1)

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

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

Ron was born in Elsternwick, Victoria and educated at Brighton and Caulfield Grammar. A member of the AIF from 1946 to 1948, Ron served with the Australian Contingent (Cipher Unit) of the British Commonwealth Occupation Forces in Japan.

After leaving the Army, Ron spotted an advertisement for Patrol Officers in Papua New Guinea and began a career that spanned 25 years with early postings in the Sepik. It was while at a course at ASOPA in 1955 that Ron met Shirley Leese. They married in December 1955 before returning to his first posting as a married officer to Ihu. Over the years, Ron, Shirley and their family lived at Baniara, Trobriand Islands, Minj, Kokoda, Mendi and finally in Port Moresby. Like many expats, Ron chose the 'golden handshake' and returned to live on the Gold Coast following PNG's Independence.

In the early 1980s, the Orwins relocated to Melbourne where Ron worked as an officer with the Australian Protective Services until his retirement and subsequent 'final posting' in Loganlea, Brisbane. As the National Secretary, BCOF Executive Council of Australia, retirement was a full time commitment in their endeavours to ensure members' recognition for services and entitlements. As a result of his work for BCOF, Ron was nominated and awarded an Australian Centenary Medal.

The last three years presented lots of major health problems, but Ron just dealt with each new challenge with dignity and resolve. Ron passed peacefully at Greenslopes Private Hospital with Shirley, as in their life together, by his side. Ron is survived by his wife Shirley, his four children Suzanne, Stephen, Brett and Andrew, and his five much loved grandchildren, Annice, Britany, Chanel, Mitchell and Kristin.

Suzanne Johnson (nee Orwin)

**Edward (Ted) Gordon COLLIS** (24<sup>th</sup> August 2011, aged 92 years)

After serving in the AIF overseas in England and Papua New Guinea, Ted was approached by his Colonel to return to PNG to help rebuild Lae. He worked in the sawmill at Yalu and Lae and then moved to Bulolo to take charge of the nursery for the Forestry Dept. After 30 years (1975), he retired to Bribie Island with his wife Norma and two children Cheryl and Greg. For the last 20 years he and Norma resided at the RSL Retirement Village. He enjoyed an active life in the community until the last 18 months when he suffered mini strokes and leg ulcers.

He is survived by his wife Norma, children Cheryl and Greg, 5 grandchildren and 2 great-granddaughters.

Cheryl Collis

**Dave KESBY** (29 April 2012, aged 68 years) – we hope for further details next issue.

**Dr Ona Roma CAVILL** (nee Varoneckas) 14/09/1937 – 03/05/2012.

Resident in PNG from 1962 Port Moresby and Mount Hagen left 1974;

**Dr John JAMESON** (26 May 2012)

John was the medical officer at Minj in 1956/57.

**Marjorie DEASEY** (May 2010, aged 99 years)

**Nell GREATHEAD** (February 2012, aged 95 years)

**Rev Wesley LUTTON**

**Lee HUXLEY** (12 January 2012)

**Ted HIGGIN**

**Barry Downes** (20 February 2012)

**Dave PERMEZEL** (12 April 2012) was born in Queenstown Tasmania, where his father was a Bank Manager. He was educated there and in Launceston. He went to PNG as a Cadet Patrol Officer at the age of twenty, and served in several districts, including the Southern Highlands, New Ireland, Morobe, Milne Bay and East Sepik. He established the patrol post at Kandep, now in Enga Province. I believe his last posting was as Deputy District Commissioner in the Western District. After retirement he managed and co-owned a coconut plantation in southern New Ireland. From there he moved to Madang where he worked with Graham Tuck in the training college for local patrol officers.

Dave was a keen sailor, and while based in Lae built a sailing boat based on the Ware Island cutter design. I believe he subsequently sailed it to Madang, Wewak and Manus.

After leaving PNG Dave moved to the Northern Territory, where he worked as a field officer with the Department of Local Government, based in Katherine, Nhulunbuy and Darwin.

Dave was a natural linguist and spoke French and Bahasa fluently. His last years were marked by a succession of health problems, all of which he bore stoically. He died peacefully in Royal Darwin Hospital. He is survived by his wife Maria from Aitape, and his three sons Stephen, Christopher and Andrew. He was cremated at a private ceremony in Darwin on 18 April, and in accordance with his wishes his ashes will be scattered at sea off Aitape.

He was a good friend of mine, and his erudition and dry sense of humour will be sadly missed.

Patrick Somers, Darwin

**John Patrick RING** (February 12 2012--- Aged 80 years)

John joined the RPNGC in July 1961 after an eight year career in the Victoria Police in which he served in uniform and as a member of the Consorting Squad in the CIB.

His first posting to PNG was to Kokopo where he spent four months before being transferred to open the station at Keravat where he stayed for four years. He retained fond memories of Keravat although it had its moments and he wasn't afraid to tell a story against himself.

In an attempt to apprehend a peeping tom who had been active in the town, John positioned himself and his native police in strategic hiding spots around the area at night. Unfortunately he discovered too late that his own allocated position was on top of a fiery ants nest. Although they nabbed the peeping tom, he later admitted it wasn't his most memorable 'pinch.'

Acknowledging local practice he once arrived home with a small crocodile which had been presented to him as a gift by a local village chief. After he explained that it would have been offensive not to accept the crocodile his apprehensive family asked him what he intended to do with it. He told them he thought he might put it in the bird cage.

"What about the birds," came the shocked reply.

"They'll just have to fly higher."

He later told them he'd in fact released it in a swamp not far from the house, which hardly set their minds at rest.

Moving to Lae in 1965 he joined the Special Branch, ( sometimes referred to as the ASIO equivalent) at a time of Confrontasi by the Soekarno regime in Jakarta. Presumably their role was to keep an eye on any local 'political problems' which might develop, along with what was happening on the other



side of the border, although he never talked about it much. But while he took his Special Branch role seriously, he wasn't above exercising his healthy sense of humour when the opportunity arose.

On one occasion he asked the local editor of the Lae Times Courier if he could interview the incoming crew of the regular Merpati Nusantara DC3 to see if he could glean some information about reported unrest in Sukarnapura in recent days. As he explained, it would be difficult for him to do it but easy for a journalist, who might get a story out of it anyway. He also asked whether it might be possible for a picture to be taken of the airline's pilots 'for his files.'

After an interview with the pilots in their room at the Cecil Hotel, the reporter couldn't believe his luck when they agreed to a photograph in front of their aircraft before they departed next morning. Intending to keep the photo opportunity as a surprise for John, the reporter kept the next morning's rendezvous to himself and duly walked the full length of the Lae airport flight line next morning to take the shot. Later that day our intrepid newspaper man went around to the Special Branch office to part with the few tidbits of information he'd received about any across -the-border problems and announced proudly he'd managed to take a photograph as well.

"Yep, I know." came the quick reply, quietly sliding a black and white photo of the reporter, camera in hand, blithely striding towards the Merpati DC3 that morning. His Special Branch offsider Buka had been hiding behind a croton bush outside the airport fence.

Since John himself was already known locally as 007, thereafter the reporter unfortunately earned the title—at least in the Special Branch—as 006 1/3.

John took over as OIC Lae police in January 1969 and, for interest, his notes show the following people on the staff, presumably on or around that time: Pat Barry, W.J. Jackson, Steve Watkins, John Biggs, Andy Sterns, Bob Daniel, Peter Lenahan, Mike Grant, Ron Curtis, Peter Hewitt, Rogers, Stone, Read, Pearson, Fred Towner, Mick Gallen, Robbie Robertson, Vern McNeil, John Monk, Fred Thompson, Spencer, Mike Cowell.

He was transferred to Kieta in October 1969 and after a short stint there retired from the RPNGC and subsequently joined Bechtel- WKE handling security and Industrial relations on the Bougainville Copper project.

Returning to Australia in 1972 and subsequently went on to work with Bechtel in Victoria, South Australia and Pannawonica in WA until, in 1981 he seized the chance to return to PNG with Bechtel at Kiunga on Stage 1 of the Ok Tedi construction project, then it was back to Millaa Millaa in Queensland, before returning again to Port Moresby as Human Resources Manager for Chevron Niugini P/L.

John and his wife Marion retired in 1994 before settling first in Anglesea, Victoria and later Aspendale Gardens and Keysborough.

Although generally a person who talked rarely about himself (very few knew of his three commendations for criminal investigative work as a detective in the Victoria Police Consorting Squad), he made no secret of enjoyment of the PNG years and the many friends he made there, both expat and local.

While ill health in recent years reduced his mobility, it didn't stop him keeping a close watch on events in PNG, a country for which he retained a great affection. He is survived by his wife Marion, a former wife Nan, son Trevor and daughters Jennifer and Maree. A former wife Jean, and a son John, predeceased him.

Jim Eames (006 1/3)

**JUNE PATRICIA DENNIS (BURGIS)** (6 January 2012, aged 92 years)

June was born 26<sup>th</sup> June 1919 at Ryde Private Hospital. She had a large loving family and grew up in Sydney. When June was a young woman she modelled for David Jones before the war and was asked to go to France to model; for those of you who knew June you would understand that, she was a beautiful woman, but the impending war put a stop to it. During the war she worked for the British Admiralty Office and the US Army Office.



June met Peter (John Clifford Dennis) just back from the Desert and married in 1944. In 1946 Michael, their first child, was born in Sydney and three months later June and Michael sailed up to New Guinea on the *MV Montoro*, the first commercial run to PNG since the war. I remember her telling us the ship was full of young war brides and their babies and when they arrived in Lae the Japanese POW's were being used as labourers in cleaning up the war torn town. Peter and June lived in Bulolo for a couple of years and Margie was born at Wau hospital. (Incidentally, Margie became the 6<sup>th</sup> generation Islander, with Peter's long family history in the Fiji Islands.) Peter's great aunt was the wife of the second Governor in New Guinea, Sir William McGregor.

June and Peter then moved to another opportunity in Rabaul to develop a cocoa and coffee plantation at Keravat just opposite the Keravat Agriculture Station. This plantation was called *Kareeba* and they literally carved the plantation out of the jungle. The environment was tough and hard and June lost four children due to rough roads, snake bites and floating down a flooded river on a bamboo raft to get to medical attention in Rabaul. Finally, after staying at the Ascot Hotel [on the site of the current Rabaul Hotel] for weeks beforehand, Jenny was born in 1958 safely!! Despite the isolation they made many lifelong friends and had a very interesting life. The three of us would never have wished for a more amazing childhood. June then worked in Burns Philp in Rabaul, which she loved, and everybody would remember her vivacious laugh. In this position she excelled, becoming the buyer for Mikimoto pearls and French perfumes for Burns Philp.

They then moved to Port Moresby for a couple of years while Peter worked for DASf before retiring to Mosman NSW in 1975. When grandchildren were being born in South Australia they moved there to be near them. In 1980 Peter died, so June moved back to her beloved Sydney before returning to Adelaide again when she fully retired. She lived in her independent unit at Kalyra Belair right up until she had her stroke and two years later passed away on the 6<sup>th</sup> January this year.

Always a cheery and positive person who loved life despite the hardships - a typical type of lady who lived in New Guinea in the early days, they were a special breed!

June is survived by Michael and Annie, Margie and David and Jenny. Her five grandchildren, Sarah, Jodie, Sean, James and Simon and six great grandchildren. Loved by many, missed terribly.

Margie Lindsay

**Billy JOHNS** (1 May 2012)

Bill was a Tasmanian and was originally a timpanist with the Tasmanian Orchestra. He was Chief Pilot for Territory Airlines in the mid-1950s, then went to MAL which became Ansett MAL, then to Air Niugini when the National Airlines was formed (in 1972?) where Bill flew DC3s, Fokker F27 and F28 aircraft.

Upon retiring from Air Niugini Bill flew King Air airline aircraft for Flight West Airlines in Queensland in 1987 and 1988.

Bob Fulton (PNG 1963 - 1985)

**Maria Louise SZENT-IVANY** (nee Csikszebtsimoni Lakatos) (9 March 2012 aged 92 years)

Wife of Joseph Szent-Ivany, (Entomologist DASF) resident in Papua New Guinea from 1957 to 1966

Born in Budapest, Hungary in 1919, Maria Szent-Ivány spent some of her childhood in Czechoslovakia where her father was a Military Attaché, and shorter periods in France and Switzerland. She matriculated in Miskolc, Hungary, and attended a prestigious graphic art school, which eventually led to her career as a scientific illustrator. In 1940 she married Dr JJH (Joseph) Szent-Ivány, an entomologist (see his obituary in PNGAA website), but WWII separated them for twelve years. In 1944 even scientists were called up for service so Joe went to war. He visited Maria and their two children, Ildikó (Ildi) and baby Joseph in January 1945. It was the last time he saw baby Joseph. The end of the war saw him in Germany, but he could not get home as previous trainloads of repatriated people disappeared into Siberia. Joe came to Australia in 1950 then in 1954 he went to TPNG. Meanwhile back in Hungary Maria lost her baby son, found their apartment war-damaged and stayed with extended family in the country. In 1947 we moved to Budapest where I started school. Meanwhile the communist regime confiscated everyone's property so Maria's parents and aunt and uncle came to Budapest and we all moved in together. In 1951 we were sent into internal exile. By this time Maria was established as one of the top scientific illustrators in Hungary, but after more than two years of hard manual labour she lost her touch. Fortunately with time and support from the publisher she had worked for she recovered. By 1956 she had a number of natural history books to her name both with black and white illustrations and colour plates. Her illustrations also appeared in textbooks. I was very proud of having my mother's name in my school books.

Then came 1956. We stood up to the Russians and demanded that they leave. They withdrew. The euphoria was overwhelming. Then Suez. The Russians returned with a vengeance, while the world's attention was somewhere else. It was the end of everything, our dreams of independence and our hope of reuniting our family in Hungary. It was also a new beginning. Maria decided to take action and flee her homeland, leaving everything and everyone behind, including her beloved parents. We escaped with her brother and family to Vienna. She had her fears. She left her homeland, perhaps forever. After 12 years and a million miles away, would she and Joe still work out?

Maria and Joe were reunited on 1 March 1957 in Melbourne and after a week there and a week in Sydney we flew to Port Moresby on a DC3 doing an ear popping milk run. We arrived in Port Moresby at 6am in pitch dark and the heat and humidity hitting us like a brick wall at the door of the plane. Will we ever get used to this?

Having been cheated of a normal family life in their prime, Maria and Joe spent the next 31 years in perfect harmony, sharing their work, their faith, their adventures, their very Hungarianness in a culture different to their own. In PNG Maria was drawing maps in the Lands Department, but also continued her illustrating whenever she could. Once she received a UNESCO commendation for her work.

Maria loved her time in PNG. She adored her tropical garden. Coming from a landlocked country she was amazed at the experience of living on an island. She loved and understood the indigenous people. She loved the diversity of the expats. Shortly before they went finish Maria's father came to visit them. He had been Prime Minister of Hungary for a short time during the war - now, 20 years later he visited this tropical paradise most Europeans at the time could only dream of.

Unlike Maria, he enjoyed the climate. In 1966 they retired to Adelaide to be near family. Maria continued her illustrating at the Herbarium and at the Waite Institute. One of her biggest projects in Adelaide was the *Solanum* book with over two hundred illustrations. Maria and Joe undertook several study trips after retirement to the British Museum and at the Wau Ecology Institute of the Bernice P Bishop Museum of Hawaii, of which Joe was an associate. Maria assisted him in the preparation of insects as well as illustrations. In Wau the Institute established the Szent-Ivány Laboratory in their honour.

They embraced their new homeland and made their contribution to PNG and to culturally diverse Australia. Maria was an understanding, loving, supportive and caring person and everyone who knew her loved her. She is greatly missed by family and friends in Australia, Hungary and the United States. *Ildi Wetherell, daughter*

### **Hyland Neil (Hank) NELSON**

(17 February 2012 aged 74 years)

Professor Hank Nelson of the Australian National University died in Canberra on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February after a long battle with cancer. His was a life focussed on both Papua New Guinea and Australia, and it was the relationship between the two that nourished his intellect. His books, including *Black, White and Gold: Goldmining in Papua New Guinea, 1878-1930* and *Taim Bilong Masta: the Australian involvement with Papua New Guinea*, established for him a reputation as the foremost historian of Papua New Guinea. His work on Australian involvement in the



Pacific War and the impact of that war on the peoples of Papua New Guinea drew upon and refined his skills in oral history, as with the 1982 documentary *Angels of War*, which won awards both from the Australian Film Institute and at the Nyon Film Festival in Switzerland. That work led to his involvement in the preparation of displays and sound archives of the Australian War Memorial. Hank Nelson wanted history to serve a broader purpose, and he wrote not just for his colleagues or his profession but for a wider public. His three books published by the ABC and the associated radio series exemplified this approach, above all *Taim Bilong Masta: The Australian Involvement with Papua New Guinea*, ABC, 1982, which told the story in large part through people's reminiscences.

Hank Nelson was born on October 21st 1937 in Boort, country Victoria. His parents, Hyland and Hilda, were farmers and his brother John and two younger generations still work the same farm. Hank was educated at Boort Higher Elementary School, Kerang High School and then the University of Melbourne. He first became a school teacher at Numurkah and then Rosanna High Schools before being appointed as a lecturer at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology in 1964. Then commenced what was to prove a life-long association with Papua New Guinea. Hank was appointed to the Administrative College in Port Moresby in 1966, and in 1968 moved to the new University of Papua New Guinea. That university had still to be built, and when he arrived he taught students in the preliminary year in sheds at the showground with his characteristic blend of straightforwardness, imagination and high expectations. His students in the late 1960s were to become Papua New Guinea's first governing elite. One of them was Charles Lepani, now PNG High Commissioner to Australia.



Hank was appointed to The Australian National University (ANU) in 1973. He once joked that Australians were such a rarity in the ranks of historians at ANU that his position had to be due to affirmative action. That was typical humility. Nothing could be further from the truth. He was a splendid historian, equally at home with the detail of Papua New Guinea's history and with theories of political power or the dynamics of group identity. He was proud of his rural origins and drew upon them in *With Its Hat About Its Ears: Recollections of the Bush School*. And his interest in the experiences of those at war inspired his book *Prisoners of War: Australians Under Nippon*. His background was the foundation of his research, and it helps to explain his concern for the place of the common people in history. He was a firm empiricist, but one who happily engaged with global themes, such as Francis Fukuyama's perspectives on state-building or Paul Collier's analysis of the causes of poverty amongst the 'bottom billion'.

In recent years, as Chair of the ANU's State, Society & Governance in Melanesia Program, he was always on the lookout for seemingly small incidents that gave a window through which to look at wider trends, and that would reveal something about how political power worked in Melanesia – letters to the newspapers, for example, which he used as a way of understanding the frustrations and hopes of ordinary Papua New Guineans in a country where government has delivered much less than promised at independence. He had no time for sloppy or badly-conceived work but was the first to praise first-rate work, generous to colleagues in a profession where generosity is often missing. For that reason he served as a solid mentor for younger scholars at ANU, and an inspiration to fellow senior colleagues. A lively strain of common decency also made Hank a much-liked colleague and friend.

Hank became a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences and a Member of the Order of Australia. He kept writing until close to the end, with a series of articles for *Inside Story* about the crises of the Somare government in PNG, a paper on 'Comfort women' in wartime Rabaul, and another on the perils of labelling states as having 'failed' in the Pacific. He was a firm advocate of straight talking and solid prose, with no fluff around the edges. He was possessed with a great sense of the urgency of scholarly research in Melanesia, and of how much still needed to be done. It is a tribute to Professor Nelson that he contributed so much of what has been done. He is survived by his wife Janet, his children Tanya, Lauren and Michael and his grandchildren Rachel, Jack and Eliza.

Jon Fraenkel, Stewart Firth and Bryant Allen  
State, Society & Governance in Melanesia program  
Australian National University

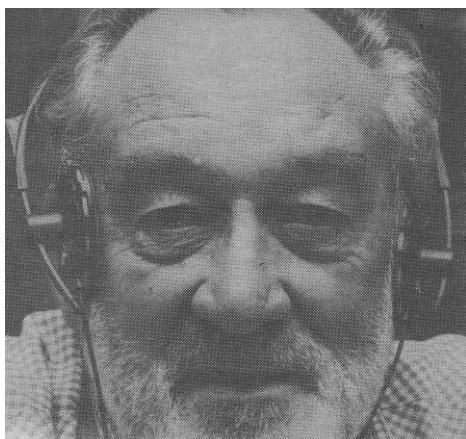
**Glen Frederick NEILSEN** (11 March 2012, aged 73 years)

Glen completed a fitting and turning apprenticeship in 1957 with the Main Roads Dept at Rockhampton. He was employed with Main Roads as a mechanic from 1954 until 1964. He went to PNG in 1965 as a mechanic with the Public Works Dept. He was at Rabaul, Lae, Madang, Wewak and Port Moresby where he was Plant Superintendent, Plant and Transport Branch, Dept of Works and Supply HW Boroko. Glen then worked for the Catholic Church doing property maintenance of their buildings in Port Moresby, and later for private firms. He left Port Moresby in December 2003 and retired to the Gold Coast. Glen passed away peacefully at Burleigh Heads.

Barry Smith

**Phillip John MAGUIRE** (28 February 2012 aged 86 years)

**Phil Maguire – the ABC's Voice of the New Guinea Islands.**



ONE of the best-known and most-popular voices on radio in PNG prior to independence, Phil Maguire has died at his home at Atherton in Far North Queensland after a second battle with cancer.

A New Zealander, Phil joined the ABC as an announcer in Brisbane in 1956, two years later taking up a position hosting the Breakfast Program on the ABC's 9PA Port Moresby. He transferred to Rabaul in 1964 as Regional Manager of the ABC's New Guinea Islands Service 9RB, remaining there until Independence in 1973 when he handed-over

to local announcer Robin Papat, whom he had groomed to become the ABC's first-ever indigenous Regional Manager.

As well as being 9RB's Regional Manager, Phil also hosted a weekly program of jazz and other music from the 1930s to 1950s, of which his knowledge was encyclopaedic (he had had his own jazz group in New Zealand when in his 20s.) Off air he was involved with Rabaul Rotary, enjoyed holding court daily after work at the New Guinea Club, and loved model trains.

On his return to Australia in 1973 Phil was appointed the ABC's Regional Manager Cairns and on his retirement in 1983 he and his wife Aileen (who had run New Guinea Travel Service in Rabaul during their time there,) opened a cat boarding facility at Kuranda which they later sold to long-time Rabaul friends, Peter and Julie Cohen.

Phil also hosted a weekly radio program 'AM with PM on FM' at Cairns and later a local program in Atherton for five years until he was 81, choosing music from his extraordinary collection of several thousand LP and 45rpm discs and CDs.

He gave away his collection of model railway engines and a library of model railway books and magazines to fellow buffs, but continued to help others building model railways.

Phil was first treated for cancer seventeen years ago and believed he had beaten it, but was diagnosed again late last year and he passed away on February 28 this year. He is survived by his first wife Cushla with whom he reconciled several years ago following the passing of Aileen in early 2002, and also of Cushla's second husband some years ago.

David Ellis

**Kenneth Hamish (Ken) MACGOWAN**, of Airlie Beach and Port Villa.

(11<sup>th</sup> April 2012 aged 72 years )

Ken was born in Rabaul in August 1939 and lived an extraordinary life.

In December 1941 Ken was evacuated from Rabaul on the ship *Macdhui*, along with the women and children of the New Guinea islands. The ship took them to Cairns and then Ken and his family travelled to Adelaide, remaining there for the duration of the war. Ken's father was the Deputy Director, Public Works, in Rabaul before WWII when he became involved with the New Guinea Volunteer Rifles medical corps. Trained in medical procedures he



assisted in the formation of the 'Chinese Ambulance Auxiliary Detachment' which became part of the NGVR. Distrustful of what would happen after the Japanese invaded, his father escaped along the south coast of New Britain and then by pinnace and small boat to Samarai. In Samarai he was picked up by a Catalina flying boat and transferred to Port Moresby and, later, Townsville. Ken's family returned to Port Moresby in 1947 and from 1959-1963 Ken was involved with the PNGVR during the period of the Indonesian confrontation. During 1964 he became involved with the Archbold Expedition for the American Museum of Natural History. He became a reptile collector, shooting crocodiles and selling their skin, with the carcasses being given to the local community as food. His adventures were immortalized in the magazine for the World Explorers Club, of which he was an elected member.

His work took him deep into the jungles of Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu and led to many interesting findings, including a number of crashed aircraft. In 1971, Ken found a B17 bomber that had crashed into a swamp during a bombing raid over Rabaul. It became known as the 'Swamp Ghost'. He found a Catalina flying boat in 1994 which had crashed in 1943 and there were still six sets of human remains on board, which were returned to the USA for burial.

He also found numerous war relics which he donated to the Wacol War Museum in Brisbane and collected a wide range of memorabilia including parts of planes, guns and wood and stone artefacts. He was involved with post-war Papua New Guinea Volunteer Rifles.

Ken had many overseas adventures over the years but, after purchasing a cattle property in Vanuatu in 1985, he called Vanuatu and Airlie Beach home. He held a number of exploration, investigation, administration and management roles in a variety of companies, including BP, US Steel, CRA, BMR, Kennicott Niugini Mining on Lihir Island and Vanuatu gold.

Ken's niece, Annette Raff fulfilled one of Ken's lifelong wishes by completing a book of his father's escape during the war. Using his father's original diary and information collected by Ken about this great escape. He was able to see the completion of the book before he died. Ken's dream, before he came ill, was to collate his photos and movies and produce a documentary about his adventures.

He will be sadly missed by family and his many friends, neighbours and colleagues in Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea, and Australia.

Our Uncle Ken was an extraordinary man and his visits to us were always filled with amazing stories of wild jungle adventures, crocodile hunts, New Guinea, plane wrecks and vivid descriptions of his family's life before the war. He arrived unannounced and departed suddenly. We rarely knew where he was or what he was doing, but his visits were looked forward to eagerly.

Information from City Life Magazine April 2011 and  
Donna Horn, Julie Roffmann And Annette Raff (nee MacGowan)

### **Chief Judge Pat SHANAHAN AO RFD ED (22 April 2012 aged 82 years)**

Pat Shanahan spent more than 50 years as a lawyer and judge. He was a District Court judge for 26 years having been appointed in October 1972 as an Acting Judge.

Judge Shanahan was appointed as a judge of the District Court in December 1972 as the first resident District Court judge in Rockhampton.

He served as an Acting Justice of the Supreme Court of Papua New Guinea in 1973 and an Acting Justice of the Supreme Court of Queensland in 1991 and 1992.

After he retired Judge Shanahan served on several commissions of inquiry for the state government and the Queensland Law Society and for many years was the

chair of the Covert Operations Committee. Judge Shanahan served in the Australian Army Legal Reserve from 1949 to 1984 and was awarded the Efficiency Decoration and the Reserve Force Decoration. He rose to the rank of colonel and at one time was the Regimental Colonel of the Royal Queensland Regiment. After retirement he maintained a keen interest in military history and was made a life member of the Victoria Barracks Historical Society. He had a great interest in gardening and photography.

## **WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS**

### **NEW MEMBERS**

Ms M BUXTON	PO Box 385	BEENLEIGH QLD 4207
Mr SD CHANDLER	PO Box 141	WOY WOY NSW 2256
Mr R HARRISON	50 Pinedale Crescent	PINEDALE QLD 4115
Mr S HAWTHORNE	PO Box 182	KEDRON QLD 4031
Mrs E HAYDEN	13 Welsby Street	IPSWICH QLD 4304
Dr G HUMBLE	Pacific Adventist University	
	Private Mail Bag Boroko, 111,	NCD PAPUA NEW GUINEA
Mrs C MARRIOTT	PO Box 144	BANGALOW NSW 2479
Mr K McCAGH	2/53-57 Bergin Road	CRANBROOK QLD 4814
Mr T NIXON	23 Old Bangalow Road	BYRON BAY NSW 2481
Mrs S ORWIN	2 Finch Court	LOGANLEA QLD 4131
Mrs E PEGG	Unit 1 114 Cook Street,	North Ward TOWNSVILLE QLD 4810
Mrs J WILSON	104 John Parade	LEMON TREE PASSAGE NSW 2319
Mr D WOLFOLD	PO Box 6817	COFFS HARBOUR PLAZA NSW 2450

## **CHANGE OF ADDRESS**

Mrs E A BARTLETT	Willandra Bungalows 10/51 Little Willandra Road CROMER NSW 2009	
Mr F H G BASKETT	Bethany Aged Care Facility Gray Street PORT MACQUARIE NSW 2444	
Mrs B M BENTON	35 Culbara Street	MOOLOOLABA QLD 4557
Mrs E M COTTON	Villa Maria Hostel, 173 Lesmurdie Road LESMURDIE WA 6076	
Mr J F GRAHAM	157/368 Oxley Drive	RUNAWAY BAY QLD 4216
Mr F J L HAYNES	PO Box 1710	BROADBEACH QLD 4218
Lady B JEPHCOTT	"Yundah", 20606 New England Hwy, THE GLEN nr WARWICK QLD 4370	
Mrs B LAWES	PO Box 7053	TWEED HEADS SOUTH NSW 2486
Mr J R LEAHY	3/8 Newman Road	GEEBUNG QLD 4034
Mrs L LOGAN	PO Box 592	BALLARAT VIC 3353
Mr C SCHWASS	1/5 Shaft Street	EDMONTON QLD 4869
Mr W C TENNANT	31A Hope Road	PALMYRA WA 6157
Mr K S WALL	Unit 15 190 Irene Street	MOOROOBOOL QLD 4870
Mr J L WRIGHT	2/44 Byron Street	LENNOX HEAD NSW 2478