



# Una Voce

JOURNAL OF THE PAPUA NEW GUINEA ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC

Patrons: Major General the Honourable Michael Jeffery, AC, AO(Mil), CVO, MC (Retd)  
Mr Fred Kaad OBE

The: Annual Membership List is included with this *Una Voce*



**PNGAA**  
SYMPOSIUM 2014

PAPUA NEW GUINEA  
ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC  
17-18 SEPTEMBER 2014  
NEW PARLIAMENT HOUSE, SYDNEY

## \*\*PNGAA DINNER and SYMPOSIUM

Dinner – 17 September 2014

Symposium – 18 September 2014

Parliament House Sydney

Please complete the enclosed registration form and return as soon as possible.

Seats are limited so it is suggested you respond promptly to ensure your place!



## \*\*KIAP: The Stories Behind the Medal

Preview screening Canberra Friday 27 June

See page 5

\*\* Rabaul & Montevideo Maru events 28 and 29 June – see page 50

## \*\*CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

This year's Christmas Luncheon will be held on Sunday 7 December at the Killara golf Club, 556 Pacific Highway, Killara (Sydney NSW)

## \*\*VISIT TO THE BLUE MOUNTAINS

George and Edna Oakes are kindly welcoming members to their home at Woodford on Thursday 25 September 2014. Further details in September issue.

Electronic copies of *Una Voce* available from the Editor



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

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UNA VOCE' IS THE JOURNAL OF  
THE PAPUA NEW GUINEA  
ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC  
Please send all correspondence to: The  
Secretary, PNGAA, PO Box 453, ROSEVILLE NSW  
2069.

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.

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Advertising is available - please contact the Editor.

Membership is available to any person having an  
interest in PNG. Annual subscription - \$30. 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.

No receipts are given for subscriptions as it would  
add to our postage expenses.

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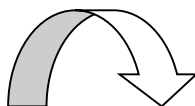
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**We encourage members to please pay  
membership fees by direct deposit to the  
PNGAA account as follows:**

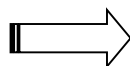
BSB: 062 009 Account No.: 0090 7724

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

\* \* \* \* \*

**Deadline for September issue of *Una  
Voce*: 01 August 2014**

**The full financial statements (see Abridged  
version on page 72) together with the Auditor's  
Report and Treasurer's Report, as presented to  
the Annual General Meeting, can be viewed in  
the Member's section of our website  
[[www.pngaa.net](http://www.pngaa.net)] or obtained by application to  
the Treasurer - [treasurer@pngaa.net](mailto:treasurer@pngaa.net)**



**The PNGAA collection at the Fryer  
Library** can be accessed at,  
<http://www.library.uq.edu.au/fryer/ms/uqfl387.pdf>

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by readers. Also, the views expressed by any of the  
authors of articles or book reviews included in *Una  
Voce* are not necessarily those of the editor or the  
PNGAA.

## **Amendment to Rules of the Papua New Guinea Association of Australia, Inc**

The Special General Meeting (SGM) held immediately before the Annual General Meeting on 4 May 2014, approved the recommended change to Rule 15 (1) of the PNGAA Constitution. This amendment increased the number of General Committee members from six to eight.

Rule 15 (1) now reads –

“(1) Subject in the case of the first members committee to section 21 of the Act, the committee is to consist of:

(a) the office-bearers of the association; and

(b) 8 ordinary members or such other number as determined by an annual general meeting each of whom is to be elected at the annual general meeting of the association under Rule 16.”

We thank those members who attended the SGM and those who sent in proxies due to their inability to attend.

The updated Rules are available on our website at:  
<http://www.pngaa.net/Pages/about-c.htm>

### **PRESIDENT’S UPDATE**



I thank those members who attended our Annual General Meeting on Sunday 4 May 2014 and also those who kindly sent in their proxies to support the Management Committee.

As a result, we are pleased to be able to add two more members to the Management Committee which will greatly help our resources. Members present met our new committee members, Rebecca Hopper, Doug Wood and Roy Ranney. Whilst numbers were a little lower this year, the spirit of friendship was well and truly alive – people were able to easily move around and talk to others. Ross Johnston kindly presented the financial statement and Paul Munro spoke to the proposed rules amendment. Juli

Allcorn organised the day beautifully with much appreciated cake and coffee/tea before the AGM and, I think all of us would agree, one of our most delicious meals!

Another wonderful occasion was the recent gathering in Perth with our PNGAA members there. PNG Consul-General Sumasy Singin, from Sydney, travelled over to Perth especially to meet our members and we were grateful for his informative address. The Consul General was delighted to meet up with his previous boss, Theo Bredmeyer, and also to have a photo presented to him of his father by Peter Worsley. Photos are on pages 19 and 21. Thank you to Murray Day for his enthusiastic and much appreciated support for the PNGAA in organising these gatherings. After 18 months Murray will be handing over to Linda Manning (nee Cavanaugh). Bob and Di McKeown have discussed organising a similar group in the Dubbo area so keep tuned!

It has been an active start to the year for the committee and I thought it might help to summarise here:

**2014 PNGAA DINNER and SYMPOSIUM** -Plans for the inaugural PNGAA Symposium are well underway – please look for the Registration form accompanying this issue and tell your family and friends. Speakers will be listed on our website shortly. I encourage you to get responses in quickly as seats are limited!

**PNGAA/PNGVR Raffle** – A wonderful opportunity for two people to enjoy a short break with tickets and accommodation for three nights in Rabaul – perhaps for the ANZAC Centenary event in September? *Second prize is donated by the PNGAA* – one ticket to the Symposium Dinner on 17 September and Symposium 18 September, in Sydney.

You will have received information in the mail. Funds will help considerably for two very worthwhile projects so we hope for your generous support. PNGAA's share of funds will greatly assist with Symposium expenses and the PNGVR will be making improvements to the NGVR/PNGVR Association's Military Museum in Wacol.

### **RABAUL & MONTEVIDEO MARU ANNUAL LUNCHEON and SERVICE**

I encourage you to get your acceptances in quickly and join in this special weekend on 28 and 29 June. See details in the *Memorial News* section.

### **CROC PRIZE**

The Papua New Guinea Association of Australia (PNGAA) will be sponsoring the production of the 2014 Anthology of the best PNG creative writing, published each year to coincide with the Crocodile Prize awards.

The PNGAA has gifted \$5000 to underwrite the production of the Crocodile Prize Anthology 2014. This is a compendium of the best PNG writing, and it is published each September.

In thanking the PNGAA for their support, Keith Jackson said 'On behalf of the COG committee, I'd like to thank the PNGAA for its fine support of the publication of works by PNG's best writers and also for giving PNGns the opportunity to read articles, essays, stories and poetry that are indigenous to their own country.'

See further details : <http://www.crocodileprize.org/>

**DVD – KIAP: THE STORIES BEHIND THE MEDAL.** **There will be a preview screening of work to date on Friday 27 June 2014 at 3.30pm in Canberra.** The screening will be held at the McDonald Room in the Menzies Library at ANU, Canberra. Please let our Secretary, Rebecca Hopper (E: [admin@pngaa.net](mailto:admin@pngaa.net)), know if you would like to attend.

**WWI ELECTRONIC EXHIBIT** – Our webmaster, Nick Booth, has included a new menu tab on our website – items will continue to be included after Nick returns from an extended holiday. A special thank you to Paul Munro and those who have assisted.

**PREVIEW SCREENING:** There will be a screening of work to date on this DVD 'KIAP – The Stories Behind the Medal' on **Friday 27 June 2014** at 3.30pm in Canberra. The screening will be held at the McDonald Room in the Menzies Library at ANU, Canberra. We thank Deveni Temu and ANU for making this venue available.

I encourage anyone interested to attend. Please email [admin@pngaa.net](mailto:admin@pngaa.net) or phone our Secretary, Rebecca Hopper by 25 June 2014.

**DVD: Kiap** – The Stories Behind the Medal.

To be launched at the PNGAA Symposium, September 2014

Greg Harris is making excellent progress with this and we are grateful for the contributions, both financial and photographic, in support.

If we have any graphic designers out there who could assist us by donating their services to help with a cover we would greatly appreciate it. Please contact Andrea Williams E: [president@pngaa.net](mailto:president@pngaa.net)

#### **AN&MEF BRONZE PLAQUE (Proposed)**

PNGAA member, Reg Yates, in association with David & Clodagh Howell of 'Kokoda Historical' and under the auspices of the Papua New Guinea Association of Australia (PNGAA) is working to obtain funding and install a commemorative bronze plaque at a suitable site at the former Fort Macquarie in Sydney. The proposed bronze plaque will be similar to that at Bita Paka War Cemetery and will be sculptured by Ross Bastiaan, AO, RFD to honour the Centenary of the Embarkation of the Australian Naval & Military Expeditionary Force (ANMEF) on 18-19 August 1914.

**THANK YOU** - Due to illness our Editor was unable to complete this issue of *Una Voce* in time for the printer. With the Dinner and Symposium looming, time was of the essence. A quick rally saw Ross Johnson, Marie Clifton- Bassett and myself spend an industrious 24 hours assisting in the completion. I thank them enormously. Wishing Keith an early recovery!

Andrea Williams

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

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

### **WANTED TO BUY**

**We travel Australia extensively so interstate inquiries welcome**

Contact **Malcolm Davidson**, FREE CALL 1800 068 230

42 Hardy Terrace East Ivanhoe Victoria 3079



## **PNGAA/PNGVR RAFFLE**

**The PNGAA in partnership with NGVR/PNGVR Association and Military Museum are conducting a raffle and you are invited to participate to win a return trip from Sydney, Brisbane or Cairns to Rabaul with three nights' accommodation at Rabaul Hotel.**

Note: Air Niugini has donated two economy class return airfares (conditions apply)

The Papua New Guinea Association of Australia (PNGAA) has also donated a single entry ticket to its 17<sup>th</sup> September 2014 Symposium Dinner at the NSW Parliament House Stranger's Dining Room and a single registration /entry ticket to its 18<sup>th</sup> September 2014 ANZAC Centenary Symposium in the NSW Parliament House Theatre, Sydney.

**Tickets were mailed out recently. Please do not feel you have to participate however if you can assist by contributing further ticket sales, or you didn't receive them, please let us know.**

**Please return** the sold and completed ticket stubs with your remittance by direct bank transfer, cheque, money order or via credit card (see payment/remittance cut out slip) by **16<sup>th</sup> July 2014** to the Secretary, NGVR/PNGVR Ex-members Association, P O Box 885, Park Ridge, Qld, 4125, in the enclosed self addressed envelope.

Account Name: NGVR/PNGVR Military Museum

Bank: CBA BSB: 064118, Account No: 10309268

**Drawing Date 1<sup>st</sup> August 2014 Air Niugini Office, Brisbane, QLD**

Winners will be notified immediately.

### **Use of Proceeds**

THE Papua New Guinea Association of Australia (PNGAA) is organising a symposium at the New South Wales Parliament House in Sydney on 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> September 2014. The Symposium is titled "From Pacific battlefield to Pacific Powers: A century of Australia Papua New Guinea Relations" and will be held in conjunction with the beginning of the ANZAC Centenary which marks 100 years since Australia's involvement in World War 1 and New Guinea. PNGAA's share of the raffle proceeds will assist in the sponsoring of this important event.

The NGVR/PNGVR Military Museum was opened on 12 February 2006 in the National Servicemen's Association of Australia Queensland (NSAAQ) Heritage Precinct at 1001 Boundary Road, Wacol, and Brisbane, formerly wartime barracks for US, Nederland and Australian forces. The Museum focuses on PNG wartime campaigns but also contains fascinating PNG artefacts, memorabilia and photographs. Besides the usual outgoings of rental, insurance, rates and electricity, there is the ongoing maintenance of these ageing premises and the materials and equipment required for the preparation, storage and exhibiting of the collection. Presently the exhibits are being refurbished to align them more closely to the visiting school children's history curriculum.

**Tickets books are available from email: [pngvr@optusnet.com.au](mailto:pngvr@optusnet.com.au)**

**Tickets and remittance to be returned by Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2014**



## **PNGAA SYMPOSIUM 17 - 18 Sept. 2014**

NSW Parliament House, Macquarie Street, Sydney  
Hosted by PNGAA with assistance Charlie Lynn MLC

### ***From Pacific WW1 battlefield to Pacific Powers: A Century of Australia Papua New Guinea Relations***

***To Remember – To Acknowledge – To Educate and inform  
our futures.***

In association with Anzac Centenary commemoration.

***To review the relationships between Australia and PNG over the century from Australia's first military engagement in WWI at Bitapaka, the administration of New Guinea as a Mandated Territory, the Pacific War, the continuing influence through to Independence; to discuss Australia's ongoing connections – commercial, social and cultural - before looking to the challenges of now and the future.***

This major event will be held at the NSW Parliament House in Sydney, with assistance from PNGAA member, the Hon Charlie Lynn MLC.

**Cost: PNGAA Members:** \$175 Symposium \$150 Dinner *if booked before 15 July*  
Total: \$325 (pre 15 July booking); \$350 (if booking after 15 July)

**Non members:** Dinner & Symposium \$375 (pre 15 July); \$450 (after 15 July)

See enclosed Registration form.

**Dinner:** Wednesday 17 September 2014 7pm Strangers Dining Room NSW Parliament House

**PNGAA Symposium:** Thursday 18 September 9am-5pm (Registration from 8am)  
Theatrette NSW Parliament House

**Master of Ceremonies:** Dr Jonathon Ritchie

#### **Keynote speaker (Symposium):**

Major General the Honourable Michael Jeffery, AC, AO(Mil), CVO, MC (Retd)

The Symposium will be held in conjunction with the beginning of the Anzac Centenary, which marks 100 years since Australia's involvement in the First World War and the anniversary of the centenary of the Australian conflict at Bitapaka, East New Britain Province PNG on 11 September 1914.

Australian troops, the Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force (ANMEF) were landed to capture the wireless station at Bitapaka. Six Australians died. A further 35 Australians died when the submarine, AEI, disappeared off the coast of Rabaul on 14 September 1914. Six weeks later a convoy of ships that carried the Australian Imperial Force and New Zealand Expeditionary Force to the First World War in Europe departed from Albany in Western Australia.

Our PNGAA members have shared much of that history and retain a wealth of knowledge. The 2014 Symposium will have significant relevance to all our members and to interested others - we look forward to your support.

Please watch our PNGAA website, email [info@conference-organisers.com.au](mailto:info@conference-organisers.com.au) or phone Margaret Reid Ph: 02-9882 2688 for further details.

## **VISIT MADANG**

Melanesian Tourist Services (MTS) have again designed an itinerary for PNGAA members to revisit Madang. The tour includes return airfares to Sydney, Brisbane & Cairns on Air Niugini based on the lowest fares and the accommodation at the Madang Resort waterfront rooms and aboard the Kalibobo Spirit have been discounted by more than half. The Managing Director of MTS, Sir Peter Barter has extended an invitation to a welcome cocktail party and will be arranging for a BBQ lunch at Kulili Estates in conjunction with Sir John and Lady Anna Middleton where you can see the bio-fuel plant using coconut oil which is now powering Kar Kar Island. The basic tours inclusive of airfares, accommodation, all meals, and sightseeing tours of Madang is \$2500 from Sydney, K2300 from Brisbane and \$2100 from Cairns. The optional cruise aboard the Kalibobo Village is an additional \$1100.00. Space is limited aboard the Kalibobo Spirit and you are encouraged to book early to avoid disappointment. All bookings should be made directly to [info@mtspng.com](mailto:info@mtspng.com) or phone +675 424 1300.

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## **ARE YOU INTERESTED IN PURCHASING AN HISTORIC PNG ICON – A KIAP FIGURINE?**

Sometime ago a suggestion was made, but not followed up whether it would be worthwhile for PNGAA to commission a figurine/s of a kiap perhaps accompanied by a police constable. The idea derived from the Kiap's reunion November 2013 when interviews were being conducted for the Kiap DVD and an artist, Wayne Strickland, was discovered in Mooloolaba at the time.

The bronze figurine/s may be any size but the suggested size would be about 500 mm tall. It could be a bust or full figure of a typical young kiap (if there is one) on patrol, perhaps with a constable and a carrier – of course the more in it, the costlier it will be.

What would be the use of this? Either one or several could be made. PNGAA could use one as a decoration at official functions, the Kiap signifying the origin of the Association while other copies may be sold to individuals. These would be individually purchased from the artist who would make them on request.

Other artists may be approached but Wayne Strickland is a recognised sculptor and has already indicated his interest. His website is [www.waynestrickland.com.au](http://www.waynestrickland.com.au) which provides examples of his works, sizes and prices. An original figurine/s (the artist would produce a maximum of say 5 to 10 before the mould was destroyed) would cost around \$7000 to \$8,000 each. Each original would be slightly different and be numbered with the artist's signature.

Another use could be to replicate smaller ones and sell those (at a price less than \$500) if sufficient members were interested in purchasing them.

Please advise the PNGAA Secretary if you are interested in either an original or a smaller version by 31 August. If there is sufficient interest the project will be progressed. If you have a suitable photograph showing a young patrol officer and or/ with a police constable standing nearby, please forward a copy to the Secretary for possible use by the Association and/or the artist.

What do you think?



# 2014 MADANG REVISITED



*Exclusively for PNGAA Members from (Sydney) \$2500 (Brisbane) \$2300 (Cairns) \$2100*

PNGAA Members are invited on a specially designed tour of 9 days/8 Nights to revisit beautiful Madang. On arrival you will visit the residence of Sir Peter and Lady Jan Barter for welcoming cocktails and meet some of the longer time residents of Madang.



You can choose to spend all the time in Madang, or take the optional 3 night cruise aboard the Kalibobo Spirit to Raikos, visiting Nicholay Maclay Memorial, the Ramu Nico Processing plant Basamuk, the across to Christmas Bay on Bagabag Island, call in at Biabi Plantation and enjoy a BBQ lunch at Kulili Estates and meet Sir John & Lady Anna Middleton, returning via

<b>TOUR COST</b>	<b>Sydney</b>	<b>Brisbane</b>	<b>Cairns</b>
COST twin share, per person	*\$2500.00	*\$2300.00	*\$2100.00
Single Room Supplement	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00
OPTIONAL 3 DAY CRUISE	\$1100.00	\$1100.00	\$1100.00
Single Supplement	\$550.00	\$550.00	\$550.00

Sek, Alexishafen through the Madang Lagoon to the Marina at the Madang Resort.

Tours have been arranged to visit the Divine Word University, meet Fr. Jan Czuba and the staff of DWU and inspect the campus. Visits to Bilbil to see the newly built Balengut Canoe, Siar Village and the Haus Tambuna.

**Tour dates:**  
**Jul 26-Aug 3, 2014**

\*Costs includes twin share Accommodation, per person, all table d'hote meals as specified on the itinerary at the Madang Resort and aboard the optional Kalibobo Spirit cruise, domestic and international airfares, sightseeing tours and village fees. It does not cover beverages, visa fees (K100), insurance or items of a personal nature. Costs quoted are subject to currency fluctuation and conditions apply to airfares. We regret that Visas are required by Australian Citizens prior to boarding aircraft.



**Melanesian Tourist Services Limited**

PO Box 707, Madang, Papua New Guinea. Tel: +675 422 2766 Fax: +675 424 1300

**[www.mtspng.com](http://www.mtspng.com)**

Westpac BSB 034167 Account 168652

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**Norm Reeves** writes:

Could you, through your magazine, inform the commentators, politicians and other journalists of the correct pronunciation of Manus Island. Frequently in the news these days Manus is almost always pronounced Man-us and not Marnooos as is the Papua New Guinea pronunciation. I am sure I am not only ex PNG resident to find this disrespectful and gratingly annoying. Your magazine is great reading as I am familiar with a lot of the names and places mentioned.

Ed: *I wrote a letter and emailed to the news editors of the major television networks. I received a response from the national news editor of the ABC and they said they would pass the comments and sentiments to their news reporters and editors. I did notice that the pronunciation did change ... for a short period of time. There was no response from the other commercial networks.*

**A. LOKES DE BEER** writes:

With reference to *Una Voce* March 2014 'Volcano' on page 33. It is highly unlikely that a Spanish explorer named the islands after a rival Dutch explorer. According to our records the 'Schouten Islands' were named by Willem Cornelisz Schouten a Dutch explorer and captain of the "*de Eendracht*".

Herewith is an extract from his voyage in 1615.

*Willem Cornelisz Schouten was born in c. 1567 in Hoorn, Holland.*

Willem Schouten by Mattheus Merian  
in 1631

Born c 1567 Hoorn, Holland

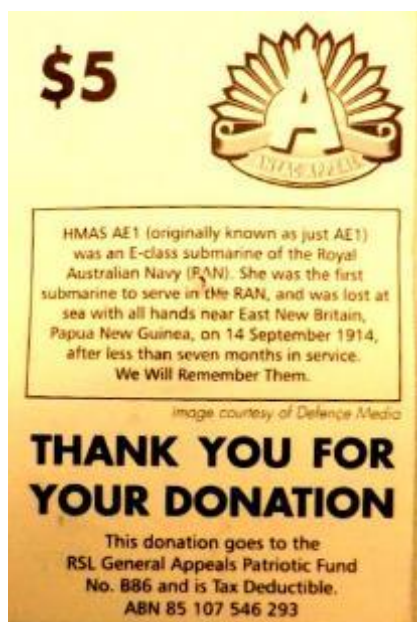
Died 1625 Antongil Bay Madagascar

*In 1615 Willem Cornelisz Schouten and Jacob le Maire sailed in a VOC ( United East Indie Compagny) ship named "de Eendracht" ( Unity) from Texel in the Netherlands, the main purpose of the voyage was to search for Terra Australis. A further objective was to find a new route to the Pacific and the Spice Islands. In 1616 Schouten rounded Cape Horn (South America), which he named after his birthplace, the Dutch city of Hoorn. He followed the north coasts of New Guinea and visited islands near the Sepik River, including Manam Island and what is known as the Schouten Islands which he named after himself.*



### 1615 Voyage of Willem Cornelisz Schouten

**Max Hayes** writes: As usual, I was today selling ANZAC Day badges in behalf of my Box Hill, Victoria, RSL in the annual fund raising appeal for RSL Welfare. I was surprised to see a new badge being a replica of a seaman's cap with a photograph of our first submarine, AE1, lost in the capture of the battle for German New Guinea on 11th September, 1914 and which has never, to this day, been seen again with its crew of 35. Most Australians think that Gallipoli was our first battle in WW1. The card reverse gives a few details of the battle. The 11th September 2014 commemorates the centenary of this battle in the Commonwealth commemorations of the 1914-1918 "war to end all wars".



### **BRISBANE'S ANZAC CENTENARY CELEBRATION, 6 SEPTEMBER, 2014**

The NGVR/ PNGVR Association is holding an Anzac Centenary Celebration and Dedication Service at the PNGVR Military Museum, Wacol in Brisbane and everyone is welcome.

**Date:** Saturday 6 September 2014

**Time:** 10am and 3.30pm

**Address:** Cnr of Fulcrum and Boundary Road or 1001 Boundary Road, Wacol (UBD Map 27 N1

The Celebration will be in a similar format as the successful Rabaul Centenary Function held at the same place in 2010. A plaque will be dedicated in honour of the six Australian naval and army personnel killed on 11 September 1914 when capturing the German wireless station at Bita Paka near Rabaul and the thirty five naval personnel lost in the Australian submarine AE 1 when it disappeared without trace near the Duke of York Islands, New Britain on 14 September 1914.

This public function will be held between 10 am to 3.30 pm. The planned range of activities will suit young and old and provide a fun picnic day for the family with the addition of a short solemn service for those first Australians to die for their country in World War 1. Besides new Museum exhibits and the opportunity to inspect this historic former Wacol Military Barracks, there will be entertainment by Pacific dance groups, the bomb disposal squad and fire brigade. Various rides, finger painting and other interests will keep the big and small kids occupied! Plenty of food and drinks will be available. The profits of the function will be used to maintain the Museum particularly for school groups and other community groups who visit regularly.

All are welcome to attend, so please diary the date now. For further information contact John Holland on mobile 0449 504 058 or email [rabaul42@gmail.com](mailto:rabaul42@gmail.com).

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

**AUSTRALIANS IN ACTION STAMP SERIES** - On 22 April 2014 a stamp was issued featuring AE1 in Rabaul Harbour. This was part of the Australians In Action series.

**PLUMES AND PEARLSHELLS: Art of the New Guinea Highlands - Art Gallery of New South Wales**  
**30 May 2014 to 10 August 2014**

The peoples of the New Guinea highlands are renowned for their spectacular ceremonies. Appreciating the sophistication and sheer beauty of these objects, Sydney businessman Stanley Gordon Moriarty assembled one of the finest collections of highlands material culture during his travels there between 1961 and 1972. Among these were exquisitely constructed headdresses, arm- and leg-bands, ear- and nose-rings and necklaces, made of feathers, shell, barkcloth, animal and plant fibres and natural pigments. This exhibition presents highlights from this extraordinary collection of body art, now held by the Art Gallery of NSW, as well as other superb pieces used in rituals, for war and in everyday life, Complimentary to the two month exhibit at the Art Gallery of New South Wales in Sydney are many activities. Most of them are free!

**Friday 30 May, 1pm** – Opening walkthrough with Curator, Natalie Wilson

**Friday 30 May and Saturday 31 May 2014, 10.30** – Bilum making demonstration with Florence Kamel

**Saturday 31 May, 1pm-5pm** – Forum

**Speakers include:** **Dr Andrew Moutu**, Director, PNG National Museum and Art Gallery; **Dr Michael Mel**, pro vice chancellor, University of Goroka, and performance artist; **Chris Boylan**, Director, Oceanic Art, and collector; **Ruth Choulai**, Creative Arts Manager, Pacific Islands Trade and Investment;

**Florence Kamel**, Bilum Artist and Managing Director, Jaukae Bilum Products;

**Natalie Wilson**, *Plumes and pearlshells* exhibition curator, Art Gallery of NSW

**Sunday 15 June 2014: 1pm-4pm** - Drop in and Draw: New Guinea Art, all ages

**Sunday 15 June 2014: 1.30pm Artwork of the Month talk:**

Natalie Wilson, curator of the *Plumes and pearlshells* exhibition, will discuss an unusual pair of wooden figures, part of this extraordinary collection of New Guinea highlands art. She will explain the significance of plumes, pearlshells and bilum (weaving) to highlands art and culture.

**Wednesdays 11 and 18 June 2014, 5.30pm Exhibition talks: Plumes and Pearlshells** - Join the experts to view the incredible and diverse array of artworks of the PNG highlands including *gaheisi* (ceremonial dance banners), *bilum* (string bags), *yupini* (fertility figures), ornaments, shields and arrows and ritual objects.

**Wednesdays 2pm & 7.15pm, Sundays 2pm 11 June - 27 July 2014 – Film Series: Papua New Guinea Stories** (several films will be shown, refer website)

**Wednesday 11 June, 6.30-7pm Bob Connolly in conversation with Margaret Throsby.** Following this talk, Bob will provide a short introduction to the 7.15pm screening of *First Contact*

**Wednesday 18 June, 6.30-7pm Professor Tim Flannery**

Professor Tim Flannery discusses his adventures conducting scientific research in the highlands of Papua New Guinea as described in his book *Throwim way leg: tree-kangaroos, possums, and penis gourds* (1997) and to consider the importance of material culture preservation.

**Daily 1pm, Wednesdays 5.30pm 3 June – 10 August 2014 Guided tour Plumes & Pearlshells.**

The Tours for Tots: Fun artmaking tour for the 3-5 year olds, scheduled for 24 June, was booked out before we went to print!



*Tinting tasol* 



From the editor

Welcome to the June 2014 edition of *Una Voce*.

As you will have noticed, this edition is now enlarged from the previous 72 pages to include information about the many activities in this ANZAC Centenary year and also reports from the Annual General Meeting held on 4 May 2014.

Our newly expanded committee is hard at work preparing for a very busy 2014. The upcoming seminar has a major planning exercise behind the scenes, and the efforts being put in are enormous. At the rate things are moving, the seminar is sure to be a success.

I have been asked to explain the meaning of "*Tinting Tasol*" It translates literally to "Thinking only" or "Just thinking". It makes a nice rhyming retort

### Steamships Flags

In my casual vexillology studies (special scrabble word of the day), I have found a few different versions of the Steamships Trading pennant. Are there any ex Steamies people out there who can tell me where and when these pennants / flags were used?



The first standard S flag and the painted ship pennant are similar, but the flag has a yellow boundary. I have seen the stylised Italic S flag on smaller Steamies vessels. The STC matchbox flag seems to be mainly featured on advertising material.

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

PNGAA has a new mailing address

**PO Box 453, Roseville NSW 2069**

There will be six months changeover to 15 July 2014.



## NOTES FROM THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

### Jim Toner

Of the few PNGAA members remaining in the NT Mrs June Dowling, who will be 90 next year, is our most senior. Born in Madang in 1925 the young June Mosman went to school in Kavieng and Rabaul before being evacuated to Australia where she joined the Army. She worked in the Repatriation Hospital at Concord until 1946 when she returned to Rabaul where she married John Dowling. They worked the family copra plantation, Muliamia, on New Ireland until 1960 when they relocated to Sydney. June made Darwin her home 12 years ago when she came to live with her daughter Jenny. She has since been joined by her son who was also born in the islands. Their NT house holds many memories of happy times in post-war TPNG.

Darwin's PNG Social & Cultural Group is somnolent at the moment. As with most clubs activity is dependent on the energy levels of committee members.

The PNG Barramundis had a good stab at qualifying for Cricket's T20 World Cup held in Bangladesh during March. Initially they rejoiced at beating Kenya, Namibia, and the Netherlands but in the next round could not get past Hong Kong, Scotland or the Arab Emirates. However a good attempt from such a limited (Port Moresby and environs) recruitment base.

An aviation journalist asserts that for flying Dash 8s, a De Havilland aircraft, over the PNG landscape their crews are the highest paid in the world.... Old-time pilots such as Peter Manser and Bill Ticehurst who daily skimmed mountain tops for Gibbes Sepik Airways would have been interested in that.

### *Law and Disorder*

Until this year only one member of the PNG parliament had ever been sent to jail. She was convicted of contempt of court in 1979. Since Nahau Rooney was the Justice Minister at the time she may have appreciated the irony of this. However another, the Member for Usino/Bundi, recently entered the Madang *kalabus* (gaol). He was accompanied by his opposing candidate at the last Election both having been found guilty of the same lack of respect for the Court.

Stanley Haru was a Kumul in the early 90s – good enough to play rugby league for his country – but seemingly also a smooth talker. He managed to “sell” the Kone Tigers oval in Moresby to someone for a large sum and is now spending four years in the ‘sin-bin’ for his fraud. This exploit does not quite match that of the Sierra Leone diplomat who in 2010 “sold” his country's 5-storey embassy in London before vanishing but was an interesting attempt.

## THE KIAP REUNION 2013 By Chips Mackellar

It was the biggest Kiap Reunion ever. Held on 10 November 2013 at the Kawana Waters Motel at Mooloolaba on the Queensland Sunshine Coast, a total of 307 kiaps, wives and descendants attended, not counting those who arrived late and did not report in to the reception desk. We were honoured by a visit from our PNGAA President Andrea Williams who came with a movie team which is producing a DVD sponsored by PNGAA, on the life and times of the kiaps. They conducted a series of interviews with some of the kiaps attending the reunion.

As with previous kiap reunions, kiaps and their families came from near and far. Nearby from Southern Queensland 146; with 78 from NSW; 48 from Victoria, and 13 from ACT, four each from South Australia, Tasmania and Far North Queensland and three from the Northern Territory. Also, Chris Makin and Peter Salmon, both recently returned from working in PNG, came together with Graham Pople. Roger and Judy Fairhall came from Hong Kong, where



they migrated to be close to their daughter and grand-children who now live there. Dan Claasen came from Kenya. He went there to work for the United Nations, then retired there, and has lived there ever since. And would you believe from up there near the Arctic Circle came Ves Karnups from where he is now Associate Professor in Economics at the University of Latvia. We are particularly honoured that these kiaps came from so far to be with us for this reunion.

Despite our advanced years, some of us are still easily recognised. Bob Cleland is easily recognisable because he looks just like his father, Sir Donald. Bob Hoad is still tall and skinny like he always was, and so is Ross Johnson. They are easy to spot. But the sad truth is that some of us have changed so dramatically with the passing years that if we passed each other in the street we might never recognise each other today. Fortunately, recognition at the reunion was made easy because we all wore name tags.

There was much discussion at the reunion, about the Police Overseas Service Medal (pictured), which was awarded to kiaps this year. Most said that they were happy to receive the medal, although some kiaps said they thought we should have been awarded our own medal, and some said they didn't want any medal at all. Those of us who have accepted the medal are indebted to the many people who lobbied hard for us to get it. Foremost amongst these is Chris Viner-Smith who started the ball rolling way back in 2002 by writing letters to various ministers including the then Prime Minister John Howard, suggesting the need to honour the past service of kiaps with an appropriate medal. The initial response was disappointing, but persistence and perseverance have their just rewards. With

thousands of phone calls, letters and emails, Chris continued to lobby those in the corridors of power, including in 2008, the then Prime Minister Kevin Rudd. Chris was assisted by other kiaps including Mike Douglas who lobbied his MP Scott Morrison, the current Minister for Immigration. And so it happened that on 16 November 2009 Scott Morrison, in the presence of several kiaps in the public gallery, rose in Parliament to propose that the eligibility criteria for grant

of the Police Overseas Service Medal be changed to accommodate kiaps, on the basis that whatever our other duties may have been from time to time, we were all officers of the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary. The message had finally got through.

But there was a problem. The Australian Honours and Awards System is the prerogative of the Queen. It was the Queen who established the Police Overseas Service Medal by Letters Patent in 1991, and only the Queen could alter the criteria to include kiaps. Not to worry though you see, because Scott Morrison was able to convince Jason Clare, the then Minister for Home Affairs and Minister for Justice of the justness of our cause, and Jason Clare took the matter to the then Prime Minister Julia Gillard, and Julia Gillard agreed to seek the Queen's assent to alter



the criteria. And so it came to pass that by Letters Patent of 6 June 2013.

Her Majesty the Queen altered the criteria for the award of the Police Overseas Service Medal to include “patrol officers in the Territory of Papua New Guinea.” In the miniature of these Letters Patent included here you will see the Queen's signature at the top, counter signed by Julia Gillard below. And that is how we got our medal.

Our sincere thanks go to Chris Viner-Smith and all those other kiaps who supported his medal campaign; to the Hon. Scott Morrison, Minister for Immigration, for bringing the matter to the notice of Parliament; to the Hon. Jason Clare for taking the matter to Prime Minister Julia Gillard; to Julia

Gillard for referring the matter to the Queen; and to Her Majesty the Queen who made the decision to grant us our medal. Our thanks also go to the Federal Police Commissioner Tony Negus whose officers arranged the distribution of the medals to us.

For those of us who have not yet received the medal, its photo here is the front view, depicting the globe of the world overlaid by a sprig of wattle. The reverse side carries the kiap's name surrounded in roundel by the words "Police Overseas Service Medal."

As with past reunions at Kawana Waters, this year the emphasis was on informality. No speeches, no guests of honour, no set seating plan, and no start or finish time. People just arrived for lunch on Sunday and circulated to meet and greet old friends. Some stayed for dinner that night, and some reassembled for breakfast the next day at Belisimo restaurant on the waterfront at Mooloolaba. Unfortunately, Belisimo suffered a power outage before most people could order their breakfast, and many wandered off to have breakfast at the many other restaurants on the waterfront, never to return. Some stayed at Belisimo until the power came on again, but by then we were few in number. The reunion fittingly came to an end at 11am on Monday 11 November. (Remembrance Day 2013). That is, the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, the moment the Great War ended was the exact same moment 95 years later that this great reunion ended, when the last survivors, Rod and Virginia Donovan, Bob Hoad, and Bob and Heather Fayle said their goodbyes and went their separate ways. It was a poignant finale to a remarkable reunion. As Roger Fairhall, who came from Hong Kong to be with us, said "I have attended the Kawana Waters reunions for some years and wouldn't miss them now for the friendship and camaraderie they provide." I think this encapsulates the essence of these reunions.

Our thanks go to Bob and Heather Fayle, and to Denys and Helen Faithful for organising the reunion, with particular thanks to Peter Salmon who keeps our ex-kiap website alive, keeps us in touch with each other, and helped with the mail-out of invitations. Our thanks also go to those who came from far away, that is, from inter-state and from overseas, to be with us, to renew friendships and to catch up with each other's experiences. It was indeed, a wonderful and a memorable reunion. And finally, our thanks also go to our gracious PNGAA President Andrea Williams and her management team who by *Una Voce*, website and DVD are preserving our stories so that the legends of the kiaps will live on, long after we are gone. Many thanks to all of you.

Bob Fayle and Andrea Williams





## PNGAA WESTERN AUSTRALIA GROUP MEETING Friday 11 April Murray Day

Our meeting was held in the function rooms at the Bullcreek Airforce Homes Complex. It was attended by 32 members and visitors, together also with visitors from interstate, being the PNG Sydney Consul General, Mr Sumasy Singin and his wife Mary, Andrea Williams, President PNGAA based in Sydney and Phil Ainsworth, Committee member of PNGAA, former Rabaul & Montevideo Maru Association President, and President of the PNGVR Association, based in Brisbane. The venue was expansive, and without competing noise from other patrons, it provided opportunities for greater interaction between members. The two course meal arrangements appeared to roll out seamlessly from the kitchen and tea and coffee were available. If any attending members wish to comment on the arrangement with the meal or the venue, your feedback would be invited. I was a bit busy with the VIP's to get around!

I would like to thank especially Doreen and Frank Beadle who are residents at Bullcreek for their suggestion and help in organising the function.

The meeting was kept informal as possible, all visitors spoke on topics of interest, they circulated between tables and answered members questions and took away queries for resolution where necessary. As usual, many "it's a small world" connections were made. Our member from Mandurah Peter Worsely, ex-kiap, was based around Boana, among other districts and provinces, and knew the Consul General's family I assume, fairly intimately. The Consul General's father was Singin Pasom the village Tultul (*village second in charge*



*appointed by the government administration*) and offside with Peter in, it would appear, a lot of his work in Wampagnan Village! The Consul General was deeply moved when Peter presented photographs of his father at work with the kiap. In a similar vein on Saturday I gave our visitors a look around Perth and the Consul General confided in me that as a young recently graduated lawyer he learned quickly that appearing in Judge Theo Bredmeyer's court you had to be organised with full facts of the case!

The Consul General provided numerous PNG neckties for members together with a case of South Pacific Lager for distribution. A

strategy for the beer distribution will be developed for members.

Member Brian Ede, another ex-kiap from Northcliffe, south of Manjimup and owner operator of Hillbrook Wines was a last minute withdrawal at the Friday meeting after he injured his shoulder. Brian has offered a donation of a case of his wine for PNGAA members to taste and try; again a strategy along with the beer will be developed for this to occur at our next meeting. Have a look at the very nice Hillbrook website, a lot of background to the toil that he and his wife



have put in. I would envisage that we would have another get together later in the year, probably around October, unless members suggest otherwise. As you are all aware I am most happy to receive feedback on any matter, what suits you best is to which we should strive, as to facilitate and enjoy our meetings.

With regard to the role as Convener of meetings, I feel that members can benefit from a change and some new ideas. It is the time to pass the parcel so to speak. While the role does not really draw heavily on my time management, I do have other personal issues competing and increasingly these will impact on the Convener role. We have as a group developed some impetus and esprit de corps which must be further pursued. I have taken the liberty of having a discussion with Linda Manning our photographer and collector of cash at Friday's meeting, as a possible replacement as Convener. Linda has tentatively agreed, subject to any other member not eagerly interested in the role. Members may prefer to go further and form a committee. I have informed her that whoever takes it on will receive my ongoing support. I do thank you all for your support and prompt responses to my requests. I would hope that we can improve on attendance numbers in the future; we have about 70 members on our database. This report will be of special interest to members who were unable to attend last Friday. Some members from the country have not missed a meeting, a huge commitment. You can provide feedback re the above to me.

If everything goes to plan I can look forward then to be able to sit down and 'toksave' with all members and enjoy your experiences, something which in my present role has not occurred.



Theo Bredmeyer, Consul General Sumasy Singin, Audrey Bredmeyer, Mary Singin



Robyn Petricevic (nee Stewart), Linda Cavanaugh Manning, Brian Pearce

### **Far North Queensland PNGAA Group**

Initial "expression of interest" emails have been sent to members who reside in Far North Queensland region, and will shortly be followed up by letters to members that do not have registered emails. An email address has been set up specifically for this proposed group. Email: [pngaafnq@gmail.com](mailto:pngaafnq@gmail.com) Unfortunately with work commitments and a bout of hospitalisation, I have not had the time to follow up. There is a lot of interest in the region, but we need a convenor who has more time than I. Can anyone assist? Keith Wall

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The speech by Ian Maddocks titled '*Three Personal Encounters with Papua New Guinea 1953 – 2012*', as reported in the March 2014 *Una Voce*, drew on material contained in a chapter in the forthcoming title '*Australians in PNG 1960-1975*', due to be published in the UQ ePress Pacific Studies Series in June 2014.

### Help Wanted

Margaret Dunlop (nee Seale) writes that 'My daughter has become very interested in my mother's (Heather Seale's) life story and of course most of that was in New Guinea. Do you think I could put something into the next *Una Voce* to get 'stories' that people remember about Mum?' If you can assist please email Margaret on E: [marg\\_bobdunlop@hotmail.com](mailto:marg_bobdunlop@hotmail.com) or phone: 99694096

\* \* \*

**The photo below shows the children who attended a Red Cross camp in Port Moresby in August 1955 – can you identify them please? Ora Smith writes:** 'As this is the Centenary Year for Red Cross in Australia I would love to be able to identify the others in this picture to forward a copy of this to Red Cross Australia. I am the one in the Red Cross cape at the front.' If you can help please contact Ora Smyth (nee Gane) at 8 Ocean View Crescent Emerald Beach, NSW 2456 Ph: 02 66562215 M: 0412520492 [ora.smyth@yahoo.com](mailto:ora.smyth@yahoo.com)



## **Website Walkabout:**

### ***Aussie Made TV Series About PNG Rugby Heroes Debuts*** *Drama shows familiar everyday issues faced by players*

PORT MORESBY, Papua New Guinea (The National, March 3, 2014) – The teaser clip for an upcoming PNG television series was launched in March by ABC International.

Central Giants, the series, will be produced in Port Moresby through a partnership between ABC International and PNG's National Broadcasting Corporation (NBC).

It is based on three young men who are local heroes through their rugby team, but have to deal with real everyday issues at home that are familiar to PNG society.

The launch was an occasion to seek support for the series from the business community in Port Moresby and present to show support from the government was Northern Governor Gary Juffa.

ABC International's head of Pacific and Mekong branch Domenic Friguglietti said: "We invested in a lot of social research in 2011 and '12 to work around issues that the citizens were telling us about."

SOURCE: EMTV/PACNEWS, The National

### **The Outcomes Report from the Lowy Institute's emerging Leaders**

**Dialogue** from November 2013 can be read here:

<http://www.lowyinstitute.org/publications/australia-papua-new-guinea-emerging-leaders-dialogueoutcomes-report>

### **CENTENARY OF GREAT WAR IN RABAUL September 2014**

September 11<sup>th</sup> will be the 100 year Centenary of the first casualties of the Great War. The Rabaul Historical Society together with the ANMEF will be hosting Centenary Events, including the Centenary Commemoration on the 14<sup>th</sup> September of the sinking of the AE1 with all souls still missing at sea somewhere near Rabaul . Contact Susie McGrade, Rabaul Hotel, for further information.

<http://www.kokodahistorical.com.au/index/index.php/tours/anmef-tour>

8-12 September 2014

<http://www.militaryhistorytours.com.au/site/Rabaul.asp>

9-14 September 2014

### **David Howell of Kokoda Historical was interviewed recently on Radio National about the Battle of Bitapaka:**

<http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/drive/historyonics3a-the-battle-for-bitapaka/5407518>

Just a reminder!

**PNGAA has a Facebook** group – see:

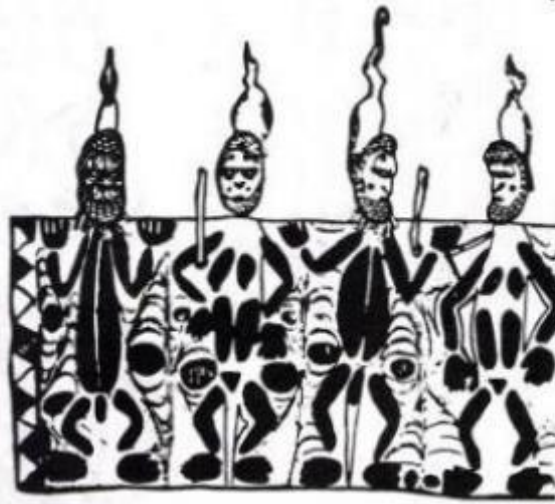
[http://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?id=402065443176872&story\\_fbid=334928303252641#!/PNGAA](http://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?id=402065443176872&story_fbid=334928303252641#!/PNGAA)

Please join the network and contribute your comments, anecdotes, events etc.

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

► Lowy Institute welcomes Australian Government announcement of the Australia-Papua New Guinea Network. The Executive Director of the Lowy Institute for International Policy, Dr Michael Fullilove, welcomed the announcement of 6 February 2014 by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Hon Julie Bishop MP, of the Australian Government's support for the Australia-Papua New Guinea Network. A key element of the Network will be an online hub for interaction between Australian and Papua New Guinean businesses and NGOs. The Network's focus will be on engaging young people. It will include dedicated social media channels to reinvigorate a new generation to build lasting ties. The Lowy Institute's Melanesia Program will work closely with PNG research institutions to build and manage the Network.

'Although there are already strong links in government and business between Australia and its nearest neighbour, people-to-people links are largely underdeveloped. It is imperative that these links are strengthened', said Dr Fullilove. The Network will build on the Institute's earlier efforts, led by our Melanesia Program, to promote dialogue between Australia and Papua New Guinea, including the 2012 New Voices conference held in Papua New Guinea and the 2013 Australia-Papua New Guinea Emerging Leaders Dialogue.



**Stall Holders apply now...**

**Oceanic Art Society**

**TRIBAL ART FAIR**

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2014.**

**10 AM – 3 PM, ST MATTHIAS CHURCH HALL,  
Oxford St. Paddington, NSW**

**(OPPOSITE Jersey Road & Queen Street)**

**Contact: OAS PO Box 1084 Edgecliff NSW 2027**

**Email: [secretary@oceanicartsociety.org.au](mailto:secretary@oceanicartsociety.org.au)**



## **Contemporary writing from Papua New Guinea**

In May, the PNGAA initiated a sponsorship that will greatly assist the more rapid development of an indigenous creative writing and reading culture in Papua New Guinea.

The Crocodile Prize, now in its fourth year, administers PNG's national creative writing awards and your Association, through the vehicle of the PNGAA Crocodile Prize Publishing Program, has provided a \$5,000 sponsorship to underwrite the production of the Crocodile Prize Anthology 2014.

This is a compendium of the best PNG writing, and it is published each September.

The Crocodile Prize Organising Group, COG, under the joint direction of Keith Jackson and Phil Fitzpatrick, has committed to matching the PNGAA sponsorship on at least a dollar for dollar basis and it is hoped this project will enable the publication of around 2,000 anthologies for distribution throughout PNG.

As part of the relationship with PNGAA, COG has agreed to provide outstanding examples of the writing coming out of PNG for periodic publication in *Una Voce*.

## **CAN THE MELANESIAN WAY GUARANTEE A GOOD LIFE?**

### **Tanya Zeriga-Alone**

WHEN the agreement was signed to reroute asylum seekers from the Middle East bound for Australia to Papua New Guinea, there was a public outcry against the move by a majority of Papua New Guineans.

In the midst of the animosity levelled against the decision, the more peace-loving Papua New Guineans were using the social media to remind the rest of the people about the Melanesian Way. Papua New Guineans were urged to embrace the asylum seekers in 'the Melanesian Way'.

What then is the Melanesian Way that is supposed to make asylum seekers welcome? Proponents talked about love, acceptance and peace such that, if this concept was a picture, it would show a line of people standing along a beach with the Bible in one hand, a lei in the other and a smile on the face.

Is the Melanesian Way a way of love? Did our ancestors stand on the shores and sing songs of welcome when the Whiteman sailed into the harbours and coves of the island of New Guinea?

John Waiko in his narration of the first contact between the Binandere with the Whiteman showed that the manner in which the different tribes approached the Whiteman was a direct reflection of their capacity to fight their tribal battles. Some tribes were self-sufficient in their capacity to fight and maintain tribal lands and acquire new land from the losing tribes while other tribes were being run to extinction. Those that could not defend their lands embraced the Whiteman as an ally in a hope that the Whiteman and the power of his shotgun could be used to fight their battle.

On the other hand, those that were self-sufficient saw the Whiteman as a threat and rejected the Whiteman and fought him off any chance they had and even ate the bodies of white men to assimilate their power. The Binandere people were portrayed as a scheming lot who forged alliances based on the benefits the alliance would bring to them to assist them fight their enemies. Unfortunately the Whiteman was not aware of this agenda.

Other commentators define the Melanesian Way as a value of equality. Indeed, most PNG societies are egalitarian. Apart from a few societies that had chieftain systems, most tribes in PNG lived in a society where everybody was equal. (Although the



introduction of sweet potato disrupted this system in some societies by breeding pigs, polygamy and the big man.)

The notable writer and blogger Martyn Namorong calls this the ‘Melanesian equilibrium’ wherein the “the fruits of the land were regarded as communally owned and, as such, everyone in society expected a fair share – not necessarily an equal portion” – a balancing act between the interests of the individual against those of the tribe. But that was where it ended, within the tribe. No Melanesian equilibrium was ever extended to those outside the tribe. Tribes were fiercely protective of their land and women.

John Fowke, in his essay on the Melanesian Way, says that it ‘is the way of a fragmented multi-tribal society. It’s a Way which facilitated the existence of such societies whilst they remained divided, multi-lingual, local, warlike and competitive. In PNG’s case, this was a society that existed successfully and independently for tens of thousands of years’.

The ‘Way’ that kept a fragmented multi-tribal society intact as referred to by Fowke can be put down to one word – suspicion. Suspicion of everything beyond the tribal boundaries, suspicion of the unknown kept tribes independent for thousands of years.

The trade links and allies that existed were acquired, maintained and managed through marriage over time. The elaborate planning and ritual that went into arranging marriages and paying bride prices demonstrates how important marriages were for strategic purposes.

Although confusing to outsiders, the sometimes messy mortuary ritual that takes place to honour the “*mama lain*” and the “*papa lain*” when someone dies serves to reaffirm those links and allies.

Other commentators say that the Melanesian Way is an attempt to bring the thousand tribes with diverse tribal rules together as one nation. The Melanesian Way served to bring the thousand tribes ‘...under a new version of tradition as a bundle of values specific to no particular place but putatively shared by all’.

Is that what Bernard Narokobi meant when he coined the term back in the 1984?

The rule of law which judges right from wrong is a concept absent in the Melanesian context. Mr Narokobi recognised this and pointed out there was no right way of making peace and that conflicts can be successfully settled by recognising differences in the approaches and then coming up with the best mode to resolve the issue.

Through this method of considering all options, all parties win to some level and none lose. This ensures that relationships are maintained and none is estranged, because one may need to call a favour in the near future. This method of reaching a consensus had practical implications when the thousand tribes came together to become one nation. This method validated all the different customs that existed and through a show of respect and consideration for differences. This method of dispute resolution was the Melanesian Way Mr Narokobi referred to.

Does a Melanesian Way exist and does it work? The answers are ‘yes’ and ‘sometimes’. For instance, the Melanesian Way is the winner in land disputes cases. Through dialogue, the genealogy is constructed and the land divided accordingly. All parties are satisfied. This however, is not so for those who go to the court of law. The law rules one the winner and owner of the land and the other is the loser. This breeds animosity between blood relatives.

Despite its usefulness, the Melanesian Way is open to manipulation and misuse because of the oral nature of customary law. This misuse has been pervasive in the political arena. A commentator states this about the Melanesian Way in politics: ‘[It]

is whatever those in powers choose it to mean. Lacking any kind of scrutiny their personal lives are enriched by theft, bribery and corruption. The Rule of Law means nothing to them and corruption is so entrenched that it is the norm rather than the exception.'

After observing politics in PNG, hard-talking commentator, Dr Susan Merrell says the Melanesian Way is 'redolent with self-serving pragmatism and a fickle approach to commitment that can be called upon, or not, according to whim.'

This self-serving pattern exists because PNG's parliament has two guiding principles. First is the one borrowed from the west and based on Christian tenets and the other is the custom.

Custom, however, is not one custom but a thousand customs, unwritten and open to interpretation and which cannot be challenged in a court of law. In such a dual system, with no rule to guide decisions, the trend has been to choose culture over the constitution when it seems beneficial to do so. The Melanesian Way has become the excuse to break laws and circumvent obligations and hard decisions and even escape the grasp of the law.

Justice is not served when a compromise is reached outside the modern court of law to pay '*bel kol moni*' to the families of victims of rape and abuse. It is against human rights values when a young girl is forcefully married off by her family to an older man to settle old scores. So the Melanesian Way has become self-serving, as pointed by the political commentators. It suppresses innovation and hard work because it rewards supporters and kin and not hard work.

Can the 'Melanesian Way' guarantee a good life for the people of Papua New Guinea?

The definition of a good life is subjective, but all people, regardless of whether they live in glass house or grass huts, desire a society where there is respect for lives and property, where there is an opportunity to better their lot in life through education, where they can access good health care, where they are safe and protected and where justice prevails.

We can make a good life for our people when we stop pretending that the Melanesian way is relevant in the 21st century because it is not. Every human being must abide by the rule of law and conduct their lives according to the moral code all human live by.

Justice has to prevail. The troublemakers must be punished and the people must rise and fall not because of influence but because they have worked hard and earned a good life.

Papua New Guineans must become free from the oppression of the Melanesian Way.

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Tanya Zeriga-Alone was educated at the Australian National University and is a consultant with the United Nations Development Program's Papua New Guinea office in Port Moresby where she is conducting an assessment of PNG's environmental governance with particular reference to information management and monitoring. Tanya was formerly a conservation planner with the Wildlife Conservation Society of PNG. She enjoys sewing, reading and writing and has a passion for environment conservation.

## **ALBERT SPEER MBE – RACONTEUR**

*This anecdote was delivered at Albert Speer's funeral by Andrew Pawley*

I want to touch on just one of the domains in which Bert excelled: as a raconteur, a story-teller. My wife and I first got to know Bert and Maurice in Port Moresby in 1969, when I spent a year teaching at the UPNG. Over the years we've heard some wonderful stories about memorable events in Bert's life. For example, there was the night in the Southern Highlands of Papua New Guinea when a broadcast of the Goon Show, featuring the loud voices of Neddy Seagoon, Eccles, Min and company, probably saved him from a fatal attack by a war party of angry tribesmen. Bert had been left alone at the newly established patrol post while the Patrol Officer, Jim Sinclair, was away on patrol with his policemen and carriers.

But as time is short I will recount just one story, perhaps his greatest, one that recounts powerful formative experiences at different points in his life. I first wrote it down from memory but recently was able to check it against a version recorded by Bert's cousin, Terry O'Toole.

It concerned a sleeping bag he was given in the War. During World War 2 Bert served in the Australian Army in New Guinea as a medical officer, initially in Milne Bay. In 1943, at the age of 21, he found himself tending the sick and wounded in a military hospital near the airfield towns of Wau and Bulolo, inland from the north coast of Papua. On his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday a grateful American soldier whose wounds he had stitched up gave him a fine eiderdown sleeping bag. The Japanese had captured the port towns of Salamaua and Lae, which had served as bases for their attack on Port Moresby across the Kokoda Track, and were trying to capture Wau and Bulolo. The Australian and American forces were trying to drive them out of Salamaua, using both bombers and infantry.

At one point Bert was part of a thrust by the 24<sup>th</sup> Battalion through the mountains north of Salamaua. His party was camped on a ridge when they were detected and suddenly attacked by a party of Japanese soldiers. Men were wounded and Bert and his mates had no choice but to scarper into the bush. The Japanese destroyed their camp and left. When the Australians returned they found the remains of their tents and equipment, but when Bert looked in his tent his sleeping bag was missing. "I was upset," he said "because it was a very good quality bag and a valued gift from an American soldier."

As you know, Bert returned to PNG soon after the War to work as a medical officer for the Australian Administration. He became the mentor of many Papua New Guinean medical assistants and other young people. Anyway, fast forward to around 1960, a time when a former Japanese soldier visited Papua New Guinea, where he had been part of the invading army, with the rank of captain. His name was Goshi Inuzuka and he was now the mayor of a city in the west of Honshu, Mitzuke. While he was visiting Lae Inuzuka met and became friends with a local reporter called Muttu Gware, who was I think writing a newspaper feature about Captain Inuzuka's return to New Guinea. Inuzuka asked Muttu Gware how he got his training as a reporter and Muttu told him that Albert Speer had played a key role in supporting him. Inuzuka invited Muttu Gware to visit him in Japan and asked him to invite Speer to come with him.

Bert mulled things over. He said "I was in two minds. I held a deep grudge against the Japanese. They were our enemies in a terrible war. But then I thought, maybe

it's time to let bygones be bygones. And Muttu was adamant that he could not travel to Japan by himself. So I went." They stayed with the mayor and his family, who included a grown-up daughter who had good English, and a son. The son was a skiing instructor, a detail that is relevant. Anyway, during this trip Bert and Goshi Inuzuka became good friends. A couple of years later Bert travelled to Japan again to pay him a second visit.

After dinner one evening the men were talking about their war experiences, looking for connections. Goshi brought out something to show Bert, a treasured souvenir from his time as a soldier in New Guinea. It was a sleeping bag. "It is a very fine sleeping bag. My son takes it with him when he is working in the ski fields."

Bert's heart must have skipped several beats. "You know, I lost a sleeping bag in 1943. It was taken from my tent when a Japanese party raided our camp in the mountains near Salamaua." Goshi exclaimed "That's where I got the bag! I was the commanding officer in that attack. Probably it is your bag."

Bert examined it and sure enough, it was his. The serial number was still on it. NX122 222. "You must take it back," said Goshi. "Thank you but no, it's useful to your son and I have no need of it now. He must keep it."

So that's the story of the sleeping bag, a story that spans different stages of Bert's adult life, and powerful experiences that first shaped and then changed his view of the Japanese. He did let bygones be bygones and moved on constructively. In later years as part of his researches on other matters to do with the war he corresponded with and formed friendships with a number of other Japanese. And he maintained a lasting friendship with three generations of the Inuzuka family and more than 30 years later, after Goshi's passing, he returned to Japan to see them again. But that is another story that Terry O'Toole has recorded.

Bert, thanks for your stories and your friendship. It was a privilege to know you.

## **A RABAUl NIGHT IN HELIOPOLIS**

**From The Rabaul Times 1 March 1916 courtesy Graham Herriott**

Captain JA McDowell, of the 18<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 5<sup>th</sup> Brigade, was an officer of the Australian forces who captured German New Guinea, and afterwards went to Gallipoli, where he was wounded. In a letter to Lieut. Jolley, he mentions that poor old Captain Macpherson, and several others, who were also up here, had been killed. The following extract from the letter will be read with interest. 'All the other New Guinea officers are in Holmes' Brigade. A lot of them have 'gone under', of course. We had a New Guinea reunion dinner at Heliopolis (Egypt) the night before we left for the front. Thirty four officers were present, including Paton and Watson. Your pals got together and drank a toast of 'Fred Jolley', followed by another toast, 'Bob Jolley'. We called the waitresses and waiters well-known Rabaul names – in fact we had a regular Rabaul night.'

## HOW THESE ISLANDS WERE OCCUPIED BY O.W. GILLAM

**From the Rabaul Record, March 1<sup>st</sup> 1916 with thanks to George Herriott**

In the first week of September, 1914, an armed troopship, the *Berrima*, flying the White Ensign and carrying 550 Naval Reserve men and 1000 soldiers sailed from Port Moresby in company with *HMAS Sydney*, *Encounter*, *Yarra*, *Warrego*, *Parramatta*, *AE1*, *AE2*, *Kanowna* (troopship), a supply ship, a collier and an oil ship. Owing to trouble in the stokehold, the *Kanowna* with Queensland troops, was ordered back shortly after starting.

Off the SE end of New Guinea we 'joined up' with the battleship *Australia* (just escorted the NZ troops to Samoa). A conference was held at sea on the 'Flag' (*Australia*) as to the method of making a landing on New Britain at the Capital – Rabaul – by all commanding officers. The *Berrima*'s three Commanders attended this conference, viz Col Holmes (soldiers), Com Beresford (NR's) and Capt Stevenson, RAN, Com, *Berrima*.

It was the opinion of the majority that no defence would be made, but if there were it would be in the defending of Rabaul and nowhere else. Lt Bowen, who, together with Lt Webber, Mid. Buller, Capt Pockley (AMC) and 50 naval reservists, had been transferred from the *Berrima* to the cruise *Sydney*, was to land at Kabakaul, while Webber was to land at Herbertschohe (now Kokopo), each with 25 men, to look for and put out of action the high-power wireless station which was known to be in the vicinity of these places.

The *Sydney* steamed ahead and at daylight landed the men as arranged. On rounding Cape Gazelle, behind the *Australia* and *Encounter*, with a number of vessels behind us we could see the destroyers and *Sydney* well in shore, the *Warrego* and *Yarra* being stationed off Kabakaul and the *Parramatta* off Kokopo, for use, if necessary in supporting the landing parties.

We sailed past, but pulled up outside the Beehives, whilst the harbour, or that part of it required for anchorage by the fleet, was swept for any possible mines. This work was carried out by the steam barge of the *Australia* and the *Troopship One*, which is now the Administrator's launch in this harbour, having returned from *Sydney* in December per troopship *Eastern*. Orders on the *Berrima* of the night before this eleventh day of September stated that in the event of reinforcements being asked for No 3 Company (my company) was to land, followed, if necessary, by No. 6 (Lt Bond's).

The *Berrima*'s engines had hardly stopped when a wireless from the *Warrego* to the 'Flag' urgently requested reinforcements, as Bowen had met overwhelming opposition. Instantly the *Berrima* was ordered back to Kabakaul and by the time she was ready to drop anchor we were in the boats, making for the breakwater. My right half company leader had been lent to the *Yarra* the week before – this left me only with Midshipman Stirling – short an officer. Lt-Com Elwell pleaded so hard to land that, in spite of his being left half battalion leader (I belonged to the right half), he was allowed to land, and so, being my senior, I lost the full command of my company and, unfortunately, poor old Elwell lost his life. It is a coincidence that Captain Pockley (one of the best) also was a volunteer to land, and lost his life.

On landing we emptied our haversacks of food, blanket, clothes etc – it was frightfully hot – and formed up. Elwell taking the right half (firing line) and I the supports. WO Yeo had been sent down by Bowen to get reinforcements, and he led



us up a narrow road towards where the sound of firing could be heard. Lt Hill of the Yarra had gone up with a few men ahead of us and left connecting links all the way down. We had travelled about 15 minutes when we came under fire from snipers.

On landing Lt-Com Elwell took charge and, guided by Chief Gunner Yeo, we proceeded in fours to the relief of Lt Bowen along a narrow road. About one mile from the shore Lt Commander Elwell and myself discussed the method of advance, having come under fire. We decided to send out scouts each side of the road, and to proceed with the main body as before, along the road in fours, in order to advance more quickly, as we again heard Bowen was hard pressed. Owing to the density of the jungle, the scouts could not keep up, so patrols of six men at a time were sent along the road in advance of the company, sending out fresh scouts each side of the road from the advance guard as the scouts were overtaken and passed. Those who got behind fell in with and formed a rear guard under Signal Boatswain Hunter. After advancing about 40 minutes, and at a sharp bend in the road, I doubled to the front to consult Elwell, and suggested we extend in the jungle, and proceed in that formation. Whilst speaking, AB Courtney was shot dead, and we immediately extended and advanced, Lt-Com Elwell taking the firing line – myself the support.

In a few moments I had lost sight of the right half coy, owing to the density of the scrub, but kept close touch by my ears and a connecting file. We were all under fire, and two men of my half company already wounded. A few yards further on Signalmen Moffat and AB Skillen were both badly hit. I could not see any enemy and the shots seemed to come from trees and small trenches alongside the road, from any direction. We overtook men from the *Yarra* in white uniforms, some armed only with revolvers. Although most conspicuous none were hit. I am of opinion the reason was because the Native Police had been ordered to shoot at men in khaki, armed with rifles, and men in helmets (officers), and German prisoners have since confirmed this. I heard Lt-Com Elwell order 'Fix swords – charge.' I had no warning nor did he call for the supports, and at this time we were practically on top of him. At the same time Mr Hunter reported the finding of an electrical mine-firing key, which he took possession of, after cutting the wires. The right half company's charge found no enemy and Elwell crossed the road, and we were coming up level with his men, when I came upon a German sergeant in a trench, two *Yarra* men, and a Chinaman, and Mid Buller. Buller told me Lt Bowen was close by, shot in the head. He was only half conscious – his face covered with blood and flies. After covering his face with mosquito net and making him more comfortable, he informed me that he handed over his command to a Lt Hill of Yarra, asked me to promise (he, too, thought he was dying) the Chinaman was not to be handed back to the Germans because he had been useful to him, and later on to return a pair of Zeiss glasses he had borrowed from a German officer he took prisoner. He also advised me to scour the right hand side of the bush, or so I made out from his rambling, half-unconscious talk. I sent for reinforcements, and the ambulance; the latter were quickly in attendance, the former did not come. Whilst talking to Bowen we were shot at from three directions. I could only see seven of my men, so sent three in the direction Bowen indicated, two ahead and two in a half left direction, and myself was moving ahead when I heard the order to 'Cease fire', and all the firing ceased, both from the trench ahead and our own men. I walked over to the road and saw my right half company and No 5 Company

(Bowen) men forming up. On enquiring who gave the order a man in a shirt and trousers only (it was Hill, who had discarded all officers badges and uniform) said he did, and he was a Lt from Yarra. We then took three German prisoners – they were flying the white flag, and about 40 black soldiers. The Germans asked for an armistice. The trench extended across the road, mostly on the North side. Lt Com Elwell had been killed in the fray. His body was carried to the road on a rough bier.

By direction of Lt Hill I marched the men back, calling to those still in the bush to bring the dead and wounded with them. By us it was thought everything was over, and the Germans feigned little knowledge of English. After proceeding a short distance, the AMC sergeant asked for more men, as the stretchers – made of green sap – gave him all he asked for. About two miles in the rear we came across Com Beresford with No 6 Company and Machine Gun Section. I handed over the prisoners and my separate command ended.

I take this opportunity of expressing my extreme pleasure and gratification with the work done by every man of my command. The rapidity of advance (which, no doubt, disconcerted the enemy considerably), I credit to Lt Commander Elwell and Mr Yeo, and the steadiness of the right half company when in the bush (few men only could be handled by one man at a time) to GI Coombes; his work was splendid. The awful heat without wind had distressed my men, yet not one demurred at the heavy work they were still called upon to do after our junction with Com Beresford. We were three hours under fire.

(To be continued)

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## **SAILING CANOE**

### **Peter Worsley**

This description of a large sailing canoe was requested by Dr Michael McCarthy during his research prior to writing his book *Ships' Fastenings: From Sewn Boat to Steamship*. Texas A&M University Press, 2005.

In November 1961 I accompanied Dr Andre Becker of the Department of Public Health of the Territory of Papua and New Guinea on a patrol of the Siassi Islands. The object of the patrol was for Dr. Becker to carry out a TB survey, and my job was to act as interpreter. The Siassi Islands are a group of islands in the Vitiaz Straits, between the Huon Peninsula of the mainland of New Guinea and the western end of the island of New Britain. The group consists of one main island, Umboi or Rooke Island, and dozens of smaller islands. The people, who are Melanesian, were noted for their sailing ability and traded in their canoes over fairly long distances. The patrol was carried out in the government owned, ex-Army coastal motor vessel *Morobe*, skippered by Geoff Hall. This vessel was 66 feet long and had a cargo capacity of 50 tons. On board was a portable X-ray unit and generating plant, and my job was to go ashore at each village and explain to the people all about T.B. and X-rays.

While motoring towards the island of Tuam at 10 knots the *Morobe* was overtaken and passed by a very large sailing canoe that the skipper estimated was doing at least 12 knots. The canoe had two masts, each with one crab-claw sail on it. The sails were made from either woven pandanus or palm leaf and

steering was by a large oar held vertically over the side towards the stern of the canoe. There were about 8 or 9 adults on the canoe, and what appeared to be a dozen or so kids keeping the outrigger down. The outrigger is always on the windward side when sailing, and the fastest sailing is when it is kept just above the surface of the sea.



Offloading X-ray equipment at  
Siassi Islands 1961

On arrival at Tuam Island the *Morobe* anchored alongside this canoe, which was one foot longer than the *Morobe*, or 67 feet. Later the canoe was dragged ashore and I had a chance to examine it in detail. It was carved from a single log, hollowed out and then built up with planks sewn to the hull with sennit. The sennit was made from coir (the fibre from around coconuts), first rolled on the thigh to make string then a number of the strings plaited to make sennit. Sennit is plaited, as distinct from rope, cable, etc. which are twisted. I could walk upright under the beams joining the hull to the outrigger and these just brushed my hair. I am 172 centimetres tall. The hull was resting on rollers made from round tree trunks used to help pull it up onto the beach. These rollers would have been about 150-175 mm in diameter and made from mangrove trees.

The outrigger was a single shaped log about 30 feet long joined to the canoe hull by (I think) four beams. The outrigger had two pairs of hardwood timbers let into it at each position where a beam came. Each pair of timbers was set at an angle to form an X as they projected upwards towards the beam. Sennit lashings were used to tie the beams to these angled timbers, which I think were made from black palm, the same wood from which bows and some arrow points are made.

I was told the hollowing out of the log for the hull was carried out using alternating adze and fire. The opening left in the top was narrower than the space inside.

The sennit used to join planks and hull was woven through holes, and there was a caulking of some sort of leaves or coir between the timber edges. The holes in the timber where the sennit passed through were stopped with some sort of vegetable gum or resin. The sennit was woven two or three times through two adjacent holes, then taken diagonally across to the next pair of holes and again woven through two or three times. I cannot recall whether the sennit was let



into the timber in grooves, or whether it lay on the timber surface. I think that there had been a pad of timber left in the bottom of the canoe at each mast position to act as a mast step. Regarding decoration, I think that there was some painting on the planks but little or no carving.

The main island of the Siassi Islands, Umboi or Rooke, is about 48 kilometres long and 24 kilometres wide and rises to a height of 5,430 feet (1,655 m) at its highest point. At the time it was thickly forested and could possibly have provided the tree for the canoe hull. However, it is more likely that the log came from either the western end of New Britain or the Huon Peninsula area of the mainland, both of which are fairly close.



Left: Siassi men at Lae Show 1962  
Photo: Peter Worsley

Below: Constable Oiufa No 8336 RPNGC 1964



Below: Sadau Village, Wain Census Division, Morobe District 1962



Photos from Peter Worsley

Right: Bamboo Bridge between Sapmanga and Boksawin, early 1960's



## **MEMORIES BY CHARLES BETTERIDGE**

In one's life there is always the unexpected that happens when you least expect it, and it can have a lasting effect on you and this can be in any shape or form. Some of these instances are minor, but the other ones are not, and they stick in your memory for years after.

Throughout the thirty three years that I lived and worked in PNG plus a further two years in the other Pacific Island nations I face quite a number of instances that in some cases nearly took my life or affected me in a totally different manner. And so, I begin with these 'special moments'.

I've been through numerous earthquakes from small to large, volcanoes suddenly erupting without warning, flash floods, tidal waves, tribal fighting (especially in the PNG Highlands), being shot at, and of the numerous 'hairy' drives in many parts of PNG; removing dead and injured people in traffic accidents and, of course, the many attempted break and entries and being confronted by large sharks while snorkelling in the Gazelle Peninsula.

The whole of PNG (including Indonesia's West Papua) is still a very young country compared to the island continent of Australia. In fact, the whole of New Guinea is still settling down and it also stands on the very edge of a massive continental plate that is still moving northwards towards the Equator. The whole of the northern rim of PNG has a 'Ring of Fire' along its northern fault line consisting of hundreds of volcanoes from small to massive giants – including Mt Uluwan in the West New Britain Province. This volcano is the sixth largest in the world standing 2334 meters high. It is one of the most active volcanoes in PNG and also one of the most dangerous. Its last eruption was in 2007. I have flown over it and have driven up to its base, which is just over 40kms across. So it is with volcanoes that I will start this adventure in PNG.

Anyone who has ever flown over PNG can only be amazed at the ruggedness of it, with its high mountain ranges and its many coastlines, long rivers and huge coastal plains. One thing that stands out amongst all of this are the numerous volcanoes, active and dormant, that are scattered all over the place from small ones a few hundred meters tall to the giants that stand several thousand meters tall, and the numerous volcanic islands that stand off the coasts of PNG to the north.

Over many years past there have been some massive volcanic eruptions that changed the shape and structure of PNG physically, especially up in the northern regions along the coastline of East and West New Britain starting at Rabaul to the east and down past Kimbe to the west. The area around Rabaul is the most active in PNG and the last major eruption was by two volcanoes erupting at the same time in Rabaul on 19 September 1994. This twin volcanic eruption destroyed 93% of Rabaul.

Further to the south on Bougainville Island there are several large dormant volcanoes standing at least 2000meters or more tall with massive cones that are now filled with water up to a hundred meters deep and up to a kilometre wide, while several others are large ones that are still semi-active. During the 13 months we were on Bougainville (1973-1974) there were several eruptions from one of the giants of which lava flows were up to nearly ten kilometres out to sea. The earthquakes that accompanied these eruptions were quite scary indeed.



No matter where you lived in PNH whether it was on the coast, or further inland and up into the highlands, you can be assured you were not all that far from a volcano – whether dormant or still active. A leading volcanologist who was visiting Rabaul in early 1996 (while I was there) told me that there are really no ‘extinct’ volcanoes. If they erupted once, they will erupt again - whether that is in a few years or a thousand years or more!

Of all the places I have been to in PNG, Rabaul town has the most volcanoes surrounding it of any other town in the world. There are seven of them, two of which are always on alert. The township itself is actually inside the crater of what was once a massive volcano that imploded several thousand years ago, and this caused the ocean to rush in and fill the gaping big hole with sea water – thus Simpson Harbour and Blanche Bay were formed. There are two more volcanoes some 25km away from Rabaul and these are Watom Island and Mt Varzin, behind Kokopo, making a total of nine in the area. I’ve visited all except Watom Island.

When it comes to numbers of volcanoes along the north coast of East and West New Britain the numbers are staggering. Most are near the coast with a few big ones further inland and some out to sea forming islands of their own. From Bialla, a small town midway between Rabaul and Kimbe, I could see quite clearly towards Kimbe over 30 volcanoes from small ones to monsters including Mt Uluwan. The dirt road between Bialla and Kimbe is about 130km long and I came across numerous hot springs right beside the road bubbling away like anything and clouds of hot steam rising all the time and these were the outlets of smaller active volcanoes a few kilometres inland. The local people told me that if anyone of these springs stops bubbling then it’s time to get away from that area for an eruption is imminent at any time.

While I was stationed in Kimbe several times in 1996 and 1997 I drove up to Talasea some 35 km north from kimbe a number of times but what amazed me the most were the number of dormant volcanoes beside the road all the way up. I counted 38 volcanoes (all dormant), from a couple of hundred meters high up to at least 1000 meters high. Two of these larger ones had been active a year or so beforehand and the lava flow had crossed the road a few times in different locations.

At Talasea there is an island of volcanoes some two kilometres off shore from the end of the road and I could count close to twelve volcanic cones on this island and the largest, Moutn Guria, stood nearly a thousand meters high. According to the records, it last erupted in 1700. As a matter of interest, the local people named it Mount Guria, (pidgin for ‘earthquake’) and, believe me, when a volcano starts erupting you can be assured there will be small to large ‘gurias’ before, during and after a volcanic eruption. I experienced this many times during my time in Rabaul in 1996 and 1997.

I was sent up to Rabaul several times in 1996/1997 to help re-establish the Ela Motors complex that was totally destroyed in the devastating twin volcanic eruption of September 19, 1994, when the two most prominent volcanoes, Vulcan and Tavurvur erupted together, starting an eruption that was to eventually destroy practically all of Rabaul town. Prior to this major event I had been to Rabaul in 1970, 1971, 1974 and 1984 and knew what a beautiful place it was. To see it again in 1996 I was literally blown away at the total devastation the twin volcanoes caused in the 1994 eruption.

During the six months in total I was in Rabaul in 1996/1997, Tavurvur Volcano, at the top end of what was once the Rabaul airport was constantly emitting ash and smoke day and night from light emissions to all out eruptions. The hotel I was staying at in Rabaul was only about five kilometres from Tavurvur itself and whenever it decided to erupt the shockwaves from the explosion hit the hotel about two seconds later causing it to shudder and sway a bit, but it was the large plate glass windows in the dining room that were of concern for us for, as soon as the soundwave hit, the plate glass we could actually see the large pains of glass bulging in the middle, then suddenly pop back to normal once the shockwave passed on.

It was during some of these larger eruptions that ‘volcanic storms’ would erupt in amongst the ash and debris as it was shot skyward and huge bolts of lightning with tremendous loud claps of thunder would follow at the same time, and it was during these eruptions that the earth tremors would start from mild to heavy movements. It was the continuous noise of the eruptions that made it so uncomfortable to be anywhere – you simply put your hands over your ears to help reduce the noise as much as possible when an eruption came.

One of my ‘scariest’ moments was on the afternoon of 4 October 1996 as I was driving the 35km from Kokopo back to Rabaul. It was also my daughter’s 21<sup>st</sup> birthday and she was over in the UK at the time and my mind was on her as I was driving along around 4pm that afternoon. Suddenly and without warning, I heard this horrendous explosion that, very soon afterwards, hit my car as I drove along towards Rabaul. The soundwave hit the side of my car with such force that I nearly lost total control of the car and it nearly fell into a four meter deep crevasse near the edge of the road. I managed to stop the car and get out of it when very soon after an earthquake of about 4 on the Richter scale followed which lasted about ten seconds. I was totally alone on this stretch of the ash covered road and I could just see Tavurvur Volcano belching out huge masses of ash and smoke. It had gone into another full eruption which lasted for about twenty minutes or so, but luckily for everyone there was a fairly strong westerly wind blowing at the time which blew the smoke and ash out to sea. I survived that sudden ordeal but, believe me, I was shocked! It took me a few days to finally calm down.

It was reported the next day that people as far south as Bougainville over 400 kilometres away could hear the explosions of Tavurvur Volcano when it erupted that afternoon.

One of the most famous of the many Rabaul eruptions occurred on 29 May 1937 when Vulcan volcano rose up out of Vulcan Island that had been formed nearly 50 years previously by another major earthquake. Today Vulcan is about 400 meters high with several large vent holes in it and is the second most dangerous volcano in Rabaul – with Tavurvur the most dangerous. Tavurvur erupted in June 1941 and it was very active again when the Japanese invasion force sailed into Rabaul during WWII on 22 January 1942.

The deadliest volcanic eruption in modern times in PNG was when Mount Lamington, near Popondetta, fully erupted on 21 January 1951 killing over 3000 people. The explosive blast was equal to an atomic bomb being detonated.

PNG will still continue to ‘settle down’ for years to come and, in the process, there will still be many more volcanic eruptions and earthquakes ahead.

## 'ADMINISTRATIVE OVERSIGHT' SETTLED

### RAAF pilot honoured with US gallantry award



**Photo:** Edward Mobsby's family including daughter Jenny Read (centre) at his grave in Papua New Guinea. (Supplied: Peter DeGaris)

A 72-year long "administrative oversight" has been settled in Canberra, with the United States posthumously awarding an Australian airman with a Silver Star for courage.

Edward 'Mobs' Mobsby was the only Australian on board a US plane which was shot down while on a mission over Papua New Guinea in 1942. The four other men on board were all posthumously awarded the Silver Star medal, the third highest award the US Department of Defence can present for gallantry. But confusion between the Australian and US air forces meant that until today Flying Officer Mobsby missed out.

In a statement the US Air Force said it was thankful the matter could finally be cleared up.

"Awarding the Silver Star to RAAF Flying Officer Edward Thompson Mobsby corrects a 72-year administrative oversight," the statement said.

"By formally presenting Flying Officer Mobsby's

family with his Silver Star we have an opportunity to recognise and acknowledge the gallantry and courage he exhibited alongside his American crew members so many years ago."

Both air forces made the assumption that the other country would award a medal to Mobsby's family, and it was not until the planes wreckage was recovered in 2010 that his family again ramped up their push for recognition.

"Confusion among the services contributed to why he wasn't awarded the Silver Star at the time," the US Air Force statement said. "But we are extremely thankful for the stalwart efforts of Jenny Read [Edward Mobsby's daughter] who revived the quest for her father's award."

Ms Read from Adelaide along with her twin sister Rae Rayner from Geelong were both in Canberra for the presentation at the Australian War Memorial.

"We his children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and our extended families are so very proud and grateful for this amazing day." Ms Read said.

Ms Read says the aircraft was shot down near Buna, Papua New Guinea on July 26, 1942.

"In December 2010 we were informed that the wreckage... had been positively identified as the plane in which my father was shot down," she said.



**Photo:** Wreckage of the plane shot down over Papua New Guinea in 1942. (Supplied: Peter DeGaris)

"It was located in a small village called Isoge, only a short distance from Kokoda."  
The US Air Force says today's ceremony in Canberra was about righting a wrong.  
"This award is one of the highest decorations for valour that can be awarded in our armed forces and we are thankful to finally be able to honour Flying Officer Mobsby's gallantry in action against the enemy."

Source : ABC News March 15 2014



### **"Safety notice"**

This used to be displayed at Kokopo just before the Tokua airport. You were required to hand your firearms to the pilot prior to boarding the aircraft.

## **ACPSRO NEWS By Tim Terrell, PNGAA rep on ACPSRO May 2014 INDEXATION AND CSHC UPDATE**

A recent ACPSRO executive meeting I attended reviewed recent developments relating to Commonwealth superannuation indexation and the Seniors Health Card and discussed future directions. It was held immediately before the release of the Commission of Audit report but following related recent statements by the Prime Minister and Treasurer. A full report was presented on the passage last month of the legislation providing for Fair Indexation of DFRB and DFRDB superannuation. 25 members spoke to the legislation (22 government and 3 opposition), all in favour of it. A key point to emerge was the general support given to the concept of Fair Indexation – a term used in the title of the legislation. At the same time, the unique nature of military employment by the recipients was stressed in justification of it being limited to them. The meeting concluded that despite this limitation, the full implementation of this pre-election commitment was a step in the right direction, for which the Government should be commended.

Also to be commended was the action taken by the Government to implement its commitment to apply CPI indexation to the eligibility thresholds for the Commonwealth Seniors Health Card. This is scheduled to commence in September.

Much less encouraging have been recent reports of possible changes to the aged pension. These include reversion of indexation from the present largely wage based index to CPI. Should this occur, it would threaten the change just made to military superannuation and could eliminate any change towards more general fair indexation. The Prime Minister is reported to have said there would be no such changes during the present Parliament, but could be an issue for the next. Until the 2014-15 Budget is presented, we will not know accurately what the Government intends

ACPSRO decided last year to restrain action on its advocacy of fair indexation to all Commonwealth superannuation beyond supporting early implementation of the military commitment. As that has now been effected, the meeting agreed that action should now be taken to resume strong advocacy. This would include:

- Collaboration with other organisations that represent aged pensioners in resisting any reduction in the indexation of aged pensions and in fostering more general application of fair indexation.
- Encouragement of individual member representations to local parliamentarians. The meeting noted that the successful ADSO/ DFWA campaign for fair indexation had included a well organised effort to bring the issue to the attention of local members all over Australia. This had raised political and social awareness of the issue and contributed to the result.
- Emphasis on the importance of the changes that have occurred to the way in which the CPI is calculated and the cumulative effect these changes have made to superannuation payments. When originally set as the index, CPI kept payments in line with the cost of living as indicated by movements in wages. It has long ceased to do so, and an example was given of one superannuant whose initial pension 20 years ago was 50% of their then salary but is now less than 30% of the salary of a position at the same level.
- Noting the potential role of the Future Fund in reducing or eliminating the budgetary impact of Commonwealth superannuation payments.



## ASOPA CEOs 1963-1964 by Neil Harvey

November this year marks the 50th year since the 1963-1964 intake of Cadet Education Officers left Mosman and ASOPA behind and began their teaching careers in either the Northern Territory or the then Territory of Papua and New Guinea.

Being of a nostalgic nature, I have begun (rather belatedly, some will say - and with some justification) to try and make contact with them and discover what they've been doing during that time. Some others from the group - Janine Outram, Sue Noblet, Faye Nielsen, Bob Creelman, John Segal, Mike Owner, Peter Plummer, Leyland Minter - have been contacted and have joined the hunt over the past few weeks.

Success so far has been very limited. Out of that 43, eight have died, and contact has only been made with eleven, which means there are 22 still to be found. Those 24 are: Bill Allen, Gary Armstrong, Adrian Black, Irene Boronaev, Mary Bray, Lindsay Carlin, Mary Chee, Wayne Coleman, Peter Croker, Warren Gibson, Maxine Grainger, Colin Hooper, Janet Lucas, Alex Maggs, Peter Moses, Dave Parker, John Redfern, Fay Robinson, Murray Russell, Paul Smith, Betty Tsa and Glen Warwick and Vera Zander.

Hopefully, by the time this letter is published some hopeful leads will have borne fruit.

If any readers can help in any way, it would be much appreciated. I can be contacted by phone at: (02) 6024 3667; by snail mail at: 8 Castleton Street, Wodonga, Victoria, 3690; or by email at: [neilandbarb@spin.net.au](mailto:neilandbarb@spin.net.au)



CADET EDUCATION OFFICERS — FIRST YEAR

Back row: G. Armstrong, W. Coleman, N. Harvey, W. Allen, A. Black, J. Segal, D. Agir, P. Plummer.  
Fourth row: P. Hannigan, M. Russell, J. Waters, R. Creelman, J. Redfern, P. Ralls, D. Parker, L. Minter.  
Third row: L. Carlin, A. Maggs, P. Croker, C. Hooper, P. Brigg, P. Moses.  
Second Row: J. Outram, M. Chee, M. Bray, V. Zander, B. Tsa, S. Noblet.  
Front row: J. Lucas, F. Robinson, R. Vaughan, M. Grainger, R. Gray, I. Boronaeve.

**DONATIONS TO PNGAA COLLECTION, FRYER LIBRARY**  
**THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND – June 2014**  
**Dr Peter Cahill**

**Mary R. Mennis:** *Tubuan and Tabernacle 1882-1907*: the life stories of two priests of Papua New Guinea (The Most Reverend Benedict To Varpin CBE, and Rev. Father Bernard Franke MSC CBE). **Mike Lean:** CD1 contains memorabilia, biographies, and photographs from the 5th E(ducation) Course for newly appointed teachers. Malaguna Technical College, Rabaul, November 1963. CD2/DVD photos

Mt Hagen Show 1967; South Pacific Games, Port Moresby 1969; assorted Port Moresby scenes; Daulo Pass (Eastern Highlands); Trobriand Islands, UPNG buildings; wreck (souvenir) hunters; walking Kokoda Track; Watabung High School (Eastern Highlands); Wahgi Valley. **Mark Robinson**, (PnR Philately Pty.Ltd. Ormis-ton 4160); *Archival Printing Records of the Territory of Papua* (Lithographs) 1907-1911. Researched and Written by Dr Geoff Kellow. *Archival Printing Records for the Territory of New Guinea* (Huts issues) 1925-28. Researched & Written by Dr Geoff Kellow. *Collector's Guide Series* – stamps of the *British New Guinea* and the *De La Rue* Series (1885-1907) De La Rue Lakatoi including Papua Overprints; Easy reference tabulated data, charts and CD digital images (includes CD). *Collector's Guide Series* – stamps of the *Territory of Papua*; The Papua Series (1908-1911) Small Papua & Large Papua (includes CD); Easy reference tabulated data, charts and CD tabulated data; Collector's Guide Series to the stamps of the Territory of Papua; The "Lakatoi" Mono-colour & Bi-colour 'Typograph' issues including Provisional, Official & Airmail Overprints 1911-1932; Easy referenced tabulated data, charts and CD

Digital images consolidating research of A.A. Rosenblum, Hamilton Croaker and others with current research; (includes CD). **Peter Cahill:** Bulletin: Franciscans of Papua New Guinea. vol.28 no.2 March 2014; Patrol Reports and Station Journals held by the Papua New Guinea Archives, Port Moresby, as at 1964; Patrol Reports and Station Journals held by the Australian Government Commonwealth Archives, Canberra, ACT, as at 1964; Hermann Detzner, *Fier Jahre Unter Kannibalen* (Four Years among Cannibals) photocopied transcript; includes photocopy of *Hermann Detzner: New Guinea's first Coastwatcher*; Vol.2 no1 of the Journal of the Papua New Guinea Society, 1968, pp.5-21 (important to note final paragraph on p.21); photocopy *Who was First? The First White Man into the New Guinea Highlands*,

Vol.3 no.1 of The Journal of the Papua and New Guinea Society 1969. Pp.32-45; and from Wikipedia *Hermann Philipp Detzner* (16 October 1882–1 December 1970) an officer in the *Schutztruppe* (German colonial security force) in Kamerun and German New Guinea as well as surveyor, engineer, adventurer and writer; 12p. Numbering indistinct. Gordon Thomas, *Prisoners in Rabaul: Civilians in Captivity 1942-1945*. Australian Military History Publications, 2012; (note: a copy of the type-written account is held in PNGAA Collection); John Baptist Crasta, *Eaten by The Japanese: the Memoir of an unknown prisoner of war*; New York, 2012 (first published 1998), eyewitness account of Japanese brutality to, and cannibalism of, Indian military prisoners of war mainly in the Rabaul area 1942-1945. *New Britain 1941/42. The Japanese Invasion and Thereafter* as recorded by XV24.800 C.O. (Bill Harry) photocopied typescript. n.d; *Best of Paradise* – a

selection of stories from Air Niugini's in-flight magazine 1978; Cathay Community Association Annie Street Opening {of new centre at Cooper's Plains, Brisbane} Souvenir Magazine, 26th April 2014; Grand Opening Program. **Bill McGrath:** Pacific Book House, Broadbeach: *South Pacific Magazine* vol.1 issue 1, 2; vol.2 issue 1, 2, 4. *Oil & Gas Papua New Guinea Supplement:* September 1988; April 1989; October 1989; February 1991; September 1991; March 1992; Special Report on PNG May 1993. *Australian Journal of Mining* October 1997; October 1998; *Papua New Guinea (Land of the Unexpected)* Air Niugini 1991/1992; *The Papua New Guinean* vol.1 nos.1, 3 2011; vol.1 2012. *Australia and Papua New Guinea Development Cooperation Program 2000-2003. News & Views Indonesia* vol.III no.6 1958. *The Australian Pipeliner* no.69 October 1992. *A changing Bougainville* (foldout poster, n.d.). *Welcome to Papua New Guinea* April to September 2011; October 2012 to March 2013. *Annual Papua New Guinea Industry Overview* 2012, 2013. *PNG Report* 2011 April, June, August, October; 2012 April, June/July, August/September, November; 2013 February, April, June, August, December. *PNG Resources* 1992 January-June; July-December; 1993 April-June, October-December; 1994 January-March, April-June, July-September; 1995 January-March, October-December; 1998 July-September; 2011; Issue Four. 2009 Issue One; 2010 Issues Two, Three; 2011 Issues One, Two, Three, Four; 2012 Issues 1,\* 2, 3, 4; *Sivaraï*, Chips Mackellar, Pukpuk Publishing. 2013; *Papua and New Guinea Volunteer Rifles Unit History* September 1950-March 1953 by LtCol N.P. Maddern MBE CO PNGVR; *Unit History* Apr 53-Oct 55 by Lt Col T.W. Young Commanding Officer; *Business Advantage Papua New Guinea* 2012/ 2013; Allied Geographical Sector Southwest Pacific Area Annotated Bibliography of the Southwest Pacific and adjacent Areas: Vol.1 *The Netherlands and British East Indies and the Philippine Islands*; Vol.2 *Malaya, Thailand, Indo China, the China Coast and the Japanese Empire*; Vol.3 *The Mandated Territory of New Guinea, Papua, the British Solomon Islands, the New Hebrides and Micronesia*; Vol.4 has an introduction by General Douglas MacArthur, United States Army; Parts I, II, and III summarise Vols.1, 2 and 3; 1990 edition reset and produced by Pacific Book House, Broadbeach Waters in March 1990; William A. McGrath, General Editor. **Doug Robbins:** CD *Enough* (in four parts) containing collected material including his articles printed in various news- papers/journals including PNG's *The National* and *Una Voce*; photographs and maps mainly of the Tufi area in the Northern District of Papua; Tufi vision 2010 concepts; aerial view of Tufi station; map of Wanigela Hat-rack Trail; experience as an ABV (Australian Business Volunteer); tourism advertising and marketing slides; unique Tufi bibliography; Cape Nelson volunteers (article); Tufi hospital photos; Robbins' interest in Tufi is shown through his association with various Australian service clubs on behalf of Tufi's development. **Ray & Zilla Harris:** approximately 450 slides\*\* ca. 1960-1970 in twenty-two Kodak boxes taken by the late Moya Ogilvie (Rabaul resident 1961-75) and her father, Alf Gregory: houses, villages, people, happenings including; New Guinea (2); Lae/Port Moresby/Goroka; Rabaul/New Britain/New Ire-land; Wewak; Awin island (near Wewak); Sepik 1966; Maprik; Mt Hagen; Madang (2); Rabaul/flowers/Bainings; Awin/New Guinea; typed and hand-written index of twenty-two slides for Project Competition 1964 (topic "New Guinea copra"), L.P.C.C. Mrs M. Ogilvie; Information booklet "Madang"; postcards captioned (1) meri picking coffee beans in New Guinea Highlands; (2) Highlands man in sing-sing dress; (3) Highlands native in sing-sing dress. Twenty black & white photographs: human skull used as dancing face-mask; mud men at Goroka Show

1960 with large artificial bird of feathers; Siar village, Madang; Coastwatchers Memorial, Madang; five native women at Goroka Show wearing Mother-of-pearl-shell breast-plates; police band at Anzac Day ceremony, Madang, 1960; Japanese aircraft wreck, Madang, 1960; two overseas ships at Madang wharf with Burns, Philp store nearby, 1960.

Material from **Peter Worsley** and **Ray Andrews** is acknowledged and will be listed in the September *Una Voce*.

\*numbering varies

\*\*several topics/places in each box

### **MY FIRST PATROL By Rod Noble**

Being Queensland born, when I read a Government advertisement for Patrol Officers in PNG, in the Mercury newspaper, (and it was a cold winter in Hobart), I didn't hesitate to reply.

Another incentive was that I had at that time no idea what I wanted to do with the rest of my life. I had camping and bush-walking experience - with school friends I had walked to Lake Pedder (before it was drowned and before air-drops of food) and I felt that a spell of tropical warmth would be welcome. Plus I would be paid for doing what I used to do as a recreation. And most importantly it provided an opportunity to live my school motto "*nemo sibi nascitur*" (no-one is born unto themselves), by leading less civilised peoples into the modern age. This was in mid-1953.

I was accepted and with 23 other Cadet Patrol Officers (CPO) flew into Ward's Strip, Port Moresby in early 1954

Now, in mid-1954, for me, it was all going to happen. I had had 6 months in Port Moresby, which was something like a tropical Canberra – so socially stratified; never the government personnel to meet private enterprise and neither to meet the locals socially. Then the stint at Wewak, the Sepik District head office, and where I never heard the word "patrol" mentioned. I had been sent there to man the Police Station whilst the O.I.C. had gone to calm down the locals who had slaughtered two Patrol Officers near Telefomin. The situation at Telefomin had settled down and the very experienced *polis masta*, Inspector J. Grainger, had returned to his post. Apparently I was not the worst CPO he had met, and so I was recommended for posting to the Sub District Office of Angoram. There I believed the real work of the Department of District Services and Native Affairs (DDS@NA) would be done.

Angoram was an interesting place both geologically and with regard to the residents. Although it was some sixty miles from the present delta, it was comprised of former coral reef and at least six metres above the highest high water mark. This also meant that the grass air-strip was an all-weather one. There were nine Europeans living beside the airstrip; the Assistant District Officer (ADO) and wife, Peter England a saw miller and wife and daughter, "Sepik Robbie" Robinson, Administration clerk and wife, the Dutch doctor (thanks to Dr. John Gunther's policy of recruiting European doctors whom the AMA refused permission to practice in Australia) and tending the field, a young, green CPO. Down near the river bank was Tobacco Road where traders, store

keepers and others lived. The Police detachment and the labour line had butts in between.

Social life centred round the Sepik Club. It was a modest structure of sawn timber with a *nipa* palm roof, a bar, a kerosene fridge, a dart board and, believe it or not, a full size, slate bed, green baize billiard table. And with all the accoutrements -snooker, billiard and pool balls, cues, rests, score board, etc. The club did not close at 9pm when the generator was turned off, so candles were provided.

After a month or three I had learnt what the induction course had not told us - that the life of field officers was mostly paper shuffling for the Port Moresby administration. It was quite a tense time making sure all the monthly reports were dispatched so the office did not get a rocket from the "clever ones", as Michael O'Connor called them. Now if you have read this far you may be wondering about the title to this reminiscence. But I thought it best to set the scene.

My days were spent in the office on paperwork, listening for a "*balus I kam*" (a plane is coming) call from a local with the aural acuity of TV's "Radar" O'Reilly. I could then leave the office and receive mail, freezer goods, visitors and gossip. There were other visitors arriving by boat - traders, recruiters, crocodile hunters (Tom Cole, et al.) and once the SS "Yankee", an American yacht. I have forgotten the skipper's name but I do remember the sight of his scantily clad all female crew.

### **Then it happened.**

My boss, the Assistant District Officer (ADO) announced that I was to go on patrol, although it was not Administration policy for CPOs to go on their first patrol alone. But if the ADO reckoned he had done enough patrolling then the phrase "exigencies of the service" was used.

The patrol was to the villages along the Keram River, a Sepik tributary and done by launch so no carriers would be needed. The Police and my experienced *haus boi* packed what was necessary and off we went. I had received one instruction from my boss - "Make sure that the Census Book figures balance", i.e. add births and deduct deaths. I thought I could cope with that arithmetic.

At the first stop I decided that the first thing to do would be to raise the flag. The Police agreed and I was fortunate in two respects -I had brought the station bugler with me and I knew enough parade ground stuff from CMF training to give the other four police the correct commands. I did know that I was on a United Nations mandate and not on Australian soil. But I am sure it was impressive.

The *haus boi* had set up the patrol table and chair at the foot of the *haus kiap* (every village kept one small cottage for visiting Administration officials) and I proceeded with the census. Having duly noted any comments in the back of the book by the previous *kiap* I duly handed it back to the *Luluai* (village headman) and went for a stroll around the village accompanied by the elders. Everything seemed in order and the elders did not seem to have



anything they wanted to discuss with this new face, so I returned to check on my accommodation.

The camp stretcher was set up and a mosquito net tucked in to the bedding. The kerosene pressure lamp was noisily alight and an aerial had been strung for my latest acquisition, an AWA portable shortwave radio. Dinner was served and I read for a while and climbed into the bunk. After the excitement of that first day I fell asleep quickly but only shortly. I had found the tucked in net too restricting and had loosened it to fall on the floor. Not clever. I had not noticed the floor's construction - bark from the areca (betel nut) palm, very strong but not sealed. So I seemed to have more mossies inside than outside the net. I did not catch malaria and the stings went away after a few days.

The rest of the patrol followed the same pattern (except for the deployment of the net of course), and we all returned to base with no losses or collateral damage.

Then I had the very daunting task of preparing a Patrol Report. It had been emphasised in Port Moresby before any of us had been let loose that each and every report was closely studied and they were to be without spelling mistakes or errors. Since arriving in PNG I had become acquainted with typewriters but what could I possibly say in the report that would be of interest to the clever ones? I cannot remember now of course but no rocket came back from the big boss, Alan Roberts, thank goodness.

The area had been pacified by the Germans the previous century. Co-operation with the invading Japanese, if any, was long forgotten. The villagers had sufficient food from their gardens, sago and coconuts, fish, chicken and pork (the latter restricted to ceremonial occasions). Some money came into the villages via the repatriated plantation workers. It was not quite the scene of J-J Rousseau's "The Noble Savage" but the Administration had no money or personnel that could in any way affect their way of life. Most publicity was given to the "First Encounter" patrols into uncontrolled territory such as by my fellow inductee, Neil Grant (aka Billy Peters).

I should emphasise here that kiaps were not the only government officials going on patrol in those days. Apart from government vessels calling at coastal villages, there were medical, dental and agriculture patrols. I have been told that most patrolling has ceased since Independence in 1975.

Having just reminisced about that first patrol I am reminded of my second; but that contains those three restricted topics -sex, religion and politics.

W.Somerset Maugham:- Short Stories, 1933, "The community here is just like any other in the East, neither very clever, nor very stupid, but amiable and kindly. And that's a great deal."

## PASPAS BILONG BUKA

Donald Lawie



After returning from the Great War my father, Charles Lawie, found it difficult to settle back into civilian life. His wanderings took him to the Territory of Papua and New Guinea and he became a Trader on Buka Island during the 1920's, based I believe on Hood Plantation. He eventually returned to Australia some time in the 1930's, married and became a farmer in New South Wales. He brought back swag of souvenirs from his New Guinea sojourn, but alas most of them have been dispersed over the years.

The family still has a photo album of palm-fringed beaches but his black palm bows, arrows, grass skirts and strange nuts have all disappeared. I do have a small collection of woven arm bands which Dad said the native men wore on their biceps and called paspas. They are still in perfect condition despite their age. There are six in all, varying in size from 19cm to 28cm diameter by 3.5cm to 5cm width. The smaller ones would hardly go over a man's hand let alone his biceps. Patterns vary from a plain close weave to zigzags and something resembling a stylized Omega shape.

Colours range from dark brown through red to a still fairly bright yellow. The yellow is derived (I am reliably told) from the stems of various *Dendrobium* orchids, carefully stripped, cut to uniform size and somehow softened for weaving. I

have tried to make *Dendrobium* thread myself but find it very difficult to make the very narrow threads and to soften them. Whatever the other materials are is a mystery but it is highly unlikely that any sort of machinery would have been available in the time and place of origin of these artefacts.

A few years ago my daughter obtained from the Queensland Art Gallery three modern paspas of non-specific South Pacific origin. Their composition of brown and yellow material and basic arrowhead weave appear to be identical to the 90 year old Buka paspas but they are smaller and narrower.

My siblings and I grew up on Dad's reminiscences of New Guinea and his dream of one day returning there. I carried out his dream and lived in Papua from 1964 to 1970; best days of my life!

## **CPL JAMES WALKER – AN&MEF By Michael White**

With the approaching centenary of the Australian Naval and Military Expedition (AN&ME) Rabaul encounter, I thought the following story concerning one of the members of this force might be of interest.

About two years ago I purchased on EBAY an envelope with a GRI overprint stamp, to add to my collection. The envelope was addressed “Cpl J.A. Walker, c/- Post Office, Rabaul” and was franked at the Rabaul Post Office. This tweaked my interest and led me to research Cpl Walker, and this is his story.

James Allen Walker was born in Pretoria, South Africa and on the 12<sup>th</sup> August 1914 enlisted in the Australian Naval and Military Expedition Force at age 24. On his attestation paper he listed his trade as ‘compositor’. His Regimental Number was 175.

On 19<sup>th</sup> August he left Sydney on the HMA Transport *Berrima* for training in Townsville and then to Port Moresby. With supporting RAN ships *Sydney*, *Encounter*, *Parramatta*, *Warrego* and *Yarra* and submarines AE1 and AE2, *Berrima* left Port Moresby on 7 September arriving in Rabaul on 11 September.

On 24 October, James Walker was promoted to Corporal and put in charge of the government printing office in Rabaul. It is therefore highly probable that he was responsible for the GRI overprinting of the German New Guinea stamps that were then used for postage from Rabaul and other New Guinea locations. Cpl Walker returned to Australia on 21st February 1915 and after a period in hospital suffering from malaria, he was discharged on 4<sup>th</sup> March 1915 after 206 days of service.

On 12 May 1915, he enlisted in the AIF, Regimental Number 1111 and left Sydney for the Middle East on 25<sup>th</sup> June, holding the rank of Corporal. He arrived on Gallipoli on 21 August and remained there until the evacuation. In a statement Cpl Walker says, “While on the Peninsular with the Battalion I had charge of a Section of the Firing Line for nine weeks and the following 9 weeks was Corporal in charge of an Outpost nightly without relief.

Cpl Walker disembarked in Alexandria from the *Mudros* on 7<sup>th</sup> January 1916.

In February 1916, Cpl Walker faced a Court-Martial charged with “When on service joining in a mutiny in forces belonging to His Majesty’s Australian Imperial Forces, in that he, at Katoomba Camp, Canal Defences, No.2 Sec. B on the 4/2/16 joined in a mutiny by combining with other soldiers of the said 19<sup>th</sup> Bn. to disobey an order to parade in full marching order.” He was found guilty and sentenced to 3 years Penal Servitude and reduced in the ranks to private. This was subsequently reduced to 18 months and he left the Suez on board the *Serang Bee* to serve his sentence at the Darlinghurst Detention Barracks.

Following a successful appeal for a sentence reduction, Pte Walker embarked on the HMA *Benalla* on 10 May 1917 disembarking in Plymouth on 19 July 1917. He spent 6 months as an instructor at Southern Bomber Command School (in what is not clear) and in December 1917 was posted to the 36<sup>th</sup> Battalion, then in Belgium. He was initially wounded (Gun Shot Wound to the buttocks) in March 1918 and a second time with a Gunshot Wound to the right shoulder, this second wound resulting in his repatriation to the Kitchener Military Hospital in Brighton.

From there he we returned to Australia aboard the *Nestor* on 12 December 1918 and subsequently discharged on 28 March 1919 – quite a remarkable in a man who

served in Rabaul, Gallipoli and Belgium whilst also having time to serve out a 18 month sentence in Australia. He travelled from Sydney to Rabaul and back, Sydney to Suez and back and then Sydney to the UK and back - all in a 4 year period!

The final point of interest in my research, was the last document in his Service File. It was a handwritten letter dated 25<sup>th</sup> March 1967, addressed to the Secretary, Department of the Army, Canberra making application for the Anzac Commemoration Medal. At the time, my father, Bruce White, was the said Secretary of the Army.

#### **DVD For Sale:**

**70<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIVE EVENTS OF THE MONTEVIDEO MARU MEMORIAL** covering the luncheon of 30 June 2012 and the dedication service on 1 July 2012.

This DVD is a moving tribute featuring all the significant aspects of these two historic commemorative events – the informative speeches, the flypast, the beautiful anthem from Ramale especially composed for the Salvation Army Band for this occasion from the original score.

The presentation, running for 21/2 hours, was professionally filmed in high definition format. This is a historic item and will be treasured by families of all generations. Support the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru group by buying for family, for donating to school libraries and for associated groups now.

Available for \$30 (including postage within Australia)

Electronic payment to PNGAA: BSB 062 009 Account No: 0090 7724, CBA Wynyard or post to PO Box 453, Roseville NSW 2069

*As the amount is the same as the PNGAA membership fee for two years, please ensure you email: [treasurer@pngaa.net](mailto:treasurer@pngaa.net) and [membership@pngaa.net](mailto:membership@pngaa.net) to advise what it is for and your contact details.*

### **AE1 in RABAUL**

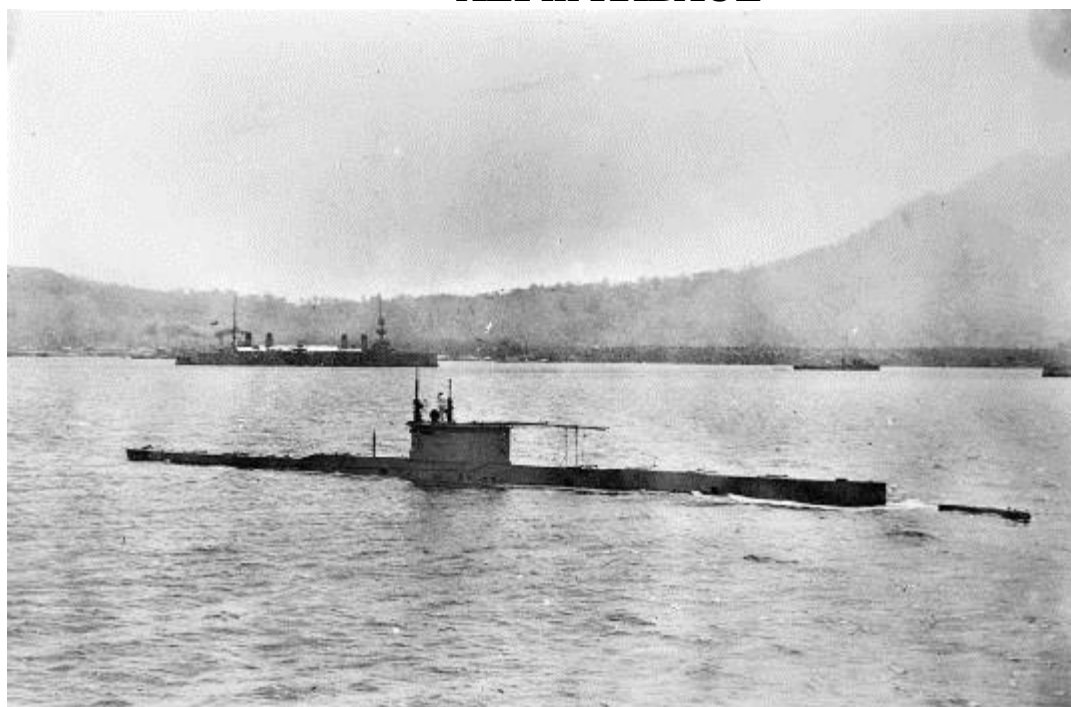


Photo: Peter Richardson collection

## INSURANCE - PNG Style

Phil Latz

With reverence to Rod Noble's story in the March 2014 edition of Una Voce about the 'mighty' Sepik river and Bam Island, here is another regarding that area. In March, 1987, prior to Shell drilling an exploratory oil well inland from Wewak and near the Sepik River, they asked our company to provide a twin engine helicopter. Shell were pre-stocking supplies for their drilling program and had parked several loaded barges in the wide mouth of the Sepik River prior to tugs towing them upstream for off-loading near their rig site. These barges had been towed to PNG from Singapore. One dragged its anchors in the muddy bottom. As it headed out to sea the watchman wisely jumped overboard and swam ashore. Five days passed before the barge that was loaded with millions of dollars worth of casing, was missed.

I flew the twin engine Bell from Wewak with several observers aboard the 14 passenger machine, to try and find the barge. Fixed wing pilots flying the coastline were also asked to report a sighting.

The Sepik truly is a mighty river, which dumps hundreds of large trees and so much fresh water into the Bismarck Sea that islanders forty kilometres off the coast are reported to drink surface 'sea water.' The fresh water being lighter, floats above the salty stuff and is palatable.

The first day's search along the coastline proved fruitless. Being loaded with steel, the barge presented a low profile. Next day, equipped with lifejackets, we flew much further out to sea and found our quarry had been pushed fifty kilometres offshore. I reported its position; a tug could now fetch it.

That evening I phoned the boss, Tony, and he said, 'Phil, you should have claimed salvage on that barge.'

I was surprised at his remark but found he had good reason to make it. Shell had reneged on much promised work, for which the company specifically purchased another multi-million dollar aircraft. Their cavalier attitude had significant financial consequences for our Hagen based Company. Of course, it was now too late to negotiate compensation over a salvage claim. Shell took more care of their barges after that. If one had sunk or was lost at sea their drilling program would have been delayed by months and cost many times the barges value.

And here is another story, regarding the 'mighty' Purari River. Soon after the Sepik event, we lost an early model leased Bell 206B helicopter we operated. While working on a seismic survey, after landing on an incomplete pad surrounded by jungle, the machine tipped rearwards and damaged its rotating tail rotor. The site now had to be enlarged to enable a rescue chopper to land there with an engineer and parts. During that process, a tree fell across the unserviceable chopper's cabin. With the machine now badly damaged, it had to be lifted out for a workshop repair. I flew there in our Bell 205 to sling out the cabin section. It was to be taken to the nearest airstrip, Wabo, on the banks of the wide Purari River. After picking it up I was unhappy about the way my bulky load was hanging and swinging to and fro. Returning and trying to re-sling it might have resulted in more damage so I reluctantly continued. During the slow twenty-minute flight to Wabo, the load rotated, in addition to swinging sideways.

My approach to land at the airstrip entailed flying over the river. At a height of about thirty metres, while slowing, the sling holding my load untwisted with a roar, spinning the cargo hook rapidly, then everything fell off the hook. Quickly banking,



I watched my load hit the water, narrowly missing several people in a canoe and almost swamping them. They came ashore and complained bitterly, but I managed to fob them off with a few cigarettes, which probably avoided a claim for compensation against a 'rich' white man and our company.

My load floated down the deep river for a minute then disappeared forever into the mud.

The final irony to this sad tale was that when receivers moved in, quite some time later, to take over the ailing company from which we leased that helicopter, it was found to be still on the books as an asset years after it became a home for fish.

The reason for the load falling off was probably caused by the manual release cable being flung outwards by the rapidly spinning hook mechanism and becoming caught between the hook rim and restraining bodywork. This could result in the manual (as opposed to the electric) hook release operating and jettisoning the load. Someone had made the manual release wire too long, making it easier for a loadmaster to find and pull if the electric hook release failed. The person overhauling the complex hook mechanism wouldn't be aware of the possible consequences of his action. It's another lesson in the importance of exactly following specifications when working on aircraft. Murphy is just waiting for a chance to strike. I certainly did not release the load.

Can you imagine these calls to an Insurance Company regarding the damaged chopper, had they happened at the time?

'Sir we wish to make a claim for damage to a choppers tail rotor.'

Next day, 'Sir, it seems a tree has fallen across the machines cabin.'

The following day - 'Sir, the helicopter is now at the bottom of a big, fast flowing, muddy river.'

Just imagine the paperwork!

More at [www.phillatz.com](http://www.phillatz.com) or phone 02 66779388.

## PNG ex-pats relive spirit of '64

**REUNION**  
By ANDREW THOMSON

LONG-STANDING links with Warrnambool were renewed at the 50th reunion of the 1964 Port Moresby Football Club premiership side on the weekend.

Warrnambool's Brian Brebner, a member of the victorious 1964 side, said reunion celebrations are held every two years at a different Australian city.

Mr Brebner said scores of Australians went to work in New Guinea during the 1950s and 60s, including many from Warrnambool and district, which led to the formation of an eight-team Australian Rules football competition.

People who lived and worked in New Guinea and were associated with the Port Moresby Football Club have previously reunited in Perth, Maroochydore, Canberra and Tasmania. The Warrnambool weekend attracted 86 people, including wives and partners.

Mr Brebner said Warrnambool people in New Guinea about 1964 included Peter and Colleen Woolees, Dennis O'Malley, Rob Whelan, Noel and Bev Kenna, Brian Baudinette, Daryl Dalton, Wally Cook and Daryl Watson.

"We got beat in the 1963 grand final but won in 1964. It was a very successful club and had enormous Warrnambool connections. Half of Warrnambool seemed to be up there," Mr Brebner said.

"The club president was Jack Dale, Joe Walsh was vice-president and Harry McQuinn was on the board. Brian Kavanagh was a trainer and Jan O'Dwyer was also involved in the club. Brian Fry was the central umpire and Ken Mitchell was a boundary umpire.

"In the team there was Graham Tickner, Bill Wooster and myself.

"There were people from all over Australia in New Guinea and we now meet every two years. It's a fabulous group."

[athomson@fairfaxmedia.com.au](mailto:athomson@fairfaxmedia.com.au)



The Port Moresby Football Club 50-year reunion at Flagstaff Hill.

140228AS33 Picture: AARON SAWALL

*Warrnambool Standard 03 March 2014, written by Andrew Thomson*  
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## RABAU AND MONTEVIDEO MARU MEMORIAL NEWS



Photo by Harumi Sakaguchi,  
late 2013

The Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Group will again be holding the Annual luncheon at the Mercure Hotel in Canberra on Saturday 28 June, 2014, followed by a Service at the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Memorial at the Australian War Memorial on Sunday 29 June, 2014.

### **SATURDAY 28 June 2014**

**Luncheon:** 12.00 p.m. – 4.00 p.m. (Drinks will be available from a cash bar)

**Venue:** Mercure Hotel, Corner Ainslie and Limestone Avenue Braddon ACT

**Guest speaker:** Dr Marian May

### **SUNDAY 29 June 2014**

#### **Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Memorial Service**

Australian War Memorial, Canberra ACT – 11.15 a.m. for 11.30 a.m. service

Service at the Montevideo Memorial (weather permitting). Light refreshments will be served following the Service in the Terrace Cafe at the AWM (same as last year).

We would appreciate your RSVP prior to June 12, 2014 please.

RSVP to Marg Curtis E: [marg.curtis@hsv.com.au](mailto:marg.curtis@hsv.com.au) Ph: 0418 323555

If you could also please advise of any special requirements such as:

Any mobility issues - Any special dietary requirements

**Cost of lunch and morning tea on Sunday is \$60/person –  
Payment will confirm booking and can be made as follows:**

**Electronically :** PNGAA; CBA, Wynyard BSB 062 009 A/C No. 0090 7724

Please include your name and the words 'MvM' for this deposit. Also, please notify the deposit by email to: Doug Wood - [treasurer@pngaa.net](mailto:treasurer@pngaa.net) and Roy Ranney – [membership@pngaa.net](mailto:membership@pngaa.net)

**By Mail :** Cheque/Bank Draft/Postal Order – Payments made out to:  
PNGAA, PO Box 453, Roseville NSW 2069.

**Credit Card** – MasterCard and Visa only (Email Marg Curtis for form).

## MEMORIAL NEWS

### Plaque at Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Memorial, AWM Canberra

A recent visit to the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Memorial at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra by Linda Mayes and her son, Cooper 11, disappointingly revealed that the plaque was unreadable.

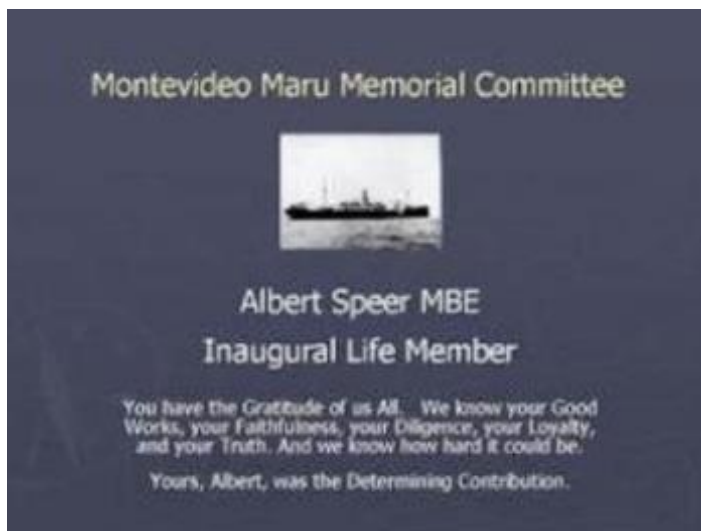
Linda wrote: 'It's such a shame that people who go up to see it can't read all about the Memorial and would be oblivious to the story and utter tragedy'.

As the AWM is responsible for the maintenance of the plaque and memorial, Phil Ainsworth followed up and reports that the AWM are aware of it:

[It is] thought the text would be regilded...expects it to be done very soon, definitely well before 28 June.

### Albert Speer MBE (16 April 2014 aged 92 years)

Albert Speer's commitment to those who died with the *Montevideo Maru* was legendary. He inspired us all with his relentless determination to find out the truth, find proof and ensure that the men and their stories were not forgotten. He never gave up. He diligently researched, and he kept in touch with many connected with events in the New Guinea islands. In 2009, Albert was made the inaugural life member of the then Montevideo Maru Memorial Committee, later the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Society, in recognition of his long commitment to the 1400 servicemen and civilians who died as a result of the invasion of the New Guinea islands.



Keith Jackson writes: 'His commitment to finding the nominal roll of the men who died on the ship was often frustrating and for many years seemed fruitless. But Albert was undaunted and, in his pursuit of the truth, kept the flame burning for the relatives of the missing men.

Albert's Life Membership citation read: "You have the Gratitude of us All. We know your Good Works, your Faithfulness, your Diligence, your Loyalty and your Truth. And

we know how hard it could be. Yours was the Determining Contribution."



## MEMORIAL NEWS

### UPDATE FROM FRAZER HARRY

#### Melbourne Shrine Adopt an Ex-Service Organisation:

Tallarook School will likely partner with the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru group in this program. The association is still to be finalised, but it is confirmed there will be School representation at the 2/22nd Battalion family day on the last weekend of July at Traawool, attended by the school principal, and a Melbourne Shrine representative. It is expected that the school will be supported with material which will help strengthen the link with the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru association.

This program is aimed at facilitating relationships between schools and ex-service organisations in order to carry on each Association's legacy of service to the nation and the memory of their members. The Shrine will provide updates of exemplary projects between schools and Associations. The onus is then placed on the school and ex-service organisation to continue and nurture the relationship. School students are requested to attend, participate in and assist to organise their adopted ex-service organisation's annual commemorative service at the Shrine of Remembrance. - See more at: <http://www.shrine.org.au/Education/Adopt-an-Ex-Service-Organisation-Program#sthash.JLQ7s3t5.dpuf>

#### Shrine of Remembrance Seat Plaque

We are currently working with the shrine to present a proposal for a new seat plaque. The Shrine nominates the plaque manufacturer in order to ensure conformity.

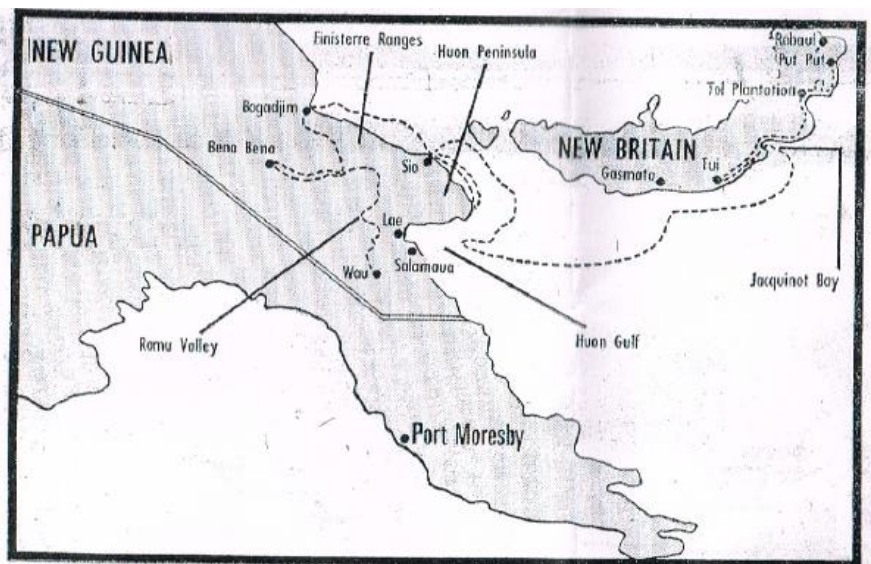
#### WHEN HOME WAS A TRIP THROUGH HELL By Robert Coleman

*Here is the story of one man's war. It is a microcosm of the overall conflagration, the story of a small party of stragglers' epic escape from the Japanese on New Britain...a story rich in drama, courage, endurance and an indomitable will to survive.*

*Part 1 of 2*

In the long, lonely hours of the night, the memories still come flooding back over Bill Neave. They have been little dimmed by the passage of 35 years. They are still raw and painful; they still bring tears. There are still ghosts that haunt his sleep and make him reach for the sedatives prescribed by the Repat. Doctor.

There are still times when he sees himself again as a bearded skeleton of a man, clad in rags and racked with malaria, dysentery and plugging on through the eternal twilight of the dense, hostile jungle...starving  
...And kept alive, he swears, by prayer.



• THE dotted line shows Bill Neave's horror trip to Wau.

‘Anybody who doesn’t believe in prayer, he says today, ‘well, fair dinkum. I reckon he doesn’t know what he’s talking about.’ Bill Neave is a survivor of Lark Force, the 1400 strong garrison at Rabaul, New Britain, which was overrun by vastly superior Japanese forces on January 23, 1942, after saturation bombing. Only 400 or so eventually found their way back to Australia. The remainder perished – most of them in the sinking of the prisoner-of-war ship *Montevideo Maru*, off Luzon, in the South China Sea on July 1, 1942.

For 183 days after the capture of Rabaul, Neave and a handful of other Diggers slogged hundreds of miles through the almost impenetrable jungles and mountains, gorges and rivers of New Britain and New Guinea, living on what they could scrounge from the natives and constantly hiding from the Japanese.

They drifted hundreds of miles on mountainous seas in a rickety, over-crowded little boat to reach New Guinea with half a gallon of petrol left – only to find the Japanese had got there first. At one stage, Neave was given up for dead. His 5 foot 4 inch [1.62m] frame had wasted to 51/2 stone [35kgs] – half his normal weight.

On July 25 he reached Wau and was airlifted to Port Moresby. But the war was not over for Bill Neave. In its closing stages, he was back in the thick of the fighting with the Sixth Division at Wewak – and was with Pte Ted Kenna when he won the VC.

In April 1940 Bill Neave and a couple of mates, George Coates and Lance Howlett, enlisted in the AIF. They became members of the 2/22<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, the main unit of Lark Force. The garrison at Rabaul was a link in the slender chain of forward observation posts which Australia strung across its northern frontiers. It comprised the 2/22<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, some artillery and other attached troops. Neave arrived there on ANZAC Day 1941 – nine months before the invasion.

The garrison fought valiantly but was hopelessly outnumbered and outgunned. It had been subjected to heavy bombing for some days and the coastal guns had been knocked out. Surrender soon became inevitable, Neave’s company had been pushed back into a gully. The company commander told his men he would surrender with them because if they had an officer with them, they were more likely to be treated properly as prisoners of war.

But, he said, if any wished to try to escape, they had a chance of being picked up on the south coast of the island if they could cross the Baining Mountains. He said any who wished to try to escape had his orders to do so and would not be treated as deserters.

Bill Neave takes up the story: ‘We were warned by the Australian New Guinea Administration Unit (ANGAU) chaps that it was impossible to cross the mountains. We had no food, no ammunition or medical supplies.

‘Most of the men surrendered. They looked at it in this light: if they surrendered their next-of-kin would at least know where they were.

‘I thought I would take the risk and try to get back if I could. I wanted to get back. I’ll tell you what: I was scared. Anybody who says he was not scared is not telling the truth. I was one of a party of six who left from that particular point. We picked up a couple of others in the jungle later.’

(More than 800 of Lark Force’s 1400, which included six nurses, were taken prisoner. The remainder, mostly in small parties, tried to find some means of escape from the island.)

(Cont over...)



‘The first night out’, continued Neave, ‘We found a deserted native village. The natives had all gone bush when the bombing started. We found a fowl, which we ate. We knew we were going to have a pretty tough trot. We had no food whatsoever, so we would have to rely on what we could get from the natives. Most of the natives were frightened of us. They knew if they helped us the Japanese would kill them.’

Later they found another village, where the natives cooked two fowls for them. On the second day, they found some disabled trucks with tins of food which had been punctured but they managed to salvage a few tins of bully beef. For about three weeks, the party trekked through the jungle, climbing mountains, descending into deep ravines and following precipitous jungle tracks from village to village.

Often they went four or five days without a meal, relying only on what they could get from natives, or what the natives told them was edible in the jungle.

‘Word went ahead like wildfire that soldiers were coming’, Neave said. ‘To a black man, a soldier is a fighting man, and they expected us to come marching along with bands playing and all that sort of thing. But when we went begging for food our prestige went down flat.

Eventually we did what they said couldn’t be done – we crossed the Baining Mountains. On the south coast, we came to a place called Put Put – a sort of small Chinatown. I had dysentery very badly. There was a doctor there, but he told me he couldn’t do anything for me. There were two other Australians there and they were going to surrender. The doctor told me I should do the same. He said ‘You won’t live a fortnight’. I told him they said we couldn’t get across the Baining Mountains and we did, and that I’d be home for my birthday (July 19).’

They bought some rice at Put Put and then pressed on down the coast. Their only weapons were a sniper’s rifle with two or three rounds of ammunition and a revolver with two rounds. Eventually they came to Tol Plantation, the scene of one of the most infamous massacres of the war.

With thanks to The Herald Weekend 11 December 1976.

*Please note that Part 2, the final, will be in September Memorial News, Una Voce*

**Barbara Sadler** writes:



Please find enclosed a snapshot which I have had enhanced to help with details. It is the last snapshot with my brother Colin Jackson QX12940 (pipe in mouth). I think that the person with cap is Doctor Vincent Bristow. Can anyone assist with identifying the place and other individuals who are in the photograph? I am a life-member of Montevideo Maru Association. Colin was a medic with No. 1

Independent Company POW drowned at sea? 01 July 1942

Barbara Sadler ,12B / 17 Lourdes Street, Lesmurdie (Suburb of Perth) WA 6076

Phone 9291 6907 or Grace Williams (Jackson) - 39 Shields Street, Gympie, QLD

4570 Phone 07 5482 1982

## MEMORIAL NEWS

### Margaret Ruxton (nee McGregor) 22-6-1933 – 1-4-2014



Margaret was born the second daughter of Sydney McGregor and Elinor Marjorie McGregor (known as Madge). At the outbreak of WW2 Sydney joined up with the AIF and became part of the 2/22<sup>nd</sup> Lark Force and subsequently went down on board the POW ship *Montevideo Maru*.

The girls had a happy childhood, however all were aware of the deep sadness felt by their mother over the loss of her husband and the lack of information over his fate. Margaret was particularly sensitive to this fact and over the years spoke to all and sundry in an effort to have some recognition given to these brave men.

There is a tribute to Sydney McGregor on the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru website at: <http://memorial.org.au/Electronic/McGregor.htm>

In 2011 she also wrote a brief summary of her father for the website 'Lost Lives' – see <http://www.jje.info/lostlives/people/mcgregors.html>

Over several years she attended the reunion at Trawool and on one occasion it gave her great pleasure to meet Jack Doyle and his family, I remember her delight when she said "he actually knew Dad".

When Andrea Williams and company increased pressure on the Government Margaret said 'at long last'. The July Canberra meetings gave her a real sense of connection with others experiencing the same pain and conflict.

Margaret supported all the efforts of the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Society; it was an incredible experience to attend the Service and unveiling of the Memorial, and she spoke of at last having closure.

Last year in some respects endorsed the previous year and I know she enjoyed the time spent with Norm Furness and Marg Curtis.

Margaret had major surgery at Bendigo Base Hospital on the 19<sup>th</sup> March on 19<sup>th</sup> March and after a week in their Intensive Care was transferred to St John of God critical care, where she made limited progress. However on the 30<sup>th</sup> March further surgery was required from which she never recovered. Margaret will be sadly missed for her enthusiasm, and loyalty to all the causes she felt strongly about and in this case her devotion to the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Society.

Helen Forsyth

## **ANZAC DAY ADDRESS, Rabaul, by Steve Saunders**

### **President, Rabaul Historical Society**

Today is ANZAC day 2014. A year which marks the 100 anniversary of the start of one of the most bloody wars the world has known.

Here we stand in Rabaul, at the ANZAC cenotaph, next to the old German treasury vault. Over-looked by the Japanese Memorial, and within walking distance of other memorials to civilians and soldiers of several nations who died in WWII; (the Chinese memorial at the Old golf course and the Monte Video Maru memorial by the shore). Thousands of Tolai's did not survive WWII, used as carriers on the mainland and bombed and starved in the bush, where they had been pushed by the invading military.

How did Rabaul get embroiled in the major conflicts of the 20<sup>th</sup> century? Until the last quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century Germany saw itself as having missed out on an Empire, because it had not been a country, but a loose group of Principalities, until united by Von Bismarck.

On 3<sup>rd</sup> November 1884 four gunboats hoisted the German flag here at Matupit. So at the outbreak of hostilities in 1914, Rabaul was one of the main coaling stations for the ships of the German East Asiatic Squadron.

The Pacific chain of German wireless stations, which included Bitapaka, (one of the most advanced and powerful in the World), in conjunction with this naval squadron, threatened the British Empire's commerce, and the Europe bound troop and cargo ships from Australia and New Zealand. As far as the British Empire was concerned the German colonies in Australia's sphere of influence had to be neutralised.

Just near here on 11<sup>th</sup> August 1914, the first small blow was struck when three Australian Destroyers entered Simpson Harbour looking for the German fleet. They were not here, but shore parties destroyed the telephone exchange (near the Travel Lodge) before leaving. There was at that time no fighting ...

But on 11<sup>th</sup> September 1914 the full Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force arrived in the waters off Rabaul. They landed men on the jetty at Kabakaul, which had been built by the Germans to offload materials for the building of the radio station at Bitapaka. Fierce fighting took place on the Bitapaka road and by nightfall the radio station had been taken. Six Australians died in the fight, and a few days later the entire 35 man crew of the submarine AE1 was lost.

These were the first Australians to die in the First World War. Six months before Gallipoli.

Thirty New Guinean police, working for the Germans were killed, and one German Officer. New Guinea passed into Australian control, and had a quiet war, except for the ambush and capture of the MV Matunga in 1917.

The First World War finished in 1918, but many in Germany felt there was unfinished business. About 20 years elapsed before those feeling spilled over into another all consuming conflict.

In the mean-time Japan had become a true imperial power...

*(Cont over...)*

Just near here is the memorial to 2<sup>nd</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup> Battalion and the New Guinea Volunteer Rifles. The 2<sup>nd</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup> made up the bulk of Lark Force a garrison of 1400 men. Sent here to protect Rabaul, from the Japanese. They were sent here when the war still seemed far away. They had no jungle training, there were no plans to evacuate them if necessary and there were no plans to reinforce them. Very few if any had previous experience of fighting.

On 23rd January 1942, 4,000 experienced and ruthless Japanese troops landed, spearheading a garrison force of another 10,000. Lark Force was outnumbered by a hundred to one. Sharp, fierce fighting took place. One of the bloodiest battles of the New Guinea campaign, a truly heroic defence...but a battle seemingly forgotten by most Australians today.

After 9 hours of fighting the order "Every man for himself" was given.

Only 400 of the garrison were ever to see Australia again. Many were murdered after surrendering, or died as Prisoners of War. Many simply disappeared in 'their own little hells' of the swamps and jungles of New Britain.

We remember these few Australians who fought against such overwhelming odds in a heroic attempt to keep the enemy from a place Australia had been given a responsibility to protect.

Other groups of Allies should be commemorated. Others who died fighting; over 400 allied aircraft were shot down over Rabaul or flying too and from here. American, Australian and New Zealand aircrews died in their hundreds.

Another group were - those who could no longer fight and had placed themselves at the mercy of the Japanese. 50% of captured aircrew and Coast Watchers were executed. Many more died of medical neglect.

10,000 Indians were brought to Rabaul as slave labour. 6,000 were to die here. Hindu, Sikh and Muslim are in lonely unmarked graves around the province.

640 British POWs were brought here from Singapore. 97% died, most massacred in one incident. As with most of the prisoners the Japanese had removed all identification, so their names will never be known.

In January 1943 - 1504 members of the Chinese National Army who had been captured by the Japanese in China were bought to Rabaul as forced labour. 50% were to die here. 30 were boys under the age of 13, they had been scouts and telegraph runners - only 5 of these children were alive when the war ended.

We must remember the civilians. Thousands of Tolai's, did not survive, the Chinese civilian population suffered extremes, and the civilians of Rabaul, who went down on the Monte Video Maru.

At Rabaul many thousands of individuals died fighting and those who had placed themselves at the mercy of the Japanese, were shown none. All those people, whatever their religion or nationality, were deprived of their dignity and often in death even robbed of their identity.

May the victims find peace.

Lest we forget

\*\*\*\* Please Note: September 11<sup>th</sup> will be the 100 year Centenary of the first casualties of the Great War. The Rabaul Historical Society together with the ANMEF will be hosting Centenary Events, including the Centenary Commemoration on the 14<sup>th</sup> September of the sinking of the AE1 with all souls still missing at sea somewhere near Rabaul. Contact Miss Susie, Rabaul Hotel for further information.

## TO THE ADMIRALTY ISLANDS BY Ted Rhoades

I applied for the position of overseer on a copra plantation with a firm called Edgell & Whiteley Ltd. The plantation was situated in the Admiralty Islands, part of the then Australian Territory of Papua New Guinea (TPNG). I felt that I was certain of getting the job since my Uncle Ashton (more widely known in New Guinea as Snowy or Snow) had only weeks before resigned his position as Naval Intelligence Officer Commanding the North-East Area to take up the position of senior produce inspector for TPNG.

Within two weeks [of being interviewed] I was heading north on a Trans-Oceanic Airlines Short Sunderland Flying Boat with stacks of white and khaki cotton clothes and a new Browning automatic rifle. I spent a few days in Brisbane saying goodbye to my mother and sister and then headed further north in a QANTAS DC7. Hours later I arrived in Port Moresby. I changed aircraft and flew over the Owen Stanley Mountains to Lae on the north coast. Due to turbulence the wings of our DC3 flapped for the whole trip. It was apparently normal for this type of aircraft but a little disconcerting. I stayed the night at the Cecil Hotel, a classic PNG pub built of wartime materials. Late that afternoon I experienced my first of many *gurias* (earthquakes) during which the whole building shook, sounding like a sheet metal factory in full production.

The next morning I climbed aboard an authentic PNG DC3 bound for Lorengau – and what a shock to the system. From the outside the plane looked quite normal, but the interior was something quite different. Along each outer wall was a row of steel-framed canvas chairs and down the centre a double row facing outwards. Already on board, occupying almost every seat and most of the floor, were about thirty natives, both male and female. They had arrived straight from the PNG interior, complete with all their gear – bush knives, *lik lik akis* (tomahawk), *buai* (betel nut for chewing), dried fish, dried or live *kapul* (small possum), live chooks, lizards, snakes and pigs. Some of these men were recently recruited in the interior for work on the plantations. They did not understand Pidgin, had only seen one or two white people in their lives, and had never seen the sea. Only the day before they had experienced their first ever ride on an aircraft. Coming from conservative Terrigal their appearance was a real eye-opener for me, especially some of the older women and nursing mothers. I was the only white passenger on board and was, maybe, just as strange a sight for the majority of the passengers as they were for me.

The route was Lae, Rabaul (New Britain), Kavieng (New Ireland), Lorengau (Manus Island) then onto Wewak, Madang and Lae (without me). From the aircraft window the signs of war were still very apparent even after eight years. There were ship, aircraft and army equipment wrecks in the harbours, around airfields, and scattered around the suburbs of most settlements. In Rabaul they had built a wharf onto the side of a sunken Japanese freighter rather than attempting to move it.

On arrival at RAAF Lombrun, the closest airfield to Lorengau, I was met by Alto, a very smart young Manus man about nineteen years of age, driving the familiar FJ Holden Ute or *haf car*. About an hour's drive over an appalling road and an old



timber bridge that looked like it would collapse under us, we made it to Lorengau, the capital of the Manus District. Lorengau was the headquarters of the plantation company of Edgell & Whitely Ltd and was where I first met the people with whom I would be working.

The operation was based at Lorengau where the importing and exporting, plantation management and control of the company's fleet of small ships was conducted, as well as the running of a general store stocking everything to meet the requirements of a small European community. The only other store in town stocked only goods of Chinese origin and was managed by a man named Seeto Kim Foon. There was a large copra shed in which the regions 3000 tons of copra, *pa*, was weighed, stored and shipped, a garage and a *boi haus* (accommodating ten to fifteen *bois*). Three European bungalows completed the compound. My living quarters was one of these bungalows alongside a small creek, the police station and *kalabus* (native jail) being situated on the other side of the creek. The compound was right on a beach inside Seeadler Harbour. Large ships were loaded and unloaded by surfboat directly onto the beach; smaller vessels proceeded to the wharf.

My first job was not very impressive. It consisted of assorted office work and, for two or three hours per day, the weighing of copra and supervising its stacking in the shed. Within a few days the first ship arrived, the *MV Malaita*. At this time my job was to supervise the stevedoring on the ship, unloading the cargo into the surfboats, arranging the tow to the beach and stacking the return cargo of copra bags into the ships hold. This was a pretty good set-up since there was not a lot to do, there were usually a few young female passengers on board and the bar was usually open. I managed to hold on to this task for the next four years, being called in from the out-lying islands for the majority of the large ship visits. Generally speaking however, it was a very boring existence being stuck in Lorengau. The only social life was drinking at the Manus Sports Club and the occasional private party where the ratio of young men to single females was about 10:1. Most of the blokes present at these parties were patrol officers with the occasional navy or RAAF officer thrown in so the competition was a bit fierce (no danger of getting married up here!) Social events were strictly for whites with some selected mixed race people invited.

To make life more interesting I purchased a native ocean-going outrigger canoe and a small outboard from Uncle Ashton. Each weekend Alto, a few of his mates and I went voyaging to the LST shipwreck and the outlying islands around Seeadler Harbour. On Ahus Island we made contact with some natives living in a traditional village. I was amazed at the fuss they made of me, a white *Masta* paying them a visit. They made cups of tea and cut down *kulau* (Green coconuts for drinking) and set up a table and chairs on the beach in the shade. Of course my boys, including Alto (who spoke English perfectly) or the *luluau* (village headman) would not join me at the table, so I sat up there all by myself like a king, feeling like a complete fool with all the native *meris* (women) and *pikininis* (children) peering at me through the bushes.

## **OUR PACIFIC SKIES: A Retired Aviator's Diary By Mike Feeney**

When I was a mere lad back in the '60s, the Aussie/TPNG Dept. of Civil Aviation approved me to carry out the training, checking and supervision of new chums on various aircraft types, but mainly on Cessna 185, C-206 and the new and somewhat strange "push-pull" C-336. I was also authorised to fly to any airstrip in the country without having been previously checked-out into it. This enabled me to undertake charter trips to anywhere and also undertake long survey flights for Army or Administration personnel during which one could never be sure where one would end up. The C-336 was particularly suitable for these jobs as it had a far longer endurance than the other types.

Looking back now over the decades, I believe that the training I provided was thorough and unstinted. Before a trainee's first flight into a region and an airstrip we would sit together with a map and a sheet of paper. I would describe the operation and pencil in the route through gaps and passes pointing out the names and features of various rivers, mountains and villages. Particular stress was placed on identifying features of the entrance to blind valleys up which the airstrip was located. To enter a wrong valley and then find that it was impossible to execute a 180° escape turn was unthinkable. It was a terrible irony that in the 1990s I had to investigate the fatal crash of a young NZ friend who did just that in a Cessna 185 when he was new to PNG.

On the sheet of paper I would draw a sketch of the airstrip viewed as from final approach. At the threshold I would draw a big wall with a slot in it; rather like a letter-box. I placed great emphasis to the trainee that he absolutely must be able to fly the aircraft through that slot at the target airspeed and in the correct configuration. If they could achieve that then the aircraft's energy was such that a safe flare, landing and roll-out was assured.

The photograph of a PNG airstrip below provides an indication of just how vital it is to have the approach profile established, all checks out of the way, the



aircraft configured and the target airspeed nailed as a go-around is out of the question. When there is extensive cloud cover, the valleys must be treated as a

maze of tunnels; many of which are blind and from which escape may be impossible once entered; other than by landing and departing again in the direction of exit.

Each critical highland airstrip had its own particular approach decision point beyond which it was not possible to execute a missed approach; unless the machine was very light. These points each had a distinctive landmark.

I stressed that the aircraft must be flown over the airstrip to study the windsock and to check that the strip was clear of vehicles, machinery, pigs and people and so forth. As the airstrip was often the only handy level piece of ground, it was not uncommon to find a football or cricket match in progress or even an inter-tribal skirmish underway with arrows flying across the airstrip. The thought of being tempted to make a straight-in approach, passing the decision point and then finding people all over the airstrip was not to be countenanced as one would be faced with the prospect of having to steer the aircraft off the side of the strip.

I tried to impress on trainees that, after overflying the strip, they should try and fly a consistent pattern by selecting "key-hole" points around the downwind and base turn segments. By flying through these "windows" at a certain altitude, airspeed and flap configuration, they would assure an appropriate profile was followed which would ensure that they rolled out on final in an ideal state to assure a precise approach to the threshold "slot". I also stressed the importance of completing all pre-landing checks and radio comms. early so they could focus totally on their stick, rudder and power control. I tried to influence them to not "fiddle" around with things in the cockpit and keep their hand on the throttle(s). I recall one chap who had developed the habit of making a power change and then putting his hand on his knee until the next adjustment. This made me very uneasy as he tended to be just a tad late in applying power with the result that the aircraft's sink rate was greater than appropriate.

The advantage of trying to fly a consistent pattern within a confined valley was particularly useful when one was faced with a need to use an alternate airstrip when weather conditions prevented one reaching the planned destination. PNG cloud can form very rapidly forcing one to "race" to a closing gap to find a another airstrip on which to wait it out. A pilot could find himself flying the partial circuit through forming wispy fractus; not dangerous as long as one kept it tight and precise.

I chuckle to myself now when I remember trying to engender a mental imagery of the spatial concept of approach profile control by getting the trainees to imagine a line through the sky like a cable or rail onto which they would hook their aircraft and track precisely to the slot at the threshold.

**EXTRACTS FROM LETTERS HOME WRITTEN BY A MEMBER OF  
THE AUSTRALIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE SENT TO CAPTURE  
THE GERMAN INSTALLATIONS ON THE NORTH COAST OF NEW  
GUINEA IN THE FIRST MONTHS OF WORLD WAR I**

Sydney 21/11/14

My dear Grace,

You will be surprised to know that I have gone on active service into the Pacific. They are sending out an Expeditionary Force to take charge of some of the Islands that belonged to the Germans and Major Strongman and myself have been chosen as Medical Officers, as we are the only men who have Tropical Experience. Where we are going the Authorities themselves only know, we have not the slightest knowledge, any way I have signed on for the War & 4 months after. I wanted to cable you but telling you that I was going on Active Service in the Pacific the Censor would not pass it. Thanks for your letters and the photos.

.....We are now in Camp at Liverpool & expect to leave on Wednesday ... for somewhere in the Pacific. "Georgie" goes with us as Regimental Pet - he looks very nice with a Red collar on which is engraved

"George"

Australian Expeditionary Force,  
(Tropical)

Well I don't know there is anything else I can say. I will write as often as I can but as to whether I will ever come back again is to be seen. We are sure to see some service – and someone has to do it – a percentage are sure to be killed but as to whether I will be one remains to be seen. Give my love and kisses to our kiddies. I would like to have seen you all before I left. When you write do so to

Capt. H.H. Field-Martell  
Australian Army Medical Corps  
Expeditionary Force (Tropical)  
670 AAMC  
Victoria Barracks  
Paddington  
Sydney

They will be sent on to me there – if I am killed they will let you know. Give my love to all at Olive Bank & kind regards to Jim & Will & much love & kisses to the Kiddies & yourself,

Your loving husband  
Harold

.....  
Kaiser Wilhelmshafen [sic: i.e. Wilhelms hafen]

14/12/14

My dear,

Just a line as there is a mail going out.

I have been with one Expedition up the Kaisarina Agustus [sic: i.e. Kaiserin Augusta<sup>1</sup>] River in the North of New Guinea. You will see it in the map. I went up

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<sup>1</sup> Sepik River was previously called Kaiserin Augusta

as Surgeon to the Expedition. I was on board the “*Nusa*” & we were followed by two destroyers the “*Warrego*” and the “*Parramatta*” [These are two of the six destroyers in the Australian Navy in 1914; all six were named after Australian rivers, one from each state.] We unfortunately did not get any particular scrapping – all we practically did was to seize rifles ammunition and stores belonging to the Germans. It was a lovely trip - the river is about a mile wide all the way up dense jungle on either side. We were accompanied by the Administrator Colonel Petherbridge who is absolutely white throughout and the man in the position.

For two days we were at Alexis Haven [sic: i.e. hafen] where there is a wonderful Catholic Missionary Station. They make everything they require themselves even to printing their own books.

Wilhelmshafen<sup>2</sup> where we are now is a perfect little Paradise - the former inhabitants certainly have a fine way of laying a place out.

So far I am in perfect health and enjoying every minute of it. I am attaching to this an official seal of the former Govt. it is worth keeping as there is only a few in existence and it's the only one I could get. I have really no other news for you. We move on tomorrow but where & why for apparent reasons I cannot say.

Well I must shut up now my information is limited. With love to all at O.B<sup>3</sup>. and best love to the kiddies & yourself.

Yr loving husband  
H. Hay Field Martell  
Capt. AAMC

.....  
Rabaul  
(British) New Britain  
Via Australia 31/12/14

My dear,

You will see from the above address that I am now at Rabaul. For obvious reasons I cannot tell you much of what is going on one has to be very careful what is said.

I am at present in charge of the Base Hospital and the Sanatorium and we are of course very busy. Rabaul is an ideal spot especially where the Hospital is – right up on the top of a big ridge. Government House and all the officials live up here.

I have every reason to believe that in a few weeks I will be offered the appointment of Chief Govt. Medical Officer and everything will be under my charge. I will have a stated salary and later on the private practice. The House I am to have is at present occupied by Colonel Watson, the Chief of the Staff – it is situated in Govt. House grounds and an ideal spot – lovely big verandahs and well appointed.

When things are settled will you all come out at once, children here do well. Dr Wuks<sup>4</sup> children (the German Doctor) are a picture and others they say do well. I have no desire to return to Australia, this place is good enough for me – and with a good position and assured income, and you all, I could be very happy.

---

<sup>2</sup> Madang's old German name was Friedrich-Wilhelmshafen

<sup>3</sup> Olive Bank

<sup>4</sup> presumably a phonetic form of a German surname



When it is fixed up I will send you a cable and you can reply to me. Address it to Capt. Martell, Rabaul. The charges would be ordinary cable and land and wireless charges from Sydney to Rabaul 1/- per word extra.

I am well, never felt better in my life. With love to all at Olive Bank & love to the kiddies and yourself.

Your loving husband, H. Hay Field Martell, Capt. AAMC

.....  
Rabaul 30/4/15

My dear Grace,

Your letter and papers to hand – very many thanks for same. I am glad you are all so well and having a good time.

Things are just about the same as usual here. The Colonel has been away for over a week and I've been acting P.M.O. ... It is possible that I may not be able to write for a week or two as if it is necessary I will have to go to Manus in the Admiralty Group to hold an investigation on some Medical Trouble. I'm not very keen on the trip.

I see that Australia is calling for 200 doctors for the Front but they will not let any of us go. We are short handed here and they will not listen to any of us going to Europe – they say we're more use here. Certainly it is a big problem keeping the troops healthy here – it's like looking after a lot of kids.

Send my love to all at O.B. & love and kisses to kiddies.

Yr loving husband, H. Hay Field Martell, Capt. AAMC  
Rabaul 6/6/15

.....  
My own Beloved,

There was no letter from you this last mail.

I have been extremely busy this last few days. I had to go down to Kaba Kaul [the spit where the Australian troops landed when they took these Islands] to do a Post Mortem on the body of a native who had been buried over a month. My word he did hum some. There is a charge against a man for murdering the boy and they required Medical Evidences as to the probable cause of death. This must be available next week at the Trial.

Colonel Petherbridge, the Administrator, and Colonel Strongman, the P.M.O., leave by this boat for a couple of months holiday south & whilst the P.M.O. is away I will be acting P.M.O. This in addition to my ordinary duties will keep me extremely busy.

On King's Birthday we had a Holiday Parade and March Past in the morning – sports etc in the afternoon & Dinner & Concert in the evening.

At present we have a Japanese cruiser in the Bay. This always means extra work.

A couple of weeks ago I had a dose of Ptomain Poisoning but have now quite recovered. There is really nothing else of interest that I can write about. Are you coming out. The Administrator cannot give me an answer till he returns so I will let the matter rest till then. Love to all the kiddies and yourself and all at O.B.

Yr loving husband, H. Hay Field Martell, Capt. AAMC

Rabaul, 17/6/15

My Beloved,

There is nothing of much interest since I wrote last - I am absolutely up to my neck in work. Colonel Strongman has gone south and I am left in charge here. It means starting before 7 of a morning and never finishing before 11pm. Last night I had a 6 mile journey into the country and it was 11.30pm before I turned in – the other Medical Officers are poor specimens mostly drunk and tired out. It leaves it all on my shoulders - it is worth it as I have the honour of being the youngest R.M.O. in the British Army with 9 men under me. It is a perfect Godsend that this place is not a hot one. There always seems to be a breeze blowing. I have never yet seen the temperature 90 degrees – the heat is really like N.S.W. – of course the sun is strong in the middle of the day, but one can keep out of it. There is so little to write about as the other mail only went out a few days ago.

A few nights ago the Germans started a bit of a demonstration with the result that seventeen got themselves into the “Clink” before they knew where they were. Georgie is still to the fore – a week or so back he got run over by a motor car. He quickly recovered & last night a cat chewed up his front paw. Georgie spends most of his time with the guard & goes around & visits each sentry in turn and he of course never misses the “Cookhouse” call.

Send my love to all at O.B. & best love and kisses to Jimmy & the kiddies.

Yr loving husband, H. Hay Field-Martell, Capt. AAMC

.....  
My Beloved

Rabaul 28/6/15

Your letter to hand. ...The greatest excitement we have had has been the marriage of one of our Medical Officers. Capt. Whiting & his lady love were married at Govt. House last Sunday. It was a very interesting ceremony as they had to be married under German law - their marriage lines under these conditions will be a very interesting document.

I am of course frightfully busy, hardly a minute to spare. We’ve had a good deal of rain and that makes one more busy, the sanitary conditions have to be carefully looked into. ....

Love to all at O.B. & Glasgow & best love & kisses to yourself & the wee ones.

Yr loving husband, H. Hay Field Martell, Capt. AAMC

.....  
(No date as first page missing)

The officer commanding the AAMC, Major Strongman, is a very fine fellow and a delightful man to work for. He is up to his eyes in fighting the Malaria and Dysentery ...

When the new troops arrive I will have charge of the native Hospital where there is a very interesting lot of work to be done, and I will be in a way the Adjutant to the Major and in his absence the Acting P.M.O.

Well there is nothing else, give my love to all at O.B. & much love & kisses to the kiddies & yourself.

Yr loving husband, H. Hay Field-Martell, Capt. AAMC

.....  
With thanks to Henry Martell for these letters

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING and of the 63rd  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE PNGAA  
HELD AT THE KILLARA GOLF CLUB, SYDNEY, ON 4 May 2014**  
*SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING opened at 11.30 am*  
*The President, Andrea Williams presided*

**Members Present** (as per Attendance Book): Phil Ainsworth, Andrea Williams, Julianne Allcorn, George Oakes, Edna Oakes, Harry West, John O'Dea, Ross Johnson, Paul Munro, Roy Ranney, Clive Troy, Elizabeth Thurston, John Mills, Rebecca Hopper, Doug Wood, Robin Hodgson, Jan Kleinig, Ann Bartlett, Patrick Bourke, Diane McKeowen, John Bowers, Oscar Oberholzer, Kevin O'Connor

Attending AGM but not Special General Meeting: Dennis Chow.

**1. Apologies:** Frazer Harry, Marie Clifton-Bassett, Nick Booth, Gima Crowdy, Kieran Nelson, Keith Wall, Deveni Temu, Amanda Warhurst, Ann Graham.

**2. Special Resolution for alteration of the Association's Rules as per Notice published in *Una Voce* March 2014:** The President called on committee member P Munro to give an overview of the proposed amendment to Rule 15, and distributed to all members in the mail-out of the March issue of *Una Voce*.

**Receipt of Proxies:** After consultation with Secretary, Rebecca Hopper, Paul Munro reported that 43 valid proxy nominations had been received. Of them 41 nominated the President or Chair of the meeting, 2 nominated the Secretary. He outlined the content of the directions in the proxy nominations and indicated the forms were available at the top table for inspection if required.

In relation to the Special Resolution Rule 15 of the PNGAA Rules stipulates that 10 members constitute the Committee: the four officers, President, Treasurer, Secretary and Editor plus 6 ordinary members. The proposed special resolution would alter that rule to allow for 8 ordinary members increasing the total membership from 10 to 12.

The age profile and geographic dispersal of the PNGAA membership represent a continuing challenge to optimal functioning of the committee dependent as it is on the entirely voluntary effort of those who constitute it.

To some extent, the age profile of our membership and the burdens of sustained voluntary work will continue to affect the continuity of membership of the Committee. After consultation with officers informed by recent experience in filling positions on the Committee, the President and the officers have agreed that the best means of fostering a resilient and resourceful committee membership will be to increase the membership to 12. This will enable additional members to add experience and energy and to share governance activities as well as to afford over time a bigger pool of experienced membership upon which to draw for the wider range of activities and projects to which PNGAA is committed. The increase in membership should help increase participation in and attendance in person or by teleconference at meetings without adding significantly to costs. It is not considered that an increase in quorum will be necessary in all the circumstances.

*Moved: Paul Munro, Seconded: George Oakes: Carried*

A. That Rule 15 of the Rules of the PNGAA be amended by deleting from paragraph 15 (1) (b) the words “6 ordinary members” and substituting “8 ordinary members”.

B. That upon carriage by Special Resolution of the alteration to Rules set out in A of this Special Resolution, the Public Officer of the Association shall cause the alteration to be engrossed and consolidated with the Rules as in force after the adoption by the Special Resolution of 4 May 2014 and submit the consolidated copy of the association's rules as now amended for registration by the Director General under the *Associations Incorporation Act 2009*.

*Carried. All 23 members then present voted in favour; all 43 proxy votes were directed or exercised in favour. The President thereupon announced that the necessary three-quarters majority in support of the motion to change the Rule was satisfied.*

*Moved: Paul Munro, Seconded: Liz Thurston*

**The President declared the Special General Meeting closed at 11.40 AM and announced the commencement of the Annual General Meeting with the same members present as set out for the Special General Meeting.**

**3. Confirmation of Minutes of 62nd AGM** (*circulated June 2013 Una Voce*).– *Moved R Johnson, seconded G Oakes, that these Minutes be confirmed – Carried*

**4. Business Arising from the Minutes: Nil**

**5. President’s Report:** The report was received with acclamation (reprinted at the end of these Minutes) – *Moved Doug Wood, seconded Ross Johnston, that the report be accepted. Carried*

**6. Treasurer’s Report and adoption of Audited Financial Statements:** Ross Johnston presented the financial report for the year ended 31 December 2013. This included statements covering Income & Expenditure, Assets & Liabilities and the Auditor’s Report.

*Moved: Ross Johnson, seconded Doug Wood, that the Financial Report as presented be accepted – Carried*

**7. Correspondence:** Rebecca Hopper reported that whilst there had been an increase in requests for Tok Pisin interpreters and PNG actors and dancers, correspondence was related to the projects of the association and membership; that it was of a routine nature and had been dealt with by the Management Committee. Noted offer of assistance with interpretation requests by Robin Hodgson and John Bowers.

**8. Election of Honorary Auditor:** Len Bailey, who has been our Hon. Auditor for many years, has kindly offered himself for re-election.

*Moved: Doug Wood, seconded Ross Johnson, that this appointment be confirmed – Carried*

**9 General discussion:** Short discussion re upcoming Symposium.

*The meeting closed at approx. 12.10 pm.*

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

### **63rd AGM – 4 May 2014**

Ladies and Gentlemen – welcome to this AGM. I thank you all for coming, including our Co-Patron Fred Kaad, ex-President Harry West, President of the Chinese Catholic Association -Dr Dennis Chow, President of the PNGVR Association – Phil Ainsworth, and those who have made the effort to travel long distance.

2013 was a successful year for the Papua New Guinea Association of Australia. The year began with an event in Brisbane in January and through the year a number of events were held in Perth, Canberra, Adelaide, Blue Mountains and Sydney. We thank the organisers of those events for the time and effort that goes into creating these networking opportunities for our members, and to our members for their support. Our numbers today are lower than usual – age and fragility of many of our members are ‘catching up’.

Recognising our history ensures that the close connections between Australia and Papua New Guinea are not ignored or forgotten. Our association has its roots with the Kiaps and therefore it was fitting to see the great service of our Kiaps recognised in July 2013 when the Police Overseas Service Medal was awarded to those who served from 1949-1973. Congratulations to Chris Viner-Smith for his efforts over many years. A member in Canberra, Greg Harris, was inspired to record this event. He subsequently partnered with the PNGAA to produce a DVD to tell the Kiap story. The PNGAA is contributing up to \$10000 towards this from our reserves. The DVD will be launched at the Symposium in September 2014 and will be sold to members and the public to recover costs.

Superannuation issues are regularly monitored and we are grateful to Tim Terrell for providing regular updates regarding the Superannuated Commonwealth Officers Association (SCOA). There is ongoing work on the Audit Commission Report and updates on developments will be published in the June *Una Voce*.

Our 2013 Christmas Luncheon, with PNG High Commissioner to Australia, His Excellency Charles Lepani as guest speaker was another joyous and memorable occasion. The annual silent auction becomes increasingly popular and contributes worthwhile funds. A huge thank you to Juli Ross Allcorn's wonderful event organisation, greatly supported by Gima Crowdy, Ann Graham and Amanda Warhurst. Who could forget the spine tingling notes of Salote Temu, daughter of our committee member, Deveni Temu, who sang the national anthems and Raisi?

We were also grateful to His Excellency Charles Lepani and also to the Consul General, Sumasy Singin, for their support of filming at the Christmas Lunch for the Kiap DVD.

There is often much behind the scenes work carried out by the committee.

During the year members of the committee facilitated the supply of a number of boxes of books to PNG. Phil Ainsworth also secured a generous donation of a mammogram machine to Rabaul which was transported there by Tropicana, Rabaul.

Our Public Officer, Paul Munro, researched a new requirement legislated in December 2012 and on 26 September 2013 the association became registered as a fundraising authority under the Charitable Fundraising Act NSW with the federal agency, the Australian Charities and Not For Profit Commission (ACNC).

After several working group meetings between members of the PNGAA and the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Society, the Society was integrated into the PNGAA. 176 members transferred in, in addition to those members who were already members of the PNGAA. I thank Phil Ainsworth and Nick Booth, particularly, for this smooth transition.



The RMvMS operates as a sub-committee of the PNGAA Management Committee with functions in conformity with RMvMS objectives eg for historical research, education and training purposes related to New Guinea islands which were affected by the events of the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru tragedies in 1942. The annual commemoration in Canberra remains integral to the group and I thank Marg Curtis, Rebecca Mills and Frazer Harry for their wonderful organisation last June. This year, the 72<sup>nd</sup> anniversary, Dr Marian May will be speaking – I encourage members to attend.

Other activities: Patrick Bourke, a member of the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru sub-committee, has compiled a wonderful document titled the **Teaching of the First and Second World War History** which includes some excellent resources and is a useful addition to schools for their history curriculum. A third DVD in a series by John Schindler, titled *Some Came Home*, has been supported by the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru group with \$10000 and is expected to be completed this year.

It is now five years since a major review of our Rules was endorsed by our members. This review proposed recommendations that would broaden the scope of the association, making PNGAA a more sustainable, productive and relevant organisation. It is important that we focus on issues attracting new members.

Our PNGAA objectives include strengthening the civil relationship between the peoples of Australia and Papua New Guinea, and fostering and maintaining an interest in contemporary and historical events in Papua New Guinea.

2014 is the commencement of the five years of ANZAC Centenary Commemorations beginning with the small but vital battle at Bitapaka in September 1914 after which the former German colony of New Guinea became a Mandated Territory of Australia eventually resulting in an Independent nation.

As a pivotal event in our joint history the PNGAA decided to commemorate this important centenary with a dinner and symposium reflecting the past 100 years and considering our present and future relationships.

You will have read about this in both the December 2013 and March 2014 *Una Voces*. Considering the significance of the occasion, the financial strength of the association including that a surplus was built up in our reserves for 2013, and due to our limited resources, it has been agreed to appoint a conference organiser who has the necessary skill to ensure the Symposium is professionally supported. It has been agreed that up to \$20000 will be set aside from reserves, as a resource, to fund the dinner and symposium to ensure its success. Regardless, all committee members will need to be greatly involved, contributing much time. We hope members will take the opportunity to attend.

In transitioning the PNGAA into activities that broaden our reach, consistent with the objectives, we are seeking to take a more prominent role in the Anzac Centenary period, creating an opportunity to focus greater attention on the PNGAA history. The Registration form is due out shortly and I encourage you to come along and to ask your friends and colleagues to participate also.

As an additional resource, the PNGAA will again be joining the PNGVR in a raffle of two air tickets from Sydney, Brisbane or Cairns to Rabaul and three nights' accommodation in Rabaul to be drawn in time for the winner to have the opportunity to attend the 2014 WW1 centenary events in Rabaul. The PNGAA is contributing one ticket to the dinner and symposium in Sydney as a second prize. Funds from the raffle will support the symposium and also the PNGVR Military Museum in Brisbane.

We look forward to your support.

At the end of 2013, and with the impending ANZAC Centenary, the Management Committee decided it would be appropriate to have an electronic exhibition related to WW1 on its website. I thank Paul Munro for his considerable research, Kieran Nelson, Peter Richardson and our webmaster, Nick Booth, for their assistance. Whilst it will continue to have additions through the year, and we're particularly looking for photographs related to WW1 in PNG if you can assist, the initial exhibit went live early April 2014.

Our website is now over 10 years old and it has been decided that it is timely to give it a fresh look. The website is our face to the world and it is important that if we are to present as a vital, engaging organisation, attracting more members, we have a more contemporary website. This is particularly relevant with us holding the dinner and symposium this year. We all know how technology keeps updating – almost daily! – and due to the skill and time involved, we have again decided to allocate funds so that a web designer can put professional magic on the website. Initially we will spend \$3000 to have the framework built. We understand that once this is completed it should be possible for a volunteer(s) to transfer the current information over.

Our Facebook group continues to attract new members, from one to six each day! I encourage you to join and contribute to photos, stories and conversation. Many thanks go to Kieran Nelson for his role in monitoring this for us.

*Una Voce*, our quarterly journal, continues to be the backbone of the association. I thank our Editor, Keith Wall, for his excellent contribution. I also thank our regular and much valued contributors, Jim Toner in Darwin and Dr Peter Cahill, Brisbane.

Speaking of Dr Peter Cahill and Fryer Library, it has been 22 years since the PNGAA Collection was formed in the Fryer Library at the University of Queensland. It's been a considerable commitment by Peter and we are grateful that this history has not simply been lost but has become the fastest growing collection in the Fryer Library. It is an extraordinary resource donated, in the main, by PNGAA members. Over the years, governance, processes and privacy issues have changed. Digitisation has become a major element of our lives and therefore a necessary focus with the PNGAA Collection. In considering this, it became obvious that the issue was much wider – that digitisation of historical PNG material located all over Australia in various archives and libraries was a valuable resource.

It is proposed that a steering committee, with PNGAA member Michael Waterhouse as Chair, will implement a scoping study which will identify what material there is, where it's held and its importance. Once the scoping study has been completed, collections identified will be prioritized and the cost of digitizing the more significant ones assessed. Initial steps have been taken with this.

Since the end of 2013 there has been a considerable changing of the guard within the Management Committee. Our Treasurer, Nick Booth, has stepped back from his role of Treasurer after four years but continues as our Webmaster. We have been fortunate that Doug Wood and Roy Ranney have come in to assist with finances and membership. The role has become considerable for one person to do and splitting it is in the best interests of the association. Amanda Warhurst also had to step back from her role as Secretary and we are grateful that Rebecca Hopper has accepted this role. You might recall Rebecca who was on the committee some years ago.

These changes reflect the strength of the association and the talented people who are available and respond to the call when needed. Despite the disrupted year with changes on the committee, this has enabled the intensity of the many projects to continue.

There are many members who help the association on and off the Management Committee. Recently I added them up – including those who assist pack *Una Voce* into envelopes, there were 40! I thank Pamela Foley for her continuing role in sending birthday cards to our members who are over 80 years. We all like to be remembered, and this role in our association is very special.

Various members of the committee are supported by our ‘mail collector’. This role not only covers collecting, sorting and on-sending the mail in various directions, but works in tandem with the Membership Officer to record cheques, to list attendees to our events, and to check on any small, but significant, details such as changes to members’ addresses (which may be on the back of an envelope and the person has forgotten to let us know), phone contact, email etc. The recording system is a vital, ongoing and important cross check for the treasurer/membership officer. It needs an organised person and Ann Graham set a high standard, carrying it out brilliantly, making many of our roles much easier! Early in 2014 Ann handed it over to Murrough and Joy Benson. We are delighted to have their assistance.

Ann has happily and graciously held this important supportive role for over five years in addition to her other role on our Social and Caring sub-committee. Previously Ann has held other roles on the Management Committee, including Secretary. The beautiful notes our members have received in the event of ill health or a death in the family have been penned by Ann. Her empathy with our members is extraordinary.

Ross Johnson continues to happily support members of the committee where needed. Any time! His input to our association in a number of areas is remarkable. I am personally very grateful for the stability he brings our association with the knowledge from his many years’ experience. Another who contributes behind the scenes from time to time is Jeff Baldwin and we thank him too – again, it’s the attention to the fine detail that makes the difference! I also acknowledge the much appreciated assistance, on a regular basis, of ex-President Harry West. Today, we have had our Treasurer’s Report presented by Ross Johnson who has given considerable support to Nick Booth in their preparation. We thank Nick, Ross and our auditor, Len Bailey, for their efforts. I’m sure you’ll agree with me that our financial standing is sound.

Today too, we are voting on a rule change for the association. Increasing our general committee members from six to eight will assist the large workload of this voluntary non-profit association. I thank Paul Munro for his great assistance with this.

We are especially fortunate to have a hardworking, interested and cohesive team on our PNGAA Management Committee, supported by many proactive members who help with many aspects to ensure the PNGAA remains relevant to those with a contemporary interest in the two countries.

I know you will join me in thanking them all.

**Andrea Williams**

# ABRIDGED AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For year ended 31 December 2013

## 1. Statement of Income and Expenditure

<b>INCOME</b>	2013 (\$)	2012 (\$)
Donations	2,801	2,265
DVD Sales (net)	425	585
Functions (net)		627
Interest	3,245	2,819
Membership Subscriptions	40,396	34,442
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>46,867</b>	<b>40,738</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Admin Expenses	6301	5002
Caring Committee		50
Depreciation		116
Donation: Hank Nelson Memorial Fund	2,500	
Functions (net)	1,279	
Income Tax	628	713
Secretarial Expenses		8,568
Storage	2,223	2,166
Subscriptions	130	130
Una Voce Journal	15,831	17,108
Web Site	208	958
Write-off – ‘Tales of PNG’ (Book)		368
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>29,100</b>	<b>35,179</b>
<b>SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>17,767</b>	<b>5,559</b>

## 2. Statement of Financial Position

	2013 (\$)	2012 (\$)
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash and Cash equivalents	184,318	82,191
Inventory	5,881	5,483
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>190,199</b>	<b>87,674</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Provision for Audit	350	350
Provision for Income Tax	628	713
Prov, for ‘Kiap – Telling their Stories’ DVD	2,620	
Subscriptions (in advance for 2014)	28,361	23,712
Trade Creditors	237	3,447
<b>Long Term Liabilities -</b>		
Subscriptions in Advance	13,896	10,855
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>46,092</b>	<b>39,077</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>144,107</b>	<b>48,597</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>		
General Reserve	32,251	31,997
Historical Preservation Reserve	11,616	11,041
Rabaul & Montevideo Maru Reserve	82,473	
Surplus for Current Year	17,767	5,559
<b>TOTAL MEMBER FUNDS</b>	<b>144,107</b>	<b>48,597</b>

## VALES

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

### **LIEUTENANT COLONEL MIKE DENNIS, MBE (Aged 67 years)**



**LtCol Mike Dennis, MBE**

Lt Col Mike Dennis joined the Regular Army in 1967 after 2 years in the Papua New Guinea Volunteer Rifles (CMF). After serving as a Section Commander in 9 RAR he was selected to attend OCS Portsea, graduating to Infantry Corps in 1969. He served as a Platoon Commander in 1PIR, PNG and Pioneer Platoon Commander in 2RAR. On promotion to Captain he served as Adjutant Monash University Regiment, Company 2ic in 3RAR, serving in South-East Asia and as an Instructor Battle Wing Canungra. In 1982 he was promoted Major and Operations Officer

1PIR PNG and was awarded a Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) primarily for the planning and conduct of border operations on the PNG/Indonesian border. This was followed by a posting as Officer Commanding 3 Brigade Headquarters ODF.

A major change of direction occurred when he was posted to the Defence Intelligence Organisation as the Senior Desk Officer PNG/SWP. Following involvement in the 1987 Fiji Coup and Operation Morrisdance he was promoted LtCol and posted as a Defence Advisor PNG and Solomon Is. in 1988. This position was primarily an intelligence collection role and he served on Bougainville in 1989 to 1990 in the early stages of the Bougainville War in a plain clothes role. He was awarded a Chief of Army Commendation and Australia Day Award for actions on Bougainville. Posted back to DIO in 1990 in the PNG/SWP section he was then selected to be the Defence Attaché South Pacific accredited to Fiji, Tonga, Samoa, Nauru, Tuvalu and Kiribati.

In 1995 LtCol Dennis resigned from the ADF on completion of his posting in Fiji and took up a position of General Manager Suncorp Stadium in Brisbane. This was followed by a senior position in sports management in the planning and conducts of the Sydney Olympics, Salt Lake City Winter Olympics, Commonwealth Games Manchester and Athens Olympics. During this period as Vice President of Cleanevent International he undertook the restructuring of the US based arm of the company. LtCol Dennis's other sporting interests include being the Manager of the Australian Rugby League Kangaroos, Manager and Coach of the Papua New Guinea and Fiji National Rugby League Teams.

Peter Dennis, Mike's father, went up to New Guinea before WWII as a Patrol Officer. Peter's great aunt was the wife of the second Governor in PNG, Sir William McGregor. Peter joined the New Guinea Volunteer Rifles in 1939 and then went to war in 1940, a member of M Special Unit. He met June Burgis in Sydney during the war and they got married in Sydney. He is survived by his wife Annie and his two sons Sean and Simon and grandson Harvey, and his two sisters Margie Lindsay (nee Dennis) and Jenny.

Simon Dennis



## Kath DONOVAN 1931 – 2014



**Kath Donovan at work** Photo  
courtesy SMH

Kath Donovan arrived in Balimo in the Western Province of Papua New Guinea in June 1966 to do medical work among the Gogodala tribespeople. She was appointed to a government-run health centre that consisted of a few thatched huts staffed by a couple of male medical orderlies. The orderlies had minimal training and a penchant for going home at 4pm no matter what the condition of any patient. This was unacceptable to Donovan, who believed that every patient should receive the best treatment possible. By the time she returned to Australia in 1983, she left behind a well-appointed 100-bed hospital staffed around the clock by two doctors and a team of qualified nurses. A nurse training school had been established, a feeding program was up and running and supervised aid posts covered 20,000 people over more than 20 villages.

After studying agricultural science, and later medicine at the University of Sydney Kath prepared to work in Papua New Guinea. Once in Papua New Guinea, she also developed a keen interest in malaria and was the first person to report chloroquine-resistant strains of the disease in her area. Over the years, Donovan wrote scientific articles on malaria, pigbel (a parasitic form of necrotising enteritis) and other tropical diseases. During the independence celebrations for Papua New Guinea, in 1975, she was awarded Papua New Guinea's Medal of Honour for services to the country.

On returning to Australia permanently in 1983, Donovan began research into stress and coping and wrote the book *Growing Through Stress* (1991). Together with her friend and co-worker Ruth Myers, Kath established the Christian Synergy Centre, which provided psychological and medical services to missionaries and other Christian workers. In 2001, Donovan co-wrote a book, *Taking the Mystery out of Malaria*, for non-medical people.

In 2008, Donovan was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. Kath Donovan never married. She is survived by a niece and two nephews and their families as well as Ruth and many other friends.

Info from: <http://www.smh.com.au/comment/obituaries/kath-donovan-health-worker-served-people-of-papua-new-guinea-20140218-32xtv.html>

**Robyn Susane Dunbar-Reid (nee Redgrave) Aug. 27, 1940 - May 25, 2013.**

*Editor: This notification previously appeared in Una Voce March 2014, but contained several serious errors that have been corrected in this edition. Our sincere apology is conveyed for the omissions and oversights that have caused unintended distress to the family.*

Robyn passed away only 10 weeks after being diagnosed as suffering from an incurable form of cancer. She passed away peacefully in the presence of her family at Greenwich Hospital, Sydney.

Robyn first visited Rabaul in 1963, after meeting Dick Dunbar-Reid at a Bachelors and Spinsters' Ball at Walgett in New South Wales. During her visit she decided that she liked Rabaul and she and Dick decided to become engaged. Robyn returned to Rabaul in late 1964 and was married. She and Dick lived at Kabanga Plantation in Kokopo until 1990 when they moved to Port Moresby to start a new life there. They remained in Port Moresby until 2004 when they returned to Sydney to care for Robyn's aged Mother until she passed away in 2012.

Robyn is survived by her husband, Dick, daughters Kirsty and Meredith and her Brother Warwick and wife Leone and in-laws, Dawn and David Beattie.

Dick Dunbar-Reid

**Francis (Frank) C. JOHNSON 15 May 1934 – 25 December 2013**



Frank was a Harbord boy, son of Fred (dec.) and Dorothy (dec.) and was educated at Sydney Boy's High and Sydney University. He went off to Papua New Guinea to teach and married Lois in 1959. He went to study at London University for a year, and son Niall was born. Returning to Papua New Guinea in 1960, Frank headed the Teacher's College in Goroka. Son Jeremy was born in 1962. His next appointment was to Port Moresby as Principal of the Teacher's College, but a grant to study at

Columbia university in New York sent the family overseas.

The new University of Papua New Guinea appointed Frank as Professor of English at the age of thirty. These were productive and stimulating times!

The Hawaii English Project led to great years in Honolulu, followed by five years at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, and finally to an appointment as professor at Kanda University of International Studies in Japan. Twenty one stimulating years in Japan reluctantly led to a happy 'retirement' at Hyams Beach in NSW. Frank died on Christmas morning 2013 after a stroke.

Lois Johnson

## **David SHOWELL (6 January 2014, aged 70 years)**

David was born in Renmark, the son of a well-known fruit growing family. He and I first met as scouts in the Renmark Scout Troop. David's primary schooling was at Renmark West Primary School and his secondary schooling at Scotch College Adelaide. He then worked briefly in Adelaide. After a couple of years as a 20 year old, he sailed across the Tasman to New Zealand for a working holiday. He travelled on to Europe where he tried a huge variety of jobs. After some time he headed home and showed interest in a position with the Malaysian Police Force until hearing of opportunities as a kiap in PNG.

Back in Australia in late 1967 at age 20, David applied for a Cadet Patrol Officer position in TPNG. After training at ASOPA, he was soon on a big balus to PNG. By mid-1968 David had been posted to Nipa sub district out of Mendi, Southern Highlands where his ADC was Allan McNeill. There were two patrol posts, Poroma and Margarima, a rather rough road system but navigable and a day's drive to Mendi. This was the start of his 10 year service in PNG, working in the highlands and on Bougainville. "The best years of my life" he often said.

In Bougainville, his next posting was to Kunua patrol post on the west coast, where there were not many people, very isolated and with access only by boat. Following this was Kieta Sub District Office, when Arawa was just being built, and where eventually his work revolved around Bougainville Copper. It was not a happy time at Panguna for him with the start of the political and civil unrest. "We all knew eventually there would be a huge backlash against Bougainville Copper, but nobody listened". David made a request to return to the Highlands and got Chimbu and later took leave and his final posting was to where it all began for him at Nipa sub district.

After returning to Australia he studied wildlife and the environment and briefly managed a reptile park near Whyalla before returning to Renmark and the family fruit growing property.

David was a committed community member heavily involved with the National Trust of South Australia, Renmark branch; Renmark Lions; Local environment group; Renmark Rowing Club; and up until his untimely fatal farm accident.

David's son Patrick works at a local winery and lives in the family home. Lauren the daughter, like her father, is travelling the world and is currently teaching in France.

We all miss you David, Rest in peace.

Brian J Lock

**William “Bill” George SIPPO (9 February 1925 - 12 February 2014, aged 89 years)**

Bill was a 'kiap' in Papua New Guinea from 1946 to 1975. He was one of the fifty five men remaining from that period who were personally recognised at Parliament House, Canberra, in July 2013, with the Police Overseas Service Medal. Although Bill had never sought recognition for his work in Samarai, Milne Bay, Gamadodo, Goroka, Lake Murray, Mt Hagen, Kundiawa, Port Moresby and other areas, he was extremely proud to receive this medal, for himself and his family, but above all for his PNG friends who are no longer here.

While at the Long Course in Balmoral (which he 'topped') in 1952 Bill met and married Anne McIntosh and in January 1953 they returned to PNG with their infant son Graham to postings at Chimbu, Mt. Hagen. His last posting was in Port Moresby, where he was acting and later Director of Child Welfare. In 1975 he left for Australia to reunite with Anne and their four children, Graham, Katherine, Elizabeth and Helen. His final duty before leaving the Territory was to devise and carry out a political education programme nationwide prior to the first general elections of a Papua New Guinea Parliament.

The family settled in Falls Creek, on the New South Wales south coast (not the snowfields) where Bill embraced a long-held desire to paint. He joined the Shoalhaven Art Society (eventually becoming president and a life member) and became a highly esteemed artist, with awards in water-colour, oils, acrylics and mixed media. He learned the crafts of stained glass, spinning and weaving, calligraphy, and leatherwork, and taught these to TAFE students and unemployed youth.

For 10 years he was the Division Commander of the Shoalhaven Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol, and was also on the National Council. He lectured on seamanship, navigation, and marine radio. Bill was also instrumental in establishing the Shoalhaven Adult Education Group, (later to become the Regional Evening College) and held the position of President for some years, as well as President of the NSW Association of Community Education Centres. In more recent years Bill became an ardent disciple of computers.

Bill's abilities and interests were diverse but he could turn his hand to anything. He was a complex and highly intelligent man, with a wonderful wry sense of humour: a gentleman who accepted all people at face value. We miss him.

Ann Sippo

*(Editor's Note: The full text of Ann Sippo's 'Vale' can be viewed on our website [www.pngaa.net](http://www.pngaa.net))*

**Albert “Bert” SPEER (23 March 1922 – 16 April 2014, aged 92 years)**

Bert was the youngest son of Isaac Speer and Esther Chalker born at Hillview Park, Woodhouselee in the Crookwell area north of Goulburn. When Bert joined the army on 17 August, 1942, he chose to enter the Medical Corp and followed that role through to his working life. His first experience was in field hospitals under enemy fire in the New Guinea jungle at Milne Bay then at Wau when the Japanese tried to take the airstrip.

His war time experience and friendship with many Papuan and New Guinea people led him to return to PNG in the Department of Public Health in October 1947 and his first posting was Kerema where he met Maori Kiki to whom he gave his Christian name. In 1951, he was next door at Saiho and led the medical team in the evacuation of Higaturu and Sangara when Mt Lamington blew out its side on January 21, 1951. I first met Bert in 1954 at the Ela Beach hospital from where he was sent to pioneer the establishment of health services in the Tari sub-district of the Southern Highlands.

Bert’s education by reading and guided experience gave him a fellow feeling with the Papua New Guinea people; he saw in them the latent intellectual ability that had frustrated his own life. He had an innate understanding, as did the leaders of the Public Health Department, that the people of PNG could, with education, fill any and all roles in the administration of the government of the country. He established close links with the founders of the Pangu Party and encouraged their development as leaders of the people. He was rewarded for his services in PNG when he was made an MBE in 1979.

Through his long life, he basked in the achievements of the young men he had adopted: Sir Albert Maori Kiki, Philip Bogembo, Teio Ila and Mauricio Biscocho and their families. He cared for his friends and any who suffered. In retirement his main venture was the investigation of the Montevideo Maru story and the history of the Crookwell area.

He is well remembered by many who made their mark both in PNG and in the wider world. Peter Pharoah says, “I will always remember Bert because he was so helpful to me.”; Ian Maddocks, “His longevity allowed him to be a valuable resource for PNG oral history and his enthusiasm for keeping in touch and gathering PNG comment and recollections” and John Mathews, “He was a friend and a great help during my time at Okapa.”

He will be greatly missed by his family and friends in Australia and PNG.

Roy Scragg

*(Editor’s Note: The full text of Dr Scragg’s ‘Vale’ can be viewed on our website [www.pngaa.net](http://www.pngaa.net), See also the tribute to Bert by Andrew Pawley ‘Albert Speer – Raconteur’ on page xx)*



**Sir Colman Michael O’Loughlen (6 April 1916 – 6 March 2014, aged 97 years 11 months)**

Sir Colman Michael O’Loughlen, World War Two veteran, Baronet and a Justice of the National Court of Papua New Guinea, died peacefully, at the age of 97, in Brisbane on 6 March 2014. Born in Melbourne on 6 April 1916. Sir Colman was the grandson of Sir Bryan O’Loughlen QC, Attorney-General and Premier of Victoria.

Sir Colman was educated at Xavier College, Melbourne. He completed secondary school in 1931 at the age of 15. In 1938 after completing his law degree at University of Melbourne, was admitted to practice as a Barrister & Solicitor in Victoria. In early 1941, Sir Colman was appointed to manage the Law practice of J.I. Cromie in Wau, in the goldfields of New Guinea. In January 1942, the Japanese invaded New Guinea. Sir Colman remained in New Guinea, as a Lieutenant with the New Guinea Volunteer Rifles (NGVR)

In June 1942, the NGVR, reinforced with two Companies of Australian Commandos, raided the 3,000 strong Japanese Garrison in Salamaua. Lieutenant O’Loughlen led one of sections that inflicted substantial damage and casualties. This was the first time any allied force in the south west Pacific area had initiated any counter action against the Japanese. During the raid, vital documents were captured which gave the allies warning of planned Japanese landings at Milne Bay. Following the raid on Salamaua, Sir Colman with other NGVR members withdrew to a position located at Mubo. In September 1942, the Japanese attacked this position in strength and were repulsed, inflicting heavy casualties on the attacking force. Captain O’Loughlen then transferred to the Australia New Guinea Administrative Unit (ANGAU). He was deployed with forward infantry units on the Torricelli line of advance, which saw heavy casualty rates on both side. In total Sir Colman spent 1384 days in the service of his country with 83% of that time in New Guinea. He returned from war, weighing a little less than six stone (38 kg)

Sir Colman succeeded to the title as the sixth Baronet of Drumconora upon the death of his uncle Charles in 1951. In 1954, he was appointed a Stipendiary Magistrate in the then Territory of Papua and New Guinea, first centred in Lae and later Rabaul. From time to time, after 1957, he served as an acting judge of the Supreme Court. After retirement, Sir Colman returned to Papua New Guinea in 1968, as acting Chief Land Titles Commissioner and in 1969 as an acting Judge of the Supreme Court. On Independence Day, he was made a Judge of the National Court and was one of PNG’s inaugural judges.

Sir Colman’s wife, Lady Margaret passed away in April 2010. Sir Colman is survived by his eight children, twenty five grandchildren, two step grandchildren and many great grandchildren.

Colman O’Loughlen

*(Editor’s Note: The full text of Colman O’Loughlen’s ‘Vale’ can be viewed on our website [www.pngaa.net](http://www.pngaa.net))*

**Marcia BASTOW (April 2014)**

*(Advised by Paul Crow – no details currently available)*

**Leo BERA (15 April 2014, aged 66 years)**

At Kairuku, Central Province, PNG after a short illness. Leo became a very respected Deputy District Commissioner in the Australian Administration before and after PNG Independence. He subsequently worked for a number of Oil, Gas and Mining companies in PNG, most notably with myself as co-Lands Supervisor with Chevron Niugini Limited at Moro, Lake Kutubu and more recently with InterOil.

Bill McGrath

**Father Timothy N. BRIEN (6 February 2014, aged 79 years).**

Tim Brien arrived on Daru Island in the mid-1960s as a lay teacher employed by the diocese of Daru. He worked with the Canadian Montfort Catholic Mission's order of nuns. He was ordained in 1973. He died at Wrexham, Wales.

David Wetherell

**Stan COOPER (12 May 2014, aged 97 years at Hobart)**

(T30071, Light heavy battery, Lark Force, POW in Zentsuji) Stan is believed to be the last of the Zentsuji POWs.

Marian May

**Rita Flynn MBE (4 May 2014)**

NETBALLERS around Papua New Guinea are mourning the loss of one of the pioneers of PNG netball, Rita Flynn, who died from leukaemia in Sydney on Sunday. Her name is recognised in the naming the famous Rita Flynn Netball Courts on Bisini Parade in Port Moresby. She was given this honour for her pioneering role in establishing netball in PNG in the years before independence.

Rita was also a life Member of the PNG Sports Federation and Olympic Committee (PNGSFOC) and was also the patron and life member of the PNG Netball Federation. PNG Netball Federation president Julianne Maliaki said Rita Flynn was instrumental in introducing and building up netball in the country.

Rita, together with her late husband Bruce Flynn, contributed to the development of sports in PNG. The two were actively involved in the foundation and growth of the PNGSFOC.

With acknowledgement to PNG Attitude