



Una Voce News Letter

RETIRED OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

36 Prince Albert Street, MOSMAN. N.S.W. 2088

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February - March, 1980

Dear Member,

The Committee's thanks go to those Members who, despite the fact that it was only a technical, non-controversial amendment being considered, nevertheless went to the trouble of either attending or sending a proxy vote. Over the last weeks your Committee has been reviewing the Association Constitution and has now recommended some further amendments, again mostly technical or procedural, for consideration at the next Annual General Meeting to be held on 13 April (see separate notice). A copy of the proposed new Constitution will be circulated to Members at the end of this month. Please make a special effort to be there at this, our first daytime meeting, and if that is impossible send any comments and your proxy so that we can be guided accordingly.

One of our West Australian members, John Preston-White, has already written suggesting that the present 7 days notice of Meetings be extended to 14 days - an eminently practical suggestion which has already been incorporated into the proposed Constitution.

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A Victorian member has written to say that hearing problems suffered by his two children have been traced to taking anti-malarial prophylactics at a very early age. This will interest other Members who may have similar problems but be unaware of their origin.

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Our fair Treasurer, Joyce Oldroyd-Harris, occasionally receives a small donation to Association funds, which is acknowledged by letter. "Little fish are sweet" says Joyce as she deposits them into our Building Society Account. Recently a generous South Australian friend sent a \$25.00 donation which we acknowledge publicly as in our knowledge it sets a record. Which goes to show that Croweaters do have virtues !

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Speaking of records, the Orken family of Queensland have also scored a first - Maxwell Bartholomew has long been a Life Member, and recently Sheila joined the same august ranks. A very good idea - and also tax deductible !

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Members will know that we have been seeking to have an accounting of the financial position of the PNG Fund at the time it was taken over in 1976. A Triennial Review had been started and some Members felt that if it had been finalised we would have been due for a pay-out. Others were not so sanguine and felt that the large numbers leaving the Service, with corresponding payments due to them from the Fund, would have actually reduced our reserves.

The question has been finally resolved with the receipt of the 1975 - 76 Annual Reports covering the Funds activities. These were first examined by members of the Committee and then our good friend Ian Holmes, now an accountant in Sydney, was asked for his opinion. His report follows. Members will see from the summary that the Fund in actual fact was going insolvent and to pay its debts would have had to try and sell some of its securities. The emphasis is on try, as a good percentage of our Fund was lent out on very long term and very low interest rates. Even if a buyer could have been found the discounted price for every \$100 would have been no more than, say, \$70. It was at that stage that the Government loaned the Fund \$1,161,000 and then finally took over its assets and liabilities.

Two other things need to be said -

- . Officers taking the golden handshake were NOT paid the 4.1 times lump sum from the Fund but only the money to which they would have been entitled had they resigned in the normal way.
- . Second - if the Government had not taken over the Fund and the latter had still somehow or other remained liquid, it could not have paid the C.P.I increases which we have received.
- . We hope that this will finally answer the questions which have probably been in the minds of many Members.

For the details of Ian's analysis and report, see the following two pages -

P.N.G. SUPERANNUATION FUND REPORT - 1975-76

On 29th November your Association received the above report, and also that for 1974-75. Reports for 1973-74 and 1976-77 were received earlier.

To the nearest thousand dollars the reports received show :

	<u>1973/74</u> \$000	<u>1974/75</u> \$000	<u>1975/76</u> \$000
Balance 1st July	20,589	21,361	20,538
Income	<u>6,231</u> 26,820	<u>6,528</u> 27,889	<u>21,508</u> 42,046
Expenditure	<u>5,459</u>	<u>7,351</u>	<u>24,891</u>
Balance 30th June	<u>21,361</u>	<u>20,538</u>	<u>17,155</u>

Income included:

	<u>1973/74</u> \$000	<u>1974/75</u> \$000	<u>1975/76</u> \$000	<u>1976/77</u> \$000
Contributions :				
- Employees	2,506	1,964	1,455	311
- Administration	2,296	3,039	17,694 (a)	N/A
Advance by C'wealth Treasury	-	-	1,161 (a)	-
Investment Income	1,428	1,525	1,198	-
Other	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>6,231</u>	<u>6,528</u>	<u>21,508</u>	<u>N/A</u>

Expenditure includes:

	<u>1973/74</u> \$000	<u>1974/75</u> \$000	<u>1975/76</u> \$000	<u>1976/77</u> \$000
Pensions	3,036	3,884	4,655	5,820
Refunds (incl. Benefits on Termination)	2,056	3,039	19,559 (a)	2,191 (a)
Interest payable on Treasury Advance	-	-	12 (a)	-
Lump Sum Payments in re Quinquennial Investigation	358	425	665	N/A
Other	<u>9</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>N/A</u>
	<u>5,459</u>	<u>7,351</u>	<u>24,891</u>	<u>N/A</u>

(a) Covered wholly or mainly by Commonwealth.

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The political decision leading to A.S.A.G. and early Independence having been taken, the Fund sustained serious liquidity problems in early 1976. A marked reduction in Contributions and other income took place, with contributors entitled to refunds of 55.8 million in the three years July 1973 - June 1976, a payout far earlier than estimated when gilt-edged investments were made in medium and long-term securities years before. To avoid monumental losses of capital and ensure that superannuants could continue to receive their entitlements, the Commonwealth Treasurer advanced \$1,161,000 to the Fund. The Administration covered additional costs of \$18.8 million (3.2 times contributions) payable to officers retrenched under E.S.S. provisions at 4.2 times their contributions.

Being quite unable to continue as a viable entity the Fund and all its assets, liabilities and administration were taken over on 8th June, 1976, by the Commonwealth Superannuation Commission. This permitted the extension to P.N.G. Superannuants of Commonwealth indexation pensions, a situation considerably better than those of most ex-Colonial powers, excepting Malaya.

The following extracts give some indication of the movement in people, as distinct from financial figures, over the 4 year period:

	<u>1973/74</u>	<u>1974/75</u>	<u>1975/76</u>	<u>1976/77</u>
No. of Refunds granted:				
Retrenchments under A.S.A.C. provisions:	245	321	608	45
Resignations	<u>84</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>43</u>	<u>16</u>
	<u>329</u>	<u>361</u>	<u>651</u>	<u>61</u>
Amount - \$000's	2,056	3,039	19,559	2,191
No. of Superannuants remaining - 30th June:				
Male	440	458	491	498
Female	50	53	55	56
Widows	114	127	136	137
Children	<u>72</u>	<u>75</u>	<u>74</u>	<u>63</u>
	676	713	756	754
No. of Contributors remaining - 30th June:				
Male	1,004	652	18	8
Female	<u>28</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>
	1,032	671	20	9
Contributions - \$000's	2,506	1,964	1,455	311
Investments - 30th June: \$000's	19,331	18,226	3,506	N/A

Clive Meares writes from Adelaide inviting visiting Bowlers to try out the greens at the Burnside R.S.L. & District Bowling Club (not now restricted to R.S.L. members only). He warns however that there is no outdoor bowling in winter, from end of April to end of September.

In a very interesting letter Clive also mentions seeing other ex-Territorians including John Miller (Field Staff and Cooperatives), Lyall Prosser (N.G. Airways Lae), Gerry Toogood (Field Staff and now Manager of the S.A. National Trust), David Dickson (B.G.D. Bulolo), Hugh Taylor (A.W.A. Rabaul and Manus), Johnny Robins (N.G. pilot), Bill Heinicke (Rabaul), John Black (Field Staff), and Peter Monfries (Morobe), also Dr. Roy Scragg, Geoff Clarke (Dentist), Bill Gammage, J. Mc.K ('Mac') Hamilton (Coastwatchers). Clive says that for the last two years a group of about 20 (not only R.S.L. members) have gathered for a pre-Anzac Day dinner. Any Members interested in joining them this year should contact Clive at 16 Lowan Road, Windsor Gardens, S.A. 5087, or telephone

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Our claim for improved benefits as set out in our June 1978 Newsletter is now before Cabinet. After over 18 months that is "a giant step forward" for the Association, which one could properly describe as not before time. However as our claim will be considered in conjunction with other similar matters it will be several weeks before a decision can be expected. Even then, a favourable decision will need a change in legislation before it can be implemented. However, the changes would need very little drafting and could be presented to Parliament very soon after a decision.

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A welcome letter from Barry Bond included applications for membership from three new members, together with annual subscriptions for each. This should be a challenge to all of us - the more members we have the stronger our influence and the more economic our operations.

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Change of Address :

Mr. E.L. Lowney, formerly of War Veterans Home Narrabeen, to:
4/53 Esmonde Street,
East Lismore, N.S.W. 2480.

Mr. A.B. Nicholls, please amend to 59 Nobby Parade, Miami, Queensland.

New Members:

Mrs. Joan McLachlan,
326 Lower Heidelberg Rd.,
East Ivanhoe, Victoria 3079

Mr. R.J. Andrews,
6 St. Andrews Drive,
Lilydale, Victoria 3140

Mr. L.D. LeFevre,
16 Highland Ave,
Croydon, Victoria 3136

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NOTICE OF THE TWENTY-NINTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF THE RETIRED OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA

To be held at the British Ex-Servicemens Club, 541 Kent St. Sydney
 at 11 a.m. on Sunday 13th April.

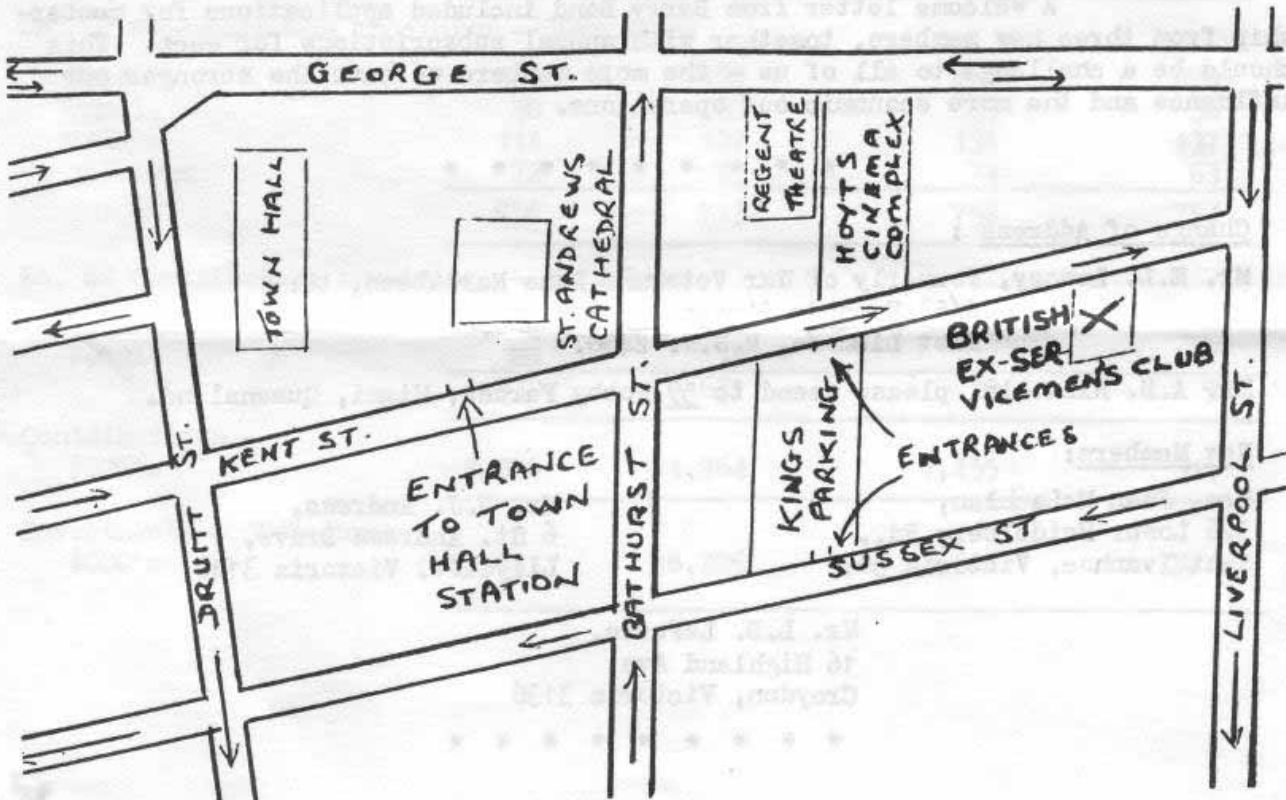
The major business of the Meeting will be to consider the proposed new Constitution. Copies of this Constitution and the full Agenda will be posted to Members by the end of March. NOTE: This will be the first A.C.M. to be held during the day and Members are urged to make every attempt to attend. We have selected a venue which is easily accessible - even in a wheelchair. So forget all your problems and difficulties and be there ! The Meeting will be followed by a luncheon for those who wish to stay - which, hopefully, will be everyone.

The map shows the location of the Club, parking, Kent St. entrance of Town Hall station, etc. and shows direction of travel in the surrounding streets. There is a limited amount of parking in streets surrounding the Club, but it is recommended that people park in Kings Parking Station. Charges for Sunday are as follows:

\$1.00 for first hour, \$1.00 for second hour.

.40¢ for subsequent hours with a maximum charge of \$3.00

Drinks are available at the Club at reasonable prices, and buffet meals of good variety are supplied at between \$2.00 and \$2.50 per head. Persons attending the Meeting will please enter their name and address in the Visitors Book in the foyer, and the person in attendance at the desk will direct them to the Meeting.



V A L E

It is with sincere regret that we record the passing of the following Members. On behalf of all in the Association, the Committee extends our sympathies to their relatives -

Mr. C. Burke

Miss M. Byron

"Peg" Byron as she was more readily called, would be well known to most Members as so many of our children passed through her capable hands, mainly at Rabaul and Port Moresby.

Mr. T.C. Henderson

Ag. Officer, at Caraina, former tea-planter.

Mr. Arthur Ridge

Architect with Public Works Dept.

Mr. John R. Sharp

Many Members will remember "Blue" (Henry) Russell, employed as a groundsman by DCA on the construction and maintenance of many PNC airfields, especially in the Highlands. An ebullient, jovial, talkative man who enjoyed helping his fellows, "Blue" had spoken to me about joining the Association only a few weeks ago. Unfortunately he had a heart attack and passed away (on 25/2/80) before we finalised the matter.

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Members who worked in New Britain or who are interested in the little known events which took place there in 1942 will want to read Rabaul - 1942. The result of 2½ years research, the book covers all units of Lark Force, the New Guinea Volunteer Rifles, R.A.A.F., R.A.N., the 1st Independent Coy., Coastwatchers, the small ships Laurabada and Lakatoi and the New Guinea residents who shared the tragedy of 1942. The limited edition of 1,250 copies, 280 pages and a hard cover promises to be well worth the \$15.00 charge. Send your money to - Fred Field, Hon. Treasurer, 2/22 Battalion and Lark Force Association, 19 Park Road, Sorrento, Victoria 3943.

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I would like to thank all those Members who wrote and sent messages congratulating me on being appointed an Officer of the Order of the British Empire. I am particularly happy that it came on the recommendation of the Papua New Guinea Government. It shows that although we may have gone we are not forgotten! There are many others deserving of recognition, and, with Harry Jackman, I like to feel that the honour in some way acknowledges not only an individual but also the work we all did together.

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Looking forward to seeing all of you at the A.G.M. !

Sincerely -

Fred Kaad
Hon. Secretary.

MINUTES OF SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 20/1/80
at 68 PHOENIX ST. LANE COVE

The Meeting opened at 10.10 a.m.

Present:

Miss Bignold, Mrs. Foley, Mr. Aitcheson, Mr. Champion, Mr. Clifton-Bassett, Mr. Clout, Mr. Kaad, Mr. Keleny, Sir Horace Niall, Mr. Parrish, Mr. Rudge, Mr. Seale.

Apologies and Proxies were received from the following :

Miss Oldroyd-Harris, Ms. Ireland, Ms. Frank, Messrs. Ashton, Bond, Clark, Fowler, Jackman, Harrison, Le Graff, Meares, Pulsford, Reilly, Watkins, White, Byworth

The President said that the purpose of the Meeting was to consider the following proposed amendment to the Constitution:

Clause 14. The Annual General Meeting shall be held not later than the thirtieth day of April in each year. A notice convening such meeting shall be posted to the registered address of each member at least seven days previous to the date set down for such a meeting. The members, of whom one must be the President or the Deputy President personally present, shall form a quorum at an Annual General Meeting.

There had been many complaints from Members that January was unsuitable for an A.G.M. because the weather was too hot and because many Members were on holiday. It had been recommended at the last A.G.M. that it be held later in the year. The President then asked for a motion on the subject so that it could be discussed.

Mr. Kaad moved that Clause 14 of the Constitution be amended as suggested - seconded by Sir Horace Niall.

There followed a short discussion after which the motion was put, and carried unanimously by all present. The Secretary then stated that the proxies were also in favour.

The President declared the amendment passed, and the Meeting closed at 10.24 a.m.