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Una Voce News Letter

RETIRED OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA

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

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DECEMBER 1980

Dear Member,

Every year it happens - Xmas is a long time away and then suddenly its just around the corner! Each year we say something like "Never again! Next year I shall write all my cards in November and send them in early December; next year I shall buy all the presents early, make the pudding order the drinks and do all those necessary things in plenty of time". But somehow this never seems to eventuate. I'm in this category - the intentions are good but the realisation is somewhat wanting. Hopefully I have a lot of friends!

And now to business. On behalf of your President and Committee may I wish you all a joyful Xmas and a happy and in particular a healthy 1981. May your troubles be minor and your blessings numerous.

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I am advised that the Parliamentary Draftsman has completed more than 50% of the work necessary to put into Regulations form the increased benefits which the Minister for Finance has agreed to (and outlined in our last Newsletter). It must be remembered that the changes deal with four different pieces of legislation and therefore is a complex and time-consuming job. It is expected that the Regulations will go to the Executive Council early in the new year. However those benefits are retrospective to July 1979.

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Preliminary notice is hereby given that the 1981 Annual General Meeting of this Association will be held on Sunday 22nd March at the British Ex-Services Club, commencing at 11 a.m. with pre-luncheon drinks at 12.30 and luncheon at 1 p.m. More about this in next Newsletter but mark your calendar now!

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Committeeman Gabriel Keleny has given me an article from the Commonwealth Superannuated Officers' Association November Bulletin - Let's Always Be Vigilant - commenting on the possibility, especially in these times of reduced government spending, of an attempt to reduce or even cut out indexation of our superannuation. Members may remember that only three years ago this was indeed more than just a rumour. The efforts of the Public Service and retired officers' Associations, including our own, and the reaction of

some back benchers together with the Member for the ACT averted any interference that time, but if a strong body like the S.C.O.A. sees the writing on the wall and calls for solidarity among its own members, surely this is a lesson for us too. Those PNG superannuants who are not members of this Association gain by everything we do; they are only too glad to put out their hands and receive any extra benefits we can obtain, and to receive the higher cheques we get as a result of indexation of our super. What they appear to fail to realise is that by not joining they weaken our claim that we represent the Retired Officers (and their widows) and they weaken any strength we have as a pressure group on politicians. I should dearly like to be able to tell Canberra that we represent 95% or preferably more of all possible superannuants. I have written before that United we stand divided we fall is still applicable, and I should like to repeat that warning. All it needs is for those eligible for membership (including widows) who are not already members to send in a mere \$4.00 and apply. And I believe it is up to every present member to jog the memories of eligible non-members and persuade them to join. The more members we have the more clout we have when it comes to fighting any proposal for reducing or cutting out indexation.

I hope that stirs the conscience of all you eligible non-members!

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I have an inquiry from a member wanting to trace the origin of an article, so if you can - please help.

A.W.L. PAUL
1876
If this means anything to you please contact Hon Sec., if not, please ask any other PNG friends who may not have read this Newsletter

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Bill Carter, ex Director of Post & Telegraphs, during his recent visit to Port Moresby saw MAVARA HEKURE, now the ripe old age of 81, of Elevala village. Mavara would very much like to get Norm Gibbons address. Would anyone knowing Norm's whereabouts please ask him to write to Mavara. Incidentally Mavara first came to Sydney in 1922 where he lived at Brighton-le-Sands. He used to take the steam tram to Kogarah then the steam train to town and walk to the P & T cable jointing school at Harbour St. near the present bridge approach.

* * * * *

Your Secretary was in Brisbane and on the Gold Coast for a conference in late November. Unfortunately I could give little notice of my movements but Max Orken arranged a hasty but tasty luncheon where I got to see many old friends. Ron Galloway has returned to his usual smiling self and Jack Baker came from Bribie - complete with trident to ward off the parking police. People like the Champions, Murphys, and Neilsens must have heard I was in town because they wouldn't answer their phones; On the Coast, Bob Cole and Alec Edwards had gathered the clan at the Southport Golf Club so I was able to see many more friends. It was particularly good to see Tom Leabeater up and about even if still a little weak.

My sincere thanks to those who organised things and those who turned up to say Hello, and especially to the Edwards' who had the thankless task of driving me here there and everywhere and getting me to the plane on time. I think Pat had a heart attack and Alex had a ricked back but somehow I got on board just before the door closed !

* * * * *

RITA AND VIN SMITH

INVITE YOU

TO STAY WITH THEM AT

SUNLOVER COURT

24 SECOND AVENUE, BROADBEACH

NEWLY CONSTRUCTED LUXURY SELF CONTAINED HOLIDAY APARTMENTS WITH ALL FACILITIES.

- SAUNA, POOL, COLOUR T.V. -

CLOSE TO THE BOWLS, THE GOLF COURSE, THE RACE CLUB AND ALL YOUR PAPUA NEW GUINEA FRIENDS ! HAVE A HAPPY TIME AT THE GOLD COAST AND RENEW OLD FRIENDSHIPS !

SUNLOVER COURT - YOUR PLACE IN THE SUN !

PHONE (075) 31 6661

(P.S. Special tourist rates may be negotiated by Members).

A list of names and addresses of members, as we know them, unfortunately could not be included. It is incomplete, we await advice of address corrections and it would be nice to have a 95% at least membership to put out in the next Newsletter. This list will definitely be included in the new year.

V A L E

It is with sincere regret that the Committee record the passing of the following members and friends, and our sympathy is extended to their families:

- Percy Cochrane - 29/9/80.
Most members would have heard the resonant tones of Percy in the educational broadcasts from the ABC Moresby., In addition he played a leading role in developing interest in and recording and promoting local music and musical instruments.
- Mrs Lorna McLaren - 13/10/80
A N.G. Fund widow
- Mrs. A. Anderson - 1/11/80
- Bill Dix - 5/11/80
Was a well known pre-and post-war police officer. Escaping from the Japanese when they invaded New Britain in 1942, Bill served in ANGAU and later became a superintendent of police.
- Frank Jones - 10/11/80
Served in ANGAU and returned post-war to the field service, serving in many Districts including the Sepik, Bougainville, & Morobe. Became a Lands Commissioner in 1970.
- Kerry Foley - 20/7/80
Kerry was the eldest daughter of Mike and Pam Foley - she met with a tragic accident early on a Sunday morning whilst helping in an air search for a missing plane, at Mt. Hagen. She had lived most of her life in the Highlands and had her own business there as a commercial artist.

Outside my parent's house years ago there was a brass plate, and I should like to share with you the sentence on it -

"I have looked at the stars too long to be frightened of the night"

Best wishes to all -

Freddie Kaad
Freddie Kaad
Hon. Secretary