



# Una Voce News Letter

RETIRED OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA  
P.O. BOX 199, MOSMAN, N.S.W. 2088 - CATEGORY B  
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No. 1 of 1982 - March

Dear Member -

By the time you receive this issue all those clearly eligible for benefits under the new legislation will have received their moneys and details of their new payments. Despite the taxman the net results should be very helpful and it makes the 41 months we have been pursuing the benefits all seem worthwhile.

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However your Committee is still worried about two groups. The first is that small band of Papuan Fund widows whose husbands in the early years were not able to join a superannuation fund simply because there was at that time no such thing. Instead they took out insurance and when finally a superannuation fund was established they were already "locked in" to their insurance payments and could not afford to pay superannuation as well on the salaries then paid. Their widows were left with the small insurance lump sum and no superannuation pension. I have already made initial inquiries on their behalf and it seems that ex gratia payments by the Minister may be the only method of helping them. Your Committee will be following up this matter but we need some more information. We do have some Papua Fund widows on our books but there may be others and we need to have accurate numbers. Would all Papua Fund members and widows therefore please write to the Secretary (P.O. Box 199, Mosman, 2088) giving (a) name and address, and (b) present financial position, and (c) whether you wish us to act on your behalf. Such information will be confidential to myself and the small sub-committee looking after this matter. Would you also ask Papua Fund widows who are not Members to also contact me.

The second group are those widows, wives or de facto wives who may not be eligible for benefits, including widows who may have remarried. The regulations covering this group are rather complicated and as a generalisation each case would need to be treated individually. The Commissioner has a discretionary power; for example, where the widow remarried before 1 July 1979, a previously cancelled pension may be restored where the widow is in necessitous circumstances, or the restoration is otherwise warranted, having regard to her general financial circumstances.

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V A L E

With deep regret we record the passing of the following Members and friends, and on behalf of the Association the Committee extends sincere sympathy to their families :

Mrs. H. Armstrong  
1/82

Mr. Don Owner  
6/2/82

Acted as Director of Education during several periods, and at his retirement was Chief of Division of Teacher Training. Survived by his widow, the former 'Jo' Keating.

Mr. Howard Thomas  
26/1/82

Better known to his friends as 'Mike' he came to the RPNG Constabulary from the English police. Well known for his rendition of 'Adam & Eve' in Pidgin and for Pidgin lessons on ABC radio.

Mr. Harry Thompson  
15/1/82

Former P & T Line Inspector. Earlier he assisted in the construction of the first Aerial Trunk Wire route from Port Moresby to Lae via the Kokoda Trail, Popondetta and Salamaua.

Mrs. I. Schmidt  
2/1/82

Well known pre-war Rabaul personality. Local hairdresser and ballet mistress.

Mr. Clive Bowman  
Pre-war District Office clerk in Lae.

Mr. Mireck Erben  
17/12/81

Senior Technical Asst. in the Geodetic Section of the Lands Dept. Served in National Mapping service after Independence.

Mr. Eric Moline  
Registrar-General's office and Public Curator.

Your Association was responsible for initiating and then following up the latest benefits for widows and children. At present we may not be able to do much more about improving conditions for Members, in fact generally in a deteriorating economic climate our main job may be to maintain what we have. That will need strength, and our strength lies in unity and numbers. We may need every single member we can get, and so I ask you to read through the membership list and urge any eligible person you know who is not on the list to join the Association.

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A short Newsletter this time, because of the length of the Membership List. We hope all members will check the List and advise us of any corrections which should be made.

There will be another issue in early April, but in the meantime I am looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the A.G.M. !

(F.P. Kaad)  
Hon. Secretary

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President Bill Seale writes :

- " I intend to buy a new set of golf clubs"
- " I am having my house painted"
- " I am going for a holiday in Fiji"
- " I am purchasing a new sewing machine for my granddaughter"
- " I am investing in A.G.C."

These are samples of messages received following advice of increased benefits for widows, children and orphans, which was notified to all pensioners in a comprehensive circular from the Commissioner for Superannuation.

Additionally, Mrs. Pamela Foley of our Committee has, at a recent Committee Meeting, expressed gratitude on behalf of all widows of superannuants.

Historically, Secretary Fred Kaad began our crusade and has worked for more than three years to get this increase. His constant, relentless proddings have now won out and we have had our greatest success since Andrew Peacock assured our present pensions for all time. For this achievement, which I now record, Members owe Fred considerable praise and gratitude.

Finally I hope both Members and non-members do appreciate the current arrangement, and particularly I trust non-members will decide to join our Association to support our future activities.

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