



Una Voce News Letter

RETIRED OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA
P.O. BOX 199, MOSMAN, N.S.W. 2088 - CATEGORY B
REGISTERED BY AUSTRALIA POST PUBLICATION NO. NBH 2559

December 1982

Dear Member,

As the 25th approaches your President and Committee send our warmest seasons greetings - hoping that you will be with friends and relatives at Christmas and that 1983 will bring you health and happiness.

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Our annual end of year Association luncheon went off with a bang - if I may describe it that way! No bombs or explosions but towards the end about six times as much noise as one would have expected. Its marvellous what lolly water, or kus marasin and good company does to people !! Despite the misunderstanding about the train strike 55 came, and I can report a convivial time was had by all. Adding to the interest was a very informative talk by Patrick Dwyer, a friend of David Marsh, on financial management particularly for retirees.

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Your Committee's efforts on behalf of the Papua Fund widows continue. A submission to the Minister is being prepared, and I shall be consulting with some of the officers in Canberra in January.

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Preliminary Formal Notice

THE 32nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE R.O.A.P.N.G.
will be held on
SUNDAY 17th APRIL, 1983
at the BRITISH EX-SERVICES CLUB
541 Kent St, Sydney

BOOK REVIEW

"AUSCULTATIONS OF TWO WORLDS" by Dr. Vincent Zigas. Vantage Press, New York

Most members of this Association will have heard of Kuru, the fatal disease affecting the central nervous system, found in the Fore region of the Eastern Highlands. This disease was discovered and first described by Dr. Zigas while he was medical officer based at Kainantu. Research work on Kuru, particularly at the National Institute of Health at Washington, led to the discovery of the existence of slow acting virus diseases and to the study of this group of viruses new to science. Not unexpectedly, the early work on Kuru forms the central part of this stimulating autobiography of a remarkable man.

The author describes the painstaking and arduous field work of assembling, in association with his "mentor", Dr. Gadjusek, the observations and data on this hitherto unknown disease. He also gives details of some of the behind the scenes activity and the intrigue in the disguise of scientific inquiry and national pride which caused so many problems at the time.

Dr. Zigas started life in the Baltic States, saw his parents deported to the east, never to return, and studied medicine in Germany. After the war he came to Australia and eventually to Papua New Guinea where he found peace and contentment living and working among village communities. His first posting was in the Gollala of the Central District, where he established medical services at the cost of great personal hardship and commitment.

His book reveals Dr. Zigas as a person with a wide range of interests - far beyond those of a general practitioner interested only in providing some treatment or relief for specific complaints. His "auscultations" - sounding out the heartbeat or breathing, the fundamentals of society in which he happens to be living - reveal him as being a doctor with social awareness, a socio-medical worker observing and recording the heartbeat of societies and of cultures whether in Australia, Papua New Guinea or the United States. He must have a prodigious memory to remember long conversations and discussions with so many people, on such a variety of subject over the years covered by his book.

It is a book by a keen mind and a keen observer of man, his society and environment. It is of special interest to former Papua New Guinea residents.

Copies of the book are available from the author. Cost \$8.00.

7 Arcoona Street,
SUNNY BANK QLD. 4109

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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.

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| Mrs. Patricia Bell
October | (formerly Tolhurst) a clerical lady who passed away in Port Moresby. |
| Harold Farrington
1.10.82 | Formerly Technical Officer in Forestry. |
| Mrs. Morrissey
11.10.82 | Widow of John Morrissey |
| Richard Mason-Pettifer
12.10.82 | Became Chief Technical Officer Telephones and then Chief of Stores & Transport. "Magani Jack" was a very popular citizen and Foundation Member of Rabaul and Port Moresby Apex Clubs. |
| Douglas Evan Macinnis
22.10.82 | Formerly Director of Lands, who had a reputation for efficiency and cooperation. Later a consultant in the reorganisation of the NSW Dept. of Mineral Resources. |
| Thomas Leabeater
12.11.82 | Formerly field officer and then Assistant Director of Local Government, well known for his interest in the welfare of others. A former President of the Gold Coast PNG Club. |
| Geoffrey Angell
October | Formerly Agricultural Extension Officer in the Highlands, and well known as O.I.C. Marketing in Port Moresby. |
| Mrs. Dorothy Suttie
4.12.82 | Widow of Bill Suttie. |
| Don Vertigan
10.10.82 | Well known pre-war and war time New Guinea Officer. |
| Mrs Nan Harris
12.82 | Wife of former head of D.C.A. Ray Harris. |
| Ian S. Levy
5.9.82 | Passed away in Queanbeyan Private Nursing Home. |

Subscriptions are due on 1st. January. \$4 Members (in receipt of Superannuation) and \$2 Associates (former residents of Territory interested in promotion of friendly associations). Please mail subs to G.Keleny, (Hon Treasurer) P.O.Box 364 Maroubra Junction 2035.

HAVE YOU HEARD THAT :

- Tony Anthony has been in New Zealand for some weeks on family business, and so missed our luncheon.
- The ever-smiling Lands officer, Peter Bosgard, suffered a severe heart attack earlier this year, and more recently a stroke. After some convalescence he's back home and well along the recovery road. My main worry now is not Peter but his beautiful dahlias, and who is looking after them ! Friends can reach him on 043-821283.
- Tony Redwood, a former young field officer who started his career as a cadet at Goroka, is returning with wife Molly and three daughters to Sydney for 6 months as Visiting Fellow at the University of New South Wales. Since his patrolling days Tony has turned to the academic life and earned himself a very high reputation in United States economic circles - as well as a Ph. D. and assorted other titles. They will initially be staying with Candy and Doug Parrish - contact on (02) 467 2966.
- Another visitor in Sydney in January will be Ray Carlaw with his wife Flo. Ray was a medical assistant in New Ireland when we first met, but like Tony, building on innate ability with grit determination and some very lean years, Ray has also made it academically and is now Professor of Health Education in Minnesota. Ray and Flo will only be in Sydney for a day or two - the contact will be June or myself on (02) 969 7217.
- Charles Belz, a former division head with the Department of Labour, Joan and the children have now been in Canberra for several years - daughter Ann was recently married.

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The passing of Don Vertigan is recorded in VALE. Don came to New Guinea in 1925 with the first batch of cadet patrol officers. D.O. Manus when war came, he got a group of commandos back to Madang and then walked them to Hagen. In '42 he was at Marauke and in '43 in Wau, where he worked with 3rd Independent Coy. receiving the M.B.E. He became Northern Region Commander in ANGAU and later was with Naval Intelligence. After the war he retired from the New Guinea Service and joined the Bureau of Mineral Resources in Canberra. There he acted as Liaison Officer for the Association, doing a good "Coastwatchers job" in ferretting out information and warning of possible difficulties for us.

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As we near the end of the year the prophets of gloom are loud - don't let us add to their clamour. We have a wonderful country which our fathers and grandfathers built against greater odds than ours. Let us enjoy ourselves at Xmas; remember our friends and let our New Year resolution be WE SHALL OVERCOME.

All the best - FREDDIE.