



# Una Voce News Letter

RETIRED OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA  
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Dear Member,

No. 3, 1983 - September.

I knew I'd get myself into hot water one day ! In the last Newsletter I wrote that Stan Christian had completed 60 years in PNG and suggested that this was surely close to a record for surviving Members. It wasn't long before the Baldwin family - Ken, John, Dereck and Dallas (Corless) - wrote to remind me that their mother, Mary Baldwin, went to Papua in 1911 as a young girl and left in 1973 - or 62 years in all ! Alright, alright, Baldwin clan - I surrender !

All I can say in my own defence is that I was thinking of a working life. However I think we in this Association should keep records such as this - so anyone knowing of Members or their wives who worked or lived in PNG for more than 60 years please let me have details.

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While in Canberra recently I checked on progress in our attempt to have ex gratia pensions paid to widows of the former Papua Fund officers. This is progressing, but as you can imagine with a new government and then the Budget, not to mention such things as the proposed higher tax on superannuation, our priority has not been as high as No. 1. So keep your fingers crossed, girls !

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The following highlights are taken from the 1981 Annual Report of the Commissioner for Superannuation recently received from Canberra, They appear on our next page -

PAPUA NEW GUINEA SUPERANNUATION SCHEME

Total expenditure on pensions during the year was \$8,325,861. The annual liability for the 689 pensions being paid at 30 June 1981, including the increases that became payable on the first pension payday in July 1981, was \$9,068,075.

NEW GUINEA SUPERANNUATION AND PAPUA SUPERANNUATION

Pension payments made during the year for New Guinea pensions and Papua pensions totalled \$399,851 and \$118,992 respectively.

At 30 June 1981 there were 22 males and 47 widows receiving pensions arising from the New Guinea Ordinance, the annual liability being \$431,433. This was 3 less (3 widows) than at 30 June 1980. There were 13 males receiving pensions arising from the Papua Ordinance, which did not provide for either widows' or children's benefits (annual liability \$123,656). This was 1 less than at 30 June 1980. "

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I know that many Members brew their own beer. Geoffrey Burfoot has also tried his hand at various fruit wines/brandies and meads. Probably the easiest way to start an argument is to claim that someone's brew is better than someone else's. Ron Galloway started off keeping accurate records for quality control purposes - he's now past the 10,000 bottles mark ! Bob Cole is on 75,000 and Bill Seale has lost count! Any advance on those figures ? Incidentally, with the price of beer escalating, brewing your own becomes more and more attractive - and not nearly so complicated as you might think.

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In our June issue I mentioned the case of a Member who is suffering from a disease which could have been contracted only during his service in PNG, but which was not diagnosed until after his retirement. One Member in a similar predicament replied but he has not yet put his case officially, so we now have two Members needing assistance. We shall now begin official enquiries, but in the meantime we repeat our request for information from any Member who may have knowledge of a similar case presented to the Government. Perhaps some of our medical Members may be able to help ?

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Also in the last issue we published details of some of the various formal/informal groups of ex-Territorians in NSW & Queensland. No word back about similar groups in Victoria, Tasmania, S.A. or W.A. However Bruce Dunn sent more details about his reunion 'do' and Terry Dawson sent news of the State of Excitement. Very many thanks to you both - you will see your contributions elsewhere in this issue.

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Dame Rachel Cleland's book is still with the publishers. We had hoped to have Dame Rachel as our guest at the Christmas luncheon in November to talk about the book. We understand that it will be out early next year so maybe she will be our guest at the A.G.M.

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Gabriel Keleny, our Treasurer, is overseas for a couple of months - but keep on sending your money ! Harry West, our Secretary, has also deserted us until the end of October. At the moment he's either trekking in Nepal, taking his ease on a houseboat on the Kashmiri waters or living it up in the palace at Jaipur! Our Vice President, David Marsh, has returned to the Cape Rodney area in Papua after a brief spell here.

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When in Canberra recently I attended two events of interest to Members. The first was held in the Chancery of the Papua New Guinea High Commission, built in the style of a Sepik haus tambaran, where our last Administrator, and first High Commissioner for Australia in Port Moresby, Les Johnson, launched his book "Colonial Sunset". The PNG High Commissioner, Alkan Tololo who many of you will remember as a teacher, then head of the Teaching Commission and later as Chairman of the Public Service Board, introduced Professor Peter Karmel, who headed the Second Commission on Higher Education in PNG - and he actually launched the book with some well chosen words. Then Les had some nice things to say in response, after which we celebrated.

Among those present were Sir John Crawford, first Chancellor of the University of PNG and governor of the Reserve Bank, Sir David Hay, another ex Administrator, Fred Chaney, Shadow Minister for Resources and Energy who at one time was in Law in Port Moresby, Peter D'Arcy, an ex Battalion C.O. of the Pacific Islands Regiment, Gerry Gutman, Allan Kerr and Hugh Clark from the old Department of Territories. Among ex kiaps were Paul Ryan, ex P.S.B. and then with the Cabinet Secretariat after Independence and now executive Director of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia. Geoff and Gretel Dabb, ex Crown Law, Rosemary Lynch (Mark was in Darwin), Bob McLellan and Graham Hardy, ex Lae, Wabag and also Moresby and now with the Commonwealth Department of Health in Brisbane. Also Ian Hossack, the ex head of Technical Education, and Jim Schofield, ex head of D.C.A., and Charles and Irene Rowley (see below).

A free plug for the book - at \$25 its not expensive for these days, its very readable, contains a few surprises and is worth buying.

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The second event was held in the spacious Canberra School of Music, which is on the campus of the Australian National University.

There the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws was conferred on Dr. Charles Rowley "on the ground of his distinguished creative contributions in the service of society". Charles was Principal of the Australian School of Pacific Administration from 1950 to 1964 and is held in extremely high regard by all those who know him. These include not only all the kiaps and teachers who are ex-ASOPANS, but also the many others from Health, Agriculture and other departments who attended its various courses. I do not think that any other individual influenced the overall education and development of the officers of our service more than Charles Rowley. It is interesting to note that after leaving ASOPA Charles became Director of the Aborigine Project of the Social Science Research Council of Australia, Professor of Political Studies at the University of Papua New Guinea, Director of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia, Chairman, Aboriginal Land Fund Commission and Visiting Fellow in the Research School of Social Sciences at A.N.U.

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And whilst you are buying Les Johnson's "Colonial Sunset" I would suggest you also purchase Charles Rowley's "A Matter of Justice" which should be required reading for all Australians. (I'll send an account to Les and Charles for this !)

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Whilst on the subject of ASOPA - Margaret Westwood, who came as Librarian to the School in 1956, retired recently as Librarian at the International Training Institute (which succeeded ASOPA in 1973). Many of you will remember her ready assistance, understanding and vast knowledge of the books in her keeping. A dinner was held at I.T.I. to celebrate the occasion, and Victor Parkinson, the long time ex Registrar, three former Principals - Charles Rowley, Jack Mattes and John Reynolds, and the present Principal Bob Heron, who was a senior lecturer at the University of Technology in Lae

Also present and still on the staff at I.T.I. were June Whittaker, Brian Ross, Craig Symons and Fred Kaad.

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Keith Jackson, who went through ASOPA as a cadet teacher in 1962/63 and then taught at Wewak and Kundiawa has also joined the staff at I.T.I. Since his Territory days he has worked in the Maldives, Indonesia and India, and was manager of Radio Station 2 SERFM.

In the last elections he stood as Labour candidate for Warringah -- unfortunately for Keith it's a blue ribbon Liberal seat !

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HAVE YOU HEARD .....

Bruce Dunn reports from Caloundra :

"We arranged a very successful Reunion of PNG-ites here last April. It was by word of mouth only, but the old PNG garamut was heard wide and far and we ended up with 142 attending. Noosa was represented by Ross & Noleen Allen. Bribie Island sent 24 persons (they hired a bus to beat the 0.05 booze trap - VERY cunning). Brian and Elaine Robins came from the Gold Coast, John & Betty Sherwin from Bundaberg, Jack and Rae Worcester, Bob and Patsy Greaney, John and Jean Hayes represented Brisbane and Old Wau identity Hec McKenzie also had a great night.

Ron Neville got hold of the microphone early in the piece and we had a lot of trouble getting it off him but he's a born showman (years of experience in the House of Assembly ?) and did a great job as M.C.

Jim and Jan Sinclair came from Kawana, as did Sid Neilson, and Geoff and Pat Littler came down from Palmwoods. John & Allison Frew came down the mountain from Maleny.

About 40 odd came around to our place on the following day for drinks etc and when we finally got to bed slept for about 15 hours !

\* \* \*

All the way from Perth with the compliments of Terry Daw :

"Brian & Faye Hollway are at present on a 1 month holiday in America. His hotel, the Sunseeker, in Geraldton is a very popular watering hole for the US Navy on its regular visits for R&R leave. The Holloways are now enjoying some return hospitality in the US. During their absence the hotel is being managed by daughter Sue. Brian once looked after Sue's son Ben for a fortnight and now reckons Sue's looking after the hotel for a month is fair payment ! Sue is married to Len Robert-Smith, ex Dept. Law, Moresby, now Director of Legal Aid, West Australia.

Terry Mitchell, ex Magistrate Rabaul, is a practising barrister in Perth. He has recently bought a property in Bridgetown, a small town south of Perth he hopes to retire to some day.

Mike and Olga Baker, ex Police Rabaul - Mike runs a Security Consultant Service in Perth together with D. Gibbons, also ex-Police PNG. Olga works for the Commonwealth Bank in Perth.

Alan & Jenny Hodder, ex Police - Alan now with C/wealth Dept. of Health and Jenny is W.A. representative for S.M. Sader Reed dealing in Ballarat Pottery and Bendigo Copper. They've been getting in some fishing -- a recent morning's effort included nine sharks!



Martin Haddock - ex Police -- now employed in security in a large retail business house.

John Gavin - ex Police - employed by St. John's Ambulance, Perth

Bill & Heather Pointon - ex Dept Labour, Rabaul - Bill devoting himself to the garden and Heather is employed by the Auto Vadio Travel Service, Fremantle.

Alec Zweck is busily occupied with charity work.

Mike Cochrane, Chief of Fire Services, Port Moresby -- now owns a hotel in Geraldton in opposition to Brian Holloway!

Kevin Doherty - ex P.W.D. Rabaul and N.G. islands, at present on a 1 year contract with Dept. Works, Lae until June 1984. Having retired from PNG in 1978 he found he could not settle down in Australia so returned to PNG on contract, after completing a tour of Australia during which he called in on scores of ex-residents of PNG.

Col and Eileen Liddle - Col is Secretary of the Waterways Commission W.A. and Eileen has discovered a new hobby - spinning. At present Col and all his sons are preparing their yacht for the coming sailing season.

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Thank you, Bruce and Terry !

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Two functions held in Sydney to mark the anniversary of PNG Independence were a reception by the PNG Consul-General at PNG House, and a dinner by the PNG Social Club at Manly - at which latter function our Vice-President, David Marsh was guest speaker. More details of these event in the next issue .

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Here is a parting thought -- it is lack of or bad communication which is the cause of over 80% of our problems today - both in the personal, industrial and international relations sense.

" I know you believe you understand what you think I said, but I am not sure you realise that what you heard is not what I meant."

Think about it and then remember it when you next have an argument !

See you in December - or at the luncheon.

Freddie Kaad.



