



# Una Voce

JOURNAL OF THE PAPUA NEW GUINEA ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC

Patrons: Major General Michael Jeffery AC CVO MC (Retd)  
Mr Fred Kaad OBE  
[www.pngaa.net](http://www.pngaa.net)

*Merry Christmas  
to all, and best wishes  
for 2011*

*From the  
President and  
Committee*



## In This Issue

The **CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON**  
Will be held on  
**Sunday 28 November**  
At the Killara Golf Club  
556 Pacific Hwy Killara (Sydney) NSW  
**RSVP: 13 November 2010**

Organise your family and friends  
to come - booking form on yellow insert  
Details on page 3  
\*\*\*\*\*

Membership fees are now due for 2011.  
They can be paid for a maximum period of  
three years. Please think about a Xmas  
Gift Subscription to members of your  
family -email: [admin@pngaa.net](mailto:admin@pngaa.net) and we  
will send a Xmas Gift Voucher. This  
suggestion is from the recent survey!  
Nominations for 2011 AGM on enclosed  
flyer.

**PLEASE NOTE: DATE of 2011  
AGM and LUNCHEON  
Has been brought forward to:  
Sunday 27 March 2011**



**PNGAA WEBSITE**

**[www.pngaa.net](http://www.pngaa.net)**

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**'UNA VOCE' IS THE JOURNAL OF THE PAPUA NEW GUINEA ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC**  
Please send all correspondence to: **The Secretary, PNGAA, PO Box 1386, MONA VALE NSW 1660.**

Items for *Una Voce*

are welcome and should be marked 'For Attention: The Editor' or emailed to: [editor@pngaa.net](mailto:editor@pngaa.net) By submitting your article/story for publication, you agree that we may, after publication in *Una Voce*, republish it on the internet.

*Una Voce* is published in March, June, September and December.

**Advertising** is available - please contact the Editor.

**Website:** [www.pngaa.net](http://www.pngaa.net)

**Membership is available to any person having an interest in PNG.** Annual subscription - \$25 from 1 January 2011. The membership year corresponds to the calendar year and an application form is available from the Secretary at the above address or you can download one from our website.

No receipts are given for subscriptions as it would add to our postage expenses.

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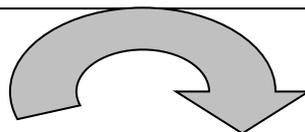
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In selecting articles and stories for *Una Voce* we aim to publish a wide range of topics from different times and places. Unfortunately due to postage we do have a page restriction and we therefore encourage both short articles (200-500 words approximately) as well as longer ones from 500-1500 words (approximately), in addition to an installment series.

Whilst we like to acknowledge contributions, we thank you for your understanding that it may take a little time.



**We encourage members to please pay membership fees by direct deposit** to the PNGAA account as follows:

BSB: 062 009 Account No: 0090 7724

Please ensure you include your Membership Number. If you could notify our Treasurer at E: [treasurer@pngaa.net](mailto:treasurer@pngaa.net) it would be appreciated. Thank you.

### **Wondering what to give somebody for Xmas?**

#### **Our DVD – Walk Into Paradise**

Please use order form on separate yellow insert  
For further information please contact:

Marie Clifton-Bassett PO Box 1386 MONA VALE NSW 1660, Phone: 02-9999 4490 or  
email: [admin@pngaa.net](mailto:admin@pngaa.net).

**DISCLAIMER:** *Una Voce* is produced for the information of members of the Papua New Guinea Association of Australia Inc. It is written with care, in good faith, and from sources believed to be accurate. However, readers should not act, nor refrain from acting, solely on the basis of information in *Una Voce* about financial, taxation or any other matter. Having regard for their own particular circumstances, readers should consult the relevant authorities or other advisers with expertise in the particular field. Neither the PNGAA nor the editor accepts any responsibility for actions taken by readers. Also, the views expressed by any of the authors of articles included in *Una Voce* are not necessarily those of the editor or the PNGAA.

## **CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON – Sunday 28 November 2010**

**Killara Golf Club, 556 Pacific Highway, Killara NSW (Sydney)**

**11.30am onwards RSVP: 13 November 2010**

Our annual Christmas luncheon is a little earlier this year so please get your replies in quickly! Win Air Niugini tickets and 5 nights' accommodation in Rabaul – raffle (pg 7) will be drawn at the lunch! Pre-luncheon drinks (from a cash only bar) will be on the spacious verandah overlooking the beautiful grounds of Killara Golf Club and lunch will be served at 1pm. Cost is \$52.50 per person - please use the booking form on the enclosed yellow 'Treasurer's Corner'. Tables will be for 10. If you wish to be seated with family or friends please advise on the order form OR feel free to make up your own table of 10. Anyone with special dietary requests? Please let us know so we can arrange something suitable.

For those coming by train please let us know if you would like transport from Lindfield station which has lifts and a ramp – please phone Harry West on 9418 8793. Public transport information can be obtained on # 131500.

Free on-site parking is available for those driving - and to remind you, look for the red and yellow balloons at the entrance immediately after Fiddens Wharf Road on the Pacific Highway as you travel north. Entry to Killara Golf Club is *immediately* after the Noodle Blast (previously Black Stump Restaurant).

For any queries or if you are able to contribute an item for the Christmas luncheon raffle, please phone Juli Allcorn on Ph: 02-9416 1430 (h) or 0405625912 (m) or Email: [j\\_allcorn@hotmail.com](mailto:j_allcorn@hotmail.com)

Come along, renew friendships and share the familiar experiences once again at this delightful occasion.

**Please complete the booking form and payment details on the separate yellow 'Treasurer's Corner' insert and return by 13 November.** ▪

### **An Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday 27 March 2011**

Enclosed with this issue of *Una Voce* is a nomination form which, if you intend nominating a member to the Management Committee, needs to be received by our Secretary by Friday 28 January 2011.

Each position requires a nominator, a seconder, and the agreement of the person being nominated. It is preferable that a short bio, of no more than 200 words, reflecting the person's background and interests accompanies the nomination.

It is the responsibility of the person nominating to find all signatories and ensure the form is returned on time. Please also refer to the 'Notes' on the back of the nomination form. If you wish to nominate more than one person, please photocopy the form before filling out. Only current members can nominate and be nominated.

If the number of nominations received exceeds the number of vacancies to be filled, a postal ballot will be forwarded with the March *Una Voce*. If you have any questions please email: [admin@pngaa.net](mailto:admin@pngaa.net) or contact our Secretary on:

02-9958 3408

**Please remember: Nomination forms can be received no later than 5pm Friday 28 January 2011.** ▪

The Management Committee would like to hear from anyone who would be interested in forming or being involved with a regional group in your area.

## Thank you...

**Will Muskens** has resigned from the role of Treasurer due to work commitments. We thank him most sincerely for his thoughtful input to the committee during his year of involvement. Will's insightful ability to gear into the heart of any matter and act quickly and positively was much appreciated.

## And introducing...

We are fortunate that **Barry Creedy** was able to step in to the role of Treasurer. Barry spent 20 years in PNG from 1958. Initially posted as a Cadet Patrol Officer to Kundiawa Sub District, Barry then went to Manus, Komo (where he finalized construction of an airstrip and Patrol Post and had exploratory and initial conduct patrols in the border area of Southern Highlands and Western District), Kagua, Ialibu and Koroba as A/ADC.

Barry was Assistant District Commissioner at Kiunga where, in 1968, he was involved with the West Irian Act of Free Choice and the commencement of the Star Mountains copper project. This included liaison flights to Mindiptana where the Buparti Merauke also attended. He returned to Kundiawa for two terms on DO Special Duties (A/DDC and A/DC at various times) during the period of PNG Self-Government and Independence before going to Kimbe, also as DO (S.D), A/DDC, A/DC. Barry met and married Joy Heal who had had six (6) years' service in Tari, Southern Highlands District as a Methodist Overseas Missionary. As a midwife and Huli speaker she supervised the Hoieba/Tari Maternity Hospital and General Outpatient clinic with relieving duties at the Leprosy Hospital.

Returning to Australia Barry purchased a motel at Jerilderie eventually being elected Flag Inns Zone Chairman for the NSW area encompassing Deniliquin, Griffith, Wagga, Albury.

Moving to Queensland Barry purchased another motel at Nambour and became Zone Chairman Southern Queensland and National Director Best Western Motels. A further move to Sydney saw him purchase a Westpac Bank premises in Cammeray and simultaneously the Cammeray Newsagency business. Barry remained a newsagent for three years. He was elected President of the Cammeray Chamber of Commerce and remained in that position for seven years until resigning. This period saw the implementation of the Raleigh Street Plaza in conjunction with North Sydney Council. He is currently a member of Neutral Bay Probus and Chapter 72 Sydney Branch NAWCC Horology Society.

He is semi-retired except for managing owned and leased residential and commercial premises North Sydney, and online security trading.

Barry and Joy travel extensively and have toured over 85 countries – highlights were two visits to Timbuktu including millennium eve, the Trans-Siberian 1965; and when he purchased a Jaguar XJS in London and rallied Oslo to North Cape.



Thank you to our many members who contribute the wonderful articles to *Una Voce*, preserving this important part of history. Whilst it is not always possible to include them immediately, please know that they are appreciated and kept for use as space permits. As space is increasingly being challenged we ask that contributors limit submissions to between 100-1800 words enabling variety in our journal. Longer articles will take longer to appear. Thank you for your assistance and understanding. ■

## **KIAP TRIBUTE EVENT 20 November 2010**

**More than 2000 Australians served as patrol officers (Kiaps) in Papua New Guinea before the nation's independence in 1975.** Ex-Kiaps and people with an interest in Papua New Guinea are welcome to share their memories and experiences at a tribute event at the National Archives of Australia in Canberra. **The day's program will highlight and celebrate the role Kiaps played in Papua New Guinea, as well as answer some questions on how to capture and preserve this chapter of our shared heritage.**

This special tribute is an important acknowledgment to the work of the Kiaps in PNG and we encourage as many as possible to attend. Please tell your friends

**Venue:** National Archives of Australia, Queen Victoria Terrace, Parkes, ACT

**Time:** 1.00pm – 5.00pm

**Cost:** Free, but bookings are essential

**RSVP:** 12 November 2010. Please phone: 02 6212 3956 or [events@naa.gov.au](mailto:events@naa.gov.au)

If any PNGAA members have any queries about the event, or if they would simply like to let National Archives know they are coming along, they can email [events@naa.gov.au](mailto:events@naa.gov.au) or ring 02 6212 3956.

The event includes:

- an official welcome by VIP speakers
- a Sharing Histories panel discussion. Listen to memories and experiences from members of the ex-Kiap and PNG communities and share your own story
- information sessions with National Archives specialists. Learn how to care for your own collections and research material in the Archives' collection
- afternoon tea and the opportunity to catch up with former friends and colleagues
- displays relating to Kiaps in our exhibition gallery
- information stalls on preservation, research and copying of photographic collections
- the opportunity to share your own stories. Record your memories and experiences in our Sharing Histories booklets
- a cultural dance performance by the PNG Cultural Group. ■

### **INTEREST IN MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY ?**

The PNGAA has approximately 1500 members, many of whom have special expertise or backgrounds relevant to developing and exchanging knowledge about aspects of Papua New Guinea and its relationship with Australia.

The PNGAA Committee of Management is exploring whether members might support the publication from time to time, either on the web or in physical form, of a separate Membership Directory listing contact details, e-mail address and indication of employment or field of professional or specific expertise of particular members. Only members who directly authorise it would have their details included in such publication. The issue or disclosure of such details would be limited to other members entered in the Directory.

Directories of this kind are published by the International industrial and Employment Relations Association and by the Australian Industrial Relations Societies.

Members interested in or opposed to the development of such a Directory are asked to write to the editor of *Una Voce* commenting on the proposal by 15 January 2011. ■

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**BRISBANE - Literary events with Patrick Lindsay speaking about his latest book, *The Coastwatchers* - Thursday 11 November**

**Please ask your friends and RSVP by Nov 5 and Nov 8!**

Set in the New Guinea islands, Bougainville and the Solomon's, Patrick Lindsay's *The Coast Watchers* explores the heroic exploits of the tiny band that stayed behind in the Pacific Islands after the Japanese occupation in World War II. Living on the edge 24 hours a day, always on the alert for Japanese patrols or changes in villagers' attitudes, these extraordinary heroes of the Pacific War risked their lives when the Japanese had total control of the region and discovery meant certain death.

From their jungle hideouts they gave early warnings of Japanese air strikes, reported on the movement of ships and troops and personally saved hundreds of lost soldiers, shipwrecked sailors and downed airmen.

Brisbane is relevant to the Coastwatchers, many of whom were carried by United States submarines from the submarine base there for unknown areas of the Pacific islands. These submarines were instrumental in supplying Coastwatchers and, when necessary, evacuating both them and civilians from behind enemy lines.

At a function managed by the PNG Association of Australia, best-selling author and public speaker Patrick Lindsay will talk of these exploits and why he wrote this new book.

The venue for the Brisbane luncheon, the Ship Inn, is adjacent to the Queensland Maritime Museum. US submarines were repaired in the historic dry dock there after being damaged in action in WWII.

**Remembrance Day Breakfast:** Tattersall's Club, 215 Queen Street, Brisbane – with special guest Rev Haydn Parsons Enoggera Army Barracks **Time:** 7.00am until 8.30am **Cost:** \$40 (Tables of 10) **RSVP by: 5 November 2010**

**Remembrance Day Literary Luncheon:** Ship Inn, Cnr Stanley and Sidon Streets, Southbank Parklands, Brisbane

**Time:** From 12.00 until 2.30pm **Cost:** \$45 (Tables of 8)

**RSVP by: 8 November 2010** Ph: 0409 031 889 E: editor@pngaa.net

Books will be available for sale at the functions and Patrick will be available to sign them.

Proceeds from the functions and raffle will be donated to the national memorial at the AWM for the *Montevideo Maru*, Australia's greatest maritime tragedy. Further details and payment forms at: [www.pngaa.net](http://www.pngaa.net)

Please note: Members on email have received this information previously.

***Sisters of War*** will be screened **Sunday 14th November** on ABC 2 at 8.30pm. Further details – see page 20

**Apologies to the following members whose details did not appear in the 2010 Membership list:**

Daniel LEKE, 70 Lehunte Avenue, PROSPECT SA 5082

John and Jan KLEINIG PO Box 1114, STIRLING SA 5152

Mr Clive TROY 4 Welham Street BEECROFT NSW 2119

Mr George GREENWOOD, PO Box 210, WALKAMIN QLD 4872

## GREAT CHARITY RAFFLE

**You will recently have received in the mail tickets for the raffle**, which will be drawn at the Christmas Luncheon on 28 November 2010 and which we hope you will support. Prize includes:

- Two economy class, return, tickets from Sydney or Brisbane or Cairns to Rabaul (conditions apply) courtesy Air Niugini
- 5 nights' accommodation for two (one room, no meals incl); Airport transfers in Rabaul and a harbour cruise

Built on the rim of a sunken volcano and surrounded by six volcanic peaks, Rabaul has long been a place to relax and unwind in with its placid blue waters, spectacular coral reefs, stunning scenery and extraordinary sunsets. Its fascinating history includes stories about the famous Samoan, 'Queen Emma', who began her remarkable trading empire here, the German colonial days and Rabaul's three years under the Japanese during WWII. Learn where dessicated coconut comes from; or perhaps about the Dukduk and Tubuans, the main figures in Tolai custom. Have a game of golf or swim in the crystal clear waters. Listen to island songs or watch a firedance. For the more adventurous, there are spectacular coral and wreck dives, an intricate network of tunnels built for refuge during WWII to explore, ride on a helicopter, do some reef fishing or try for some deep-water marlin. With its diversity and beauty, there is something for everyone.

Proceeds of this raffle will benefit two worthwhile projects:

1. A national memorial for the 1053 Australian military and civilian victims of the Japanese prison ship, *Montevideo Maru*, which was torpedoed by an allied submarine off the coast of the Philippines on 1 July 1942. The memorial, costing \$500,000, will be erected in the grounds of the Australian War Memorial – target date for dedication is 1 July 2012, the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the tragedy. 80% of the net income from this raffle will be contributed to funds collected by the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Society for this purpose.
2. The NGVR/PNGVR Military Museum at Wacol, Brisbane, focuses on PNG wartime campaigns, but also contains fascinating PNG artifacts, memorabilia and photographs. Ongoing general upkeep with the buildings and display are needed to preserve this unique link with our shared Australia-PNG history. 20% of the net income from this raffle will be contributed to this.

**Please return sold and completed ticket butts** with your remittance by cheque or money order **by 19 November 2010** to the Secretary, **NGVR/PNGVR Ex-members Association, PO Box 885, Park Ridge, QLD 4125**. If you would like further tickets, please contact Colin Gould Ph: 0424 562 030 or Email: pngvr@optusnet.com.au



*Rabaul Hotel Ltd*

### **Visit to the Blue Mountains**

Thank you to George and Edna Oakes who again welcomed a group to their home at Woodford in the Blue Mountains on Thursday 14 October. A stunning array of orchids were out and the day was very much enjoyed and appreciated by all who went.

The EVENTS Committee is CALLING FOR ENTRIES for the

## PNGAA INAUGURAL ART SHOW 2011

### ENERGIES COLOURS AND REFLECTIONS

*Let the artworks bring to life your senses, be surrounded by the energies and colours of the tropics.*



We are calling for artists from different backgrounds that have a connection with Papua New Guinea to create and be part of this exciting exhibition.

**Entry forms and artworks to be received by:  
20 January 2011**

#### **Artworks to be delivered to:**

Julianne Ross Allcorn, 100 Shirley Rd, Roseville NSW 2069

**Cost:** \$20 per artwork entry (no entry without payment)  
Freight and insurance to be artist's responsibility.

(Cheques or EFT payment to: BSB: 062:009 Account No: 0090:7724  
CBA Account Name: Papua New Guinea Association of Australia)

**Exhibition Date:** Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> February

**Venue: BREATHING COLOURS GALLERY**

446 Darling St, Balmain (Sydney)

**Opening: Friday 11 February 6.30 – 8.30pm**

Everyone welcome!

Please RSVP to E: [j\\_allcorn@hotmail.com](mailto:j_allcorn@hotmail.com) or Phone: 0405 625 912

Note: A panel of artists will be choosing the artworks for hanging.

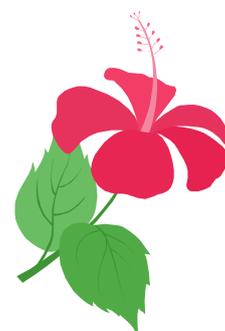
Breathing Colours Gallery is a small modern gallery with a vibrant energy full of light and colour. \* \* \*

**For application forms or more details** please contact:

Julianne Ross Allcorn Ph: 0405 625 912

E: [j\\_allcorn@hotmail.com](mailto:j_allcorn@hotmail.com) or visit: [www.pngaa.net](http://www.pngaa.net)

*A percentage of sales will go towards the  
National Memorial for the Montevideo Maru*



**Congratulations and thank you to Phil Ainsworth, John Holland, Ally Martell and all the helpers at the NGVR/PNGVR**

**Association Gala Day** celebrating Rabaul's Centenary on Sunday 24 October in Brisbane. Paul Nerau, PNG Consul General, gave an insightful speech about the many business linkages between PNG and Queensland before cutting a cake decorated in the shape of Rabaul harbour, with its volcanoes, and later shared by those present. An amazing photographic collection with 200 photos, collated by John Holland - thank you John! - lined the entire wall outside the Museum and reflected on Rabaul's history. Another highlight of the day was the spectacularly welcoming Chinese lion dance. A barbeque and refreshments were available together with a variety of stalls. Later in the day an island dance group performed adding to the audience delight by inviting several to participate. Thank you Phil, Vin and Lionel! With a day celebrating this rich history, people were honoured that Coastwatchers Lionel Veale and Mat Foley were able to attend and share their experiences during WWII. Friends enjoyed catching up again and renewing familiar memories.

## **NOTES FROM THE NORTHERN TERRITORY from Jim Toner**

Northern Territory politicians like to extol multiculturalism and when Greece won the European soccer championship the Chief Minister invited happy Hellenes for a celebration. There are many Greeks in Darwin and every one and his thirsty uncle turned up to empty the Parliamentary cellars. Having learned from that when, for the first time in 35 years, the NT Government held a PNG Independence Day function attendance was by invitation only. The dress requirement was Territory Rig, halfway between Formal and Informal, requiring a long sleeved shirt and tie. After so many years my brain had quite forgotten how to knot a tie but after a great struggle I arrived at Parliament House only to find that 90% of *wantoks* had said "*Maski*" and come open-necked. Sarcastic remarks such as "On yer way to the Papua Club, Jim?" were my lot. Central District ladies and children in eye catching *bilas* turned on colourful dancing and everyone including the Chief Minister departed in high good humour.

Two nights later the Australia-PNG Social Group held its usual Independence bash at the Cypriot Club.

Graham WATTS, a junior kiap from 1969-1971 was at the earlier celebration. After service at Popondetta and in the Sepik he turned to private enterprise working for Coconut Products Ltd., Burns Philp Plantation Division, New Guinea Plantations and then at Panguna and Ok Tedi until going finish in 1988. Now a resident of Darwin Graham has a consultancy in vehicle technology particularly for taxis and hire cars.

Lisa Hilli has lived in Brisbane since she was two years old but her mother, Cathy, is from Malaguna No. 4 outside Rabaul. The pair have been on tour with a cooking show and in Darwin demonstrated Tolai practices. "*Ai gir*" is a traditional dish of coconut milk and vegetables but Cathy adds chicken to suit Aussies. And instead of being cooked in banana leaves on hot stones the ladies find no problem with using aluminium foil in an electric oven.

Turning to page 3 of the NT News to examine, as one does, the usual large photo of a nubile blonde dressed in a teeny weeny polka dot bikini I was taken aback to find it replaced by a photo of a smiling Harry COEHN wielding a golf club. The former PNG chalkie, now 74, had just beaten his age with a round of 73 in the Darwin Club championship. A rare occurrence which included sinking one from 57m with a sand wedge. Form like that will take him to Port Macquarie in November for the national Veterans championships.

In an earlier issue I mentioned the museum at Goroka named after J.K. McCarthy but a somewhat less well-known kiap has been similarly honoured. At Simbai there is the Kata Haus museum named after Gavin CARTER. The former patrol officer now lives in the Coffs Harbour area but has been back to assist villagers to grow coffee as a cottage industry. He found it curious that they had no comprehension of the connection between what they grew and sent away and the Nescafe they purchased in glass jars at the trade store.

Talking of kiaps and Goroka, Rick GIDDINGS was stationed there in 1972 when his daughter Lara was born. That little girl has now become Deputy Premier of Tasmania. Glass ceiling? *Nogat moa.* ■

## **AUSTRALIA CUTS HEAVY RELIANCE ON PNG CONSULTANTS**

Australia is making a dramatic change to Australia's aid program to Papua New Guinea by slashing adviser numbers.

Australia's aid agency, AusAID, has been under fire over the amount of money it spends on advisers to provide what is known as “technical assistance” there. Recently, after a review into its advisers, Australian Foreign Minister Kevin Rudd announced more than a third of the 487 adviser positions in PNG will be phased out within two years.

The announcement came less than six months after a review of the PNG-Australia Development Cooperation Treaty called for changes to the program, criticising it for putting too much of its budget towards consultancies and training.

The PNG planning minister, Paul Tiensten, meanwhile had called on all aid donors and development partners to fund programs in line with PNG's development priorities and not what they think is right for the country. And PNG's Minister for Health and HIV/AIDs, Sasa Zibe, challenged his department to avoid wasting funds and resources to improve health care services. He said improved service delivery was the focus of the new National Health Plan, but in past health plans 75 per cent of health functional grants made available to the provinces had been spent on administration, and 25 per cent had filtered down to service delivery.

He said this was outright abuse and wastage of resources. PNG had to cut down on unnecessary and wasteful expenditures on administration, starting from the National Department of Health all the way down to the provinces and to the districts, One way was to have a lean workforce, and no costly workshops, health conferences and symposiums. ■

### **PNG IN THE NEWS**

► Much has been happening within PNG in recent times. Parliament has been unconstitutionally suspended by the PNG government for the second time in as many years and the PNG Ombudsman Commission's watchdog powers over Parliament have been diminished.

In a joint venture with the PNG government, the Chinese Government-owned Mining Company signed an agreement to develop a mine in the Ramu area of Madang Province. This mine would primarily produce nickel, with the mine's waste-disposal system pumping liquid tailings to the coast and out through the reef into the pristine environment. The system is referred to as Deep Sea Tailings Disposal, or DSTD. The theory is that if the toxic tailings are dispersed at levels below the normal circulation of sea water, they will fall harmlessly to the sea bottom and stay there. The local landowners along the Rai Coast of Madang Province are concerned as it's an area where any effects of the toxic waste disposal from the nickel mine would be expected to have an immediate effect, given the ocean currents in the area. The Scottish Association for Marine Science was asked by the PNG Government to investigate if the process was safe.

For further information visit the following websites:

<http://ramumine.wordpress.com/>

<http://www.asopa.typepad.com/>

<http://malumnalu.blogspot.com/>

[http://www.highlandspacific.com/pdf/Sustainability\\_Report\\_Extractvers.pdf](http://www.highlandspacific.com/pdf/Sustainability_Report_Extractvers.pdf)

[www.postcourier.com.pg](http://www.postcourier.com.pg)

[www.thenational.com.pg](http://www.thenational.com.pg)

► **Richard Marles** has been named Australia's new Parliamentary Secretary for Pacific Island Affairs.

► **The Mineral Policy Institute** is presenting a one day conference on:

**Responsible Mining in Papua New Guinea**, 26 Nov 2010 8.30am – 5.00pm

Venue: **Australian National Maritime Museum**, 2 Murray Street, Darling Harbour, Sydney.

The conference will explore the impacts of mining in PNG, examine pathways to responsible mining and discuss whether responsible mining and profits can co-exist. Speakers are from finance institutions, civil society organisations, the mining industry and academia will present on a variety of issues relating to PNG and responsible mining.

The conference will appeal to: People with an interest, business or private, in Papua New Guinea, Mining industry, Investment institutions, Researchers, Small investors, Civil Society Organisations, Students, Media.

Information from: [www.mpi.org.au](http://www.mpi.org.au)

► **Remains from six campsites dating back up to 49,000 years have been found** sealed in volcanic ash in Papua New Guinea's Ivane Valley in the Owen Stanley Ranges.

The settlements are at about 2000 metres and believed to be the oldest evidence of high-altitude human settlements. The closest to this would be around 30,000 years ago in Tibet. The age of the finds was made by archaeologists using radio carbon dating. This find suggests that humans had been living in the cold, wet and inhospitable highlands at the height of the last Ice Age. Fragments of stone tools, food and fires had been unearthed in an area near Kokoda. Findings indicated that the people hunted small animals and ate yams and nuts. The findings were published in the journal Science.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gp2x31v1pAh1P4N1lIGlDIBgFDfQ?docId=CNG.27a028ad8f0542cd7177615afc42a4d3.461>

► **Newcrest Mining Ltd merged with Lihir Gold Limited on 13 September, 2010** creating a \$25 billion company and Asia-Pacific's leading gold producer. In late September Newcrest Mining Limited (Newcrest) and Triple Plate Junction Plc (TPJ) confirmed that the two companies had signed a Heads of Agreement where Newcrest can earn a majority interest in the Manus Island Joint Venture in Papua New Guinea. The Joint Venture, which comprises a prospective tenement area covering 674 sq km on Manus Island, PNG, contains identified mineralisation including a host of epithermal gold and porphyry copper targets.

[www.newcrest.com.au](http://www.newcrest.com.au)

► **The Sod-Turning Ceremony of the Australian Service Personnel of Chinese Heritage War Memorial Project** was held at the Veterans' Memorial Garden, Sunnybank RSL on Friday, 16 July 2010. It is hoped to be completed later this year.

The War Memorial Project has been driven by RSL representatives as well as leaders from the Southside's Chinese community. The Memorial is not only about erecting a monument. It is about educating school children and the broader population. This project would honour the past and present involvement of Australian Service Personnel of Chinese Heritage in the Defence Forces.

► **An AusAID-funded program, led by former Queensland detective Don Hurrell**, has been credited by hospital staff in Goroka, with decreasing

the level of tribal violence in the region. Goroka hospital's Rose Judah says people would commonly turn up at the hospital with knife, axe, spear or gunshot wounds but this has recently decreased.

Mr Hurrell, son of former kiap Lloyd Hurrell, became an adviser to the law and justice sector in the region in 2007 as part of an AusAID-funded project. Believing that the problem stems in a lack of government services, tribal violence became his top priority.

Police do not have the manpower or resources to respond to disputes before they erupt into violence, so people take the law into their own hands.

"[Tribal violence] will often mean huge displacement of people, damage to houses, burnt houses, burnt medical centres, burnt schools and destroyed bridges," he said.

Mr Hurrell's ability to speak and think like a local assists with his success in the region. He says there is a cultural element to tribal fighting because it is how highlanders traditionally sorted out their differences. Mr Hurrell's has established peace-monitoring teams throughout the province.

Consisting of police, politicians, public servants and church representatives they go into conflict zones and negotiate ceasefires, compensation deals and, ultimately, peace agreements. He believes that empowering the people with knowledge, through this program, will help bring about more confidence.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2010/09/10/3007995.htm>

► **A contract between the PNG government** and the international contractor Shenyang International Economic & Technical Cooperation company of China was recently signed in Madang to enable phase one of the construction of the Pacific Marine Industrial Zone (PMIZ) to commence.

This Pacific Marine Industrial Zone will consist of a regional tuna processing centre where regional member countries and the PNG tuna industry will set up processing plants within the zone, adding value to their tuna catches and supply export markets.

Phase one will cost US\$95 million (K210 million) with US\$74 million coming from the China Export Import (Exim) Bank and US\$21 million (K67m) provided by the PNG government. Construction of phase one will include wharf and pier, water treatment plant, waste treatment plant, roads, administration and other key infrastructure.

A framework arrangement was signed in November 2009 allowing for the state to access the concessional loan from Exim Bank of China. A condition of the concessional loan was for the main contractor to be a Chinese company selected by the bank through their own selection process.

Info from: <http://www.thenational.com.pg/?q=node/13010>

► **Papua New Guinea Kumuls** win at the Final of the Pacific Nations Cup qualified them as the fourth team for the 2010 Four Nations series. The Four Nations includes Australia, New Zealand and England - and this year, PNG. Kumuls legend Stanley Gene has taken over as coach following Adrian Lam. Cronulla Sharks' hooker Paul Aiton, the only NRL player in the squad, is captaining the side. Several players with NRL, NSW Cup or Queensland Cup experience have been omitted from the 24-man squad due to the board's

preference for local players from PNG. Twelve players, or half the squad, are from local PNG teams.

At the time of printing the first match against Australia was due to be played on October 24<sup>th</sup> at Parramatta Stadium in Sydney. The Kumuls were scheduled to play against New Zealand at the International Stadium, Rotorua, on 30 October 2010.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

► **We are sailing the *Kalibobo Spirit*** from Madang to Cairns in late October 2010. From early November we will be taking it down the East Coast to Sydney, stopping en-route at Hamilton Island, Gold Coast, Brisbane, Coffs Harbour, Hawkesbury River, Sydney, Georges River, Port Hacking. We might even get to Hobart depending on weather, before returning to PNG for Christmas.

PNGAA members are welcome aboard if and when they see the vessel which is clearly named "KALIBOBO SPIRIT. We will just have friends and family aboard.

We have just purchased the Cairns Heritage, a hotel/motel in Cairns which in future will have a distinct PNG flavour. Rosemary Robertson will be managing this property. Members going to Cairns would be welcome and dare say get a special rate!

Peter Barter

► **In September 2010 *Una Voce*** page 34 line four where the PNGVR was activated on 17 March 1951, I feel it was an omission not to have mentioned the first Commanding Officer being Lt Colonel Peter Maddern (1919-1964). He was in Port Moresby from 1951 until either March or April 1953. Jim Burton

► **After sending out an event notice** simply with the acronym PNGAA on it, a well-deserved response bounced back:

Is this PNG Alcoholics Anonymous or Automobile Association? My grandmother is an alcoholic but not a car buff and my mistress loves cars but not too keen on giving up her grog, so I'm not sure which one to take.

Tony Pryke

► **Thanks for your assistance** in placing my request for information on two people in the last issue of *Una Voce*. To date I have received letters and phone calls from four people who have filled in the missing information on these people. This makes one's membership much more rewarding to know that there are a lot of members who I have never met that can be so helpful. Leo Butler

► **Regarding the Badihagwa Colonial Cemetery**, September 2010 *Una Voce* page 5. I refer to the above and wish to correct the informant's communication. No confirmation of any funding for the cemetery has been received from either the Governor of the NCDC or the Chairman of the Motu Koita Assembly as at the 14<sup>th</sup> October. In addition there is no indication that the Australian Government is about to approve any funds for any capital expenditure. Should either of the events occur I shall inform your readers.

Mrs Lyn Lees, a Port Moresby resident, has offered her services to research the background of those buried at Badihagwa (The Old Port Moresby Cemetery) in order to build up a permanent historical record of their involvement in Papua New Guinea. I have handed her any records that I have received from the financial contributors who made it possible to recover the cemetery from overgrowth and its maintenance for the last five (5) years, and she will be delighted to receive further submissions either directly or through me.

Lyn Lees email is [-.leesmob@bigpond.com](mailto:-.leesmob@bigpond.com)

John Norton is [outramjn@bigpond.com](mailto:outramjn@bigpond.com)

John Norton

► **Page 43 June Issue depicts a copper beating** – it also sought information on the artist and whether similar beatings existed. My wife gave me a magnificent copper beating for my 50th birthday May 1973. I found it hard to photograph but will try to attach 2 photos, The beating measures 1200 x 600 mm - is very heavy copper requiring 2 people to lift it to attach to the wall and it bears the name "WARMALO" who presumably made it. It was done at a technical education centre at Badilli and I understood the design was by an Australian artist (name not known to me). Note it has the official crest - since legally banned for use in this way. It has many other significant cultural features too. Keith Dyer



► **I note in Una Voce #3, September 2010, Leo Butler has asked if anyone has information regarding Frank Martin of Wewak.** The PNGAA site has a vale for his widow, Laura, although no mention of her husband, Frank. In widowhood she became the more famous because of her charity work, being known as the 'Mother of the East Sepik'.

When I went to the East Sepik in 1967 as a *didiman*, Frank was the East Sepik Member of Parliament. He was also Sepik Transport. After a short stint at Bainyik *didiman* station, Maprik, I was posted to Dreikikir, and kiap Robin Barclay seconded me to his 1968 election team for Dreikikir. Robin gave me the forms for a Returning Officer, to lead a team to villages in the hills to the north west of the station. However, I noticed on the form that I had to be 21 years old to fill this position. 'So?' said Robin. 'So I'm not' I replied. I was 20. Not to be outdone, Robin called in one of the policemen who were accompanying me, filled out the form for him and got him to sign it. I filled out the form for a Poll Clerk and the patrol went ahead as planned. Kokomo Ulia was the main candidate for Dreikikir, and Frank Martin, as incumbent for the Regional seat, ran against Michael Tom, ex-school teacher and *maus bilong radio Wewak* (Wewak Radio broadcaster).

One of the candidates against Kokomo was Bulu, and in one of the 6 languages/dialects of Dreikikir, Bulu actually meant Kokomo, so goodness knows where some of the votes were meant to go. But Kokomo was a clear winner, so it made no difference. As the 'real' leader, Wangu Wangu said, 'I'm too old to go to Moresby, so I am sending Kokomo'.

Of course Michael (Tom) Somare won the Regional East Sepik seat, and Frank Martin said I was partly to blame. He was using the clever campaigning tactic of flying into mission strips just ahead of the election patrol to make his face known. I was blissfully unaware of this, and the patrol was so successful that we ended up a few days ahead of schedule. When he showed up his constituents had already

voted! Frank ran a great trucking business, and pioneered the freight route from Wewak to Maprik. At Bainyik we (DASF) had a rice factory and a coffee factory, fed by tens of thousands of growers and their Rural Progress Societies with a large fleet of Landcruisers on grass and dirt roads. Green bean for export and polished rice for PNG consumption was all moved from there to Wewak by Sepik Transport.

As an aside, Frank's brother, Norm, was a Sepik River trader and crocodile hunter in partnership with John Pasquareli, of Pauline Hanson (One Nation) fame, and more recently acclaimed artist ([www.johnpasquarelli.com](http://www.johnpasquarelli.com)).

I left the area late in 1970 after a run in with Maprik member Pita Lus (another story), but apart from two years, worked in PNG until early 1989. Ken Parkes

### ► Papua New Guineans applying for Australian Visa in Port Moresby

Having just recently seen the checklist for these visa applications, I was appalled at the amount of information that is required by the Australian Department of Immigration and Citizenship. Much of the information is detailed and appears unnecessary. Applicants are asked for details of relatives and also, for those working, the extent of leave dates from employers. A self employed or unemployed person is required to provide their financial standing; what is a simple villager to do if they were to apply for a visa? Is the answer no, right from the start because he or she doesn't have a bank account?

A comparison situation is that when Australians travel up to PNG without visas, they get them at the Jacksons Airport upon arrival! Please stop this witch hunt and treat us with some dignity and process each visa application with at least some consideration to one's circumstances. Give us a fair go! Gima Crowdy

### **BORDER CONFRONTATION**

I was particularly interested in John Quinn's article on this subject, for, in 1964 the Australian Government was aware that there could be infiltration from across the border. As part of the solution in early 1965 I was ordered to raise a second battalion of the PIR based on new barracks at Cape Moem, near Wewak, and to reinforce the outstation at Vanimo. The conditions were primitive, for it took two and a half years for the whole battalion to be accommodated in the new buildings as they became available. It took the same time for fresh water from Brandi to come on-stream for the soldiers and subsequently when their families were called forward to occupy family quarters.

Still, it was great soldiering, especially for the young officers, including Ted Diro, to go on patrol along the border region for weeks on end in a surveillance role and to gain the confidence of the people. I encouraged the patrol commanders to bring back any young men, with their parents' approval, who wanted to join the PIR. They were then placed on the labour line payroll at Moem while they were being educated by six young teachers in the Education Corps doing their National Service, then went off to Goldie River Training Centre as recruits. In due course the border people could see their relatives on patrol.

On one occasion I had a radio conversation with a patrol commander, now a distinguished retired colonel. He informed me that he was looking down on a border village with an Indonesian military patrol present. I instructed him to base up and report early next morning when he informed that the Indonesians had gone back across the border. We subsequently found out that it was a medical assistance patrol using an old Dutch Administration itinerary. It was indeed fortunate that a 'high noon' situation did not take place that could have developed into a crisis.

Donald Ramsay CO 2 PIR (1965-1967)

## **COMSUPER PENSIONS – INDEXATION UPDATE**

**Tim Terrell**

PNGAA Representative on ACPSRO

The indexation of Commonwealth pensions paid to retired public servants (including PNG Administration retirees) and military personnel has been a contentious issue for many years.

Successive Federal governments have failed to change from the Consumer Price Index (CPI) as the basis for adjusting these pensions despite the recommendations of three Senate Committees and the fact that the CPI no longer reflects the cost of living – a fact that caused the then Government to adopt a wage-based index for Age Pensions 11 years ago. That change has resulted in the percentage increases in Age Pensions over that period averaging 3% more each year than in Commonwealth pensions. The cumulative effect of this is significant and hardly reflects the “fairness” criterion Labor trumpeted before it took office.

This has been the main issue on which the Australian Council of Public Sector Retiree Organisations (ACPSRO) has focused over recent years. Its efforts, and those of its constituent organizations, (in particular the Superannuated Commonwealth Officers Association [SCOA] and the Defence Force Welfare Association [DFWA]) have had the effect of raising the awareness of Federal politicians and institutions to this issue but until the recent election had produced no policy changes.

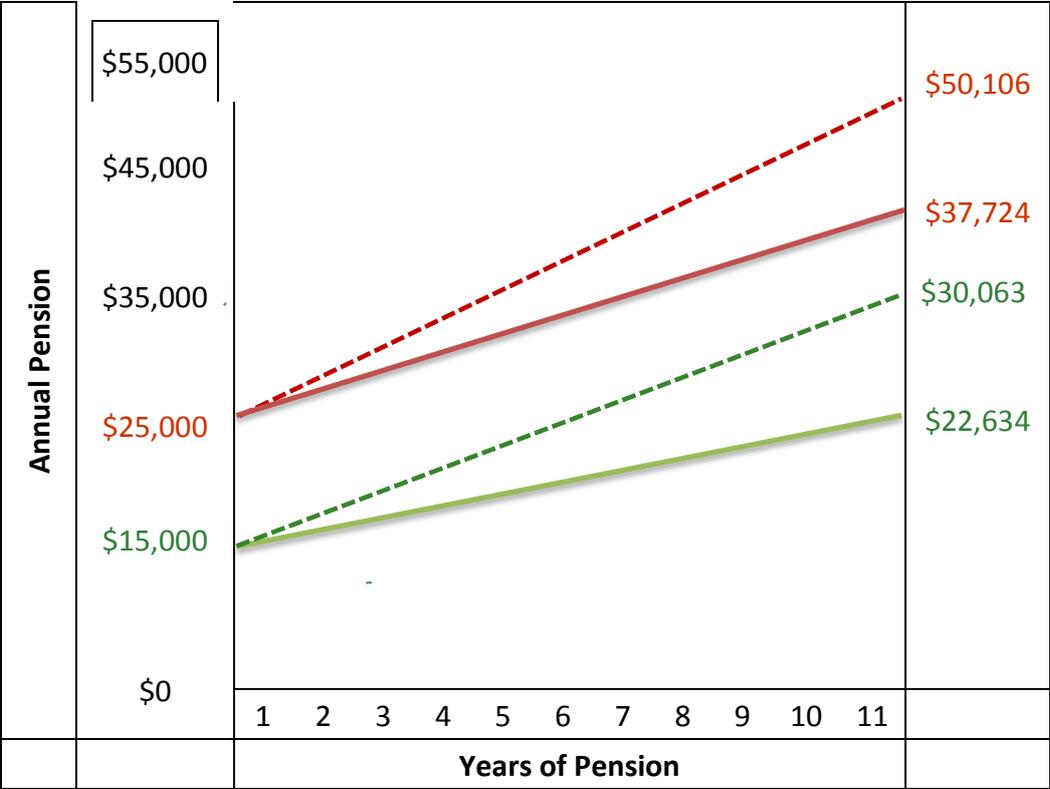
The election did, however, bring some positive change. During the election campaign the Coalition announced that it would implement a new indexation system from next year based on the greater of CPI or the wages-based MTAWI index. This was, however, to be confined to Defence Force retirees only. Shortly afterwards, the Greens announced that their policy was to support this improved indexation, and in addition stipulated that it should be applicable to all Commonwealth retirees.

These announcements reflected a significant breakthrough and were welcomed by ACPSRO, although the Coalition policy was seen as being only a step along the way to securing fair indexation for all Commonwealth retirees. The Labor Party, however, remains opposed to any such changes but does accept the recommendation of the 2009 Matthews Enquiry that a new index be developed that better preserves the purchasing power of pensions. So far, nothing appears to have been done to this end.

Throughout the debate about indexation, the issue of the costs associated with changing the system has been a major stumbling block. Official estimates – which are very large – have been based on the “unfunded liability” the proposed change would create. As the “unfunded liability” is calculated over a 40 year time frame, it bears little relation to annual budget costs. For unknown reasons, no official estimates of the budgetary costs have been released. Estimates available to ACPSRO, however, suggest that they are well within the bounds of acceptability, even under current budgetary constraints, and would

be negligible if funded through the Future Fund and offset by inevitable clawback.

Where we go to next on this issue is difficult to foresee at this stage. The current political situation in the Federal Parliament creates unusual difficulties but also opportunities. Getting greater clarity on the budgetary implications of the change is clearly a priority, and will be pursued, as will soundings of parliamentarians who are known to be sympathetic to our cause. Broadening understanding of the issue in the community and among present and future retirees is also important. To this end a chart giving examples of how much individual retirees are falling behind under the present indexation regime is reproduced below. It remains important to convince more parliamentarians of the need to achieve greater fairness in the indexation of pensions of Commonwealth retirees by supporting the change from CPI indexation to wages-based indexation such as applies to Age Pensions.



- Annual Pension with Age Pension-based annual increments
- Annual Pension with CPI-based annual increments

**NOTES**

1. The average ComSuper/Military pension as at 30/6/2009 was \$24,700
2. Annual changes are based on the average annual percentage increases of ComSuper/Military and Age Pensions as published by SCOA in its chart titled "Comparison of the Cumulative % Increase of Age Pensions, ComSuper Pensions and MP's Pensions".
3. "Years of Pension" are based on the data contained in the SCOA chart for the period 31/12/1998 to 31/8/2009.
4. Largely based on MTAWA indexation, Age Pensions have increased by an average of about 3% pa more over the period than the CPI-based ComSuper/Military Pensions .

**The March 2010 issue of *Una Voce* contains an article concerning the escape of Peter Figgis** and others from Rabaul. On page 28 it states that Peter and his mates eventually made contact with a larger group of escapees and they made radio contact with Port Moresby. They arranged for a boat to rendezvous with them to take them to the PNG mainland. The boat which was sent to rescue them was the *Laurabada*.

It is incorrect to say that the refugees sent the radio message to Port Moresby because the radio message sent from New Britain to the PNG mainland was actually sent by Lt Alan Timperley (later Captain) and two Army signalers who travelled from Milne Bay to New Britain in a small launch and contacted the refugees. The *Laurabada* was sent to the rescue as a result of this radio message.

The full story of their rescue by the *Laurabada* is told under the heading of "*Timperley's Rescue Voyage*" on pages 11-14 in the book "MILNE BAY 1942" by Clive Baker and Greg Knight.

I was at Milne Bay with ANGAU at the time and welcomed Alan Timperley and the two signalers on their return. I am wondering if this story has ever been included in a previous edition of *Una Voce*?

If not, I feel sure that the widow of Alan Timperley, Mrs K Timperley – a member of PNGAA – would be delighted if the story is told in Alan's honour.

Somewhere I have seen a photo of the arrival of the *Laurabada* in Port Moresby. The photo shows many of the barefooted refugees in tattered Army clothing. I'm afraid I don't know where I saw the photo, perhaps some of your readers can tell you if necessary.

Geoff Baskett

*This article was first published in 'Milne Bay 1942' and is now reprinted with permission from Clive Baker and War Book Shop*

### **TIMPERLEY'S RESCUE VOYAGE**

It was during March that Lt Alan Timperley (ANGAU), was ordered to sail to New Britain. Together with Sgt John Marsh and Cpl Dave Neil from Army Signals, he was to locate and rescue troops from the over-run Rabaul Garrison.

They set sail in the small launch MASCOT without navigational aids other than a 'cheap Japanese Compass' and inadequate charts that dated back to the 1914 German colonisation. Their crewmen were villagers Sari, Oivo and engineer Bobby.

With a heavy load of food and equipment, the boat was so overloaded that it threatened to capsize in heavy seas.

They departed from Milne Bay on March 28, heading on a northerly course via Samarai Island and through the D'Entrecasteau Group of islands. They were dogged by engine and gear trouble and were forced to make repairs as they went. Before crossing the 200 miles to New Britain, Timperley gave all his men the opportunity to wait in the safety of the Trobriand Islands until the MASCOT returned from Japanese territory. All men elected to go on with him. From the Trobriands, the crossing was rough and the boat shipped water and needed constant pumping.

No one knew the coast ahead, but Timperley working with his cheap compass, reached Jacquinet Bay, just two miles off course. Although they heard aircraft the men were not spotted by the Japanese and moored their boat close inshore.

The three Europeans went ashore on April 5, looking for the retreating Australian troops.

Timperley's official report:

*'We turned our attention to the plantation residence and walking towards us was a man in tattered clothing. It is hard to say who was the most surprised. I shall never forget the expression Lt Fisher's face held, when we acquainted him with the fact that we had crossed to New Britain from Papua. We continued to the house and there found two sick men who were very weak and unable to help themselves. The other occupants of the house had sought cover in the plantation, thinking we were a Japanese patrol.*

*The enemy had been making use of small pinnaces for landing patrol and survey parties and I can quite understand the reaction on awakening to find a dirty-coloured launch a few hundred yards from the house....'*

A local Catholic Priest, Father Harris, was looking after many Australians in his local area. John Dawes' book, EVERY MAN FOR HIMSELF, continues the story:

*'The men were at Mass in the mission church and during the ceremony a stranger entered.*

*There was something incongruous about his appearance in that torn congregation – yet something perfectly fitting- It was as though the splendour of resurrection were among them, that the glory of morning had entered the garden beauty of Mal Mal, with the new graves near its church. The officer was clean-shaven, his clothes neat, a revolver was strapped to his belt.*

*He wasn't of them, though now he stood among them. Someone tapped one of the worshipping soldiers on the shoulder. 'Come outside,' he said, 'we're saved.'*

Searching up and down the coast Timperley's party found more and more men, mostly in a 'frightful condition' and very weak. As they drew these men into the vicinity of the MASCOT, a radio message was sent to Port Moresby advising that a bigger boat would be needed to cope with the numbers.

Sgt John Marsh filled out the picture in his diary:

*'Moved ashore at 0600 hrs. Natives ran into the bush on our approach. Moving up to a house on beach, came across Lieutenant Fisher of Anti-Aircraft Company, Rabaul. Observation post of 9 men in house. Captain Timperley with Lieutenant Fisher went down to see Senior Officer at Wanung in preparation for collecting men together....Prepared Kai (food) for men while Bobbyran the MASCOT in-shore to hide it. Prepared to erect aerial. 140 men brought into sites surrounding Mal Mal....men arriving in terrible condition and half dead. Tobacco and matches almost run out. Managed to pass a message to VIG (radio call-sign) via 'Pud' Arnold at Milne Bay about conditions and number of men....'*

The food carried from Milne Bay soon improved the condition of most men but a few were too ill and died while they waited. Many had to be carried on stretchers to the rescue point.

Finally, over 160 men were waiting to be rescued as the LAURABADA sailed north, escorted by a screen of aircraft.

She arrived on April 9, and loading was commenced immediately, some of the first evacuees being two women, Mrs Yencke and Mrs Watterman (with her four children) all of whom had escaped the Japanese invasion. Major Owen was one of those rescued, soon to be killed at Kokoda while leading the 39 Battalion against the Japanese.

Father Harris would not leave with the party, despite the obvious danger of being

*Cont. over →*

captured and maltreated, when the Japanese inevitably came to his Mission. There was discussion amongst the troops, about taking him away by force but in the end it was decided to bow to his wishes and leave him and fellow church worker, Brother Brennan, with their native 'flock'. Harris said to his would-be rescuers:

*'I came here to tell them what Christianity means. If I deserted them when they were in trouble, how could I ever return and preach Christianity to them again...'*

Timperley knew that there was a Coastwatcher in the vicinity of Jacquinot Bay and he left a Teleradio and battery charger with Father Harris, to be collected later.

As they sailed away, the Australians looked back to the man who had cared for so many of them:

*'Father Harris was alone in the approaching night, a deep tropical night...but in the memory of those men - the 157 who left the south coast of Palmalma - he lives as they last saw him; with a wave and a smile.'*

The Father continued to assist troops and downed aircrew until late 1943, when he was executed by Japanese marines.

Timperley and his men started their slower return journey south. The faster LAURABADA soon passed them and steamed out of sight. Despite fierce storms and a 41 hour journey, the brave men aboard MASCOT arrived back at Gili Gili on April 14, having travelled over 1000 miles. In an understatement of their achievement, Timperley finished his report:

*'...we left, feeling that we had done our job and that our results were much greater than we had anticipated.'*

After Timperley's rescue trip, other brave men crossed to New Britain in small boats saving more of the Rabaul Garrison men. Timperley received a Commendation from General Blamey and today the provincial Capital of Alotau has a street named after him. ■

### **A literary competition for Papua New Guinean writers is being held.**

**THE CROCODILE PRIZE** (named after Vincent Eri's 1970 novel) was initiated to provide an opportunity for Papua New Guinean writers to publish their work, and for Papua New Guinean readers to have access to these works. Eligible contributions must be written by citizens of Papua New Guinea. Winning entries will be published by the PNG *Post Courier* newspaper and also on the PNG Attitude blog. A collection of the best entries will also appear in a special anthology. The contest has three categories: for short stories, poetry and journalism.

#### **SHORT STORIES**

Not more than 1,000 words on a theme of interest to a general readership

#### **POETRY**

Not more than 300 words on a theme of interest to a general readership

**JOURNALISM** - Not more than 500 words on a factual theme of interest to a general readership

There will be a prize of K2,500 to the author of the winning entry in each category. Entries must be submitted by Thursday 30 June 2011. The winners will be announced on PNG Independence Day, Friday 16 September 2011.

Further info: [http://asopa.typepad.com/asopa\\_people/the-crocodile-prize.html](http://asopa.typepad.com/asopa_people/the-crocodile-prize.html)

## **The 'Territorian' Newspaper - Port Moresby 1950 by Ray Kelly**

Immediate Forerunner to the '*South Pacific Post*'

Popular sportsman and Magani Rugby Team wingman, Jim Jeffreys, son of Mrs Prue Frank of Rouna Road, 4 Mile, was Publisher-Editor of a newspaper titled the 'Territorian'.

It was of foolscap (now days A4) format, produced on a hand operated 'Gestetner' Roneo duplicator, and the number of pages varied according to the amount of news copy the editorial staff had gathered during the week. The leading page had an ornamental pre-printed mast-head 'Territorian' and from memory there were from 6 to 8 pages per issue.

Printing was always on a Friday night, following a nice evening meal prepared by Prue. The staff comprised Jim, editor-reporter-typiste, plus one of his mates from the Yacht Club as sports reporter and myself, a reporter-cum-illustrator.

Jim was fairly proficient at typing, although when the typing of each wax sheet was finished, there was usually a range of red solution repairs visible after correcting the identified errors.

The content comprised social events, notes on visiting personalities, sporting results, public interest features such as court cases and constructive criticism of various matters including ABC radio station 9PA, the state of Ela Beach, the shortage of essential supplies in Department Stores and Governmental Departmental matters especially the Public Works Department.

I recall one feature article which required an illustration. It depicted a man walking along a street carrying a long stepladder, with a bystander asking why he carried it. The reply was 'This is just in case I fall into one of the potholes on Ela Beach Road'. Cutting neat illustrations depicting clearly defined human features was a rather difficult task on to the wax roneo sheets.

These very pleasant Friday nights drew to a close after several months through mid-1950 when, in late September, the '*South Pacific Post*' made its appearance.

Ian Stuart, in his fine work '*Port Moresby Yesterday and Today*' p155 refers: 'The town's post-war newspaper '*The South Pacific Post*' began publication on Tuesday September 20th 1950.

At the opening ceremony, His Honour, The Administrator, paid tribute to those who had filled the gap since the end of the war with various duplicated news-sheets. The titles of these news-sheets were not recorded and little is known of their existence although no doubt there are copies available in the Port Moresby Public Library on Ela Beach. ■

### **For Sale TP & NG and PNG Stamp Collection**

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42 Hardy Terrace East Ivanhoe Victoria 3079

**THE DIY CADET by Graham Hardy**

I was interested to read the articles in the latest Una Voce regarding the role of kiaps in pre-independence Papua New Guinea. I was especially interested in the statement that Cadet Patrol Officers were trained under the close supervision of senior officers. If that was true, my case was unusual. I arrived in Port Moresby, with five others, in October 1952 as a fresh faced 21 year old following our induction course at ASOPA. We were introduced soon after arrival to the Assistant Director. After warmly welcoming us to the Service which took about ten seconds, he told us that sexual relations with native women were absolutely forbidden, and then wished us success in our future careers. The whole thing took about five minutes, and we were dismissed and left to our own devices, in my case for a week before a ship was leaving in the direction of my first posting which was Kikori, the headquarters of the Gulf District. The District Commissioner was Jim O'Malley, who told me that there were three types of men who came to PNG: those running away from their wives, the police or themselves. As I was single with no criminal record, I supposed I fitted the third category. My first four months were spent at Kikori learning procedures relating to Treasury, Bank and Post Office, radio operation and weather reporting, government stores, re-fuelling of Sandringham and Catalina flying boats, labour recruitment and at the same time reading numerous circular instructions relating to a wide range of matters and sitting in on the occasional Court for Native Matters. All this was under the watchful eye of Bill Johnston, the ADO, who, on my first day in the office handed me the Criminal Code to read; no doubt to keep me occupied while he worked out what to do with me. Bill and Nancy Johnston took me under their wing and were very kind to me. My only field trip was an overnight with Bill up the Kikori River to check out a possible airstrip site. That was the sum total of close supervision.

After four months, in early 1953, I was sent to babysit Beara Patrol Post in the Purari River delta for six weeks to await the arrival of a senior patrol officer ex-leave. All I had to do was issue rations and keep an eye on the place. By this time Jim O'Malley had gone on a year's long leave and furlough and Kevin Atkinson had replaced him. At the end of six weeks I received a letter from the DC to say the replacement officer had gone elsewhere, and I would be there indefinitely and should start doing patrols. Beara had a new permanent materials house, which was quite comfortable, and an up-grade from the condemned termite-infested residence in Kikori which was considered fit accommodation for a mere cadet. There was a police detachment of one NCO and five constables, a Papuan clerk, an interpreter, a carpenter, a couple of labourers and a few prisoners. There was a ferryman who, every working day, paddled his dugout canoe the eleven miles to

Port Romilly sawmill, where the only radio transceiver existed, and back again with mail and telegrams and personal stores from Port Moresby. The mill was owned by Steamships P/L and their coastal ships called there fortnightly. There was also a Seagull outboard motor, of about one Shetland pony power, which was fairly useless because of swift currents and submerged obstacles such as detached nipa palms.

I explained the situation to the NCO, Corporal Udiga, and told him he would be taking me on patrols. He was not a young man, and said he had never moved off the station, as he looked after it while the OIC was on patrol with younger police. I assured him this was a first time opportunity for both of us. I had read all the station copies of reports of past patrols so had some idea of how it was done. As I had grown up in the bush in Queensland, the Papuan bush had no great terrors for me, except for crocodiles, and the legendary "tree crocodiles" (a type of Komodo dragon?) of which the local villagers seemed genuinely terrified. I worked out a patrol itinerary of one or two weeks a month on patrol and the rest of the time on the station. All the patrols around the delta were by dugout canoe. As the Papuan clerk was the only other person with any English, I had to get going on learning Police Motu with assistance from all and sundry who were only too happy to help. I became reasonably proficient, even to naturally thinking in the language, but never used it again as the rest of my field service was in TNG. I also got to rely on Village Constable Amua, an elderly man from nearby Koravaki village, who became a mentor and good friend.

About May 1953 the DC made the first of only three inspection visits by a senior officer to Beara while I was there, and swore me in as a Commissioned Officer in the Royal Papuan Constabulary, so I could serve a summons on a crocodile shooter living in the delta. I was not, however, a Magistrate in the Court for Native Matters, so I gained a lot of experience in arbitrating disputes, while serious matters were sent to Kikori, a sixty mile paddle each way for the relevant Village Constable. There were very few serious matters brought to my attention as a result.

One day in November 1953 I visited Port Romilly sawmill, and the manager George Barchard told me that two patrol officers had been killed at Telefolmin. One of them was Geoff Harris, a contemporary with whom I had kept up a desultory correspondence. In fact, I owed Geoff a letter at the time of his death. That night on the ABC news from Port Moresby, I heard a report of our Director earnestly assuring parents in Australia that their cadet patrol officer sons were never left to work alone but were always under the immediate supervision of senior officers. Another youthful illusion went out the window: senior public servants are capable of telling porkies.

I remained at Beara for about fourteen months and after my last patrol there, a three week effort to conduct the first ever census of the villages on the Middle Purari, I was transferred to Kukipi Patrol Post at the mouth of the Tauri River, south-east of Kerema. This involved walking along the beach from Arehava at the easternmost outlet of the Purari Delta to the sea, to Kukipi via Kerema. I arrived in Kerema about 3pm on Anzac Day, 1954 where the expats, nearly all of them returned servicemen, were well into celebrating their great day. My main duty at Kukipi was to begin moving the station to a new site at the mouth of the Lakekamu River, just a few miles away. At least I had the luxury of my own radio transceiver and had been gazetted a magistrate. In the five months I was there, I carried out only one patrol and that was to the Kovio census division around the

junction of the Lakekamu and Monckton Rivers. The Kovio people were apparently of Micronesion ethnicity, hundreds of miles from any people of similar race. When I went on leave at the end of 1954, it was about twenty seven months since I had arrived at ASOPA in August 1952.

As a postscript to the above, the only patrol I ever did with a senior officer was a week-long murder investigation shortly after I arrived at Minj in 1955 in the Western Highlands after my first leave. Then, after attending the long course at ASOPA in 1956, I was posted to Laiagam in the Western Highlands on the very edge of the Restricted Area in early 1957. When there was a report of several murders in an isolated area north of the Lagaip River opposite the Porgera Valley never before visited by a patrol, I managed to carry out a successful operation during which we arrested about forty offenders and brought them back to Laiagam. My seniority was such that I should not have entered the Restricted Area unless accompanying a Senior Patrol Officer, but no one was available, and again my success was entirely due to my NCO, Corporal Naeopa and the Laiagam detachment.

I hope I have not given the impression that I resented being left to my own devices. On the contrary, the whole thing was a great adventure and the challenge of making my own decisions and the satisfaction of reaching successful outcomes was a unique personal experience. The opportunity to work in an environment the like of which will never be seen again was given to a relative few, and none of us could have succeeded without the unwavering loyalty of the old style constabulary, especially the NCOs. These men, as a body, have never been given the recognition by the Australian Government they deserve. At the end of their service most returned to their villages where they died in obscurity, unhonoured and unsung. They live on only in the memories of us who worked with them.

### **RBAUL and MONTEVIDEO MARU SOCIETY**

**Produced for the Society by PNGAA member Phil Donnison, the DVD of the historic parliamentary proceedings to mark the invasion of the New Guinea Islands and the loss of the *Montevideo Maru*— is now available.** The DVD is in two parts: a short version, *A Flame Never Extinguished*, providing highlights of the events in parliament on 21 June; and *Regret & Resolution*, the full coverage. Gently transporting the viewer between Canberra and the New Guinea islands is the beautiful and authentic PNG island music harmonising in the background. Copies of the DVD are available to Society members for \$20 (\$40 for non-members) including post and packing.

**Internet:** Transfer funds to the Society's bank account BSB 082-401 A/c No 16-083-2367. Notify us by email to [tharyjanto@jacksonwells.com.au](mailto:tharyjanto@jacksonwells.com.au)

**Post:** Cheques to the Rabaul & Montevideo Maru Society at PO Box 1743, Neutral Bay NSW 2089

#### **69th anniversary commemoration**

**Two major events will be held in Canberra next July to mark the 69th anniversary of the sinking of the *Montevideo Maru*.**

There will be a reunion lunch at the National Press Club on Saturday 2 July and an ecumenical memorial service in the RMC Chapel at Duntroon on Sunday 3 July. People interested in attending should contact Andrea Williams at [andrea.williams@bigpond.com](mailto:andrea.williams@bigpond.com) or 0409 031 089 or 02 9449 4129.

## **Editorial Services**

Everyone has a story to tell. Perhaps you would like to write your memoir for your family and friends and are unsure how to approach it. Elizabeth Thurston has had years of experience as a professional book editor both in Sydney and London. She is also a published author and has contributed features to AAP and *Cruising Helmsman*. She is a member of the New South Wales Society of Editors and her skills include:

- Manuscript assessment
- Structural editing
- Copy -editing and manuscript preparation to the highest level of grammar, consistency and style

If you are interested, you can contact her at [Liz\\_thurston@hotmail.com](mailto:Liz_thurston@hotmail.com) or on 0424 693960

## **JIMI RIVER by Robert Blaikie**

In 1956 and 1957 I was posted to Minj in the Wahgi Valley of the Western Highlands as a Patrol Officer.

It was during this time that Barry Griffin was sent to establish a new Patrol Post in what was then uncontrolled territory in the Jimi River area. I can recall when at Minj hearing Barry set up his first radio contact with Mt Hagen and experiencing some difficulty with the Mt Hagen operator. There was discussion as to the naming of this new station with Barry telling her that it was Tabibugara or something like this. This seemed to be rather a mouthful for the Hagen operator so they compromised and it became Tabibuga.

With the only access to Tabibuga from Banz in the Wahgi Valley being a walking track the supplying of the new post became a problem. The District Commissioner at Mt Hagen, Ian Skinner, in 1956 or 1957 sent me to visit Tabibuga with the express purpose of investigating the possibility of establishing a road into the new station from Banz suitable for donkeys. At that stage there was no likelihood of building an airstrip in the immediate future so Skinner thought that the best way to supply the station was by donkey. I set off from Banz in the Wahgi Valley but it soon became clear that a donkey track was impractical.

The walk in from Banz took two or three days over the divide between those rivers flowing south to the Purari and the Gulf of Papua and those flowing north to the Sepik and the Bismarck Sea. I walked with great difficulty along the top of this ridge for hours seeing if I could find a suitable crossing for a donkey track but no such crossing was found.

I was expected and found Barry all set up. He had built his station not on the flat lands of the Lower Jimi but on a ridge in the mountains in the upper valley. The station buildings were all constructed of local materials with his own house on the very edge of a precipitous crest. I felt that if there were to be a severe earth tremor the house might have slipped to the earth below.

I was Barry's first visitor and he celebrated by having afternoon tea served on a sparkling silver tray with doillies and his best crockery. Barry was a taciturn man but was clearly pleased to have a visit from the outside. He had a passion for tidiness and orderliness with both his house and office so very organised.

*Cont. over →*

After a few days at Tabibuga I retraced my steps back to Banz and then on to Minj. Some time after my visit Barry had a visit from the noted British broadcaster, natural historian and ornithologist David Attenborough together with Charles Lagus. Attenborough and Lagus had flown into Nondugl and then after obtaining permission from the District Commissioner, Ian Skinner, to enter uncontrolled territory walked into Tabibuga from Banz following my footsteps. The objects of Attenborough's visit were to make a film about birds of paradise and also the manufacture of stone axes for which the Jimi is renowned.

After six days at Tabibuga together with Barry Griffin they walked from Tabibuga to Aiome in the Madang District. Attenborough tells the story of this adventure in his book "Quest in Paradise", Lutterworth Press, London, 1960, which contains a number of very good photographs of Tabibuga and the people of the Jimi.

Attenborough's visit to the Jimi had one unintended consequence. The Lutheran missionary at Banz had long wanted to enter the Jimi River area but been denied the necessary permit to enter uncontrolled territory. His complaint to the District Commissioner alleging some form of discrimination was easily dismissed by Skinner as Attenborough and his party had been accompanied by Patrol Officer Griffin and his police. ■

**Rod Miller:** Historian and author of "*Lost Women of Rabaul*"

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## **The trials of John Joseph ('Mangrove') Murphy (1914 – 1997)**

In early 1946 at Lae, PNG Captain John Joseph Murphy, a former PNG Patrol Officer and Coastwatcher on New Britain was tried by court-martial for having 'treacherously given intelligence to the Japanese' and under section 40 of the *Army Act* with 'conduct prejudicial to good order and military discipline' in that while a prisoner-of-war he gave to the Japanese more than his name, rank and number. The charges, two of which carried the death penalty, were based on a captured document purportedly a record of Murphy's interrogation when captured and statements taken by the Allies from Japanese soldiers at the end of the War.

Defended by his cousin, the Sydney QC Eric Miller, Murphy was honourably acquitted of all charges.

Murphy had spent more than a year as a prisoner of the Japanese at Rabaul. Only seven of the original 63 prisoners in the Tunnel Hill camp survived; Murphy was the only Australian. The court-martial arose from information Murphy allegedly gave the Japanese when he was captured in October 1943. At the court martial the defence argued that Japanese documents had been incorrectly translated and that others had given information to the Japanese under torture.

After the War Murphy returned to PNG, finishing his career as District Commissioner of the Gulf District, based at Kerema.

A film documentary is now being made on John Murphy's life. A radio program on the ABC is imminent. Attempts have been made to persuade the Government to posthumously recognise John Murphy's service as a Coastwatcher and in helping keep fellow prisoners alive in Rabaul.

But not everyone accepts the court-martial verdict.

Murphy was a well-regarded Administration officer. His actions in the Rabaul POW camps clearly saved lives. For that alone he deserves recognition. But how can one explain the captured Japanese documents and testimony of Murphy's interrogators? Records now available show the case the defence mounted at the court-martial was in part flawed. The prosecution and conduct of the case, too, was flawed. Today, it is most unlikely the case would get to trial.

John Murphy *does* deserve public recognition for his time as a POW. But one cannot simply say the court-martial should never have been held. There *were* questions to be answered (although they should have been addressed by an inquiry rather than by a court martial.)

I am writing a biography of Eric Miller QC, having written his entry for the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*. In the course of my research into Miller QC's life I stumbled upon John Murphy's story, with which I have become fascinated. (Others use the term 'obsessed') So I am now trying to juggle my professional and family life with researching and writing two biographies, both about Australians who deserve greater recognition than they have received to date.

Any information you might be able to share with me about JJ Murphy would be appreciated.

Philip Selth OAM

Executive Director

The New South Wales Bar Association, and a former President of the Canberra & District Historical Society

## More on copper beatings by Bob Cleland

Isn't it interesting – the way unrelated events sometimes converge, the way unlikely coincidences happen, the way good (or bad) things happen one after the other: my daughter would say 'That's synchronicity.'

The last two issues of *Una Voce* have had articles and letters about PNG copper beatings. A month or so ago, in the long, sporadic process of digitising all my slides and prints, I came across one that had long receded from memory. It's a slide of two large paired copper beatings. That's synchronicity. Their story is interesting.

When I arrived (for the second time in my career) in Goroka in 1974 I was appointed by the district commissioner as executive officer to the Eastern Highlands Area Authority. The office and meeting room of this body was the old Farmers and Settlers hall. With representatives from every local government council in the district, it was an effective body. When later, the Authority was transforming into Provincial Government, political development funds of the day helped fit the building with installations and equipment deemed to be appropriate for the coming august body.

Commissioned at that time were two copper beatings of a size to cover both double doors of the building. My memory isn't accurate enough to be sure, but I think it was the well-known Goroka identity Peter Fox who commissioned the doors. They were beaten at the Goroka Teacher's College which had a vibrant and productive art department. The Australian (?) head of that department had the gift of teaching artistic techniques without imposing Western artistic conventions. Copper beating was one of those techniques. I'm unsure of the name of the artist who laboured over these magnificent pieces. Could it be Kaitro ... ? Can someone comment on that please?

The members of the authority thought this gift was far too good for the doors, exposed to incessant comings and goings and worse, exposed to the outside of the building and possible vandalism. They were mounted prominently inside the building to one side of the projection screen at the head of the meeting room.

The left hand panel depicts the artist's image of a figure widely known in all language groups of the Asaro Valley east, west and south of Goroka. His name varied slightly from group to



group but is always understood as *Nokondi*. As is evident from this image, Nokondi had only one ear, one eye, one arm, one leg and one testicle. Although he modestly covered this with traditional dress, his sexuality and fecundity were at the basis of many humorous stories of his habits and exploits.

Another figure can be discerned on the right hand panel. Folded legs either side of a shield and his pubic covering above the shield, then ? ? There's a bird there, another shield, an axe and a drum – then there's a hand clutching a spear driven in to the heart of Nokondi. What goes on? Another Nokondi story and it probably ends happily because Nokondi is immortal.

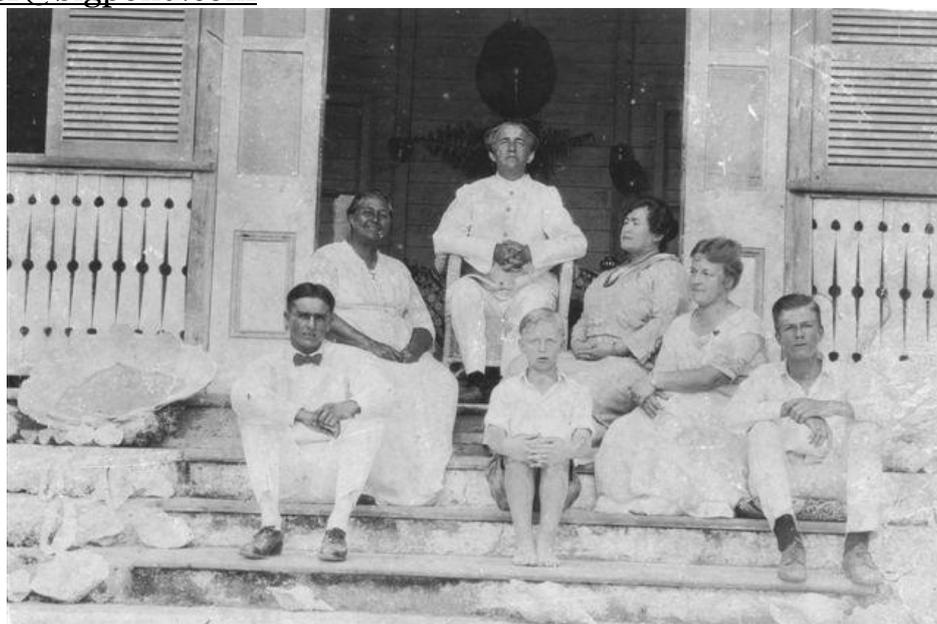


The impact of these two metre-high panels was emphasised by their size. I understand they have been removed to what is now the Provincial Government's headquarters, which of course is where they should be. Can anyone confirm this please?

Also during that time, as executive officer, it fell to me to design the common seal for the Provincial Government. It seemed right to me to have a Nokondi figure as its centre-piece. There were as many artistic representations of this mythic figure as there were artist's imaginations of a figure handed down orally, so I decided to use the copper beating figure as a model. It had to be very simplified and incorporate something modern as well. Nokondi with a coffee branch in his hand was the answer (illustrated). It's nice to know that this same image, further simplified, is now contained within the central star of the official Eastern Highlands flag.

► **Bob Cleland** now has a brand new blog site  
<http://bobcleland.wordpress.com/> - Visit him and say hello

**Can anyone help identify the following people please?** The photo was taken at Kokopo. Please contact Jillian von Leixner (nee Rundnagel) on: [gjvleixner@bigpond.com](mailto:gjvleixner@bigpond.com)



## **Development of the Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service in PNG - by Nick Booth**

Peter Bernard Booth was born in England on 30 October 1918. He did well at school and gained a scholarship to Cambridge University, where he studied Medicine. He graduated MRCP FRCS in 1943, and was immediately commissioned into the Royal Army Medical Corps. The RAMC sent him to do a course in Blood Transfusion, which shaped the rest of his life.

After completing the course, he was sent to Poona, India, in preparation for the mass casualties expected as the Japanese pushed through Burma into India. In fact, this never occurred and he spent his time running a Blood Transfusion Service that catered mainly for the Indians of Poona, and organising Army concert parties. This may explain why he so enjoyed the 1980s television comedy *It ain't 'arf hot, Mum*, about a wartime British Army concert party in India.

Before going to India, Peter married his first cousin, Pauline James. A son, Nicholas Peter (Nick) was born in January 1945, and did not see his father until he was two and talking.

On his demobilisation, Peter obtained the position of Deputy Director of the North London Blood Transfusion Centre, at that time located in a building in Barnet erected as a gas decontamination centre early in the war. Around 1950, this was relocated into quite grand purpose-built accommodation next to the Edgware Hospital, and renamed the North-West London Blood Transfusion Service.

Around the same time, Pauline died after a long and difficult struggle with tuberculosis, for which there was no cure at the time. Not all that long after, Peter was visited at work by Kathleen (Kitty) Staynes, who has also been in the RAMC in Poona. The friendship was renewed, but she went off to do research in San Francisco. He wooed her by letter and in 1952 she came back to England and married him. A daughter, Susan Averil, was born in April 1953.

The Director of the NW London BTS was a large and jovial Welshman named Jimmy James, who was usually to be found at the receiving end of a large Scotch whisky. He did not like filling out forms for the British National Health Service, and so passed them all on to his Deputy. Peter did not enjoy the forms either, but did not have anyone he could pass them on to.

In 1962, Peter saw an advertisement in the *British Medical Journal* for the new position of Director of the Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service in Papua New Guinea. He applied and, perhaps rather to his surprise, was offered the position. When he told his children about the move, there was an immediate dive for our World Atlas (dating from about 1900) to find out where "Port Moresby" was.

The trip out to Australia, paid for by the Red Cross, was on the P&O liner *Orcades*, stopping at many places on the way. After meeting Red Cross Blood Bank staff in all the Australian capital cities, the family finally arrived in Port Moresby in October 1962, to find that nobody seemed to be expecting them. There was no house available, so they were put into a bungalow in the grounds of Government House. It was rather bizarre living in these idyllic surroundings, listening to the ABC news about the Cuban Missile Crisis and expecting the start of WW3. Before long, the wheels of the Administration

moved a bit, and they were allocated a three-bedroom Admin house next to Boroko oval and conveniently close to Taurama Hospital.

There was already the skeleton of a Blood Transfusion Service in existence, responsible (at least in theory) to the Queensland Red Cross BTS. There were two nursing sisters in Port Moresby (Bernadette Beebe and Barbara Gimpel), one in Lae, and one in Rabaul (Kath Tweedy); together with various national orderlies, drivers, etc. It goes without saying that these sisters were remarkable women, used to running their own little domains, who were not entirely sure about this newly-appointed Pommie who might try to tell them what to do. It took some diplomacy to get them on side.

The Public Works Department had arranged for the erection of a new Blood Transfusion Centre at Taurama Hospital, conveniently placed between what were then called the European and Native Wings. It was pretty much an empty shell, so Peter's first task was to order and install the equipment needed to make it functional. In a remarkable demonstration of public service intelligence, the new building had an insulated cool room for the storage of blood, but there was no refrigeration equipment.

Within a few months, the equipment was in place, the cool room was working, and a routine had been established in Port Moresby. At intervals of around two weeks, loads of equipment would be put into the BTS Holden station wagon, and almost the entire staff would head off to do a "mobile bleed". In theory, blood donations were always voluntary. This was true in practice when the mobile bleed was at an office in Konedubu; but perhaps not when it was at the Army or Police barracks, while the prisoners at Bomana Jail had no choice.

When a blood donation is taken, the donated blood goes into a plastic bag, but there are also small samples taken for testing. One test is to check the blood group of the donated blood: is it A or B or O; is it Rhesus positive or negative? These tests require expensive reagents. It was soon found that all Papuans and New Guineans are Rhesus positive, so Peter stopped testing for the Rhesus factor.

In one way, the absence of Rhesus negative was a good thing, as grave problems can arise when a Rhesus negative woman carries a Rhesus positive child. On the other hand, Rhesus negative people cannot receive a Rhesus positive blood transfusion, so Peter's nightmare was that an airplane might crash, laden with Rhesus negative Australians, and there would not be enough Rhesus negative blood for them. Fortunately, this never happened; but there was one car accident on Three Mile Hill that involved five drunk, Rhesus negative Australians and greatly taxed the supply of negative blood.

The Health Department fairly quickly worked out that, while the Red Cross had Peter as a Serologist, they could have Kitty as a Haematologist. She was rapidly offered a position as Specialist Pathologist at Moresby Hospital.

The mid-1960s were a time of great expansion of the PNG Public Health system. As new Base Hospitals were set up in places such as Wewak and Mt Hagen, a proper Pathology laboratory was provided and hospital staff were able to take blood donations. However, there was a limited supply of donors, particularly of Rhesus negative blood, and so there could be a shortage if a patient required a significant quantity of blood.

On the other hand, the Port Moresby Blood Bank had something of an over-supply of blood. Once a blood donation has been taken, there is a limited time within which it can be used for a transfusion. After that time, it had to be sent

to the Commonwealth Serum Laboratories for processing into useful blood by-products.

Peter therefore thought that it should be possible to provide an emergency blood supply to remote areas by air from Port Moresby. Some experiments were undertaken with a five-gallon can lined with thermal insulation and it was found that these cans, if kept in the shade, would keep blood quite well for six hours or more.

The Red Cross therefore got hold of several five-gallon cans, lined them with thermal insulation, and painted the outside white with a Red Cross logo and wording: "URGENT! HUMAN BLOOD". To guard against possible problems, Peter went and spoke with the freight managers of both TAA and Ansett-MAL, and was assured that any consignment of blood would be treated with special care.

Came the time that Wewak Hospital requested some blood. Two bags of suitable blood were selected and placed in one of the cans, which was taken to the airport and placed in the tender care of one of the airlines. A job well done. Except that, in the afternoon, there was a message from Wewak: the plane had arrived, but there was no blood on board. Investigations followed, and it became obvious that, in transshipping freight from one plane to another in Lae, the can of blood had been forgotten and had been left on the tarmac, in full sun, for at least six hours. The airline's offer to get the can onto the next plane from Lae to Wewak did little to diminish Peter's displeasure, although fortunately the patient managed to survive.

Even if the records were available, it would be tedious to list each advance in providing blood transfusion facilities. It is enough to say that, within ten years, the Red Cross and the Public Health Department had co-operated to ensure that was a functioning national blood transfusion service. All the base hospitals had a blood bank and a pathology laboratory, and there were arrangements to supply blood to the smaller hospitals.

As Independence drew closer, the location of the house next to Bomana Oval became something of a problem. Various people had always used the garden as a shortcut, but some of them decided that they would break into the house on the way through. The position of Director of the Blood Transfusion Service in Christchurch was advertised. Peter applied, and this time was not surprised when he was appointed.

However, a few years later, his successor in Port Moresby resigned. The PNG Government had a Papuan in mind to be the Director of the Blood Transfusion Service, but felt that he had not yet had enough experience. Peter was approached to act as Director for a year, during which he would mentor the prospective Papuan appointee. He obtained approval from the Christchurch Blood Bank, and returned to Port Moresby.

At the end of his secondment, he returned to Christchurch to find that, as he said, somebody had moved into his office and they did not seem very pleased to see him. As he had a standing invitation from the University of PNG to teach there, he went back to Port Moresby as a Visiting Professor in the Medical School. As a bonus, the University also got Kitty to teach haematology to the unsuspecting students.

After a year or so, Peter was approached by the Australian Government to undertake an Australian foreign aid project of setting up a blood transfusion service in Nepal. He accepted, and spent three interesting years in Nepal.

Officially this was a half-time appointment. His interpretation of this was that he worked full-time for three months, organising what needed to be done. Then he and Kitty would hire a Land Rover and a driver, and set off for three months touring around the Himalayas. On returning to Kathmandu, he would find that not much had been achieved in his absence and so would take up where he left off.

By the end of his time there, a blood bank had been built and had been officially opened by Nepalese Royalty. How efficiently it now operates is anybody's guess.

After this, Peter and Kitty retired; initially to their house in Sumner, Christchurch, with its view up the coast to Kaikoura. The steep slopes there became too much for them, and they moved to a small town house in Motueka, near where their daughter Susie lived. Peter passed away in February 1990, and Kitty followed in January 1993. Because of their wartime service, the NZ Army provided memorial plaques which are displayed in the Motueka cemetery with a view behind them up the river and into the mountains. ▪

Red Cross Concerts Port Moresby early WWII. Clara Hides on left (below) and in centre (right)

Clara was married to Noel Hides



# **The 'Library Institute Hall – Arts Theatre Port Moresby Memories of Entertainment in the Post WWII years**

**By Ray Kelly**

## **A brief history pre-amble 1914-1950**

The Library Institute Hall on the eastern side of the Library Institute in Douglas Street had been the major centre of community social life for the residents of Port Moresby since its construction in 1914 (1916?), where public and social meetings, balls, concerts, bazaars etc were regular events. For many years during WWII it had been a Comforts fund Canteen, serving welcome refreshments to a large number of servicemen and women.

At the end of the war it became the head office for the operations of the Australasian Petroleum Company, or APC as it was known, in a township where virtually every company and government department were only ever referred to by their initials ie BP, DCA, PMF, CMB, STC, DASF, PNGVR, PSC, CDW, CWA, RSL etc.

I recall in late 1949 being driven from Jackson's strip, noting the commanding view from 3-Mile hill before winding down past the unusual canoe village of Koki and adjoining market followed by a most pleasant drive along the Casuarina lined Ela Beach Road eventually arriving at the APC office. There were several steep steps and upon entering the building I was welcomed as a new employee. Here I received miscellaneous instructions about the company plus some details of the life style and services available in Port Moresby, before being transferred to the modest indignity of my 'tent' accommodation at Badili. Housing for APC employees was still under construction, with many billeted either at the 'Top Pub' or later in the Christie's building corner Kermadec-D'urville Streets.

In the centre of the hall were desks for the office staff, while the area adjoining the sidewalls had been partitioned into offices of Departmental Management. Little did I realise how much time I would eventually spend within these walls during the next few years.

During early-mid 1950 APC vacated the building and transferred all staff to their extensive workshops, stores and residential accommodation at Badili, three miles from town.

The Library Institute Committee identified that the hall was in dire need of immediate renovation which included the considerable war damage previously unattended, such as shrapnel holes to be filled in, while a new floor, wall lining and electrical wiring installations were also undertaken. The interior was subsequently painted in pale grey and rose pink.

In the post war period, live entertainment for residents was mainly restricted to evenings arranged by the Port Moresby Musical Society which, in their early years, saw Monty Phillips at the helm. On Tuesday 19 December 1950, a single performance programme of Christmas carols and solo items titled, 'To Music', was presented under the baton of Musical Director Dr D Lincoln-Crow.

The choir comprised 17 ladies, including the wonderful voices of mother and daughter, Prue Frank and Pat Gordon, while I (a 24 year old) was one of the 12 male members which included the popular and flamboyant local GP, Dr AJ (Tony) Tonakie.

## **Hall Renovations, a new name and a new lease of life 1950-1951**

Hall renovations commenced and, during this period, the Library Institute Committee was reconstituted to form The Port Moresby Branch of the Arts Council of Australia and, when renovations were finally completed, the Library Institute Hall was named 'The Arts Theatre'.

## **Lester Sims and the Live Theatre in Port Moresby 1951-1952**

In early 1951 an English gentleman of fine Royal Naval Officer stature, a Londoner named Lester Sims, with obvious skills and a good knowledge of the London West end, gathered around him a group of enthusiastic amateurs who were willing to enter the live theatre, either performing in front of the foot lights or labouring behind the scenes.

It was not known at the time, but he would subsequently bring to the Port Moresby residents several of the reasonably recent West End productions.

Rehearsals began in January 1951 for the sophisticated 3-act comedy, *By Candle Light*, written by Siegfried Geyer, which *South Pacific Post* noted was 'chock full of double-entre pre code dialogue'. The leading role which was that of Bastian, the ultra-dutiful valet of Count von Bommer, was in the hands of Marc Infante. The libidinous count von Bommer was played by George Bardsley, while Jean Lane took the part of Marie, a maidservant to Count von Richenheim.

These three shared the majority of the dialogue with Allison Crawford, J Otto-Anders, Anita Jones, Kelvin Wallace and Raymond Kelly all in supporting roles. Several weeks into rehearsals Marc was unable to continue due to business reasons, and his role was given to Raymond Kelly who, when originally cast as the personal driver to the Count had previously nothing to say. Eric Oakes was given this role.

The hall renovations were behind schedule and the Papuan Theatre (open air with deck chairs and films three nights per week) became the venue – it was rather fortunate that the 'Papuan' had stage production space behind the movie screen, although there was a modest amount of finesse necessary with reassembly of the Arts Theatre 'set', after moving to the new venue.

On Tuesday 13 March 1951 the curtain opened on *By Candle Light* which was attended by a most appreciative and enthusiastic audience including the Administrator, Colonel JK Murray and Mrs Murray who, following the last curtain, went backstage to congratulate the players and share in the celebratory supper. There were two further performances where, on other nights, a popular spot was Lexy's and her 'After Theatre Suppers' in the Twilight Cafe, the only cafe in town. It was owned and operated by the popular dynamo, Lexie Seager. Staying out late was not a real option in Port Moresby due to lack of public transport. Without your own vehicle, travel was usually by 'Titch' Corlett's Taxis (Chevies), which doubled the amount of the fare showing on the meter after midnight.

The '*South Pacific Post*' Social Editor noted 'A Gala Audience Attends First Night' with particular attention to the pretty gowns worn by the ladies, not only of the cast, but also the audience and in particular Mrs Michael Healy, Mrs Claude Champion and Mrs AVG Price. Another entry in the '*Post*' wrote a glowing review – '*Play at Papuan Deliciously Spicy*' noting that the valet Bastian, carried most of the continuity of the story, Count von Bommer was suavely superficial and Marie had no more difficulty in intriguing a nobleman than she had in falling in love with his valet. It was a story with a chuckle in every line.

The response from the public stirred Lester into action, and within weeks he had selected the cast for another production. This was the traditional 3-act satirical farce '*Captain Carvalho*', written by Denis Cannon. The play had received raving reviews when staged in the St James's Theatre, London, in 1950 and directed by Sir Lawrence Olivier.

The three leads from 'By Candle Light' were given the bulk of the dialogue, with a support cast of four. Hall renovations were still incomplete, and again the play had to be moved to the Papuan Theatre where it ran for three nights.

Tuesday 15 June 1951 was opening night and the audiences were good. Port Moresby residents were enjoying what '*Post*' referred to as '*The Little Theatre*' atmosphere, even without their little theatre. The theme of this farce brings Captain Carvalho (George Bardsley) and his batman Private Gross (Raymond Kelly) into a foreign country as part of an occupying force. Unknowingly they are billeted in the farmhouse of a member of the Resistance Movement. The farmhouse serving-maid (Jean Lane) is attracted to Private Gross while Captain Carvalho occupies himself by trying to seduce the farmer's wife. Many awkward situations arise, giving the audience much to laugh at.

Arts Council membership was increasing with the majority of members wishing to perform. Lester solved this problem by selecting to stage a 'Revue', with many small acts in front of curtain and a selection of short one act plays and musical routines on the main stage. The larger acts were given a backdrop for atmosphere, and these were made from rolled cartridge paper glued together and hand painted scenes applied by anybody who could handle a brush.

Several of the backdrop scenes had been designed by Muriel MacGowan. With so many acts to rehearse, and many backdrops to paint, which were spread all over the theatre floor, the building was buzzing and was a hive of industry for many weeks.

At long last the building renovations were complete. The title for the revue was '*Over She Goes*' and it was to be the centrepiece for a Grand Opening night.

Members enjoyed rehearsing in their own theatre and getting a feeling for the surrounds while identifying the acoustic quality. There was a cast of at least 25-30, with many of them appearing several times in different sketches etc. Co-ordination of all these acts was a mammoth task, and the lack thereof would ultimately become a major concern.

On the morning of opening night the theatre was still buzzing with activity and some last minute adjustments, when it was reported there was a rumour spreading around town that the curtain would not go up as advertised. Immediately a large sandwich-board was prepared and placed on the pavement, with the message 'Over She Goes Definitely Goes over Tonight'.

Little did we realise what was ahead, and that opening night was one that would long be remembered. Individual acts – sketches were all well rehearsed, a programme describing each act and sequence had been printed, but an overall 'Dress Rehearsal' to establish continuity and timing had not been undertaken.

### **Gala Opening of the renovated 'Arts Theatre'**

This occurred on a pleasant evening in late September 1951 when, to a full house and enthusiastic audience, the curtain rose for 'over She Goes'. With this very large cast and many scene changes there were bound to be a few gremlins and, as the programme wore on it was soon apparent that changes to schedule were necessary.

By 10pm, the 9.30pm 'Interval' was not in sight and when the present act concluded, the curtain came down and Interval was announced. Many of the audience had gathered on the pavement outside for a chat and a smoke, and it was obvious from the murmurs some wondered what activity the second half would bring.

Surprisingly there was lots of laughter and the audience were enjoying themselves, but by 11.30pm, it was clear that they would prefer to go home.

There were still numerous acts listed in the programme, but as midnight approached, the curtain fell for the last time and the sounds of 'God Save the King' emerged over the speaker system.

Many comments were later made, but all agreed that it was a great night and that the new 'Arts Theatre' had had a most spectacular and memorable christening.

The programme was reduced for the remaining performances, which was sad for those artists who had rehearsed so long, just to see their act cut. Apparently news of opening night had spread around town and subsequent audiences were disappointing. Those who did attend appreciated the efforts of raw amateurs which had produced lots of laughter and loud applause.

After the dust had settled, an undaunted Lester Sims selected his cast for the WWII British farce 'See How They Run', a 3-act play by Philip King. It is the story of village inhabitants preparing themselves for the imminent threat of Nazi invasion. With a cast of ten including a nosy-parker spinster, meddling neighbours, a vicar's wife having an affair and lots more, it provided audiences with lots of wonderful and blissful hilarity.

In late January 1952 the curtain rose for opening night, which introduced many new faces among the cast including John King, Joan (Kit) McMaster, Keith Cornwall, Kevin Shorthouse and Peter Graham. I regret I do not have other names – I had 'gone south'.

Once again 'Post' gave a glowing report of good audiences and complimented the cast for their most professional smooth running performances. The 'Over She Goes' drama was forgotten.

Following the earlier run of comedy and farce, Lester chose a drama for the next production. In early February rehearsals commenced for 'A Murder Has Been Arranged', a melodrama-ghost story by well-known mystery playwright Emlyn Williams. ■

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## HELP WANTED

### Does anyone know about this missing theodolite?

While doing research in the 1970s on Camilla Wedgwood and Charles Abel of Papua, I spent some time with Neville Brett Young, a former agricultural missionary with the Kwato Extension Association in the Milne Bay Province. The interview With Mr Young held special interest for me. For two reasons.

(1) Mr Brett Young was a brother of Francis Brett Young (1884-1954) a GP turned novelist. Francis Brett Young wrote about the English west country, notably Gloucestershire and Herefordshire, close to where my family originally lived. A friend of British PM Stanley Baldwin, Brett Young was author of *Portrait of a Village* (1937) and other novels, widely read between the wars but now, alas, well-nigh forgotten.

(2) The other interest was unrelated to the novelist: this was the theodolite standing in Nevil Brett Young's house. He told me it was one of the original instruments which had been used to survey the boundary between German and British New Guinea. If correct, it would have done service some time before 1890.

Both Mr and Mrs Brett Young have now died, and the passage of time has strengthened my curiosity as to the instrument's whereabouts. Does any Melbourne reader know the present whereabouts of Mr and Mrs Brett Young's descendants? Perhaps the present owner, whoever he or she may be, would be willing to entertain the proposal of some kind of long-term loan perhaps to the UPNG Library or the PNG National Museum.

If you can assist, please contact: David Wetherell, Hon Fellow in History, Faculty of Arts, Deakin University, Geelong, Victoria. Email: [dfw@deakin.edu.au](mailto:dfw@deakin.edu.au)

\* \* \*

Tristan Moss, a PhD student at the Australian National University, is studying **Australian military assistance to the Asia-Pacific from 1945 to 1990**. Tristan is particularly interested in individuals who were involved in training or advising members of the Papua New Guinea armed forces, both before and after Independence, and members of the PNGDF who were in turn trained by Australians. If you can assist please contact Tristan by Ph: 0433004640, Email: [tristan.moss@anu.edu.au](mailto:tristan.moss@anu.edu.au) or at the following address: Tristan Moss, School of Cultural Inquiry, 1st Floor, A. D. Hope Building (Building 14), Australian National University, ACT 2600.

\* \* \*

Bernie Woiwod, whose brother **Kevin Woiwod** was one of the European victims of the **Mt Lamington eruption** of 21 January 1951 is researching information related to the period. Kevin was employed as a carpenter at Higaturu and involved in building a new hospital. His body was never recovered and very little information was available to the family at the time.

Bernie would like to find out more about Higaturu as it was before the eruption and the location of any records that might relate to his brother's life in PNG.

Please contact Bernie by Email: [bernlor@alphalink.com.au](mailto:bernlor@alphalink.com.au) or Ph:

\* \* \*

Would anyone know the family of **Michael Grey** who was a Cadet Patrol Officer in New Guinea in 1963? Jeanette Fry would like to be put in contact if possible. Jeanette's contact details are: Ph: 03-94288332 Email: [emf@nex.net.au](mailto:emf@nex.net.au) ▪

## BOOK REVIEWS

***Distrust Territory*, Donald Denoon**, ISBN 0-9714127-6-6, co-published 2010 by University of Papua New Guinea Press and Bookshop and Masalai Press, 199 pages. Softback, available through the publisher, UPNG Press K65. Also available through Amazon US\$15.56.

In this richly intelligent novel the Pacific historian, Donald Denoon explores the complex relationships between Papua New Guineans and Australian expats against a post-independence backdrop. The generational changes and attitudes of both nationalities and their strong allegiances to a politically volatile country are amplified when a young Australian, Rebecca Cooke, joins the campaign for an independent Irian Jaya and is assaulted on the border. Rebecca's parents Alan and Judy had met as teachers in PNG before independence but after returning to Australia they separated.

When Alan returns to Port Moresby to rescue Rebecca he confronts a world of security experts, raskols and shady politicians. Unexpectedly, he also falls in love with Anna a former student who is now a journalist. In this unpredictable environment Alan and Anna must forge a new life far from the security of Canberra and very different from the life Alan had led with Judy in the days before Papua and New Guinea became independent.

There is no one better qualified than Donald Denoon to take us through the kaleidoscope of political events that continue to beset Indonesian, Australian and Papua New Guinean relations. With acute insight and a brave and refreshing lack of bias, Denoon understands the country and its people from long and intimate association. He has presented us with both a compelling story and an extraordinary range of characters which is rarely the case in Pacific fiction.

Elizabeth Thurston

## BOOK NEWS

**To Salamaua by Phillip Bradley** ISBN 978-0-521-76390-5 Hardback First Published 2010 by Cambridge University Press, 477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia 372 pp Foreword written by Professor David Horner AM. 48 photographs, 36 maps, a list of abbreviations, notes and bibliography. Available from Cambridge University Press and book stores.  
Cost: RRP \$59.95

*Publisher's Note:* Following his acclaimed book *The Battle for Wau*, Phillip Bradley turns his attention to the Salamaua campaign – the first of the New Guinea offensives by the Australian Army in the Second World War. Opening with the pivotal air and sea battle of the Bismarck Sea, this important title recounts the fierce land campaign fought for the ridges that guarded the Japanese base at Salamaua. From Mount Tambu to Old Vickers and across the Fancisco River, the Australians and their American allies fought a desperate struggle to keep the Imperial Japanese Army diverted from the strategic prize of Lae. *To Salamaua* covers the entire campaign in one volume for the first time. From the strategic background of the campaign and the heated command conflicts, to the mud and blood of the front lines, this is the extraordinary story.

Phillip Bradley is the author of two previous books in the Australian Army History series, *On Shaggy Ridge* and the *Battle for Wau*. He writes for *After the Battle* and *Wartime* magazines.

**The Coastwatchers** by Patrick Lindsay ISBN 9781741669244 (pbk) First published 2010 by William Heinemann 416pp incl maps, photos, appendix, bibliography and index. From Random House and book sellers RRP \$34.95

***The Coast Watchers*** explores the heroic exploits of the tiny band of men 'formerly government officials, planters, traders, miners, missionaries or locals and later soldiers and sailors' left behind during the Japanese occupation of the Pacific Islands. Living on the edge, always on the alert for Japanese patrols or changes in villager attitudes, the Coastwatchers were extraordinary heroes of the Pacific War who risked their lives when the Japanese had total control of the region and discovery meant certain death. From their jungle hideouts they gave early warnings of Japanese air strikes, reported on the movement of ships and troops and personally saved hundreds of lost soldiers, shipwrecked sailors and downed airmen (including the future President of the United States, John Fitzgerald Kennedy).

► The Uechtritz family have recently donated a book, ***Thirty Years in the South Seas***, by Richard Parkinson, to the Phoebe Conference Room at the Kokopo Beach Bungalows in East New Britain. This excellent book owes a great deal to Phoebe, Richard Parkinson's wife. Phoebe learnt the local language and acted as interpreter and general helper with the contents of the book.

Inside the book is the following dedication:

*'In Special Memory of Phoebe's grandson, Alf Uechtritz and great grandson, Chris Diercke, both of whom carried on her tradition of love, caring for, and understanding of the People of Papua New Guinea.'*

<b>Food and agriculture in Papua New Guinea</b> Editors, R. Michael Bourke, Tracy Harwood ISBN 9781921536601 (pbk) ISBN 9781921536618 (pdf)
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A major book titled '**Food and Agriculture in Papua New Guinea**' was recently launched in Port Moresby by the former Deputy Prime Minister, Sir Puka Temu. The book was edited by Mike Bourke and Tracy Harwood at the Australian National University. It is published by ANU Epress in Canberra.

The book is comprehensive at about 660 pages in length. It contains 165 tables and 215 maps and figures. AusAID gave a generous grant to the Australian National University to publish and distribute the book PNG, so it is being distributed in PNG free-of-charge. If you have colleagues or friends in PNG who could use a copy, send an email requesting a copy to Sue Ride at ANU ([sue.rider@anu.edu.au](mailto:sue.rider@anu.edu.au)). The book is being distributed in PNG by UPNG Bookshop.

► ***Sisters of War*** will be screened **Sunday 14th November** on ABC 2 at 8.30pm. This is an Australian tele-movie inspired by the true story of two extraordinary Australian women, **both members of the Papua New Guinea Association of Australia**, who became captives of the Japanese with the invasion of Rabaul PNG: army nurse **Lorna Whyte** and Sister **Berenice Twohill**, a Catholic nun from country New South Wales.

Eventually transported to Japan, the film is the story of 'their captivity, their extraordinary courage and their will to prevail'.

It will be screened at the Brisbane Film Festival on **November 11, 2010**, 8.30pm at Palace Barracks Cinema 1.

Bookings at: <http://tix.stgeorgebiff.com.au/session2.asp?sn=Sisters+Of+War>

► **2010 Queensland Premier's Literary Awards Winners - Television Script – QUT Creative Industries Award**  
**John Misto for *Sisters of War***

'Australian Broadcasting Corporation/Pericles Film Productions Pty Ltd  
This script tells the story, based in fact, of a group of Australian nurses and nuns

during WWII who are taken prisoner by the Japanese with Australian soldiers and held at a Mission camp in Rabaul. It is a powerful, well-structured, captivating script that captures the strength, bravery and horror of innocents trapped in the cauldron of war. Misto creates strong characters full of life and bravado and takes them on a heroic, frightening journey. This is a finely balanced tale of man's inhumanity to man, of savage erosion of hope, of endurance against all odds, and of the redemptive power of friendship. In addition to all this, it is a riveting, action-filled drama. The screenplay is quite simply a triumph.'

<http://www.premiers.qld.gov.au/awards-and-recognition/literary-awards/2010-winners.aspx#tv>

## **MELBOURNE GROUP CELEBRATES PNG's 35 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE**

A very successful dinner was held on Saturday 18th September at the Chelsea RSL club in Melbourne to celebrate PNG's Independence. It was attended by 110 folk, many who travelled great distances to attend.

Recently the long established "PNG Australia of Association - Victoria" went into recess. This group had for many years arranged successful Independence dinners and other social functions. A small dedicated group decided to bring people together for a celebration dinner this year..

Invited guests included, Donald Daniels MBE who spent many years in the government education sector in PNG and was the founding Principal of Port Moresby Grammar School, and the current board chairman of the school.

Graham Bamford who has worked in PNG for some 40 years working in various roles in the private sector. Graham is now in semi-retirement in Cairns but still works on projects in PNG from time to time.

The President, Vice President and Secretary of the 2/14th Australian Infantry Battalion Association, attended with their partners. This Association has strong links with the Kokoda campaign.

John Carroll travelled down from Madang. The evening was attended by many who had worked in PNG in the Government included several former kiaps, and school teachers, nurses, bankers etc.

Several Papua New Guinea nationals attended, who now call Australia their second home.

Following the singing of the PNG national anthem, a toast to PNG independence was proposed by John Kewa (formally of Mount Hagen). John trained for the Catholic priesthood, and now works for the Mission to Seafarers in Melbourne.

Father Victor Haste a retired Anglican priest who worked in PNG gave a very entertaining grace before the buffet meal was served.

A great night was had by all.

Also on the same afternoon a successful function was held at the Hawthorn Park by the PNGSAV, (Papua New Guinea Students Association Victoria) hosted by its President, John Jambert.

Peter Milburn

## Donations to the PNGAA Collection, Fryer Library December 2010 – Dr P Cahill

**NGVR Museum, Wacol** (courtesy John Holland): Supplement to Official Handbook 1937; photograph of truck on Barawon Road (Rabaul/Kokopo) with Chinese/mixed race driver and native assistants; folder with photos of graves of J.K. McCarthy and J.L. Chipper, Rabaul 1982; photos: 2/22<sup>nd</sup> Street sign and Japanese tunnel 1982; entry badge Western Highlands District Agri-cultural Show; map of Gazelle Peninsula 1979; report of party of Japanese landing at Pondo, New Britain; notes on arrival of Australian soldiers at Cairns early 1942; series of undated (possibly 1950s) colour slides: Mt Hagen show, Manus shell, Paramount Luluai Golpak memorial ceremony, logging Kerevat/Warangoi, scenes Rabaul, native foods, spiders. **Albert Speer MBE**: bound copy E.F. Bishton's *Part of my life in New Guinea* with Appendix *German Raiders on Emirau*; *War Diary Mesopotamia* 1916; letter of Sister Berenice's experience as POW of Japs in Rabaul; letter from Clarrie James concerning observation tree used by Coastwatchers to spy on Japs in Salamaua; photocopy *Remember Rabaul* booklet; material concerning Jap attack on Rabaul January 1942 and massacre of Australian troops at Tol plantation, New Britain; photocopy *Montevideo Maru* memorial service Rabaul 230146 wreaths laid by L/Col. A.G. Cameron and M/General K.W. Eather; photo 1934/35 monument at Kabakaul for Australian soldiers killed 110914; correspondence on commemorative plaque in Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney, to mark the departure of Australian Naval & Military Expeditionary Force (ANMEF) to German New Guinea 1914; photograph of two scaffolds, Rabaul, for hanging Jap war criminals; laminated photo of Samuel Terarup Cham of Matalau village, New Britain – first native TPNG artist to have his work on a postage stamp; typewritten account "FROM RABAU TO LAE – Progress of transfer of NG Capitol (*sic*) Rabaul 011241"; Alan Gow photo album (collected by Phyllis Mitchell) scenes 1939-1941 Lae, Gasmata, natives (Kukukukus) dated and identified, Gasmata house and grave/s of Imelda Rose Johnson and Phyllis Imelda Gow; Jean Chambers' CV and report of Ewan Maidment, PAMBU, on Mrs Chambers' designs of posters teaching native mothers how to care for infants; postcard WW2 Jap landing barge, Rabaul; pamphlet for Kokoda Track memorial Concord Repatriation General Hospital (Sydney) and another detailing Bray's Bay development plan incorporating the Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway; photocopy Bertha Burtin-shaw's 1914 Diary describing voyage of Australian medical staff Sydney-Rabaul to join ANMEF forces; correspondence with Sister Berenice, J.J. Murphy family, Joe Nason, Alf Baker, John L. May. **Max Hayes**: letters 141241, 311241 from Barry O'Neill to fiancée in Melbourne (O'Neill was a member of B company 2/22<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, AIF, captured during Japanese occupation of Rabaul and later lost on the *Montevideo Maru*); three part photocopy of Rabaul ca.1908. **Peter Cahill**: pamphlets of colour prints of H.S. Holman LO, OAM, and Witzig Gallery of PNG contemporary art; **H.E. (Lynn) Clark**: Nomad River photographs 1962: native man holding two smoked heads, two men with three smoked heads on a stick, two native men with bows and arrows, young native girl with bark cloak and silver cross on forehead, three native men squatting on rocks, native man in daily dress, RPNGC constable standing beside skull on post; Australian soldier escapees from Jap occupation of Rabaul: group of six, on upper and lower deck of *Laurabada*; arriving Fairfax Harbour (Port Moresby) on *Laurabada*, soldiers waiting to board *Laurabada*; bombed remains of Buna Gov't Station 14 Jan 43, parade of soldiers

(most armed with long sticks), “fuzzy-wuzzy” angel leading blinded Australia soldier; Army officials inspecting RPNGC parade (?Papua). **David Lo:** copy of the *Heaven-help Stone* – Rev. Lo Shui Kwong’s autobiography as Methodist Minister 1927-1982 in various centres including Rabaul 1948-1963, photos of Chinese basketball/baseball teams, Rabaul, 1950s+, decorated floats for Coronation celebrations, Rabaul, 1953. **Adrian Geyle:** 477 wide-ranging collection of slides identified and dated (gold star to Adrian): including Green River, Border Mountains, Iuri house, Iuri visitors at Green River, DC Elliott-Smith addressing Iuri, various scenes Port Moresby, Gogodala dance, Fly River delta, Ambunti, Lower Sepik, confluence of August & Sepik rivers, oil company motored canoes, interior men’s house, middle Sepik, Madang town views, various *kiaps*, Wau/Bulolo mining views, yam festival Kamdudnum village lower Sepik, Dumpu village scenes, saluting the flag, Dumpu airstrip, helicopter wreck. **John Norton:** impressive collection of slides contrasting 1951 and 1972 developments in various districts and places including Saidor, Dumpu, Gusap, Finisterre range, Popondetta, Mt Lamington, Balimo, Rabaul, and Bitapaka. **Rob Parer CMG MBE:** Allied Geographical Section Southwest Pacific Area – Terrain Study no. 65 Area Study of the Sepik District Volume 2 (excellent photographs), Terrain Study no. 77 Locality Study of Aitape-Vanimu with text and maps.

**Reminder: the Fryer Library is unable to accept artefacts. Perhaps consider contacting dealers who advertise. Few Museums are interested •**

**Edmund Martin Hawnt** at Rabaul, Territory of New Guinea; with his Telephone Department staff, sometime in the 1930's.

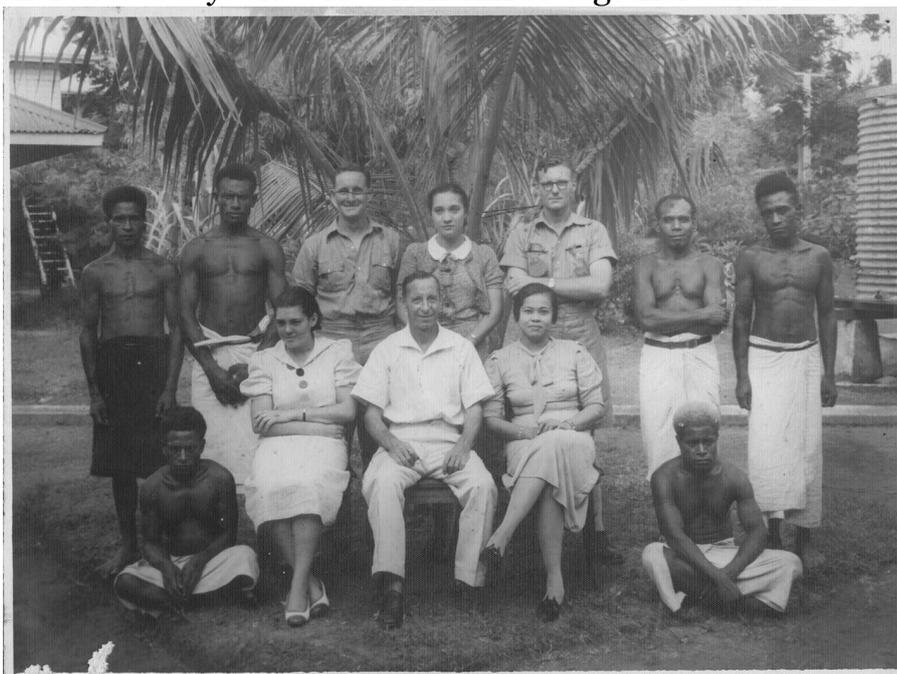
Is it Julie Kraus on the left with Nati Whalen Serafini standing up?

Edmund Hawnt’s home was "Wunawatung" on the North Coast road.

Jan Dykgraaff tells us that five PMG Department staff were listed as being on the *Montevideo Maru* which was torpedoed on 1 July 1942 with the loss of all prisoners. Her grandfather was 60 years old when killed together with her

father, H J Ross, Rfn. NGVR. Can anyone identify others in the photograph please?

The men could be 24yo Hedley Fred Turnbull and 41yo Thomas Reginald Walsh or, 25yo Wilfred Leonard Duus and 23yo Thomas R. Plunkett



Please contact Janet Dykgraaff nee Ross on Email:

[janmd@optusnet.com.au](mailto:janmd@optusnet.com.au)

## A NUTTY STORY by Rod Noble

PNGs location on the Pacific Ocean's Ring of Fire was given bad press with the death and destruction at many locations, including pre and post war Rabaul, Mt Lamington and Manum and Kairiru Island. However a recent note regarding the death of two volcanologists on Kairiru Is reminded me of a benign volcanic event - a non-event really.

One day in 1954, DC Sid Elliot-Smith called me to his office. 'Noble' he said ' you will accompany the Rabaul volcanologist to Blup Blup Island'. He explained that a Qantas pilot, en route to Hollandia (now Jayapura), had reported volcanic activity there. If so advised by the expert I was to organize the evacuation of some 400 inhabitants.

With a RPNGC sergeant and my *haus boi*, we boarded the government launch (MV Thetis?) By late afternoon the small island appeared off the bow; Mt Fujiyama shaped, a dense green skirt, a grey collar and belching smoke like a steam train.

The expert said he wanted to land and would inspect the volcano the next day. In the interest of protecting government property, I decided that the vessel and I should spend the night behind a nearby island! When anchored there my *haus boi* asked me for a couple of cartridges to shoot some pigeons ashore. I agreed - sounded better than more bully beef for supper. Very soon he had returned without firing a shot. I asked why, as I could hear a large flock of the birds settling down for the night. He told me that the village *luluai* [head man] had requested that the birds be spared. He explained that the birds were in GALIP\* nut trees. The nuts were an important cash crop for the locals. I was told that they were harvested by being picked up from the ground after the birds had digested the husk. Saved a lot of arduous tree climbing!

With this piece of interesting information learnt I landed on Blup Blup next morning and climbed the volcano with the volcanologist and trepidation.

Although more than half a century ago, I can still see and smell that active volcanic scene - makes one resolve to keep all Ten Commandments. Fire and brimstone was issuing from several fumaroles and the sulphurous smell was horrific. The expert calmly took notes and photos. Evacuation was not recommended and so we all returned to base.

One other recollection of that trip. As elsewhere, some rainwater is collected in old canoes from the nipa roofs. When I asked about streams or wells I was told there were none - not needed. The island is only a few miles from the Sepik delta and such is the volume and rate of flow, up to 4 knots in spate, that they could dip water at the beach. No doubt brackish, but lifesaving.

\* GALIP (*Canarium indicum*):

20-30m tall with canopy 15 - 20 m; lowland tropical tree widely planted around villages in Indonesia, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and PNG. This proteinaceous product from tropical rain forests has a delicious kernel especially if salted and lightly fried in tinned butter. In PNG the shell is carved into tumbuan (traditional face mask) and was sold to tourists for three mark (shillings).

The EU is funding support for a new, cash crop industry for the canarium nut having an estimated value of US\$300 million. Maybe it will appear in our local Woolies one day soon? ■

## **The Eruption of Mount Lamington in Papua New Guinea on 21 January 1951.**

**Witnessed and written by Marjorie Surtees Kleckham, wife of the  
district agricultural officer Fred Kleckham.**

At the time Marjorie and Fred Kleckham were living at the Popondetta Agricultural Station. They had three children Fred Jnr (nicknamed Zeb) aged five, Betty who was almost four and baby Marjorie.

Christmas day 1950 had come and gone. I had brought back presents for the children on the station, and we'd had the usual festivities. The Party of the year was to be held at Letty and Maynard Lockes place. Maynard was the educational officer for the district, both he and Letty had been born in the territory. This was to be a fancy dress party and I went to Higaturu early in the day and helped Letty with the cooking. They had a wonderful lot of food prepared, taro sliced into thin chips and fried, boiled native cane tops, and practically every variety of native food to be had in the area.

This was New Years Eve, Maynard dressed as a chef and he had on a tall cap with two good dishes on it, on one side was a picture of a roast turkey an the other side a glamour girl picture from a magazine. Letty went as an Indian maid.

Works and housing turned up as a harem of dancing girls, they had wigs made out of teased out rope, their skirts were someone's old window curtains and under all this were long socks and big boots. At midnight every one joined hands and sang Auld Lang Syne. After this we formed into a crocodile and sang 'cigarettes and whisky and wild wild women'. The party went all night, ending up with a lot of the people going for a swim down near the coffee sheds.

Early in the morning we got our children into the car and went home.

Behind Higaturu were the mountains and they always looked beautiful with their veils of mist floating around them. We named them The Sisters. The one named Mount Lamington had a lake on top of it where the wild ducks used to nest. Sometimes some of the more adventurous men would go up there on a duck shooting expedition, however it was a hard job to get a native to guide you, they'd have none of this mountain. Said it was *Puri puri*, spirits lived there. We used to laugh at their superstitions, and the man would go on their own.

Mount Lamington was an extinct volcano so it was said, then two weeks after our New Year's Eve party the mountain started smoking, apparently it was still bubbling underneath. No one was very concerned about it, the people I saw seemed to think that if it did overflow with lava, the lava would run down the river beds and not anywhere near Higaturu. They thought that they were safe.

The District Commissioner sent for a vulcanologist, none came. I was at the airstrip to say farewell to Mrs Champion on the Saturday morning. The District Commissioner was there waiting for the vulcanologist.

Mrs Champion asked me if she could stay the night at my place if the plane did not come.

The doctor and his wife were there, they said they wanted to take the Champions back with them, but Mrs Champion said she couldn't bear the shaking of the ground any more.

Mrs Gleeson's baby was due at any time and I was to do the confinement. I asked Dr Martin if he had any idea of just when I should come up to Higaturu. He said

that I could spend the weekend at home with my family, but that I would need to come up on Monday morning. The arrangements were for me to stay at Mrs Gleeson's, my children to stay with Mrs Lock, and Fred would have come and stayed the week end. The baby was late in arriving and so we stayed at Popondetta.

The plane did get in and Judge Phillips and Mrs Phillips were on it. The pilot flew the Judge around the mountain, and he thought that everything was all right.

The plane flew off; Champions went on it, they were going on their holidays.

That was on Saturday by that time the flames were licking up into the air and when it became dark you could see these flames from our dining room window, they went up into the sky as far as the eye could see.

Sunday morning came; the volcano seemed to be a little bit quieter. There were some agricultural people wanting to come and stay with us on business, we had wired them not to come as we had no beds.

At eleven o'clock we were out in the rubber patch fixing the small trees, and also showing the children the volcano and explaining it to them. Suddenly there was a terrible explosion, it came up like a huge mushroom of smoke, gradually this spread over the whole area, while we stood and watched it, the children will certainly never forget just what a volcano looks like.

As we were standing there taking photographs of the eruption a boy came running with a note from Jack Scurrah, it was just 'It looks as if Higs' gone'. Then we saw Jack coming down the road towards us. He and Fred had a talk and decided to start walking to Higaturu to help, as soon as the dust cleared.

I had to prepare food for everyone, got all the bandages and medical supplies I could collect together.

Get the machinery cleared out of the sheds, spread tarpaulins across the floors of the sheds and make an emergency war hospital for the people.

I supervised all of this work and also collected all the 44 gallon drums I could find and sent boys with every available bucket to carry water to fill these drums and tubs. It was very fortunate that I did this; the streams ran hot and filled with mud and dead fish and other animals.

When I had this much under control, I went into the house and started cooking pastry and scones.

A truck arrived from Sangara rubber estates, the windscreen was inches thick in mud- the people on the back had the pandanus floor mats over their heads; they and the mats were also covered in mud.

I took them all into my house and got them drinks of anything they wanted, they were relieved I think to be down with me. Fred and Jack had met this truck, but they had kept on walking into Higaturu. The men, who had arrived on the truck, turned it around and went back the way they had come. It seemed like no time when the truck arrived back, I went to meet it and the man handed me Dennis Taylor, the Anglican missionary, he was badly burnt. Mrs Morris came to me and we decided to put him in her house as it was quieter over there and my house was already full of people, some of them still having their families missing and in a badly shocked state.

Very shortly the truck came again and the men had got any other vehicles they could find. So started the shuttle service - truck load after truckload of burnt and dying native people, parents holding babies, all of them horribly burnt and

covered in mud as well. Now we started, all the women worked tirelessly all day, all night, and into the next morning. All we had for the treatment of burns was tins of dripping. Every native was given a place to lie down in the shelter of a roof. The women (European women) put dripping on all their burns and Jack Scurrah did a marvellous job of keeping us supplied with food from the trade store.

He also had his staff making buckets full of hot Bovril and lacing it with Rum to ease the native's pain.

We had no morphia, nothing except Rum and Whisky to give them to ease their pain. We got this from the trade store.

I sent a boy with a truck to Gona mission to get Sister Elliot, I wrote a note telling her what had happened and asked her to bring all the morphia and syringes and what ever else she had in medical supplies.

I never did find out what happened to that native. no word came and I sent a runner down, then I sent also a boy named Corima to Oro Bay mission with a note to Sister Henderson and Dr Biggs. Poor Sister Elliot, she arrived at 3 am. She had walked all the way from Gona Mission. Father Dennis Taylor had passed away at about two minutes to three. She had her morphia supplies end we gave them to the most needful of the people.

It was dark now, Fred and Rod Hart had gone in the mission jeep through the eruption area to Owala plantation where there was a wireless to try and get through to Port Moresby. They got there alright, saw Searle and he sent the message.

They started on their way back, just before they got to Sangara, their jeep broke down, they left the jeep and ran to Sangara and were lucky enough to get on a truck that was just leaving, this was well after dark and the men had gone to get anything from Sangara that would be of use. Mattresses, refrigerator and medical supplies. They were as far as the airstrip at Popondetta when the volcano erupted again. Fred told me that the blast lifted the truck from the ground.

During this time I was at Popondetta mud and stones had been falling down there. It was almost nine o'clock at night, I had been working all day and we were taking it in turns to go to Jack Scurrahs to have a meal. It was my turn. I just got to the house and the mountain blasted again. It was a magnificent sight at night I watched it, the big cloud was interspersed with myriads of little lights, red, blue, green and yellow like great masses of coloured fireflies.

I had to go back to the children. When I when I got there lights were burning in my house but there was no one there, the women had taken all the children down the road to ensure their safety.

Fred had told me not to let the people get out from the shelters on account of the stones. And also he'd told me to keep all the native people at our house, if they made for the coast and a tidal wave came as a result of the eruption they'd all be drowned.

I couldn't leave the people who were sick to go after them so I just stayed and waited , If the men on the trucks were burnt I would be needed to fix them up.

The truck came in and I asked Fred if anyone was hurt, he said no and then told me how narrowly they had escaped the second eruption. I told him what had happened and he went in the truck after them. They soon arrived back.

We had taken a record of every shake after the blast. Fred said this had to be done for the vulcanologist. We put dishes out to collect the dirt and stores for him to look at. *Cont. over →*

My baby was still being breast fed and had to be attended to. There was no water to have a wash we needed it all for drinking purposes.

At midday on Sunday a QANTAS Dragon had flown over. We had signalled for it to land and pointed to the airstrip. I'd grabbed a bundle of the babies napkins and written 'Please land on the ground', maybe they didn't see this.

They flew over us. I felt so elated that I might be able to get some of the badly burned people out, however they dropped us a note 'there will be a ship in to Killerton at noon tomorrow' and with that they flew away

I've never felt so deflated as I did at this, there were all these people needing special treatment and there a big plane flew away empty of passengers.

All night the men kept watch on the mountain. Some of the women had their children missing. Fred had been to Owala and seen Mrs Hendersons daughter but didn't bring her back through the danger area. Some of the other children had been killed. At about ten o'clock next morning a plane landed. We women and our children and many burnt people were loaded on and taken to port Moresby via Lae. Dr Morley had come to meet us, he had been our first Doctor at Higaturu and knew all the people.

Several more planes landed and took the hospital cases to Lae.

As we left Popondetta we circled Higaturu for the last time. There was nothing left, all the houses were blown pieces all our friends were dead, the whole place was covered in pumice and ash feet deep. This was the last time I saw Higaturu.

We woman were flown out but our man bad stayed behind to assist in rescue work. They had tried to get into Higaturu but the river below the station was boiling hot and could not be crossed. Now it had gone down a bit and the men could get in to see what had happened.

The whole place was utter devastation, houses blown to pieces. Iron telegraph poles were bent at right angles to the ground, around these were wrapped sheets of martzan matting and pieces of roofing iron. and over this was grey ash and pumice.

When we got into Port Moresby we were met by members of the Red Cross who were extremely kind to us all. Then we were given rooms in the Hotel Papua. The children were shocked, especially young Fred who had been old enough to see his small native mates and realise the pain they were in. He had with Betty come down to the engine sheds to find me, and seen all his friends that were burnt. I had tried to prevent the children from coming down to the sheds, however it was too much to be everywhere at the same time. When we were leaving Zeb ran in and got his tip truck and scooter, and Betty carried her doll. I had the baby to carry.

After we had been in Port Moresby for a few days I was moved into a house. This was much better for the children. Now I had to do the cooking and washing for the children and I'm sure that this working kept me level headed.

Fred was still working at Popondetta. They were going into Higaturu and finding the dead, identifying them mainly by their jewellery, watches and rings. Some times we woman were shown something and asked if we could identify it.

Now while I was in Port Moresby I learnt that Fred was working with the vulcanologist. This entailed flying in and out of the crater between eruptions. Sometime I was told later on that the stones coming up would make holes in the wings of this plane. Here I was in Port Moresby and there was Fred taking photographs out of the plane of the inside of the crater. I still have these photographs.

I was worried. This job I didn't know, had finished, and there came the night when Mrs Henderson who was a good friend of mine, came and visited me. I had not heard the seven o'clock news because that was the time when I was busiest with the children, feeding them and getting them to bed. She stayed with me.

Nine o'clock came and as we were talking I missed that news too, also the 10.30 news. Mrs Henderson usually went home much earlier than this and I began to suspect that something was wrong. Of course it had been put over the news that Fred was seriously injured and I hadn't been told. She was there to keep me from hearing the news. Just after midnight, one of our officers came in, they'd been on the radio all night, checking up to see if Fred was going to live before they told me.

The officer said that they thought he was going to live now and an administration car would call for me early in the morning to meet the plane, which would be in at 5 o'clock.

In the morning I went to meet him, he was on a stretcher and really looked as if he'd had it. The ambulance took him straight to the hospital. Fred had been in a jeep with a native driver who was from the Mekeo country. This driver was used to driving on flat roads and was not used to the hilly country, he had lost control of the jeep going down the hill. Fred seeing the danger jumped from the jeep, the driver immediately took his foot off the accelerator and the jeep swerved. Fred was between the jeep and the cliff face. Both the jeep then the trailer rammed him against the cliff face, and caught him across the ribs and the pelvis. He had also been staked in the groin by a stick.

At first it was thought that both ribs and pelvis were smashed but the xrays showed that this was not as bad as suspected, however he had four haematomas internally, one in each hip and one in each side of his chest. These would take a long time to dissolve into his system. He was strapped in plaster and after a few days was allowed to be carried home on a stretcher and then I nursed him and looked after the children as well. This did not last for long, he got up, plaster and all and decided to go to Kokoda and collect our possessions what, was left of them after the tragedy.

There had been an influx of people into Popondetta to help clean up the mess. A lot of these men had not brought the essential necessities. Both our house and Morris's house were raided for sheets, cutlery, cooking gear and china. We had been asked what we had lost earlier, before we knew just what had happened. We claimed 1 think five pounds. It was not until later that we found out how much of our stuff was missing.

When Fred got off the plane at Popondetta he met the Administrator and was asked why he was out of bed. He explained about our things and was allowed to go and get them from Kokoda, but had to have someone go with him and look after him. We were asked if we'd like to go to Australia on leave. ▪

## **ABC-9RB Rabaul...Early days**

**by Graham Taylor**

In 1958 as an aspiring family oriented young Kiap concerned about our future well-being in Papua New Guinea I job-hopped into the ABC. It proved to be an inspired decision.

This second career as a national broadcaster spanned three decades. I did my time on air, as a globe-trotting foreign correspondent and finally as a senior corporate manager at home in Australia.

This first ABC appointment in 1958 was as the Director of the ABC's indigenous broadcasting unit in Port Moresby. I recruited, trained and worked with a team of young Papuan and New Guinean announcers on air daily from 9PA and the short wave VLT stations in English, Pidgin, Police Motu, Suau, Orokaiva, Roro and Kuanua.

In the early 1960's the ABC harboured intentions of establishing Regional Radio stations in Rabaul, Lae, Madang, Goroka etc. but these plans were overtaken by events and Rabaul was the only one established. In 1962 I was appointed ABC Regional Manager at Rabaul with the challenging task of establishing 9RB.

First up we needed suitable premises and we settled on a lease of a large empty igloo shaped copra shed on the corner of Malaguna Road and Bay Road. This cavernous space allowed for administration, a newsroom, a record library suitably enclosed for security in arc-mesh, a sound-proof studio and a transmission hall for the 9RB transmitter and associated equipment. Local contractors attended to the open planning modifications and PMG technicians installed the studios and technical equipment.

My job was to manage the station, do my time on air, liaise and represent with the public and generally defend the ABC's good name and honourable intentions and reputation.

My fellow ABC announcers included expats Jeff Gately ('Gaiters'), Tony Lee ('Tea leaf'), Rodney McNeill ('Rodders'), Colin Bartlett and locally recruited and trained Tolai colleagues Robin ToPapat, Joaph Erimas and Jack Ainui. Robin, the senior, was an inspiringly competent communicator. All of them worked hard to attract our local indigenous audience. ABC Journalist David Ellis joined the team as did Skip Humphries as Record librarian. A local Chinese lass Mary Rose Chow became our receptionist and secretary.

With construction completed I ordained that 9RB should be officially opened at 3.00pm on the chosen Saturday afternoon. The ABC's Papua New Guinea management had granted me a pitiful entertainment allowance hardly sufficient to defray the costs of a modest celebratory afternoon tea of beverages, sandwiches and stale lamingtons. I illegally plundered my embryonic Repairs and Maintenance budget and provided some strong drink.

I invited a gathering of august expat and indigenous guests including such luminaries as DC Foldi, bankers Neal and Clarke, Shell's area manager Olympian Gosper, traders Stobo, Corbett and other town bizoids eg Hopper, Thurston et al. One enquired whether he could bring his young children to this exciting event and in what proved to be an ill-judged decision I agreed.

Right on the dot of three o'clock, Jeff Gately, chosen to make the momentous announcement, switched on his studio microphone. The red 'On Air' warning light outside the studio came on. 'Gaiters' launched into his breezy welcoming spiel...' Good afternoon everyone.....it's three o'clock and welcome to station 9RB's..the ABC's new Regional Radio Station broadcasting to you from our studio in Rabaul'....and then turned on his turntable to play Credence Clearwater's 'Bad Moon Rising'.

In the igloo the hushed party-goers waited expectantly near the carefully placed speakers to hear the first welcoming sounds to be uttered from 9RB. Alas!!!, not a crackle, not a murmur, not a sound was heard.

Sensing disaster I dashed into the studio...'Jeez Gaiters we've got a problem we can't hear you outside.....we're not on air.....do something'. A stunned Gaiters sat in disbelieving silence.

The radio engineer abandoned his guests and rushed to the transmitter hall where he quickly located and solved the problem. The aforementioned toddlers, bored witless by adult partying, wandered aimlessly around the transmission hall, came upon the winking blue, red, green and yellow lights on the gently humming transmitter, twiddled the control knobs and effectively sabotaged our transmission.

I raced into the studio.....'Gaiters...we are on air now...give 'em your spiel again' and so he switched on his microphone and dutifully began his .... 'Good afternoon everyone ....the time is ten past three and welcome etc...-

And so in a manner of speaking 9RB was officially opened a second time.

Life was never dull at 9RB. One frustrating problem was that whenever we experienced a '*guria*, [earthquake], often half a dozen or more times a day, the turntable needed on the vinyl LP disc would jump the tracks and screech across the disc creating an unholy sound. Our technicians, it seemed, had overlooked the need to mount our control desk on rubber insulation.

The station went on air at 6.00am. The duty announcer was the only person in attendance. His job was to arrive at 5.30am, unlock the building, gain entry, switch on the power to warm up all the gear, tune into an ABC station in Australia and check that our studio clock was showing the right time and then phone DCA at Matupit Airstrip to obtain their morning weather forecast.

Sometimes this worked but frequently there was no response from Matupit. Faced with the prospect of no weather report the announcer on duty would be obliged to engage his own creative talents and compile his own report. We became amazingly adept at this. So long as we mentioned intelligence such as there being a long low south easterly swell, seas that were generally smooth but rough in places, that there was chance of a shower or two especially in the late afternoon, and/or that the winds would be light and variable but fresh and gusty in places, etc etc we could safely cover just about everything from a balmy day to a howling tornado.

The announcers were not without their idiosyncrasies. Tony Lee was such a sound sleeper that he often failed to wake up in time for his early morning 6.00am start. He overslept so many times that in the end I demanded that he should have at his bedside a loud bell ringing alarm clock located in an empty galvanised rubbish bin to wake him from his slumbers. *Cont. over →*

One Sunday morning my wife and I were driving somewhere along Malaguna Road when on my car radio I heard the duty announcer introduce a Mantovani Orchestral LP. The first track was 'Charmaine' and we listened as it started to play. Suddenly it retracked and played again and retracked and replayed again. I waited impatiently for the announcer to respond but as we drove "Charmaine" kept on retracking.

I raced back to the studio, rushed in only to find the studio empty and the LP still blithely retracking on the turntable. "Charmaine" had been belting out for twenty or thirty times. A few minutes later a sheepish announcer appeared. He confessed; he had put the LP on the turntable and then had dashed off homewards to grab a sandwich. Alone in the studio deserting his post was an unforgiveable sin. His career in broadcasting was short-lived and his farewell lacked affection.

The administration's Wally Sidebottom, in charge of the Rabaul Botanical Gardens, gave David Ellis a story bemoaning the lack of rain and the effects of a drought on the Gardens. Reading the story in our news bulletin Gately was uncertain and flummoxed as to the correct pronunciation of Wally's surname. Anxious not to offend Wally and with the best noble intentions Gaiters prudently settled for 'Siddy-bot-tom'. Wally entertaining mates in the bar of the Rabaul Club heard the bulletin. Within seconds my evening dinner was interrupted by an outraged apoplectic Wally on the telephone demanding a full and complete apology for perceived insult.

Our Tolai colleagues, for whom English was not the first but their third language, struggled manfully on air with the likes of Chopin, Bizet, Tchaikowsky, Khachaturian, Mussorgsky et al.

When Skip Humphries and Diane, his Record Library Assistant decided to marry the civil ceremony was conducted by the DC in his office chambers just before closing time. Inevitably there was long gap between the timing of the ceremony and the arrival of guests for the mandatory wedding breakfast strategically arranged at the Rabaul Hotel. The wedding party –including my wife who was bridesmaid- relieved of the ceremonial pressures found themselves in need of a refreshment or three. With in their view the sun well and truly over an early yardarm they took to imbibing. By the time the invited wedding breakfast guests arrived at dusk the wedding party had difficulty remembering their names let alone those of their guests.. The late arrivals soon caught up however and a jolly grand time was had by all. Random blood tests of this truly memorable occasion would have created medical history..

My abiding memory of 9RB relates to one Sunday morning in late September 1963. On the Saturday evening Shirley and I had enjoyed a happy and expansive dinner with close friends Kevan Gosper and his wife Jillian. Late to bed I had but a few hours sleep before rising at 5.00am as the duty announcer for transmission starting at 6.00am. I made my way to the studio, cranked up the electronics, and in accordance with usual custom selected a bright cheerful happy get-up-an-go recording to start our transmission. My choice,,,,,JP Sousa's stirring march 'Stars and Stripes' proved to be an apocryphal choice.

Sitting quietly at the console waiting to go on air I suddenly realised that I had not checked the accuracy of the studio clock. I tuned into ABC stations in Australia to check the time to be confronted with sad, serious, sombre music.

Where was the normal cheerful Sunday morning programmes?. Then I heard the dramatic announcement. I raced out to our Record Library, grabbed the first sombre sounding -music LP I could find, dashed back to the studio, cast the Sousa aside just in time to go on air with..'Good morning everyone...you are listening to ABC Regional Radio 9RB Rabaul...my name is Graham Taylor... its six o'clock... and we begin with the shattering news that overnight America's President John F Kennedy has been assassinated...we will be crossing to Australia shortly for ongoing coverage'. With that I played my sombre music while I monitored ABC in Australia for an opportunity to cross for relays of further news.

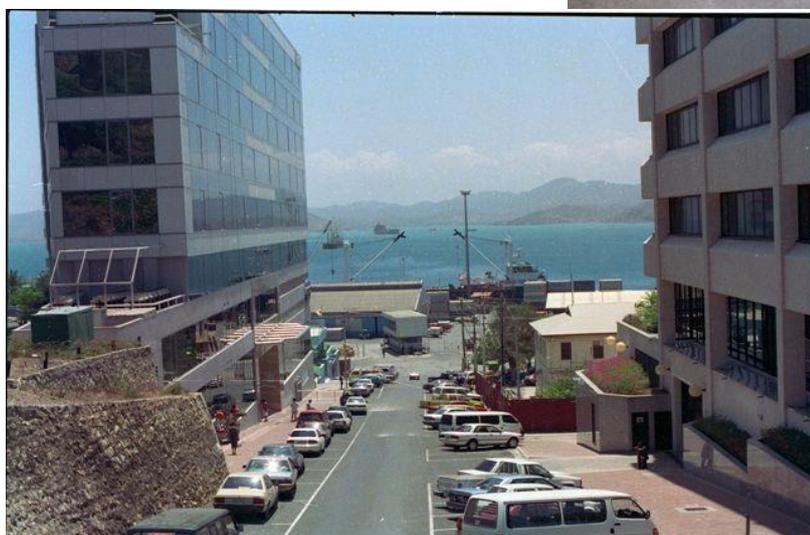
Meanwhile my thoughts turned to Kevan Gosper no doubt still sound asleep. I knew Kevan had an abiding interest in the United States having graduated from Michigan University with a highly acclaimed reputation as a track and field athlete. And so I rang him. I can still remember his astonished and concerned reaction.

Notwithstanding such excitements and disappointments 9RB bowled along merrily and soon acquired an appreciative and attentive not to mention critical audience no longer frustrated by fading signals from 9PA Moresby or the wavering transmissions of the short wave VLTs.

I farewelled 9RB at the end of 1964 to take on new exciting responsibilities as an ABC Foreign Correspondent in SE Asia never quite forgetting my loyal colleagues and our happy go lucky days at 9RB. ■

**Bruce Hoy took these photographs in Port Moresby nearly 25 years apart.**

30 June 1970



17 August 1993

## THE STORY OF RABAUL ART SOCIETY

### *An Excerpt*

*With thanks to Florence Cohen*

What commenced as a weekly painting session at the home of Mrs Carol James, where she and Dr Radcliffe Taylor spent their Saturday afternoons painting the seascapes and landscapes from the verandah, turned in to an ideal which was to promote and give cultural expression to so many in the years to follow.

In May 1958 a meeting was called and 34 people turned up. By February 1959, the enthusiastic group presented its first exhibition. 120 pictures were hung and proceeds donated to the Red Cross. Of the 120, Mrs James recalls, at least 50 were of Matupi, small Matupis, large pink ones and grey, smoking and dormant, at sunset and sunrise, in rain and shine.

The Society was fortunate to have the use of the Masonic Hall in Mango Avenue for its exhibitions from 1960. An invitation was sent to the late Sir Alan Mann, then His Honour Mr Justice A Mann, to open the Show. Sir Alan, himself an accomplished artist, consented to become Patron of the group. Ninety two paintings were exhibited, among them some by Olive Kroening. [Later to become] a familiar name in Territory and Australian art circles, her painting of the famous Coastwatcher, the late Mr Paul Mason, was hung in the Archibald Prize exhibition in Sydney. Mrs Kroening had never painted until she joined the Rabaul Art Group.

Domaris Pearce competed in this exhibition and Sir Alan particularly praised her "Passing Storm". Her paintings of tropical flowers were later used by the Postmaster General's Department on a series of postage stamps.

Ivy Darcey submitted a painting called "Main Street, Rabaul 1960" which was a swirling mass of thick grey oil depicting dust clouds, and with deep holes dotting the foreground. This really was the condition of Mango Avenue in those days and the picture was purchased by members of the Chamber of Commerce and sent to then Minister for Territories. Mango Avenue shortly after, was properly sealed and became the excellent thoroughfare it is today.

At the Apex Trade Fair at the Malaguna Technical College, in May, 1961, a total of 67 paintings by members of the Rabaul Art Group were hung. Seven new members entered their work including Cham Teralup from Nordup Village, who sold two paintings. These were the first paintings exhibited by a New Guinean and the Society was proud that the following year this young artist, who commenced painting with the group in Rabaul, submitted a design which was chosen by the postmaster General's Department for a postage stamp.

1961 saw the named changed to the "Rabaul Art Society". In September of that year the Society sent 43 paintings to Port Moresby and there, Lady Cleland, the Society's patroness opened the Exhibition at the Museum. The most spectacular work was perhaps 'Rabaul Eruption' by Annie Kuster. Mrs Kuster, whose tropical scenes and beautiful Birds of Paradise hang in the homes of most art lovers in the Territory, was a few years later described by Sir William Dargie as an outstanding artist and whose work will one day be part of the history of the Territory of Papua New Guinea. Some of her particularly historical ones are "Tunnel Hill, 1900" when it was truly nothing but a tunnel, "Entrance to Rabaul Harbour", when Vulcan was nothing more than a tiny quarantine island in the harbour, and the "Birth of Vulcan, 1937".

In December 1961, the Fourth Annual Exhibition was presented. Entries came from all over the Territory and were judged by a panel of five art teachers and enthusiasts in Rabaul. Prizes were awarded in this exhibition for Portrait, still Life and Landscape. 84 entries were submitted and the Show was opened by Mrs Harry West, wife of the relieving District Commissioner. A name which became widely known in art, that of Rob Jago, first appeared in the catalogue of the Rabaul Art Exhibition, that year. Rob eventually opened his own gallery in NSW at Ulmarra near Grafton, NSW.

Five prizes were awarded that year, the Burns Philp prize for Portrait, New Guinea Company for Still Life, the Times Courier Youth Prize for work by a Territory resident under 21, the Una Adams Prize for Landscape and the Anders Prize for the most Popular Entry, selected by public vote.

In the exhibition was included a collection of children's drawings from Hollandia, which featured in an interchange in Children's art between East and West New Guinea and which were entered in the Cariappa Shield Competition in Port Moresby.

January 6th, 1963 saw the Fifth Art Exhibition and this was the year an Australian Artist paid his own fare to the Territory to judge the Show.

500 people crowded the Masonic Hall to hear the comments and awards of well-known Sydney Artist, the late Douglas Watson. Mr Watson was twice a Wynne Prize Winner and was an official war artist with the AIF in Borneo and New Guinea. He later introduced a new method of sand painting, using oil and sand and at the Rudy Komon Gallery presented an exhibition of 30 paintings, created without any use of the traditional brush, oils and paint.

When sculpture was introduced into the art exhibitions in Rabaul, Dr Radcliffe Taylor encouraged the local carvers to compete and persuaded them to keep to their traditional method of colouring rather than the use of manufactured paints.

Melbourne Artist, Miss Phyl Waterhouse travelled to Rabaul courtesy of Trans Australian Airlines, to judge the Sixth Annual Art Exhibition which was opened by Captain Lionel Thrift on 3rd January, 1964. Miss Waterhouse encouraged artists to attempt larger canvases and advised them to make preliminary sketches of their subjects and use those to form their impressions before compiling a painting.

The same year the Art Society presented another exhibition. Some new names, which later became very well known in Rabaul art circles, appeared for the first time on the catalogue. Those of Laura Sutherland and Joan Grimshaw. Both artists loved landscapes and took over many prizes in this particular section, and also "Best Entry in Show" awards. Joan with her love for lush foliage and jungle and Laura whose flair for land-seascape in deeper tones of blue and green provided Rabaul art enthusiasts with continued interest.

Melbourne artist Charles Bush judged the entries, including the Abstracts, which section was included for the first time in Rabaul Shows. Mr Bush was paying his first visit since the war when he served in the Territory and Timor as official War Artist.

The 8th Exhibition introduced Genre Section. Coconut Products awarded the prize for this section, bringing the total number of prizes to fourteen. The judge was the late Mr Len Annois, who was recognised as Australia's foremost fresco mural painter and the only Australian up till then to be elected a full member of the Royal Watercolour Society, London.

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Mr Annois said the art of the New Guinean entries showed line and colour which was exceptional. Papua and New Guinea was a difficult country to paint, he said, the country having changing colours and textures which are difficult to capture even for an experienced artist. He advocated bringing competent art teachers into the country to give the children a course in basic art to help them put their ideas down on paper. He believed in getting the tribal art and the emerging art painted now, lest it disappear in the next two generations of advancement and be lost forever.

Mrs Harry West opened the Show which exhibited 192 paintings. That year K Thompson's name first appeared.

Rabaul at this stage did not have a permanent Court House – the same hall as used for the Art Exhibition - the Masonic Hall in Mango Avenue, serving as a Court House. "Justice is not blind" quoted one leading Sydney newspaper, "A Supreme Court Judge refused to hold a Court Hearing in the presence of a nude woman. The woman, a painting by Olive Kroening, had her fingers provocatively twined in her hair. It was one of the 100 pictures still on the walls of the Masonic Hall after the Art Exhibition. Mr Justice Frost took one look at the painting and said that it would not be in keeping with the dignity of the Court to sit in such surroundings and adjourned to a small room at the rear of the building".

Douglas Watson at the opening of this exhibition, made a plea for the establishment of an art museum in Rabaul. The old Botanic Gardens would make a perfect site for such a museum. He considered Rabaul with its wealth of talent and a town full of art supporters the ideal site for a National Gallery.

Whilst the Society had PNG artists competing since the early exhibitions, it felt that the inclusion of Sculpture and Ceramics seemed appropriate to attract more PNG entrants.

Mr Pat Roberts, a prominent Rabaul businessman offered a prize of \$100, the highest prize ever donated. The then President of the Society, Mrs Una Adams, offered to pay the subscriptions of any four Papua New Guineas wishing to enter their works and who could not meet the subscription. The late Mr G Squires, another member of the Society, offered to donate two subscriptions to enable any student or junior to enter the competition. Their efforts were well rewarded by a total of 57 entries in the section. The 11th Exhibition was judged by Mr John Dowie, noted judge and lecturer. He had studied painting and sculpture in Australia and overseas.

**Sir William DARGIE**, well known artist with the unique distinction of having won the Archibald Prize on eight occasions, truly honoured the Rabaul Art Society by judging its entries in the 12th Exhibition on 17<sup>th</sup> October 1969. 323 entries were submitted. Sir William's portraits include those of HRH Queen Elizabeth II, HRH the Duke of Edinburgh and HRH the Duke of Gloucester. Sir William was also a prolific landscape painter and painter of genre pictures. His gift to the Rabaul Art Society was the portrait of a local man painted during his visit.

One of the competitors that year was Eliuda Watam, on whose work Sir William commented very favourably. Being a Tolai Eliuda was very adept at interpreting local scenes. His Duk Duk paintings and symbols of Tolai culture were convincing and true.

A more contemporary artist and a judge with a different approach to judging who was aware of the "embryo" artist rather than those who had an established technique was Ron Lambert, who on the 23rd October, 1970 made his awards at

the opening ceremony performed by Mr P Steedman, Territory Manager of TAA. Mr Lambert, recognising the wealth of talent in the Rabaul Art Group, was a constant site on the waterfront of Rabaul Harbour, on the mountains, in the villages with his painting groups during his stay in Rabaul. His easy manner, his patient approach and wide appreciation of every artist's merits quickly established a very compatible teacher-student relationship which was to reap benefits in later Art Exhibitions in Rabaul.

By this time the need for a Club Room of some sort was so evident that the Society's Guardian Angel, Rev Father Bernard Franke, found the answer - a room at the entrance of Xavier Hall in Malaguna Road for members to use as a studio, a workshop and a meeting place.

### **JUDGES FOR CABIAPPA AND WARAWAGIRA**

The Cariappa Art Committee paid tribute to the Society, and recognised the talent existing amongst the members by requesting that judges be appointed for the most important competition of Childrens' art throughout Papua New Guinea. The Warawagira had been established - that medium of unity and peace among the varying groups of the Gazelle - and indeed honoured was the Society to appoint judges for this Competition as well. Prominent among those chosen was Sylvia Nobes; popular exhibitor over some years, and Laura Sutherland whose sea and landscapes have been mentioned previously.

Another of our judges - Ron Duncan - first entered the Rabaul Art Society in 1964. As well as painting, he had studied sculpture with Lyndon Dadswell for some years in NSW. New Guinea scenery was a challenge to him and abstracts gave way to semi abstract and more orthodox styles of painting. Ron likes to think himself a mood painter and leans towards the olive and ochre colours rather than the more blatant blues.

The fourth, Joan Grimshaw, mentioned earlier for her love of foliage and who feels she cannot live without 'sap green' has always been and is still an impressionist. She effects friends and associates with her enthusiasm and her 'joi de vivre' and it shows in her work. Her paintings are 'bubbly' and seen to catch a moment rather than a scene.

### **TROUBLED RABAUL**

Friday, 21st October, 1971, amidst the political rumblings and unrest of the Gazelle Peninsula, the Art Society staged its 14th Art Exhibition. Prominent amongst the exhibitors was Geoffrey Odgers the young realistic painter who portrayed the problems and fantasies and frustrations of a young emerging country on canvas. A painter whose depiction of local problems won him two awards by the prominent artist Leonard French.

Awards that year included Fudeko Reekie, Watkin Ainong who won the Beginners, local carver Abosek and Mending Abukame and Annie Kuster. Ron Duncan won the Most Popular Entry with his "Rara Ra Kunai".

### **ROY CHURCHER**

The Rabaul Art Society had been endeavouring to obtain Roy Churcher to judge its exhibition for some time, but because of difficulties in obtaining a release for the time necessary from his work, it was not possible until 29th October, 1972 when he judged the 15th Exhibition. He was a foundation member and president for a number of years of the Contemporary Art Society Queensland and Vice President of the Queensland Art Gallery Society.

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Mr Churcher was particularly impressed with the Rabaul carvings submitted by the local people and named one of these as the Best Entry in the Show. He visited schools and colleges and when he learned that, through some sudden change of plans, we were without the Judge for the 1973 Exhibition he judged again. That year there were some rather sensational changes in the work of some of our local people. In particular, one who has always presented the more orthodox landscapes, still life and portrait blazed into Abstracts and Genres and his portrait of Mathias Toliman, named by him "A Leader" won Leo Jambry, not only the Best Portrait of Named Territorian, but the acclaim of all people who saw the exhibition. Leo Jambry has been a faithful member and competitor over the years. An art teacher with one of the Missions in outer Rabaul, he has encouraged his pupils to develop their own styles, and we feel a lot of the entries in exhibitions in years to come will bear the influence of this enthusiastic and excellent painter and teacher.

Father Franke, mentioned previously, featured in the 1972 exhibition, whose portrait in charcoal by Semloh (Brian Holmes) was named by Churcher as the Best Portrait in the exhibition and also won the Most Popular Entry.

Among the 1973 award winners were Dale Harris, the young Madang housewife whose portraits of Mendi people were so popular and Rob Jago with his Water Colours, Ron Duncan the Portrait and the Abstract and Les Winrow the Genre. Entries that year reached an all time record of 347 submitted by 72 artists and sales doubled that of any previous Exhibition.

At a meeting on 7th June, 1971, a motion was passed bestowing Life Membership on Dr Radcliffe Taylor, Mrs Patricia Green, Mrs Joan Grimshaw and Mrs Ivy Darcey in gratitude of the years of work devoted by these Members of the Society. Whilst Dr Radcliffe Taylor, Mrs Grimshaw and Mrs Darcey are painting members, Mrs Green has never put brush to canvas but for many years was Secretary and the outstanding successes of many Art Shows are attributed to her organisation,

### **JOHN OLSEN**

Mr John Olsen, well known Sydney artist, judge and lecturer consented to act as judge for the 17th Exhibition in October, 1974. Perhaps Mr Olsen's best known work is the 70 foot mural on the northern harbour front foyer at the Sydney Opera House, which has won him world acclaim. Based on Kenneth Slessor's poem, a lament for a friend drowned in Sydney Harbour, Olsen named the mural "Salute to Five Bells".

Rabaul town has always been behind our Society and it is hard to define where culture and comradeship became intermingled. Business people, Airways, Clergy, private individuals and even school children have always been generous with their financial assistance and encouragement to old time exhibitors and newcomers. Exhibition Week has always seen a battery of wellwishers and participants, grinning faces and grimy hands behind the scenes at the Masonic Hall.

Compiled from official records of Rabaul Art Society by -  
F M Cohen, Dr Radcliffe Taylor, C James, G Reid, Ron Duncan.  
*The full document will appear on our website.* ■

## **"AN INADEQUATE FORCE" by Neville Threlfall**

Much has been written lately about the fall of Rabaul in January 1942 and the consequent tragic loss of life when over a thousand prisoners went down in the prison ship *Montevideo Maru*, These are believed to have included 845 soldier POWs, members of the Rabaul garrison known as Lark Force. The question has been raised and discussed: why did the Australian Government, under PM John Curtin, leave Lark Force in Rabaul after Pearl Harbour, when it was manifestly inadequate to withstand an attack of the magnitude which the Japanese were likely to bring against it?

But nothing has been raised about the reasons why an earlier Government - that of Robert G. Menzies, PM from 26 April 1939 to 29 August 1941 - originally sent Lark Force to Rabaul, and what was its true reason for being there. The files in the Australian War Memorial reveal a surprising story, and one in which military blunders of supply and training are ironically mixed with flashes of humour.

The New Guinea Administration and the inhabitants of Rabaul began their own defence measures late in 1939. At that time the main concern was the possibility of German raiding vessels landing armed sailors to destroy communications facilities (as the Australians had done in August 1914), or even bombarding the town. A volunteer military force, the New Guinea Volunteer Rifles, was quickly formed to oppose any armed landing party, and deep gullies on the slopes of Namanula Hill were cleared out and equipped with shelters, water tanks and supply depots, to provide a refuge for the townsfolk in case of a bombardment. In the event, German raiders passed through New Ireland waters in December 1940 but made no attack on Rabaul.

But there was another source of potential danger. Japan was known to have built up military bases in the Micronesian islands to the north of New Guinea, which Japan had received under League of Nations mandate after World War 1. The terms of the mandate forbade military installations except for defence, but in the early 1930s Japan had left the League and annexed the islands, treating them as outright possessions. Both in Australia and in Rabaul, there was concern as to what Japanese intentions might be.

In October 1940 the CO of the NGVR and senior military officer in the Mandated Territory was Ross Field, the Director of Public Works in the Administration. In that month Field wrote to military HQ in Port Moresby pointing out the unsatisfactory state of affairs in Rabaul. The NGVR had rifles for drill, but no ammunition for practice or combat. The police force had rifles and ammunition, but were legally prohibited from taking part in military activities. He requested ammunition for the NGVR, and suggested that a defence force be raised among indigenous and Chinese residents of the Territory.

In a further letter Field reviewed the possibility of a large-scale attack on Rabaul. If the military authorities felt that this could not be resisted, the Administration should be warned of this and advised to prepare evacuation

plans for civilians and for removing or destroying supplies and records. Depots of food, water and ammunition should be placed inland, for the use of defenders withdrawing from the town. All this was sound advice; but it fell on deaf ears.

Military authorities in Australia took action in 1941, but it was not because of Field's advice. The Chiefs of Staff of the Australian Armed Forces decided that the RAAF should establish a reconnaissance base as far north as possible, to monitor any southward movements of Japanese forces in Micronesia. Rabaul was the chosen site for this, but the heads of the RAAF insisted that their planes and personnel must have a military garrison to protect them.

It was decided to send a battalion group (an infantry battalion with supporting specialist units) to protect the RAAF base. A small advance party arrived in Rabaul in early March 1941 to prepare the camp for the main force, which arrived in March and April. This comprised the 2/22nd Battalion of the 2nd AIF, with units of the Army Service Corps and the Army Medical Corps. Members of Signals, Engineers and Artillery units came later. The whole group was commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel H. H. Carr and was code-named "Lark Force".

The sight of over a thousand soldiers coming to Rabaul was reassuring to the town's residents and to the Administration, as they assumed that this was for their defence. But Carr, who was now the senior military officer in the Territory, knew otherwise. He had quickly realized that the force under his command was too small and lacked the equipment to defend Rabaul and the nearby landing beaches against any sizeable attacking force; and said this in a situation report which he sent to Port Moresby in April. It was passed on to the military authorities in Australia, and their reply reached him at the end of May. He was told that Lark Force's role was not to defend the port and town of Rabaul! Its role was only to defend "the fixed defences of Rabaul and the RAAF Advanced Operational Base".

The "fixed defences" comprised only two old 15cm guns which had been sent to Rabaul but were not at that time set in position; they were later placed at Praed Point.

No RAAF base had yet been established; an occasional visit by a PBY Catalina flyingboat for refuelling during reconnaissance was the only sign of the Air Force's presence in the area. The Rabaul townsfolk must therefore be excused for thinking that Lark Force was there for their benefit. Military discipline would have prevented Carr from telling them otherwise. But his requests for additional arms and equipment were ignored, or only fulfilled in dribs and drabs months later. He was even refused a supply of blank rifle ammunition, which he requested to enable the troops to practice combat more realistically.

The Menzies Government was now under increasing difficulties in Australia. In August 1941 Arthur Fadden succeeded Menzies as Prime Minister, but only held office for forty days. These distracting moves in Australian politics came at a bad time, just when the US Government was taking an interest in Rabaul's military potential. During 1941 the Japanese had moved armed forces into

French Indo-China, threatening Malaya, the Philippines and the Dutch East Indies. It seemed good sense to develop United States and Australian defence co-operation in the South Pacific. The US service chiefs looked at Rabaul's superb harbour as a good location for a naval base. Agreement was reached for the US to supply the necessary equipment for this, and Australia agreed to upgrade the Vunakanau airfield to take US heavy bombers on their way to and from the Philippines. A team of US officers visited Rabaul in November 1941, but an element of farce entered into their discussions with the head of Lark Force when a heavily sealed envelope, just delivered by air, was brought to him. Apologising for the interruption, he broke it open, paused, then read the contents aloud: "Upon receipt of this you will proceed with the construction of six pan latrines according to the enclosed specifications."

By this time Lark Force had a new CO: Colonel J. J. Scanlan, a veteran of the trench warfare of World War 1. His plan for defence was to hold fixed positions at the likely landing beaches. When it was suggested that supplies should be placed inland to provide for a fighting withdrawal and bush warfare, he condemned it as a defeatist suggestion, and boasted that "Rabaul will be defended to the last man. There will be no surrender." There was no attempt to give the soldiers any knowledge of conditions inland and of bushcraft, nor of relations with the New Guinean people. Nor was there any discussion with Administration officials of preparations for evacuation or of demolition of vital supplies and installations. The civil authorities found this very frustrating.

John Curtin became Prime Minister of Australia on 7 October 1941, inheriting domestic problems and the responsibility for widespread Australian forces in the Middle East, Malaya and the Pacific Islands. The promise of a US naval base at Rabaul may have seemed an assurance of that area's safety. But there was no mention of US ground troops being stationed there. By the first week in December Scanlan had taken a more realistic view of the situation. RAAF planes had come at last: four Hudson bombers, later to be joined by ten Wirraways - armed reconnaissance planes which would be no match for modern fighters. At last Lark Force had an active air base to defend. But Scanlan wrote a review claiming that for adequate defence against an attack on the scale that could be expected, at least four thousand infantry would be needed, together with trucks to rush them to threatened points; plus field artillery, anti-tank guns, three more coastal batteries and twenty armoured cars. He dated this review 5 December 1941 and dispatched it to higher authorities; but on that date a Japanese carrier-based strike force was already moving towards the Hawaiian Islands.

The successful Japanese attacks on Pearl Harbour and on the Philippines put an abrupt end to US plans to use Rabaul as a naval base or as a staging point for their aircraft. The Australian War Cabinet was left alone to face a hard decision. It lacked the troops and weaponry to reinforce Rabaul as Scanlan declared necessary. To withdraw Lark Force and the RAAF planes would make a present to the Japanese of a valuable site for their military purposes, and would be bad for morale in Australia and for the Dutch ally in the East Indies. The choice was made: to leave what was plainly an inadequate force in place, so that if the Japanese wanted Rabaul they would have to fight for it. *Cont. over*

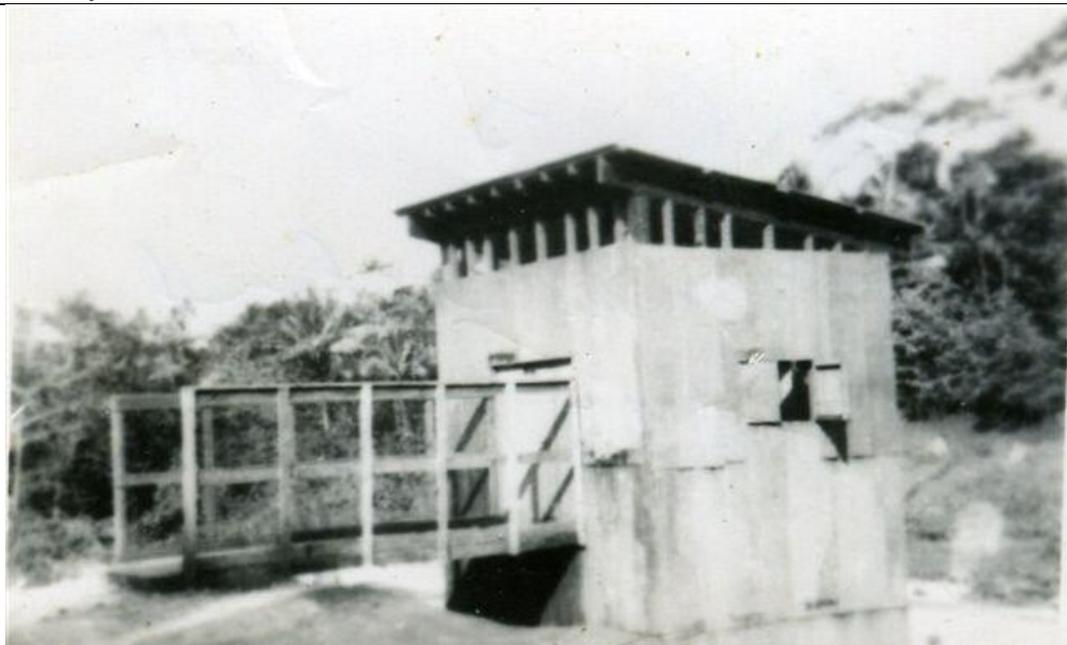
Although Curtin is usually held responsible for this decision, it was made on the advice of the Chiefs of Staff of Australia's armed services, and they too must take their share of the responsibility. And they were responsible for the inadequate equipment of Lark Force, and the failure to respond to the appeals of Carr and Scanlan.

Hasty arrangements were made to evacuate women and children of European race, by sea and later by air. Apart from a few invalids, civilian men were not considered; and Rabaul's Asian population were left to their own devices. (Ironically, the only Asians sent away to safety in Australia were Japanese internees.)

Prior to 8 December 1941, the reconnaissance patrols of the Catalinas and the Hudsons had only gone as far as the Equator, the boundary of the Mandated Territory with Japan's Micronesian possessions. But with the outbreak of war with Japan, patrols were extended further north, to Kapingamarangi Atoll, over eight hundred kilometres north of Rabaul, and even further to the major Japanese base of Truk in the Caroline Islands. Installations and supply dumps observed at Kapingamarangi were obviously for war purposes, and the Hudsons bombed them regularly from 15 December onwards. Truk was too far for the Hudsons to travel with a bomb load, but one raid was launched against Truk by Catalinas. A heavy storm prevented all but one of the planes reaching Truk, but it dropped its bombs there. These raids stung the Japanese into retaliatory air raids on Rabaul from 4 January 1942 onwards, and may have accelerated the timing of their invasion of New Ireland and New Britain

So, neither reinforced nor withdrawn, an inadequate force awaited the Inevitable onslaught. ■

Bruce O'Reilly sent in a photo of the gallows built and used to hang Japanese war Criminals after WWII. The photo was taken by Darcy Small in Manus Is. in the early 1950.



**Roma Isabelle BATES** (30 August 2010, aged 100 years)

Roma's family association with Papua New Guinea began when her grandfather was a Carpenter building the wireless station on Woodlark Island in 1914 – this was later discontinued following the capture of Bitapaka, Rabaul, at the onset of WW1. After service in WW1, and in the mid 1920's her father, Leo Kensington Bryant (1886-1969), applied for and was appointed Chauffeur to General Wisdom, the then Administrator of the Mandated Territory of New Guinea. This position also entailed managing Government Transport and vehicle maintenance. As an aside, Leo as an older man, escaped the Japanese by walking the Bulldog track in 1942.

Roma arrived in Rabaul on the old '*Montoro*' with her mother and younger sister, Patsy (a member of PNGAA), in August 1927. Having trained as a Stenographer she worked for the Administration and because of her proficiency in shorthand did court reporting. Even into old age she took messages in shorthand to keep up her skills. Later Roma worked for Burns Philp in Rabaul for 10 years. She met her future husband, Charlie, in 1932, becoming engaged at Ramu Patrol Post (now Kainantu) staying with the Peardon's. They married on 11 July 1934 at St Georges Anglican Church, Rabaul. Roma, an accomplished musician, was organist for Sunday services and weddings, this she continued for all her life in PNG. She was taught Morse Code by Ted Bishton so she could communicate with her husband who was banished to the Highlands for disobeying protocol in marrying her. In 1935 Roma travelled to Salamaua for the birth of her first child (Pat) so that Charlie could see his first born.

During WW2 she lived in South Caulfield, Melbourne, where her second child, Hilary, was born and then at Portarlington, Victoria, until returning to Rabaul to join her husband in 1946 on the old '*Reynella*'. Charlie at this time was District Officer in charge of the post-war rehabilitation of Rabaul having served as a Coastwatcher during WW2. Charlie was later posted in 1949 to Madang as District Commissioner but died at the early age of 45 years in 1954. Roma always said that in 20 years of marriage they were only together for 8 years due to extensive patrolling pre war and of course absence due to WW2. Roma's third child, David, was born in Madang in 1950. Following Charlie's death, Roma was employed as the Secretary of the Madang Native Hospital and remained there until moving to Sydney in 1965. An inveterate traveller, there were not many places in the world that she had not visited, her favourite place being Antarctica.

Always keen on community affairs she recalled that after the 1937 Rabaul eruption it was the Frangipani trees that came into bloom first and she suggested they have a Frangipani Ball – this became, overtime, an institution. After the war, in Rabaul in 1946, she seeded the idea of having village choir competitions, the local Tolai people being renowned for their natural harmony.

Roma was a founder and life member of the New Britain Women's Club and other community organisations that she held office in were the Scouts, Guides, CWA, P&C, Golf, Bowls, native women's groups and amateur dramatics. Roma later started the Madang Horticultural Society and was made Foundation

President – the resultant Show being a resounding success – she said that she held every office except Treasurer!

While still living in Madang she was appointed as a Nominated Member of the PNG Legislative Council in 1961 and worked with Alice Wedega from Kwato in Milne Bay whom she greatly admired.

In the 1950's, while on leave in Australia, Roma was part of a small group which met in the old Nock and Kirby's George St building who set up the Retired Officers Association of Papua New Guinea – now PNGAA. She was a long term Committee Member and was made a Co-Patron of that organisation with Freddie Kaad in 2001 – incidentally, their friendship goes back many years to Madang days.

Her literary skills were well known and she contributed articles to the PNGAA Journal '*Una Voce*'. Her account of the opening of the Coastwatcher's memorial Lighthouse in Madang is now a historic document and was printed in '*Una Voce*' in September 1999. Other articles being the hilarious account of a weekend charter flight to the Gusap Races and reminiscences such as Rabaul before the 1994 eruption and two articles covering revisits to PNG in 1995-96. Celebrating her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in November 2009, the occasion brought together her family and her wonderful PNG friends.

Roma leaves 3 sisters, 2 daughters (her son predeceased her in 2009), 7 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren. Right to the end Roma always maintained a love for and a keen interest in PNG affairs.

Pat and Ross Johnson

**Kenneth Arthur BROWN** (25 April 2010 aged 84 years)

Ken was born in Dubbo on 15 July 1925 and spent his early years with his brothers and sisters before joining the RAAF on 11 February 1944. Ken had ambitions to be a pilot but this was not to be, due to a hearing problem. Ken was involved in the decryption of Japanese signals. His work in this area was recently acknowledged by the British Government Communications that operated out of the famous Bletchley Park in the UK. Subsequent to his discharge from the RAAF in April 1946 Ken went to PNG in 1947 as a Cadet Patrol Officer and attended the Short and Long Courses at ASOPA, gradually working his way up to be a District Commissioner. He preferred to work at outstations amongst the village people and in the 28 years, up to the time of his retirement in 1975, served in Port Moresby, Daru, Maprik, Kairuku, Tapini, Rabaul, Bereina, Kerema, Sohano and Manus. Ken's last outstation posting at Daru involved him in exchange visits with his Indonesian counterpart to keep in touch with what was happening on either side of the border with West Irian (old Dutch New Guinea). This last posting also saw the arrival, in 1972, of Benson Gegeyo and his family. Benson was one of four local officers selected to train as District Commissioners in preparation for the pending Independence. Ken married Rosemary Grant, first born daughter of the Rev and Mrs Ralph Grant of the Methodist Overseas Mission (MOM), Salamo, on Fergusson Island. The wedding took place at Kwato, Milne Bay District in December 1953. Ken is survived by wife Rosemary, and their children, Rosemary Anne, Brigitte, Kenneth and their families. Rosemary Brown

**Michael John Ingham ARTHUR** (15 October 2009, aged 70 years)

Michael was born in Haberfield, Sydney, in 1939. He spent some time in New Zealand working on the Milford Track before settling in PNG. He was in Mendi from about 1968-1970 and in Mt Hagen in 1970-1978. Michael spent most of his work life as a motor mechanic. He worked with Mike Wells at Hagen Haulers and Norm Camps at Kala Motors. Michael was also a member of the gun club. He met and married his wife, Pauline, in Mount Hagen in 1972. Their first son, Kingston, was born there in 1973. Their daughter Caroline was born in Melbourne in 1974 while Pauline was visiting family.

The Arthur family returned to Australia in 1978 to settle in Loganlea, south of Brisbane, where Michael remained for the rest of his life. Their third child, Travis, was born there in 1980. Michael is survived by his wife Pauline and their three children, Kingston, Caroline and Travis. Pauline Arthur

**Reverend Albert Leonard (Len) Samuel KEMISH** (29 August 2010, aged 79 years)

A-Coy, PNGVR. Former Parish Priest of Maryborough and Caboolture. Loved husband of Sheila and father of Deborah, Ian and Peter and their families.

*Courier Mail 2 Sep 2010*

**Linda Mabel EVANS** (1 September 2010, aged 96 years)

Linda was born in Dunedin, New Zealand, and had five brothers. Her brother Ernest went to Rabaul for Burns Philp, and while there his young wife died suddenly. Linda went to see him in Rabaul where she became friends with Hal Evans, Hal's sister Gwen and Roma Bates. Linda and Hal married in 1938, in Dunedin, and the two went to Madang where Hal was Native Labour Officer. They had two daughters, Patty and Lynne, and a son, Hal Ernest ('young Hal'). In Madang Linda and Hal planned and promoted the Madang Golf Course and Linda developed a cottage industry in cane lounge chairs. About 1951 they moved to Kavieng, where Hal managed the New Ireland Natives Societies Association. In 1956 they left PNG for Sydney, where Patty was graduating from school. Linda was a skilled needlewoman and gardener, and got great pleasure with Hal from boating. Hal was President of PNGAA for some years to 1969 and Linda assisted him at functions and with other association activities. She is survived by her three children, daughter-in-law, six grandchildren and their families.

Patty, Lynne and Hal Evans

**Robert (Bob) DUNLOP** (4 August 2010, aged 67 years)

Bob was born and grew up in Sydney, and travelled to Lae in early 1968. Bob was employed by Tom Richards (Pioneer Surveying) and worked in the Morobe District as a surveyor. Bob tells the story of having to book two seats on TAA from Sydney: one for himself and one for the computer which would assist with his field work. That same computer, surveyors now carry in their pockets. Bob met Margaret Dunlop (nee Seale, daughter of Bill and Heather) at Bulolo Golf Club at Easter 1968, where Margaret was the kindergarten teacher. Bob and Margaret decided to make their home in Sydney where Bob started his own surveying business, Robert Dunlop & Co. (now Dunlop, Thorpe & Co.). Bob is survived by his wife Margaret, sons Andrew and Jeremy, daughter Sally, and two grandsons, Sam and Billy.

Information supplied by Bob's daughter, Sally Yarrow.

**Robin McKAY** (7 August 2010, aged 93 years)

Robin went to PNG in 1935, aged almost 18, and managed plantations for Burns Philp in the Wide Bay area on the south coast of New Britain. In 1940 he enlisted in the Australian Army and was sent to the Middle East. Two years later he joined the Allied Intelligence Bureau and was dropped behind enemy lines in the Bainings area with Z Special Force to carry out commando activities against Japanese forces. In late 1943 Robin, as part of M Special Force, was part of another drop into enemy territory, this time between Wewak and Aitape. Unfortunately on arrival they were ambushed. They counter-ambushed with some success, but their security was severely compromised so they decided to withdraw. They headed for Mt Hagen, living off the land and encountering hostile natives and Japanese sympathisers, arriving there three months after deployment. After the war, Robin and his wife Laurie purchased the Aropa Estate, south of Kieta on Bougainville. The plantation had been run down during the war, and required much effort and hard work to bring it back to life. Robin brought the Hevea rubber trees back into production and extended the coconut and cocoa plantings. Robin and Laurie developed close ties with their Bougainvillean neighbours. In 1964 they sold the plantation and spent some time in Sydney. They then moved to Western Australia where they developed a caravan park. Later they moved to Northern NSW where Robin started an avocado farm. Laurie died in 1997. Robin was a tough and brave pioneer, capable of great vision and an inspiration to many. He was respected by the local Papua New Guineans. Robin is survived by Bett Macartney, his loving friend of many years, and his three daughters, Jan, Serena and Debbie, grandchildren and great-grandchildren .

From the PNG Consulate and Mike Dennis

**William Paul RYAN, OBE** (13 August 2010, aged 78 years)

Paul grew up in Camberwell, Victoria, and on leaving school joined the Commonwealth Bank. He then attended the Australian School of Pacific Administration as a Cadet Patrol Officer. It was at this time that he met the love of his life, Barbara - they married in 1956 and had a happy marriage of almost 55 years. Paul spent much of his working life in PNG, starting as a Patrol Officer in the 1950s. Following further study at the University of Qld, he progressed to senior levels in the PNG administration and ultimately headed the Chief Minister's Department in the lead-up to PNG Independence. His contribution to the development of PNG was widely acknowledged and he always maintained a great affection for the people. Paul and Barbara moved to Canberra in 1975 and Paul became Executive Director of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia, the first non-Pharmacy executive director appointment to that organisation. In 1995, Paul and Barbara moved to Sydney, to the area where they had first met. In recent years Paul's sight failed him and he became increasingly frail with dementia – however he always retained his essential essence, a man of character and humour, who loved his family and friends, and was compassionate and kind to all. Paul is survived by his wife Barbara, five children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. Catherine Ryan

**Barbara SELBY** 07.05.1915 - 22.09.2010

Dearly loved wife of the late David Selby. Greatly loved mother of Alison, Lib and Bill. Adored grandmother of Sal, James, Jen, Kirsty, Dave, Janie and David. Loving great-grandmother of her 12 great-grandchildren. Loved and respected by Bruce, Robert, Dick and Sue, and Mel, Gary, Growler, Vick, Andrew and Libby.

**Stan BISSET MC OAM MID** 5 October 2010, aged 98 years

Stan, Australia's oldest Wallaby rugby international, was one of the heroes of the Kokoda campaign in WWII. In 1939 he was selected to play rugby union for Australia, but WWII was declared before the tour of England began.

He joined the 2/14th Battalion with his brother "Butch".

After arriving in Papua New Guinea in mid-1942, Stan (a Lieutenant intelligence officer) and Butch (a Lieutenant and platoon commander) were sent up the Kokoda Track to relieve the 39th Battalion at Isurava. At Isurava, outnumbered and outgunned, the battalion had its first major encounter with the Japanese, Butch was shot and, six hours later, passed away in Stan's arms. Butch was buried on the Track.

Stan's former commanding officer and lifelong friend, the late Phil Rhoden, said that Stan was one the finest men he had met. 'He personified so many attributes of the Digger to me: courage (both moral and physical); compassion; selflessness; independence; loyalty; resourcefulness; devotion; coolness; and humour'.

In recent years there was barely a day go by without someone wanting to contact Stan and meet him. He gave his time and his support unstintingly.

In 2000, Stan was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for his service to veterans, particularly through the 2/14th Battalion Association.

Stan is survived by Gloria and his children and grandchildren.

*Information from Kokoda Track Foundation, SMH and ninemsn*

**Paul George METZLER** (Group Captain, Retired) (17 October 2010, aged 96 years)

Ex 11 Squadron RAAF (Catalina) Ex POW Japan

**George William BOTTRIELL** (10 June 2010 aged 83 years)

George passed away suddenly and very peacefully in the company of several friends enjoying one of his favourite pastimes. He had just hit a nice drive down the fairway and with the golf buggy in tow, set off for the chip to the green. He was born in Melbourne and at 18 joined the Navy serving on LST's [Landing Ship Transports] and also spent nine months in Madang. Demobbed in March 1953, he took up employment in the office of the Commonwealth Department of Works, Port Moresby. He was based on Paga Hill and played table tennis in the Paga team.

Originally a choir boy in St Peters C of E Murrumbeena, Melbourne, it was not long before he was singing in the choir at St John's in Mary Street and was Church Secretary for a short time. It was here at the regular social gathering after a Sunday night even-song, in the rectory of Rev HFG Randall and his wife, that George and I met and would subsequently become friends.

We teamed up with some success as a Doubles Pair competing in the Port Moresby Table Tennis Association Championships in 1954. In November 1954 he became a foundation member of the Papuan Philatelic Society, a small group of enthusiasts who enjoyed the once a month gathering, especially the suppers of coffee and cakes at the Yvonne Beadel residence at 4 mile or Boroko as it is now known. I joined the Society a couple of months later. He was not really a serious stamp collector but had a passion for picture post cards and became a member of the Australian Cartophilic Society.

The year 1955 saw the emergence of Australian Rules football on the ground at Konedobu. With George playing for Paga and myself playing for APC, we were

now in opposing teams, but amongst the inaugural players. He was a last minute selection in the PNG Representative Team which played a couple of matches against teams in Northern Queensland in 1956.

Soon after, he returned to Melbourne for the Olympic Games, and the following year married Dulcie. George is survived by wife Dulcie, son Stephen, daughter Karen and grandchildren: Simone, Jade, Paul, Jacob and Mahalia.

Ray Kelly

**Malcolm Erskine (Mal) MILLER** (16 August 2010, aged 75 years)

Mal was born in Leongatha, Victoria. He applied to become a teacher in PNG and from 1957-59 taught at Daru and Kiunga primary schools, moving to Port Moresby and teacher training in 1960. By 1962 he was acting principal of Port Moresby Teachers College. In 1963 he and Rosemary, who was teaching at a nearby school, married. Their daughter Jenny was born in Port Moresby in June 1964. A few weeks later the family moved to Wewak where Mal had been appointed District Inspector of Schools. In 1965 Mal was transferred to Sohano in the Bougainville District as District Inspector. Their son, David, was born in Sohano in May 1965. In 1968, the family moved to Goroka where they spent eight wonderful years. Mal was promoted to District Superintendent Grade 2. In June 1976, Mal's 20 year career in PNG education came to an end when he took his "golden handshake" and moved back to Australia.

Information from Ian Robertson, Murray Bladwell and Asopa blog

**Belle Irene McSweeny** (21 October 2010)

married to George Barry Edward Allen 20-12-1941.

The late Mrs. Allen suffered a long illness and was cared for by her eldest son in Brisbane.

Albert Speer

**Vere Pauline O'MALLEY (nee Brien)** ( 3 September 2010)

Vere was born in Port Moresby on 29 January 1926 to Mr. and Mrs. John Esmond Brien. John Brien was Secretary to the Administrator, Sir Hubert Murray. In World War 2, Vere served in the WRANS (Women's Royal Australian Naval Service) and after Armistice was declared, she returned live in Port Moresby. There she met Louis James (Jim) O'Malley, noted for his pre war exploratory patrols, particularly the 1935 Strickland-Purari patrol with Jack Hides. On 23 June 1949 Jim and Vere married at the Church of Our Lady of the Rosary in Port Moresby and then were posted to Kikori in the Gulf District of Papua, later transferring to Kerema, also in the Gulf. Jim, now District Commissioner, with Vere and their children transferred to Lorengau, Manus District where they stayed until, due to Jim's ill health, they retired to Sydney in 1968.

I knew Vere well, having lived at Kikori where our children were babies together and again at Lorengau where, for some time we shared the teaching of Correspondence Schooling for our children. When personally challenged by Lady Baden-Powell to do "something" about Girl Guides, Vere accepted the position of Guide Commissioner culminating in being responsible for outfitting hundreds of girls in uniform. The Lorengau Girl Guides were officially declared the best turned out Guides in Papua New Guinea and publicity photos were shown in Australia. Vere was an ambitious person and on her return to Sydney she opened and managed a successful travel agency for many years until ill health forced her to retire. She was a good friend, a mother of two daughters, Maureen and Karen and two sons Michael and Paul and was much loved by them and their families.

Nancy Johnston

**Lucy MOORHOUSE** (13 January 2010 aged 88 years)

Lucy worked with Public Health Department Goroka with Infant Welfare when my wife and I knew her and were blessed by her loving ministrations to us and to all with new born babies. Lucy, like all Infant Welfare Nurses, spent many long days on rough hand built roads taking infant health to all. Often only accompanied by a medical orderly and driver they would go from meeting place to meeting place and meet the medical needs of both mother and child often to groups of up to a hundred women who waited patiently to have their babies treated. Nothing was too much for Lucy and her deep Christian commitment was observable by all. In the seven years my wife and I had in the Goroka Sub District Lucy participated in the non-denominational group of Christians who got together of a Friday night in someone's home. It was a privilege to have known Lucy and have her as a friend.

Julian Pickrell on behalf of Suzanne and myself;  
1958 Patrol Post Lufa; 1960-1965 Sub District Office Goroka. Our three children born 1958-1963 benefited by Infant Welfare services

**Marjorie Ethel HOLLAND** (9 October 2010 aged 80 years)

Known as "Poppy" to all, she came with husband , Cyril and three children to Rabaul on 4.1.1961 on Cyril's appointment as manager of Rabaul Trading Company Pty Ltd, an import/export firm in Kamarere Avenue.

Poppy was born in Madras, India, her father being an officer in the British Army. After school she became an air hostess for Air India International and survived two serious plane crashes before marrying Cyril in June 1952. The family emigrated to Australia in 1956. In Rabaul, Poppy was a well known hostess for numerous gatherings associated with Cyril's business interests and when he branched out in his own import/export business. He was later appointed secretary of the Planters Association of Papua New Guinea. Poppy left Rabaul in 1979 and settled in Hervey Bay, eventually moving to Rathmines, NSW. Cyril died in Brisbane on 11.8.1986. Poppy is survived by Suellen, twins Michele and Cecile and their families.

Maxwell HAYES

**Sharyn McKENZIE nee HEALEY** (4 February 2010, aged 62 years)

Sharyn was born on 27 February 1947 at the old army hospital in Wewak. She was the first white baby post war. Sharyn was brought into the world by Dr John McInerney and Matron Thorburn who was visiting from Port Moresby. When Sharyn arrived Dr McInerney announced that she looked like Tang Mao the local Chinese trade store owner.

Whilst growing up with a father who was a medical assistant, her early life was spent in many outposts where Dad (Rhys Healey) built and managed hospitals. These outpost towns were Angoram (1947-1953), Wewak (1949), Lumi (1952), Vanimo (1953) and finally Port Moresby (1964).

Sharyn went to boarding school at St Marys in Atherton and then to St Margaret's in Brisbane. She was very sporty and played netball, basketball, hockey and gymnastics.

After school she returned to Port Moresby to become a secretary and worked in the Public Health Department for Dr Jameson. She left Health to work for TAA before starting a business with her husband Colin McKenzie whom she married in 1968. Their first child Samantha was born in 1972. Later on Gemelle and Melindah were born. Sharyn and Colin moved to the Sunshine Coast in 1980 and ran their own business in Maleny and Noosa. In 1997 Sharyn moved to Manly where she lived until her death. She loved Manly, the sun and the sea. Sharyn also loved to travel and during her life travelled extensively.

Peter Healey

**Victor Hugh PARKINSON BEM (1917-2010 aged 93 years)**

Captain Victor Parkinson was on hand at the School of Civil Affairs, newly established by Colonel Alf Conlon, the Australian Army's Director of Research, at Duntroon, early in 1945 to welcome the first intake of aspirant Patrol Officers attending a four month course. The Commonwealth, through the Army, and Conlon's initiative, had moved towards preparing some of the staff that would be needed for the post war Government task at the conclusion of military administration in Papua New Guinea at the end of 1945. Then began Victor's long association with what became the Australian School of Pacific Administration, and, over the years, with hundreds of young field staff people who moved on to PNG at the grass roots level to provide administrative services for the evolving population.

There is no doubt that over the almost thirty years of Victor's direct association with ASOPA, he had a huge influence on the School's development and modus operandi. His character traits of dedication, humility, courtesy, tolerance, respect for academic research and requirements of the law are those the School sought to inculcate in its students. His skills of problem solving, networking and diplomacy are the skills essential for field officers. The value of his work for ASOPA, and indirectly for PNG, cannot be quantified.

Victor grew up in Yallourn, a Victorian coal mining town, attended Melbourne High School and was studying law at Manchester University, United Kingdom, when World War II began. He returned to Australia and enlisted in the army. He served in education units in Queensland and the Northern Territory before being head-hunted for the Directorate of Research.

While at ASOPA Victor took his civic spirit and interest in local government with him when he became a Councillor and then Mayor of Mosman from 1965 until 1970. He joined the Council of the National Trust of Australia (NSW) in 1965 and became President. In 1970 he was awarded the British Empire Medal. From 1978 till 1982 he was Chairman of the Australian council of National Trusts.

In 1975 the Parkinson's went farming in central western NSW and Victor died in Orange. He is survived by his wife, Marjorie, son John and daughter Lindy.

June Whittaker and Harry West

**Bill CONROY (13 September 2010 aged ... years)**

Enlisting in the Army in 1942, Conroy served in Papua New Guinea with the Australian Army Medical Corps. This began a long association with the country.

Serving with the Sydney University Regiment at the outbreak of war, Conroy was influenced by Alf Conlon, a brilliant and enigmatic figure who ran the Australian World War II Directorate of Research and Civil Affairs. The "Directorate" provided reports on a broad range of topics judged to be of national importance, such as army health and nutrition, study of terrain and dietary standards of Papuans and New Guineans. Conroy finished his studies, but by the time he was due to receive his degree, in 1942, he had enlisted.

In New Guinea, Conroy was able to use his agriculture degree in his command of several malaria control units. At war's end, he assisted in the demobilisation of Australian troops, and in June 1946 became part of a small group recruited as agricultural extension officers serving in Papua New Guinea. In 1947, at the age of 26, Conroy was part of the Nutrition Survey Expedition which included anthropologists, health experts and representatives of a range of sciences who undertook wide ranging research into various aspects of Papua New Guinea life.

In 1950, as the regional agricultural officer based in Madang, Conroy administered an area stretching from Finschhafen-Hube, which included the whole Highlands through to the then border of Dutch New Guinea. He was also a

visiting lecturer in tropical biology and land use at the Australian School of Pacific Administration (ASOPA) which had grown out of Alf Conlon's Directorate.

In 1951, Conroy joined a group of scientists and eminent people called together by the Australian Prime Minister, Robert Menzies, to forge a 25-year science policy and program, and worked alongside the likes of Sir Mark Oliphant. Conroy was a member of the Agriculture Strategy Committee and commissioner for the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), which launched the international rice hybridisation program and distribution of various cereal varieties selected for fertiliser response.

In March, 1952, Conroy married Marie Colbron, who had been working as a laboratory assistant at Sydney University, and went to live in Port Moresby. Children followed: twins Stella and Susan born in 1953, Linda in 1954, Lawrie in 1961, all in Port Moresby, and Chris, born in Australia in 1963.

From the early 60s till 1973 Conroy was Director of the PNG Department of Agriculture, Stock and Fisheries (DASF) and Chief Conservator of Fauna. He believed that the prosperity of the country must be based on extending the indigenous agricultural practices and customs for a sustainable social and economic future. This meant he was interested in the development of small landholdings and introducing new cropping ideas. Conroy was instrumental in developing coffee, tea, copra and palm oil as well as tick resistant cattle as agricultural industries with long term potential for the country. In 1967-68, he served in the PNG House of Assembly. From 1972 – 76, Conroy held the position of secretary of the PNG Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Defence.

Conroy held numerous other posts with such bodies as the Research Council-South Pacific Commission, the International Cocoa and Coffee Agreements, various PNG Commodity, Marketing and Stabilisation Boards, and the FAO Land Use and Conservation Committee for South East Asia and South-West Pacific. In 1975, when Papua New Guinea gained Independence, Conroy was awarded the CBE for his services for the development of agriculture.

In 1978, Conroy and his wife settled in Avalon Beach on Sydney's northern beaches peninsula. Conroy remained active, and became director of a tropical agricultural consultancy for five years. In 1993, at the behest of a local doctor, he became involved with tick disease research, working with Dr Bernie Hudson (Royal North Shore Hospital) and the Northern Beaches Tick Alert Support Group. Ian Spencer, secretary of the Careel Bay Residents Association, said: "His mind seemed ever active and his willingness to contribute inexhaustible."

In 2000, Conroy received the Centenary Medal for his work in medical entomology during the war. He was also honoured for his work on the environment and on ticks in the Pittwater area. He is survived by Marie and his children, four grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

Excerpted from the SMH 21 Oct 2010 by Malcolm Brown

**Neville John Thomson (5 April 2010, aged 83 years) –**

further information March 2011

**Ian Cluny McPHERSON** PLS & GC Medal (13th October 2010 aged 80 years)

Further details March issue.

**Elizabeth Clare MACILWAIN** (4 October 2010 aged 93 years)

Late of Philip Kennedy Nursing Home at Largs Bay SA

Helen Macilwain

## CHANGES OF ADDRESS

Mr DE BENSTED	Lyndoch	123/72 Little Mountain Home Park, CALOUNDRA QLD 4551
Mrs JA BIOGG	Park Orchards	15 Greengully Retreat DONCASTER VIC 3108
Mr PL CASS		c/- College of Applied Science, PO Box 699 PC611, NIZWA, OMAN
Mr ED Cleland	Goondiwindi	39 Charlton St, NAMBUCCA HEADS NSW 2448
Mr D COMPSTON	Katoomba	2 Egmont Rd, MEDLOWBATH NSW 2780
Mr PR COOTE	Rosebank	36/1 Seabeach Ave, MONA VALE NSW 2130
MR BF COSTELLO	Maroochydore	Unit 11 Iris Ct, 91-93 Lower King St, CABOOLTURE QLD 4501
Mr J DASH	Borrooloola	PO Box 5392, ALICE SPRINGS NT 0871
Mr RWS DONNE		Unit 10, 24 Martin Ct, WEST LAKES SA 5021
Mrs M DUNLOP		4/20 Lower Almora St, MOSMAN NSW 2088
Mr J DUTTON	Tewantin	14 Corsair Circuit, BRAY PARK QLD 4500
Mr O GENTY-NOTT		24 Luculia Dve, Mt Maunganui NZ
Mr JW (Bill) GORNALL	Golden Beach	120 Gardners Lane, MALENY QLD 4552
Mr JR JOHNSTON	SA	PO Box 12757, George St, TINGALPA QLD 4003
Mrs Lesley LEWIS (nee WILLS)	Alotau	PO Box 1402, Paradise Point QLD 4216
Mr CD McCONAGHY	Coolum Beach	PO Box 957, COOLUM BEACH QLD 4573
Mr BC MITCHELL		4/46 Powell St, HOLT ACT 2615
Mr NL MITCHELL	Weetangera	8B Rutherford Cr, AINSLIE ACT 2602
Mr KE MURPHY	Tamworth	Easy Living Villas, Villa 13, 19 Power St, TAMWORTH NSW 2340
Mrs C NEVILLE	Clifton Beach	PO Box 65 REDCLIFFE QLD 4020
Mr WB PAGE	VAILLY-SUR-SAULDRE	28 Quai du Chatelet, ORLEANS 45000 FRANCE
Mr GH POPLÉ		PO Box 2883, BOROKO NCD PNG
Mr JK RIDGES	Kavieng	Fl3, Linden Ct, 3 Linden Ave, DORCHESTER DT 1 1EJ ENGLAND
Mr SH SMITH		Po Box 3200 NORTH TURRAMURRA NSW 2074
Rev AL TAYLOR	Strathfield	2/30-32 Redmyre Rd, STRATHFIELD NSW 2135
Mrs E THURSTON	Darling Point	5/1 Wiston Gardens, DOUBLE BAY nsw 2028
Mr JR TULLOCH	Ewingsdale	726 Bestmann Rd, NINGI QLD 4511
Mrs AVP WEAVER		U81, Rowland Cr, 301 Galston Rd, GALSTON NSW 2159
Ms H WHITE-FARR	Pemberton WA	PO Box 124, PINJARA WA 6208

## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Kathleen	BARRITT	99 Husband Rd	Forest Hill	VIC	3131
Wayne	BOSANKO	47 Gould St	FRANKSTON	VIC	3199
Dulcie	BOTTRIELL	10 Augustine Dve	HIGHTON	VIC	3216
Noel	CAVANAGH	125 Bilsen Rd	WAVELL HTS	QLD	4012
Trevor	FREESTONE	120 Kahibah Rd	KAHIBAH	NSW	2290
Alexander	GOVAARS	8 Peake Place	CURTIN	ACT	2605
Lindon	HOWARD	Po Box 8057	BARGARA	QLD	4670
John	KELLY	PO Box 1095	NEW FARM	QLD	4005
Ivar	LENFIELD	PO Box 98	MUDGEERABA	QLD	4213
James	MIDDLETON	3 Barclay St	BRONTE	NSW	2024
Mark	MONTGOMERY	Weldborough Htl	WELDBOROUGH	TAS	7264
Don	NILES	PO Box 1432	BOROKO NCD	PNG	
John	O'BRIEN	Rm 88, Southern Cross Hostel	MACLEOD	VIC	3085
Michael	O'CONNOR	32 Sunnypark Cl	GISBORNE	VIC	3437
Betty	PETERSON	Southern Cross Care	CALOUNDRA	QLD	4551
Charles	PFARR	186 Buerger St	MARYSVILLE, OHIO	USA	
Vanda	ROUNSEFELL	68 Battams Rd	MARDEN	SA	5070
Paul	SEEFELD	2/4 Yuruga St	MOOLOOLABA	QLD	4557
Philip	SELTH	PO Box 1682	LANE COVE	NSW	1595
Cecil	THOMSON	Sphinx St	BALMORAL	QLD	4171
Jean	THOMSON	36 Musgrave St	YARRALUMLA	ACT	2600
Diet	VAN HEES	Im Letten 12, Duggingen BK 4202	SWITZERLAND		
Ken	WALLACE	41 Maxwell Rd	HACKHAM WEST	SA	5163
Amanda	WARHURST	7 Claxton Circuit	ROUSE HILL	NSW	2155

## THE TREASURER'S CORNER

**Payments to – PNGAA, PO Box 1386, MONA VALE, NSW, 1660**

### If you would like to –

1. Renew your **Membership Subscription** of PNGAA;
2. Attend the **2010 Christmas Luncheon – Sydney, RSVP by 13 November**
3. Attend the **Patrick Lindsay Literary Luncheon– Brisbane, RSVP 7 November**
4. Purchase a copy (or copies) of the **“Walk Into Paradise” DVD**,

please **PRINT** your full name and address below and complete the relevant Section(s) you are interested in.

**NOTE: Method of Payment details are on the reverse side of this page**

Full Name .....	<b>Membership No.</b>
Address .....	↓
..... Post Code .....	↓
Telephone .....	↓
Email Address .....	↓

### 1. Your Membership Renewal

***A timely reminder – please check your address label; this will tell you when your Membership expires. This label also shows your Membership Number which you should copy to the box above.***

<b>I wish to renew</b>	my Membership Subscription for <b>2011 @ \$25</b>	
OPTIONAL	{	plus my Membership Subscription for <b>2012 @ \$25</b>
		also my Membership Subscription for <b>2013 @ \$25</b>

**Note for Members whose Postal Address is NOT Within Australia:**  
 International Post (Airmail) charges apply. To assist in defraying this additional postage cost, international or overseas members should increase their membership renewal by —  
     **Asia/Pacific** - \$12 p.a. (\$3 per issue);  
     **Rest of the World** - \$16 p.a. (\$4 per issue)  
**Air-mail postage (only if appropriate) ..... years @ \$ .....**

**Sub-total (AUD) (transfer to point 1 over page) \$**

<b>2. Walk Into Paradise – DVD</b> <i>(price includes postage and packing)</i>	No of Units	Rate \$	Amount \$
Walk Into Paradise DVD – Member		30.00	
Walk Into Paradise DVD – Non-Member		40.00	
<b>Sub-total (AUD) \$</b> <i>(Transfer to Point 2 over page)</i>			

**3. Christmas Luncheon – Killara Golf Club – 28 November 2010**

**RSVP by 13 November 2010**

**I will attend** the Christmas Luncheon and will be accompanied by –

.....

If possible I would like to be seated with .....

.....

\* Please advise number (if any) of vegetarian meals required →

<b>Why not make up a Table of 10? For further details, see page 3</b>		No.	Rate (\$)	Amount (\$)
	My Luncheon payment		52.50	
	My Luncheon Guests ..		52.50	
	Table of 10 .....		525.00	
	<b>Sub-total (to point 3 below) \$</b>			

**4. Brisbane – Lunch with Patrick Lindsay speaking about his latest book, *The Coastwatchers – Remembrance Day 11 November 2010, 12nn – 2.30pm***

Venue: Ship Inn, Cnr Stanley and Sidon Streets, Southbank Parklands, Brisbane

Cost: \$45 - Tables of 8 available **RSVP by 7 November 2010**

Any preference for seating? .....

Number of guests:  Payment amount for luncheon @ \$45 pp:   
(to point 4 below)

**PAYMENT DETAILS** (Please circle method of payment)

**You may pay by either Cheque, Bank Draft, Postal Money Order, Credit Card (MasterCard or Visa card only) or by Electronic (Internet) Transfer to PNGAA; BSB 062:009; A/C No. 0090:7724; (CBA, Wynyard)**  
*If paying electronically, please advise Membership Number and details of payment by email to admin@pngaa.net.*

<b>Note that all payments must be in Australian Currency (AUD)</b>	<b>1. Membership Renewal</b>	<b>\$</b>	<input type="text"/>
	<b>2. Walk Into Paradise DVD</b>	<b>\$</b>	<input type="text"/>
	<b>3. Xmas Luncheon - 2010</b>	<b>\$</b>	<input type="text"/>
	<b>4. Brisbane luncheon</b>	<b>\$</b>	<input type="text"/>
<b>Grand Total (AUD) \$</b>			<input type="text"/>

<b>MASTERCARD</b>	<input type="text"/>	<b>VISA CARD</b>	<input type="text"/>	<b>Expires</b> ..... / .....
<b>Card Number:</b>	..... / ..... / .....			
<b>Name on Card (Print):</b>	.....			
<b>Signature of Card Holder:</b>	..... <b>Date</b> ..... / ..... / .....			

**PAPUA NEW GUINEA ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA, Inc.**



**2011 AGM Sunday 27 March 2010**

**NOMINATION FORM**

**for the election of  
MEMBERS OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE  
2011-2013**

I, ..... of .....

.....  
being a financial member of the Papua New Guinea Association of Australia,  
hereby nominate :

..... of .....

.....  
for the position of \* .....

Signature ..... Membership Number (if known) .....

---

I, ..... of .....

.....  
being a financial member of the Papua New Guinea Association of Australia,  
hereby second the above nomination.

Signature ..... Membership Number (if known) .....

---

I, ..... of .....

.....  
being a financial member of the Papua New Guinea Association of Australia,  
hereby accept the nomination.

Signature ..... Membership Number (if known) .....

---

*\* Positions are President; Secretary; Treasurer; Editor; General Committee (6)  
(Please photocopy if you require more than one Nomination form)*

**THIS FORM MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE SECRETARY,  
PNGAA, PO BOX 1386, MONA VALE, NSW, 1660,  
BY 5:00PM ON FRIDAY 28 JANUARY 2011**

**For administrative and cost reasons the committee asks for nominations to be  
forwarded well before this deadline.  
(please refer to Notes on reverse)**

## Notes

Please note that the Management Committee consists of *working volunteers* and candidates should have the capability and experience to do the job. For instance, a minimum of 20 hours a month is needed for committee members. For office bearers, 50-120 hours a month would be a general commitment. Meetings are currently held in Sydney with travel expenses to meetings borne by the member.

Due to the wide geographic spread of the PNGAA Membership, an email ([admin@pngaa.net](mailto:admin@pngaa.net)), preferably containing, as an attachment, a scanned image of the completed Nomination form, or a letter from the Nominee accepting nomination would be acceptable - PNGAA reserves the right however to communicate with the Nominee to verify his/her acceptance. A short bio of no more than 200 words would be appreciated from each person nominated. This should accompany the Nomination form and will be disseminated to members.

The following are the Rules dealing with the Constitution and Membership of the Management Committee together with the Election of Members of that Committee:

### **Rule 15 : CONSTITUTION AND MEMBERSHIP**

- (1) Subject in the case of the first members committee to section 21 of the Act, the committee is to consist of:
  - (a) the office-bearers of the association; and
  - (b) 6 ordinary members or such other number as determined by an annual general meeting each of whom is to be elected at the annual general meeting of the association under Rule 16.
- (2) The office-bearers of the association shall be:
  - (a) the president;
  - (b) the treasurer;
  - (c) the secretary; and
  - (d) the editor of the journal
- (3) The President may not hold that office for more than four consecutive years.
- (4) Each member of the committee is, subject to these Rules, to hold office for two years until the conclusion of the annual general meeting following the date of the member's election but is eligible for re-election.
- (5) In the event of a casual vacancy occurring in the membership of the committee, the committee may appoint a member of the association to fill the vacancy and the member so appointed is to hold office, subject to these Rules, until the Annual General Meeting when the next biennial elections are held.
- (6) The Management Committee has the power to establish or recognise regional groups of members within Australia or in Papua New Guinea and that such groups will be governed by the Rules of the association.

### **Rule 16 : ELECTION OF MEMBERS**

- (1) Nominations of candidates for election as office-bearers of the association or as ordinary members of the committee
  - (a) shall be made in writing, signed by 2 members of the association and accompanied by the written consent of the candidate (which may be endorsed on the form of the nomination);
  - (b) Nominations must be received by the Secretary 28 days prior to the Annual General Meeting
- (2) If insufficient nominations are received to fill all vacancies on the committee, the candidates nominated are taken to be elected and any vacant positions remaining on the committee are taken to be casual vacancies.
- (3) If the number of nominations received is equal to the number of vacancies to be filled, the persons nominated are taken to be elected.
- (4) If the number of nominations received exceeds the number of vacancies to be filled, a postal ballot is to be held notwithstanding the provisions of Rule 33. This will be supervised by one or more independent honorary returning officer(s) appointed by the Management Committee.