



Una Voce News Letter

RETIRED OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA

P.O. BOX 199, MOSMAN, N.S.W. 2088

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18th December 1981

Dear Member -

At long last ! 16 months after being informed by the Minister that our submission for improved benefits for widows and children had been approved, the Department of Finance have telephoned to say that the Regulations have finally been drafted and printed and are expected to go before the Executive Council on 22nd December and to be Gazetted early in the New Year. I understand that the staff of the Commissioner for Superannuation are already preparing the new scales so you lucky ladies should be receiving your extra monies - backdated to July 1979 - soon after the Regulations are Gazetted. Personally I'm also very happy because this was the main task I set myself soon after becoming Honorary Secretary of your Association.

However it is disappointing to know that there are many widows who will willingly accept the new benefits but who have so far not bothered to support the Association by becoming members.

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Our second luncheon of the year was held on Sunday 22nd November and was a very happy occasion. The eighty present - an excellent turnout for Sydney - included members visiting from the A.C.T. and interstate. Mr. Alkan Tololo, C.B.E. Consul-General for Papua New Guinea, was guest of honour and gave a very interesting talk, which included reminiscences about several of the members present, the need to put our experiences in P.N.G. on paper so that the story was not left entirely to academics writing 20 years after the events, and a sincere appreciation of the part officers of the Australian Government had played in bringing his country to Independence.

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Speaking of the need to record our experiences, the Threlfalls who have been working on the story of Rabaul have written to say how appreciative they are of the help given by some Members in sending them information. They have collected information from all over the world as well as PNG and Australia and their book should be definitive and interesting. They can be contacted at 4 Hopegood Place, Garran, A.C.T. 2605 until mid February, and from then at 32 Tavistock St, Wagin W.A

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The Treasurer has suggested that Members may be interested in attending a no-cost seminar on investment, taxation, and related matters. A very good idea, it seems to me; anyone interested please let him know c/- Box 364 Maroubra Junction NSW 2035 or phone 349-7613 and Gabriel Keleny will attend to the details if there is a sufficient response.

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The last amended list of names and addresses of Members was published in March 1981 and the next list will come out about the same time in 1982.

Annual fees of \$4.00 are due on 1st January, so risk the red-back spiders in your pocket or your purse, get your money out and sent it to Treasurer Gabriel at the address in para above.

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Mrs. Lilian Whitechurch has moved to a 112 year old house at Launceston which is providing her with a great deal of interest, and she has issued an invitation to any members visiting her area of Tasmania to contact her on (003) 34-0636

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I recently had a wonderful letter from Bill Cottrell-Dormer, who would be well known to most members. Bill was 80 in August, and his eyes are gradually deteriorating, being virtually blind in the right and not much better in the left. Nevertheless, his letter was full of interest - of the carpentry, cataloguing, and settling in work associated with moving from a house to a home unit. Not a syllable of regret or complaint or worry, but matter of fact and implicitly full of hope. That's why I call it a wonderful letter. Good luck, Kath and Bill.

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Presently showing at the Nimrod Theatre in Sydney but due to tour in other parts of Australia is a play "The Eye of the White" by Tony Strachan, son of Mary Strachan of Lae. Dealing with P.N.G. independence it has received very good notices and four Territorians I know have recommended it.

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Bill Driver is reported to be not very well in Bundaberg Hospital. Get well soon, Bill - the new P.N.G. stamps are due out shortly !

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Once again a section of Australia Post looks as though it will be on strike in Sydney for an indefinite period which will hold up our December issue. I should have learnt my lesson by now and got this out in November !!

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Just a reminder - our postal address now is:

Retired Officers' Association of P.N.G.
P.O. Box 199
MOSMAN N.S.W. 2088

Mrs. Foley clears this box several times each week.



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With deep regret your Committee record the passing of this former Member, and on your behalf extend to his family our sincere sympathy.

Earnest J. Bremen - "Ernie" was a pre- and post-war Customs Officer, ending his career as Controller of Customs. He was also a very fine cricketer - a very fast bowler.

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After five weeks in hospital your Secretary is home once again and would like to thank all the kind people who sent messages and get-well wishes. Those good thoughts were very much appreciated. (He's giving lots of cheek so must be better ! (Asst. Sec.) .



Some time ago a member wrote to ask if we could tell him the meaning of the word 'Namanula'. We have made official and unofficial enquiries and so far have been unsuccessful. If any member can come up with a translation will they please let us know ?

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Another query : Our Treasurer reports that a Mr. W. Bell paid his subs at the 1980 A.G.M. but no address was recorded. So we can't get in touch with him or send him a Newsletter. Can anyone help us locate this Member ?

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On behalf of your President and Committee, I wish all of you a most enjoyable Christmas and both a happy and healthy 1982. May there be fewer strikes, less unemployment, lower inflation and reduced taxation ! Perhaps only a pipedream, but nice to think about, isn't it ?

In this holy period, spare a moment for those among us for whom a caring friend or even merely a caring action would change December 25th or January 1st into a Merry Christmas or a Happy New Year !

Sincerely
FREDDIE KAAD
HON. SECRETARY



Season's
Greetings