



Journal of the  
Papua New Guinea  
Association of  
Australia Inc.

# Una Voce

2016, No 4 – December

Patrons: Major General the Honourable Michael Jeffery, AC, AO (Mil), CVO, MC (Retd), Mr Fred Kaad OBE



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John Groenewald Diaries



No 1 Neighbour



History Teachers of  
Australia Association





# PNGAA SYDNEY



## *Christmas luncheon*

*We look forward to seeing many members and their friends again to farewell another busy year.*

**WHEN** Sunday 4 December 11:30am

**WHERE** Killara Golf Club, 555 Pacific Hwy, Killara, Sydney

Plenty of free parking or only 10 mins walk from Killara Railway Station

**COST** \$65 per person (includes main, dessert & tea/coffee)

**RSVP** Wednesday 24 November to Sara at [events@pngaa.net](mailto:events@pngaa.net)

**PAYMENT** to Bank CBA; BSB 062 009; Account No 0090 7724

Please notify [membership@pngaa.net](mailto:membership@pngaa.net) when payment is made.

*You are welcome to make up your own table of 10 people!*



### Patrons

Major General the Honourable Michael Jeffery,  
AC, AO(Mil), CVO, MC (Retd)  
Mr Fred Kaad, OBE

### Membership

Membership is available to any person with an interest in PNG.  
Annual subscription is \$35. The membership year corresponds with the calendar year. Application forms are available from the Secretary at the address below or our website, [www.pngaa.net](http://www.pngaa.net)  
No receipts are sent for subscriptions as it would add to our postage costs.

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**PNGAA Collection** - For all donations to this collection (photographs, diaries, letters, publications etc.) please contact Steve Burns [sburns1@outlook.com.au](mailto:sburns1@outlook.com.au) or PH (02) 9489 0824

**PNGAA mailing address:** PO Box 453 Roseville, NSW 2069

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

**PNGAA Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/PNGAA/>  
If you do not have access to a computer and would like a hard copy of anything on the website please contact the Secretary, PNGAA.

#### Payments

We encourage members to pay membership fees by direct deposit to the PNGAA account: BSB: 062 009 Account No: 0090 7724  
Please include your Membership Number.  
Please notify the Treasurer by email. Thank you!

**2017, Issue No1**

**COPY DEADLINE for all contributions is 17 January, 2017**  
**To Editor@pngaa.net**

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# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Milestone birthdays are always an occasion to celebrate! On behalf of all our members I'd like to wish two special ladies a very happy 100th birthday! Sr Berenice Twohill, 9 November, and Libby Cadden, 9 December. Libby drove herself to the PNGAA Christmas lunch last December – just amazing! Earlier this year I mentioned that my father, Peter Coote, had been born in Samarai 90 years ago and recently I was delighted to discover that we had another 90-year old PNG/Aussie celebrating her birthday – our best wishes to Mrs Betty Finter who was born in Madang 90 years ago!

The History Teachers Association of Australia recently held their national conference at Sydney Grammar School with Karen McPherson presenting on behalf of the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru group. Additionally, Patrick Bourke spent considerable time identifying appropriate material for the Year 9/10 curriculum and making up presentation folders for delegates to be used on the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru booth. This included the lesson and worksheets, prepared by Patrick Bourke and Karen McPherson, and the related 15-minute DVD 'Some Came Home' produced by John Schindler for the Rabaul and Montevideo Project 150 – the educational package suitable for Years 9/10. If you have contact with a secondary school please consider asking if they would use it in their program! I had one teacher ring me the day after she took a package home – after reading it she was 'blown away' with the outstanding quality of this valuable resource and looking forward to

building it in to her lesson plan. It was wonderful to receive this feedback and I congratulate all involved for the dedication they have put in to ensure the teaching package can be handled in a minimum one or two lessons if need be.

Pat Johnson and Jo Mills assisted Patrick Bourke on the booth during the conference and this was greatly appreciated. Often there are lengthy quiet periods in between bursts of opportunity for those on the booths... and we all know how precious time is!

Karen McPherson stepped in to present the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru story to delegates. Much time and thought went in to her presentation to ensure it was engaging, thought provoking and covered curriculum needs. It's a wonderful reward to receive responses showing that attendees have been inspired! Both Karen and Jo had travelled from Canberra to help, which was again much appreciated.

Whilst the presentation covered WWII in the history curriculum there are other opportunities for future conferences – especially the topic 'Australia in the 20th Century' and how much of it focuses on the role Australia played in PNG.

There has been much background work related to the proposed Australian Community Centre for Pacific Nations (ACCPN) including a meeting which Professor Ken McKinnon and I had with Senator the Hon Concetta Fierravanti-Wells, Minister for International Development and the Pacific. This was later followed up by a



discussion with Gina Wilson in the PNG Branch of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Further discussion is needed. A Round Table Meeting was held on 19 August 2016 to update Pacific island and PNG groups about progress. We thank the Melanesian Lotu Group for their support in hosting this on the day. Leo Oeake, PNG Consul, joined Liz Corner from the Melanesian Lotu Group and Lani from the Melanesian Women's Group to provide a PNG 'welcome' involving a Chief's reconciliation ceremony – this was incredibly moving and greatly appreciated.

Central to this vision for the proposed ACCPN is the relationship between Australia and Papua New Guinea and other Pacific islands. Educating more Australians to think about its nearest neighbours and providing opportunities for those neighbours to engage in activities together is important. The PNGAA's vision is that the ACCPN would serve as a significant educational, cultural and research facility for Australia and the Pacific. It needs enormous support to be successful and I encourage everyone to write to their local member to engage that support.

On page 12 of this issue there is an article by John Quinn highlighting the red carpet treatment and trade agreements accorded PNG Prime Minister O'Neill in a recent visit to Peking, virtually unreported in

Australia but picked up by SBS China News. Why is it that we hear so little about Papua New Guinea in our daily news and yet PNG, our nearest neighbour, has eight million people and is welcomed so readily in other countries? Again I can only highlight the benefit of an Australian Community Centre for Pacific Nations to build upon and increase people to people relationships across the region.

I recently attended the opening of the extension to the PNGVR Museum at Wacol in Brisbane. This is a fascinating museum and anyone with an interest in PNG is encouraged to visit. Another event I attended was at the Australian Museum in Sydney featuring the Asaro Mud Men from Komunive Village in the Eastern Highlands of PNG. It was a fascinating evening and wonderful to see the support they received.

The Crocodile Prize, so ably supported by Keith Jackson, Phil Fitzpatrick, Bob Cleland, Ken McKinnon, the PNGAA and others added another dimension to its list of achievements recently. After attending the Brisbane Writers' Festival for some years, Bob Cleland submitted a formal proposal for four Papua New Guinean writers to present at the 2016 Brisbane Writers' Festival and this was accepted. It was an ideal event to launch these PNG writers on to the international scene! McKinnon – Paga Hill Development Company fellows Francis Nii, Daniel Kumbon and Martyn Namarong travelled from PNG and were joined by Brisbane resident, Rashmii Amoah Bell. Their eloquent discussion over a one-hour session in September was an enormous success. With thanks to Ken and Sue McKinnon I was delighted to meet with Daniel and

his wife Julie, along with Martyn and Ben Jackson when they came to Sydney. Wouldn't it be wonderful to see more of this? Again, a hub such as that envisaged for the Australian Community Centre for Pacific Nations could achieve so much!

The PNGAA has a number of events coming up. We are fortunate in having such an actively interested membership. The DVD 'KIAP: Stories Behind the Medals' will be shown at the Queensland State Library on Saturday 12 November. This will be followed by a fascinating Q&A with four Kiaps – Bob Cleland, Bob Fayle, David Hook and Vin Smith – and then some light refreshments. It will be a memorable afternoon so please come along and bring friends and family. There are also lunches coming up in Brisbane, Adelaide, Perth and Sydney! These are great opportunities to get together and chat with PNG friends. Everyone is welcome and details are in this Una Voce and on the PNGAA website. To help the organisers, and to ensure a place, please RSVP as soon as possible!

Speaking of the website – I know we keep promising it but there is still a bit more to do to ensure it is what we want. There IS much happening to make it happen – several late-night skype sessions have been held between members in Sydney and Adelaide and the website designer to chew over any crinkles. It is a large and complex website contributing a valuable historic resource as well as being relevant for contemporary audiences. I thank Roy Ranney, Eric Dinkin, Lynette Ardin, Nigel Wong, Ross Johnson and Nick Booth for their assistance along this journey.

In this issue you will find a nomination form for the 2017

Annual General Meeting of the PNGAA to be held Sunday 30 April 2017. Please give this urgent attention! The future of the PNGAA needs a strong Management Committee of team players and we have been fortunate to have that, however more assistance is always welcome! I cannot speak highly enough of the current PNGAA Management Committee and the close supporters on the sidelines. It's a fantastic team, so please step up to assist!

### Role of President

The PNGAA has a constitutional requirement that the President has a four-year term as I stated in the 2016 President's Report to the AGM. This enables fresh energy to come in to the association, revitalising it. After coming in as Acting President in December 2011 and then President at the 2013 AGM, I have been privileged to have held the role for five years. I have enjoyed every moment, and can recommend getting to know so many members of this wonderful association as I have done.

I hope we can inspire one of our members to step in at the 2017 Annual General Meeting and enjoy growing the relationship between Australia and PNG through this network of extraordinary members. Please give urgent consideration to your next President and complete the nomination form enclosed.

On behalf of the Management Committee I wish all our members a Merry Christmas – and I look forward to seeing many of you at the Christmas lunch in Sydney on 4 December!

**Andrea Williams**



# Letters



## Letters to the Editor

Many thanks for a wonderfully informative issue of UV. I was pleased to see promotions for PNG tours. We want to do one but it must be safe (accompanied, etc.). Any chance that PNGAA could be involved in organising group tours?

A suggestion I have for the membership register is that there is a column to indicate where members were located in PNG & in what years. Also to persuade members who had different surnames when living in PNG to provide the alternative surname as well as the current surname. Also their company affiliation and if a student, what school. E.g. Mrs Cheryl Pearce (nee Davey), Lae 1954-1958. Madang 1958-1959. Father with Qantas. Attended primary schools in Lae and Madang. Then members can track down people who were living in the same place at the same time. Also, members can be asked about what they remember in given places and times. I hope the ASOPA/Middle Head plans eventuate.

### Cheryl Pearce

**UV** *Many of your suggestions will be accommodated as part of the new web site where members will be able to provide information about their own PNG experiences so that other members can review and make contact if desired.*

I am writing to you after reading Daryl Binning's article in the September Una Voce. I agree with Daryl that the original and correct name should be Kokoda Track. I took a photograph in 1961 of the memorial that then stood near the start of the track. The citation reads:

IN MEMORY OF THE AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES ON THE KOKODA TRACK JUL-NOV 1942 "to strive to seek to find not to yield"

Is this memorial still standing, or has it been replaced by the one mentioned in Daryl's article? PNGAA should maybe start a small campaign to right this very old wrong. Keep up the good work with Una Voce.

### Peter Worsley

I note with interest Greg Knight's article about the Port Moresby's WWI Memorial. As Greg states there is a large granite WWI Memorial gate in the grounds of the Port Moresby Remembrance Park on Healy Road between Ela Beach and the Koki Markets. PNG Remembrance Day is held there each year. There are 129 names of Papuan residents who enlisted for active service during WWI engraved in the granite columns. A name not on this list is Oliver Woodward MC who was in Papua when WWI started though he did not enlist in the AIF until he was living in NSW.

Captain Oliver Woodward MC was in charge of the 1st Australian Tunnelling Company and he was responsible for detonating two massive explosive charges under the Messines Ridge on 7 June 1917. The Ridge was held by the Germans. Oliver Woodward was selected by the Mount Morgan Gold Mining Company to supervise operations when their new copper mines opened in Papua in January 1914. The mine Woodward was at was located at Laloki, about 37 kilometres southeast of Port Moresby. When war broke out with Germany, Woodward was still in Papua working for the

Mount Morgan Gold Mining Company. German New Guinea was very close by. He had to act quickly to look after the 200 indentured Papuan mine workers and dispose of the mining company assets. Woodward then wanted to return to Australia.

The government authorities at Port Moresby were fearful that the German fleet would arrive any minute. So a home defence unit was formed. All able bodied men were called to defend the town. Oliver Woodward volunteered on the condition that when the opportunity arose for him to return to Queensland he could be honourably discharged. The home defence force placed the letters AC, for Armed Constabulary, on their shoulders and then went to guard the radio station and patrol the beaches. Of course with only one ancient cannon they stood little chance of success if the might of the German Navy arrived. In late August two war ships were spotted on the horizon. Fortunately for Woodward and the other residents in Port Moresby the ships were not German. In fact, the ships were the Royal Australian Navy ships, *HMAS Australia* and *HMAS Encounter*, which were on their way to Rabaul to capture the German garrison and the radio station at Bitapaka. The next day (17 August 1914 ) Woodward was able to obtain a discharge from the Armed Constabulary and he boarded the *Matunga* which sailed through the night from Port Moresby to Cooktown.

With his mining skills Oliver Woodward thought he would make a greater contribution to the war effort by continuing in the mines in Australia and produce the copper greatly needed in the war. The turning point came when he received a telegram on 21 August 1915 saying that his cousin, Major Moffat Reid, had died at Gallipoli. He took a train to Sydney and enlisted in the AIF. Woodward soon afterwards joined the new Australian Mining Battalion. And as they say the rest is history. Patrick Bourke, PNGAA Member

This Australian war history has been dramatized in the Australian film, *Beneath Hill 60*. Also, Will Davies has written a book,

*Beneath Hill 60*, in 2010 about this history and Oliver Woodward's life. (Source: *Beneath Hill 60* by Will Davies. Random House Australia. North Sydney. 2010. ISBN 978 1 74166 936 7. Paperback book. 272 pp)

**Patrick Bourke**

## Corrections

Just a small comment about the photo on p.23 which appears to me to have been reversed in the layout of printing this issue. It is otherwise an excellent photo depicting the scene well. I noticed in this photograph our native constabulary members shouldering their personal issue 303 Lee-Enfield rifles on the RIGHT shoulder as they face the parade ground. Their rifles should, of course, be on their left shoulder. This is why the brim on the left side of our traditional slouch hats is turned up. I have advised the article's author, David Montgomery, of this.

**Maxwell Hayes**

*UV Thank you for bringing this detail to our attention. Your understanding was correct.*

## Editor's Note

This year I have asked committee members to send me their recollections of Christmas in PNG. I'm sure some of their stories will stir your own memories. In this issue there are more exceptional recounts of courage and bravery, of endeavour and success. The books reviewed provide even more reading on this amazing country and the people who shaped it; today new voices are coming to international attention. Don't miss the various activities planned for your state in the coming months. I look forward to meeting those who can make it to the Ship Inn, Brisbane on Sunday 16 October.

Have a safe, happy holiday!

**Belinda Macartney**

# ▶ What's on?

Email: [events@pngaa.net](mailto:events@pngaa.net) or [admin@pngaa.net](mailto:admin@pngaa.net)

## October

### 16TH ANNUAL PNGAA ADELAIDE REUNION LUNCH

**WHEN:** Sunday 30 October, 12nn for 12.45pm

**WHERE:** Public Schools Club, Sandford House, 207 East Terrace, Adelaide

**Further information:** Contact Jan Kleinig [janis.kleinig@bigpond.com](mailto:janis.kleinig@bigpond.com) 0438 032 640 Or Peter Thomas [pjthomas@ihug.com.au](mailto:pjthomas@ihug.com.au) 0438 642 294. Barry Taverner will speak on 'Return Journeys'. Barry first became a Cadet Patrol Officer in 1967 serving in Western Highlands, Wabag, Eastern Highlands and Central. He left Papua New Guinea in 1973 following a varied and interesting career. He is still employed by Oilmin as a Field Manager.

## November

### DIANA FERRARI FASHIONABLE FUNDRAISING NIGHT

A night for the ladies! Treat yourself to a night of fun with friends, complimentary drinks and canapes. 20% of all sales will go to the PNGAA for distribution to a charity (for women).

**WHERE:** Diana Ferrari, Shop 2 283 Penrith Plaza

**WHEN:** Wednesday 9 November 2016, 6.30pm – 9pm

**COST:** \$10 PAYMENT to Bank CBA: BSB 062 009; Account No 0090 7724

Please notify [membership@pngaa.net](mailto:membership@pngaa.net) when payment is made.

**RSVP:** 1 November 2016 **Email:** [events@pngaa.net](mailto:events@pngaa.net) or Phone Sara Turner 0401 138 246

### SAMARAI AND MILNE BAY REUNION

**WHEN:** 11 and 12 November 2016

**WHERE:** Novotel Wollongong Northbeach and City Beach Function Centre (Fri and Sat)

Samarai Bank Account Number BSB 032-685 Account Number is 193904. Dick & Liz Sandeman-Gay 2016 Reunion Organisers. Samarai & Milne Bay PNG Reunion

### KIAP: Stories Behind the Medal – screening at Queensland State Library

**WHEN** Saturday 12 November 2016 **TIME:** 2.30pm (film will commence 2.45pm) – 6pm

**WHERE** Auditorium 2 Queensland State Library, Grey Street, South Brisbane

**COST:** \$30 per person, including light refreshments to follow **RSVP:** 25 October 2016 to [admin@pngaa.net](mailto:admin@pngaa.net)

Following the screening there will be a Q & A with former Kiaps Bob Cleland, Bob Fayle, David Hook and Vin Smith to answer further questions about a Kiap's role in pre Independence PNG. Members and friends – all welcome! Numbers are limited though, so please respond ASAP! Please note that we have been advised there will also be a major public event in the precinct and if you are driving it is advisable to arrive early for parking. Payment to Papua New Guinea Association of Australia Inc (Commonwealth Bank): BSB: 062 009 Account No: 0090 7724 with reference 'KIAP' and your name. Please also email [membership@pngaa.net](mailto:membership@pngaa.net) to notify details of the payment, including your phone contact. For more information, please contact Andrea Williams, [president@pngaa.net](mailto:president@pngaa.net) M: 0409 031 889 or Sara Turner [events@pngaa.net](mailto:events@pngaa.net) Copies of the DVD for sale. \$30 members \$35 Non-members

### 2016 AUSTRALIA-PAPUA NEW GUINEA EMERGING LEADERS DIALOGUE RECEPTION

**23 NOVEMBER 2016 - 6:00PM TO 9:00PM**

Gallery of Modern Art, Watermall, Stanley Place, Cultural Precinct, South Bank Brisbane QLD 4000

**COST Free TICKETS** Please register on line [www.lowyinstitute.org/events](http://www.lowyinstitute.org/events) or call 02 8238 9000

The Lowy Institute is pleased to invite you to a reception at the Queensland Art Gallery in Brisbane to celebrate the 2016 Australia-Papua New Guinea Emerging Leaders Dialogue. The Dialogue brings together twenty prominent young leaders from business, civil society and government in both countries to share ideas and form enduring professional connections. This is the flagship event of the Lowy Institute's Australia-Papua New Guinea Network, designed to deepen understanding and ties between the two countries

## December

### PNGAA CHRISTMAS LUNCH, SYDNEY

**WHEN** Sunday 4 December 11:30am **WHERE** Killara Golf Club, 555 Pacific Hwy, Killara, Sydney

Plenty of free parking or only 10 mins walk from Killara Railway Station

**COST** \$65 per person (includes main, dessert & tea/coffee)

**RSVP** Wednesday 24 November to Sara at [events@pngaa.net](mailto:events@pngaa.net)

M: 0401138246 and on separate Treasurer's Corner

PAYMENT to Bank CBA: BSB 062 009; Account No 0090 7724 Please notify [membership@pngaa.net](mailto:membership@pngaa.net) when payment is made. Tables of 10 available – members and friends all welcome.



# Help Wanted

## DID ANYONE OWN AN EH HOLDEN IN PORT MORESBY BETWEEN 1964 & 1995

The EH Holden below has just been restored to its former glory in Port Moresby.



We believe it was built in 1964 so must have been imported into PNG after that. The car was found in a backyard in Moresby & whilst the tyres needed to be re-inflated, fresh fuel & a new battery got it started so it could be driven home. Quite an achievement given how long it had been sitting idle (a few decades we think). After 2 years of detailed restoration this piece of history is now hitting the roads around Moresby & the locals love it screaming “Em nau – taim bilong masta car”. It certainly turns heads!

If you had, or know of anyone who had a Holden EH in Moresby around that era, please let us know by contacting Graeme Grady on [haginia@hotmail.com](mailto:haginia@hotmail.com).

## 1970 RAAF Hercules bogged at Mendi

In July 1970, I was lucky enough to hitch a ride in a RAAF Hercules, as a Second Lieutenant in the Royal Australian Army Nursing Corp( RAANC) based in Brisbane. I was taking my annual leave in PNG, to say hello to old friends before going

to Vietnam. The aircraft left Richmond NSW and headed for PNG.

The Hercules landed perfectly, but the turning bay was too soft and the aircraft tilted to one side as the wheels sunk into the soil. I didn't see the hundreds of locals pull and push the aircraft back onto solid ground and safely fly away. I am seeking photographs of this momentous event please, if you were there?

Contact: Ismay Selby, Mudjimba Sunshine Coast  
Qld M 0427 002 242 [ismay.selby@icloud.com](mailto:ismay.selby@icloud.com)

## Lost negatives of Yellow River Journey

Anthropologist Bill Mitchell, who did research among the Wape of the Torricellis and the Lujerre of Yellow River, has been compiling early historical references to these peoples and JK McCarthy's patrol down the Yellow River in 1936 is of particular interest. Bill wrote to McCarthy in 1973 and after an initial reply from McCarthy stating he had negatives of the trip, there was no further reply. The Australian National Library does not appear to have the negatives. Would anyone out there know what may have become of them?

Contact Barry Craig, South Australian Museum  
[barry.craig@samuseum.sa.gov.au](mailto:barry.craig@samuseum.sa.gov.au)

## Volunteer researcher sought

A volunteer researcher is sought to identify and list in a publishable form the Papua New Guineans who were given awards, imperial and Australian, by Australia. These awards would include those given to civilians and the military by Australia and Australian States from when Australia became involved with Papua in 1884 and New Guinea in 1914 to the present.

Contact Phil Ainsworth [P.Ainsworth@Kingco.com.au](mailto:P.Ainsworth@Kingco.com.au)

## The Port Moresby Game Fishing Club

The Port Moresby Game Fishing Club is having an anniversary celebration, but needs to know what year the Club was formed? If anyone out there can shed light on this date, it would be appreciated.

Contact Brett Schofield on 0419245273 or email [acrabah@nor.com.au](mailto:acrabah@nor.com.au)

# Committee Round-up

**The Committee wishes all PNGAA members and their families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.**

## Christmas in my PNG years (1966-1977)

by Murrough Benson

My first Christmas in PNG was 1966 and I headed to the coast for a bit of a break from my posting as didiman in charge at Gumine in the Chimbu District. The first leg of the trip was the two-hour plus 30-mile road trip to Kundiawa, then by plane to Goroka and Lae the next day. A couple of long (but no doubt very restrained) nights there with former agricultural college mates and then it was on to Madang where we had three days with the teacher sister of one of them. 'Real' meals for those few days were a wonderful change from the basic fare to which I had become accustomed since my arrival in PNG ten months earlier.

Next year I was on leave in Australia after my first 21-month term so a most enjoyable Christmas was spent on the family dairy farm in south-west Victoria. I headed back to PNG a bit early to my new posting at Kundiawa. The haus didiman was conveniently located next to haus sista so that sorted out our social calendar for the next 21 months. So well sorted, in fact, that Joy, one of the girls next door, and I were married in Townsville just before Christmas 1969. Our honeymoon was spent catching up with many friends and family as we toured the east coast of Australia in a caravan and EH Holden that we bought to address the 'homeless' state in which we now found ourselves for three months.

Back in PNG, a seven-month stint at Murua, a one-hour canoe trip up the river from Kerema in the Gulf District was followed by a move to Moresby where I worked for seven years with the PNG Development Bank. Joy worked at the hospital, much of the time as Deputy Matron. Expatriate staff with children tended to go 'south' on leave at Christmas time, leaving those without children to run the place over the holiday period. Joy therefore spent most of the next seven Christmases either on duty (until mid-afternoon) or on call but that didn't stop us enjoying the festive season with friends – as indeed we did at all times.



**Macartney family  
'going South'**

## Going South by Belinda Macartney

When I think of my PNG Christmas memories, an often asked question was "What are you doing for Christmas?". And the answer was "Going South".

'South' referred to the Australian mainland anywhere from Cairns to Melbourne and all ports west. Mine was a Queensland family so every two years, we would head for the Gold Coast. In the late 50s early 60s, this was a different place to the one we know today. It was a real beach holiday with a green rolling surf, blisteringly hot white sand, excruciating sunburn, and plenty of fishing.

Early each morning, we would walk across the two-lane Pacific Highway, up Elkhorn Avenue to Surfers Paradise beach, often before the life-savers had started their day. After a surf we would buy hand-squeezed orange juice from Harry-de-Wheels before heading home for a breakfast of fresh whiting or bream. The women wore gorgeous Paula Stafford costumes; the men drank rum and milk from small Vegemite jars that served as sturdy non-breakable kitchen glasses. As we got older, our teenage days were spent at the Shell Bar in Cavill Avenue drinking iced coffees from chunky bamboo beakers and watching the free-wheeling world go by—far from the austerity of boarding school life.

Other years, as a school girl at home in PNG for those much-appreciated long breaks with family, Christmas meant more sunburn at Ela Beach with a crowd of others home from down South. My precious dog, Skimmer, who loved to swim as much as I did, was never far from my side. One year when we stayed in Port Moresby for Christmas, our wonderful house staff let it slip that he had been taught to cook by his first German employer and so we enjoyed a full, hot European Christmas meal, complete with paper crowns and a steamed plum pudding. In the midday heat, with an interesting bunch of 'orphaned singles' invited to join us—and a pile of presents under a wilting branch of casuarina tree revived in a bucket of wet sand—this became our family's long-held PNG tradition.



### Christmas offerings

by Paul Munro

My first Christmas away from home was in Moresby in 1960; I was one of 3 Law undergraduates in an Undergraduate Employment Program designed to bolster recruitment; I hoped to escape family critiques to which I expected exposure when my final year exam results demonstrated that I was well short of qualifying for an academic career! I was later told that when I came back the following April I was the first and only ever recruit from that program. I have almost no recollection of that Christmas; I think Christmas was lost in spirits, rather in an alcoholic haze from exposure to other undergraduates and good cheer at the Four Mile Hostel where we were billeted with some hardened Territorians. My clearest memory is of filling a Gin squash with what I thought was water to discover it was pure gin.

The first true Christmas I recall was at the Boroko home of Rob and Irene O'Regan. They made the day as close to the traditional hot-turkey-and-roast feast as could be made for young expats away from loved ones. The Dickensian warmth of that Christian yuletide gathering endures still after 55 years. God blessed me and us all in providing such friends.



### AGM – Papua New Guinea Association of Australia Inc – Nomination forms due 31 January 2016

To be held on Sunday 30 April 2017

**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 Tuesday 31 January 2017.**

Refer the PNGAA Rules, Clause 16 ELECTION OF MEMBERS

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 in. 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 by email at [admin@pngaa.net](mailto:admin@pngaa.net).

Please remember: Nomination forms can be received no later than 5pm Tuesday 31 January 2017.

### **Belinda Macartney (UV editor) and Ally Martell (PNGAA member) attended the launch of this Anthropology Museum collection-based collaborative exhibition of materials held at UQ from, and about, the Solomon Islands. The exhibition runs till June 2017.**

The Anthropology Museum cares for a significant collection of non-Western art and artefacts including contemporary Pacific and Australian Indigenous artwork. The Museum also holds a collection of 6500 photographs. It is by far the largest of UQ's museum collections and the largest university collection of ethnographic material culture in Australia.

**Where:** Level 1 Michie Building, University of Queensland, St Lucia, Brisbane, Queensland

**When:** August 2016 - June 2017. Open Monday – Friday except public holidays 11am – 3pm

**Free Entry**



# Committee Round-up

## ROTARY PNG

By Steven Gagau (August 2016)

PNGAA Committee Member, Steven Gagau, also a Rotarian, was involved in a PNG community project during August 2016 for the supply and installation of solar power and water tanks to a remote primary school in the Trobriand Islands, Milne Bay Province.



The Rotary Team led by Steven (third from left) successfully completed at the Vakuta Primary School on Vakuta Island the following:

- Solar power to 5 teacher houses of 300Watts systems
- Solar power to 1 new double classroom and office of 800W system
- Solar lighting of 2 security lights of 20W systems
- 6 water tanks of 2 of 3,000 litres and 4 of 2,370 litres to teacher houses and 2 double classrooms.

The school office now has power for the office for computers, copier and printers and lighting and outlets for other office equipment. The teachers now have power and lighting to their homes for computers, other home appliances like jugs, small fridge and charging mobile phones.

Steven, a member of the Rotary Club of Umina Beach and Project Manager has established partnerships with PNG Rotary Club of Boroko and local solar supplier, Solar Energy Solutions



(SES) and Milne Bay Hardware (MBH) for the supply, delivery and installation work of this project and future projects.

Steven believes that PNG rural and remote communities need our act of generosity collectively as most of our educated people were once in this space from our humble beginnings. It all starts with an education and without access to basic infrastructure like power, water and technology, our future generation will continue to be disadvantaged and our children will be hindered from reaching their full potential in early education.

Steven further believes as a humble Rotarian that it's about "Service Above Self" for He/She Profits Most Who Serves Best!

# PNG IN THE NEWS

**PNG in the News reflects the work of news reporters. Here is an excerpt of one reporter's impressions of the working conditions he has found there.**

<http://abcnewsgathering.tumblr.com/post/139814679306/png-the-abcs-best-foreign-posting>

**ABC News reporters in PNG – Liam Fox and Eric Tlozek July 2016**

**By Eric Tlozek**

There's CCTV security cameras at the ABC News bureau and we have guards on duty 24 hours a day, but Fooey is the best security because she's a pretty fearsome looking dog. She's actually very friendly to most people, except tradesmen, but Papua New Guineans generally have a fear of big dogs.

PNG's completely under-rated. It's very old school journalism, very hands on. You are connected to everyone in Port Moresby. It's a small, intense place and you get to know everyone. You get tip offs and hear rumours from people. Despite PNG's bad reputation, the people are by and large very welcoming, very warm and friendly and just so excited that someone is there to hear their story.

Port Moresby is still confronting. I've been to a lot of developing countries and you don't see

that degree of fortification and tension. Someone described it to me that it can feel like the 'light' version of a warzone and that was from an ex-soldier, but, like Liam, I actually discovered that it's really a very friendly place.

In the morning I go into the office and check with the Prime Minister's office, check if there's anything happening in court that day. Usually, I try to talk to the police every day, but they don't answer every day, so it's pretty hard sometimes to find out what's happening. You have to follow social media closely, as that is how news travels in PNG. You have to do a pretty thorough facebook check, because that's where everyone seems to put the news, rather than the more traditional media.

The main challenge in PNG is getting hold of people, short of just rocking up and often we do just rock up. I've been chasing the Governor of the National Capital District for two months and he just keeps avoiding me. I turned up at a press conference because I knew he would be there and he didn't turn up. After an hour we left and he'd actually been waiting in a car and then walked in to the press conference as we were driving away.

I find most PNG people are actually quite honest. You don't need to find stuff out about people the hard way, you just ask them - if you can find them of course - you just ask them and generally they will answer

that question honestly. That's the amazing thing about PNG.

Working in PNG is harder too in terms of lack of infrastructure, lack of communications infrastructure, internet speed, mobile reception, things that people in Australia take for granted.

It's a very frustrating, intense place and as a reporter working there you need a reservoir of patience and good humour to get through things, but, for the most part, I just loved it.

It's such a shame that PNG has this negative image when, in many cases, it's not deserved. If it didn't have this image maybe more Australians would go there and holiday there and realise what an amazing place it is. It should be one of the adventure tourism capitals of the world. It's got everything, trekking, fishing, bird watching, white water rafting, sailing, beaches and mountains.

I think PNG is very important. It's our closest neighbour, four kilometres away in the Torres Strait. You can see PNG from islands in the Torres Strait and Australia used to run the place. They listen to Australian music, you go to a pub they are playing Cold Chisel, ACDC. John Farnham is still big there. They love rugby league, they are crazy fans for rugby league, you can talk rugby league to any Papua New Guinean person you run into, and it's all on our doorstep.

# PNG IN THE NEWS

## IS AUSTRALIA AWARE AND, MORE IMPORTANTLY, DOES AUSTRALIA CARE?

I have taken to watching the English language China T.V. service on SBS television. As it comes on at 5.00 a.m., it's a matter of recording the half hour program and reviewing it at a more respectable time. One learns all sorts of interesting news which never ever get a mention on our commercial channels and, surprisingly are totally ignored by "your ABC" and the more responsible channels and the printed media e.g.:

- (1) the visit, a couple of months ago, of Chinese Premier Li Keqiang to Egypt (with the Egyptian Foreign Minister gushing praise on "the meeting of two ancient civilizations"), Iraq and Iran with the signing of multi-billion dollar trade, defence and economic development deals with those countries. All in an area which has long been regarded as a Western sphere of influence.
- (2) The recent visit of the Greek Prime Minister to Beijing and the sale of the Greek trading and ship-building port of Piraeus to a Chinese company. This being one of the busiest ports in Europe.

You are probably wondering what all this has to do in a magazine devoted to Papua New Guinea. What made me sit up and take notice was an article on the visit of a Papua New Guinea delegation led by Prime Minister, Peter O'Neill from the 5th to the 10th July!

The P.M. was given a red-carpet welcome by China's Premier Li Keqiang in Tianamen Square with a 21-gun salute, an inspection of a People's Liberation Army Honour Guard, a PLA band playing PNG's

National Anthem, with all of the panoply that China does so well. Then over to the Great Hall of the People for a greeting from President Xi Jinping before the two sides sat down for (quote) "in-depth exchanges of views on issues of shared interest, including the development of bilateral relations, and reached broad agreement "(unquote), according to the official Joint Press Release.

A Google Search under "Papua New Guinea's Prime Minister Peter O'Neill visit to China in July, 2016" will give you full details but, briefly, I will quote some of the important points:

- (a) "China and PNG warmly celebrated the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties
- (b) "Both countries will step up exchanges and co-operation between Government Departments—and strengthen mutual understanding and political trust"
- (c) PNG "respects China's principled position on the South China Sea issue"
- (d) "enhance bilateral co-operation and co-ordination in the U.N., APEC, and the Pacific Islands Forums"
- (e) "China will provide support and help to PNG for its hosting of the 2018 Economic Leaders meeting"

More importantly, there were a number of specific mutual agreements:

- (1) A China-PNG Civil Aviation Agreement
- (2) A feasibility study for a China/PNG Free Trade Agreement
- (3) A concessional loan for something called the Lae Tidal

Basin West Side industrial development project.

- (4) The reconstruction and upgrading to 4 lanes of a section of the Highlands Highway
- (5) A credit loan for the PNG National Submarine Fibre Cable Network

What is of concern and what should be of concern to those of us in Australia who have a love of and an interest in PNG is that there has NOT BEEN A HINT, NOT A WHISPER of this important event in ANY of our print and electronic media!

I could be wrong, but the only PNG news I have recently seen have been an article on a women-only bus in Port Moresby, a couple of articles on the Port Moresby University riots and an ABC article on "raskol" gangs along the Highlands Highway - all which, to me at least, border on disparaging what is happening in that country.

I have written before, in the December 2015 issue of this magazine, of the utter lack of interest by the Australian media in what is really happening in PNG and now, with our Government's seeming fixation as the U.S. appointed Deputy Sheriff to the far-away Middle East, I am seriously beginning to wonder whether we care or are aware of what is happening in a country we share a common border with and which should be of a major concern for us.

John B Quinn  
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(PNG from 1959 to !975)



## FLORA & FAUNA RECORDS GIVEN TO PNG

Submitted by Don Hook

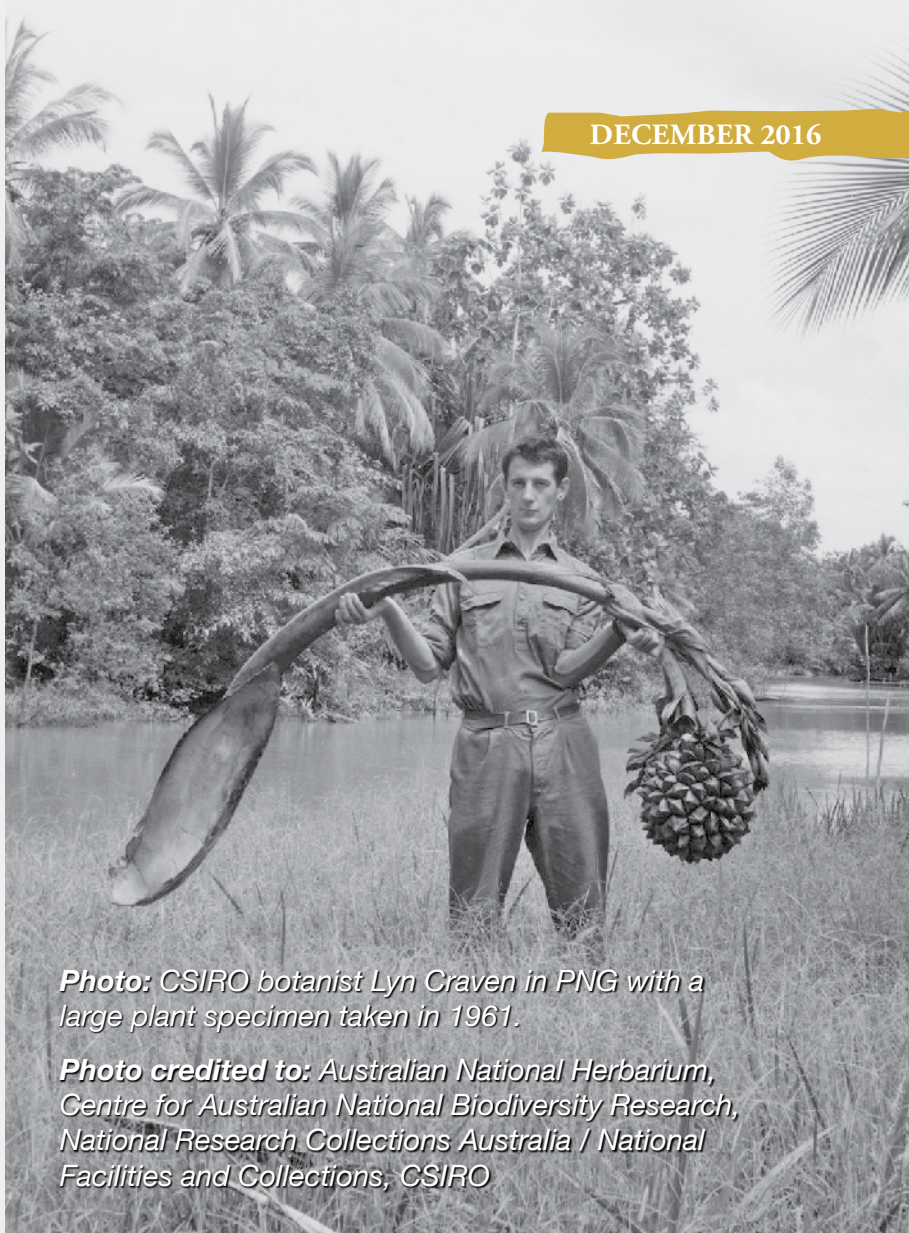
Australia has given Papua New Guinea more than 100,000 records of plant and animal specimens collected since the 1950s in what's been described as a "really rich" source of data. The gift from the Canberra-based Australian National Herbarium will help the PNG Government manage conservation and tourism, especially along the popular Kokoda Track.

Australian researchers have been fascinated by the flora and fauna of New Guinea since the middle of last century but until recently most of their work was recorded on handwritten or typed notes taped to the specimen and kept in Canberra. Today, the herbarium has started digitising its PNG collection adding thousands of records to its digital database.

The curator Brendan Lepschi, quoted in the Sydney Morning Herald, says the aim in digitising the collection is to make it available for conservation agencies. "It's a really rich source of data. It's invaluable. But you can't recreate it, and you can't go recollect this stuff, a lot of it is historical" he said.

To date, Australia's gift to PNG includes 11,778 insect records, 13,269 animal records (amphibians, reptiles, mammals, birds) and 79,774 plants.

Lepschi says it's information the PNG Conservation and Environment Protection Authority is pleased to receive. "The authority wants to protect the region's biodiversity as it faces increasing foot traffic particularly in popular tourist areas such as the Kokoda Track and the Owen Stanley Range" says Mr Lepschi.



*Photo: CSIRO botanist Lyn Craven in PNG with a large plant specimen taken in 1961.*

*Photo credited to: Australian National Herbarium, Centre for Australian National Biodiversity Research, National Research Collections Australia / National Facilities and Collections, CSIRO*



*Consul General Sumasy Singin on the occasion of PNG's 41st anniversary of Independence at NSW Parliament House, Sydney hosted by Mr Daryl Maguire MP, Member for Wagga Wagga and Chairman of NSW Parliament Asia Pacific Friendship Group.*



# PNGAA Collection

The process of updating the PNGAA Collection register is on-going and all your donations are welcome. Revised details will be available online and in following issues of Una Voce. In the meantime, PNGAA would like to acknowledge donations of personal memorabilia from Mary Young recording her time in the Gulf District in the 1960s and also books received from Gaynor Kaad.

Anne Young has donated her copy of the ABC's recording Tripela Lik Lik Pik to the PNGAA Collection. Details on back of jacket: This unique story of the Three Little Pigs was translated into Pidgin and adapted to a Melanesian setting by The Reverend Paul Freyberg of the Lutheran mission at Madang. Mr Freyberg was the Chief Translator of the Nupela Testamen - the New Testament in Pidgin. The story was broadcast by Superintendent Mike Thomas in the ABC's Daily Learning Pidgin Series.

PNGAA President Andrea Williams supplied this photo of the other well-known tale (Little Red Riding Hood). If anyone knows the artist responsible for the jacket illustration, please let UV know.



**For enquiries regarding donations to the PNGAA collection,  
please contact [sburns1@outlook.com.au](mailto:sburns1@outlook.com.au) Stephen Burns, Committee member**

# Seek and ye shall find!

by Robyn Watters

A long standing family mystery has been solved. Last year in *Una Voce* I asked for help to find my Great Uncle Ted's first wife – the Rabaul wife who he married in 1927 and then divorced in 1932. All I had was a photo of a possible first wife (found in his Rabaul photo collection) and the exact date of divorce. Great Uncle Ted, a legend in our Melbourne family – attractive, adventurous, intelligent, interesting and interested – was at last snared into marriage aged 37. Who was she? How did the marriage come adrift so soon?

## First Wife - Found and then Lost Again

Her name was Ida Roslyn Bettes and she was known as Betty born in 1895 in Staffordshire. In Rabaul, she became Mrs. Betty Brown, wife of Ted Brown (Edwin Tylor Brown), barrister and solicitor, former AN&MEF captain.

The marriage came adrift when Gregory Bateson, Cambridge anthropologist and Betty locked eyes across the dinner table of noted Papua and New Guinea diarist Sarah Chinnery. An ominous entry for 6 February

1929 says that Mr. and Mrs. Brown came to dinner at her house which Gregory Bateson also attended. In November 1932 Sarah notes that "Gregory Bateson is an awfully nice chap – 6'4" and very handsome". (1)

Why is this significant? The 1932 English divorce file of Ted and Betty lists Gregory Bateson as the co-respondent to Ted's divorce proceedings against Betty. Betty was unfaithful with Gregory.

Betty and Sarah though were not the only ones to find single Gregory Bateson attractive, so did Margaret Mead. Sarah described the lead-up to that relationship in her May 22 1933 entry: "just before Christmas 1932, where Mead met Bateson". Mead later recounted in her autobiography "Greg and I were falling in love". Mead, her then husband Dr. Reo Fortune and Bateson all went their separate ways by the end of 1933 but Mead and Bateson later met up in the United States in 1935 and married the following year.

History accords not only Margaret Mead but both Gregory Bateson and his father William a special place in science. Professor William Bateson was the first person to use the term 'genetics' to describe the study of heredity. His son Gregory also achieved lasting scientific prominence in anthropology and other fields of endeavour.

The intellectual fire-power of the Bateson family could have intimidated a lesser man than Ted but Ted, ever the high-calibre barrister and solicitor, went to the English High Court of Justice and

got an order that Gregory pay for his (Ted's) costs of bringing the action. Whether Gregory paid up is another matter.

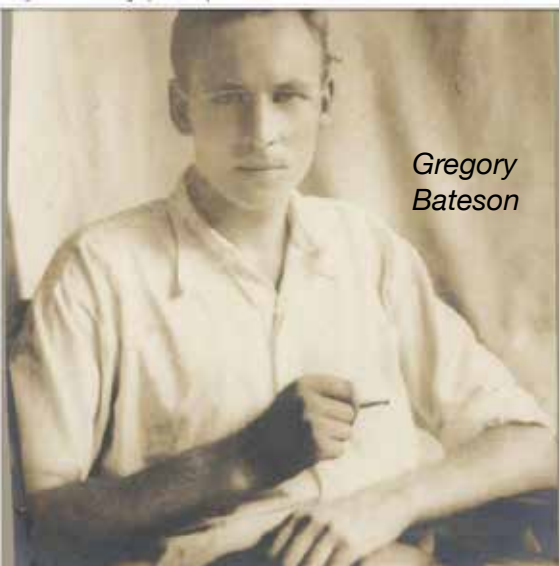
## First Wife's Relationships

Betty continued the relationship with Gregory Bateson in London after the 1929 blossoming in the Rabaul dining room. They travelled together to Brisbane in November 1931 as evidenced by the shipping record where Gregory and Betty were listed as students living at the same address – 105 King Henry's Road, N. W. 3. They were both 36 years of age.

Betty had met her future and third husband, Hugh Alexander MacKenzie in 1930, in Rabaul (2) and cemented this relationship when they married on 22 November 1932 in Marienburg, New Guinea after her divorce from Ted in September that year. Hugh MacKenzie was a retired naval officer who had become a trader.

Betty may have been dissatisfied with marriage to long-term bachelor Ted Brown, "popular" as he was. (3) Or she could possibly have made a rebound marriage to Ted in 1927 after she'd been widowed in 1926 to first husband Harold Eric McLennan, former banana grower in Nambour, Queensland. She may also have experienced a coup de foudre with Gregory Bateson and a slower burn relationship culminating in her third marriage to Hugh MacKenzie. All conjecture.

Three marital and one de facto relationship within six years



Gregory  
Bateson



spanning three countries makes Betty an interesting woman. All three living men – Ted, Gregory and Hugh – were tremendously attractive alpha males.

Colonial society is worthy of an anthropological study in itself.

### What became of Hugh and Betty?

Hugh and Betty after some years operating the trading schooner Pato established Megigi and Matavulu plantations on the Hoskins Peninsula of New Britain. During the war Hugh rejoined the Navy and served as a coastwatcher. He rose to the rank of Lieutenant Commander and was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for his efforts. For her part Betty worked in an armaments factory in Sydney. In 1948 Hugh died in an accident, coincidentally his first wife Helena Stuke also died that same year. Betty eventually retired to Queensland and died in 1975 aged 80. (2)

For a deeper look at their story, you'll have to read the November 1916 publication of *Australia's Argonauts* by retired RAN Vice Admiral Peter Jones to find out what happened to them. Peter's upcoming book tells the story of the first class of officers to join the Royal Australian Naval College. This includes Hugh MacKenzie.

<https://www.echobooks.com.au/book-shop/australias-argonauts>



### Ted – The Eternal Bachelor?

Not really. Ted shut up legal shop at the end of 1930 in Rabaul. After 13 years in Rabaul as a barrister and solicitor, he may have found it time to move on in any event coloured by his disastrous marriage. Additionally, he had two elderly parents in Melbourne to look after. This combination of factors may have pulled Ted back home to Melbourne. Once again, conjecture.

He took off for Russia in 1931 and again in 1932 with visits in between to England to divorce. He went back to England in 1934. He became an author. He then spent time in India in 1939 and eventually married his second wife in 1944. Ted Brown married Miss Molly Jones, an Australian woman educated at the University of Oxford. They travelled extensively in Western Europe, ultimately divorcing in 1956 with him passing in 1957.

### Sleuthing

I went down lots of blind alleys trying to find first wife Betty. Marriage and divorce searches in every state and territory of Australia and NZ brought no joy. Rabaul Anglican and Uniting church archives appeared to be non-existent as do Rabaul government records what with volcanic eruption, the Japanese invasion and weather disasters dogging good record keeping. Fortunately on Ted's divorce file, I found his Rabaul marriage certificate.

Finally, fellow PNGAA member Anne Peters gave me a lead I'd dismissed – that of the United Kingdom English National Archives divorce records. I'd briefly searched there dismissing the relevant record due to slight



name and date variations. Anne persisted. Thank you Anne. Lesson learned, follow every thread.

She also pointed me towards two genealogy Profiles of Betty albeit only one with the surname of Brown and pointed out the subsequent third marriage in New Guinea which gave a clue as to where Betty had been living.

To extract information, I've also badgered a range of people including historian Dr. Peter Cahill (University of Queensland) who is a regular contributor to *Una Voce* and writer of the history of the Chinese in Rabaul; Philip Selth, another fellow PNGAA member and barrister-tamer; retired RAN Vice Admiral Peter Jones, naval historian; various genealogy societies, PNG record keeping authorities, the legal fraternity in PNG and the principal, Sue McBeth, of Australia's largest company of professional genealogists, MacBeth Genealogical Services who provide services to the legal profession. Sue produced the DiggerTM genealogical tool.

### Further Work

I'm content for a while as I've now identified all 16 of my great-great grandparents. It has been identity building. Ted left no issue; his niece, my mother Dorothy Brown, received all the interesting PNG wares including many gifts from his Chinese clients. I in turn, also a solicitor, am the keeper of all things Ted Brown.

My advice to fellow family genealogists is to keep on sleuthing with that family riddle.

### References

1. *Malaguna Road*, The Papua and New Guinea Diaries of Sarah Chinnery (published by the National Library of Australia 1998, edited by Kate Fortune)
2. Peter Jones' research
3. *Rabaul Times* 12 December 1930 description of Ted Brown

# John Groenewald's Diary of the 1963 Star Mountains Patrol.

By Judith Blogg

The 1963 Fitzer patrol of the Star Mountains of PNG, the first of its kind into that high, wild country, is well documented. But for a graphic description of the incredible hardships faced by the patrol you need to read the day by day diary of surveyor John Groenewald. In nearly five months, John reckoned the patrol walked some 500 miles and he should know. Walked? More specifically waded through mud and rivers, slipped from rocks and logs, scaled impossible cliffs, crossed swift-flowing rivers, sweated in the swamplands, shivered at daytime highs of 64° in rain and drizzle and froze in camps at altitudes of 8,700 ft. And these hardships were second to the concern about where the next meal was coming from.

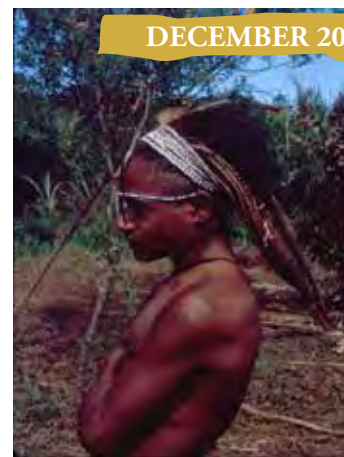
A South African, John was attracted to work with the Snowy Mountains Authority where he learnt to use the Wild T4 theodolite. This skill was a prerequisite for the PNG patrol and he accepted the Department of National Mapping challenge, making his first unforgettable visit to PNG in January 1963. His task was to prepare a rough track map using compass bearings and estimates of the distance they covered and to make astronomical position line fixes. The fix sites had to be marked for subsequent aerial photography in order to ascertain the geographical data. In his words "this was all very well in theory but astronomical observations were virtually impossible" since they were either shrouded in cloud or enveloped by jungle. He managed only 13 fixes over the whole patrol.

Led by DO Des Fitzer, with ADO Ross Henderson and Groenewald, a small group of police and around 60 carriers, the patrol set off on January 17 from Kiunga on the Fly River. Having previously identified from aerial reconnaissance the "top pocket" near Mt Capella as their ultimate target, the route took them along

barely identifiable tracks that led from swampy, leech-plagued low country into the craggy, cloudy, precipitous mountains that span PNG and West Irian (now Papua).

Walking up to seven hours a day, at times they strayed at times across the border into West Irian, always seeking a route to the "top pocket". They built bridges and contrived ladders to scale sheer bluffs. They fought off bees and mosquitoes, they nursed blisters, they were always damp and dirty and regularly drenched. John struggled with observations and maps in impossible conditions and they encountered villagers who almost certainly had never seen a white man and who, John observed, wore little and looked "rather wild". They also had moments of sheer delight at the unfolding magnificence of the country they were struggling through, of jumping into crystal clear pools and cleaning up and even, on rare occasions, sunbaking at their camp.

Food was the constant worry; when supplies could no longer be conveyed by river, the higher they went the more difficult it became to find suitable sites for airdrops. Despite the comings and goings of the carriers there were always many hungry mouths to feed and their progress depended entirely on food - when it was scarce they had to wait at the best available site for a drop until it came and when it arrived they could walk only as far as the carriers could progress with their new loads of rice and bully beef. More than once they could hear a plane searching for them and the disappointment was extreme when they realised it had given up trying to find them. On other occasions, the daring of the pilots flying in at







treetop level left them stunned. Often they were able to buy food at the various villages they passed through, largely taro and now and again a pig. They traded with match boxes and small beads.

The three of them devised cunning ways to disguise the “boy’s meat” they inevitably had to fall back on but John wrote that on occasion he felt weakened by hunger as they got further into the mountains. At one stage the food position became so critical the decision was made to turn back just as a drop succeeded with a load of rice and bully beef, a few welcome treats like frozen steak and much sought-after mail.

Des and John were dismayed when, on March 13, Ross was summoned back to Kiunga to present as a witness in a murder case. This was disappointing as the three of them got on well and it was unlikely he would return in time to complete the patrol. He was to be replaced by

Dan Claason who failed to materialise. So it was just the pair of them that pressed their party on and ever up.

At several villages they were told there was no track to the “top pocket” but Fitzer decided this merely showed a reluctance to guide them into difficult country and they struggled on. It was slow, slow going. But they eventually proved Fitzer right when, near the foot of Mt Capella, they found a group willing to show them the way. By then they were becoming critically short of food again and were devastated by a radio message from Daru to say if they attempted their goal no airdrop could be guaranteed. John describes Fitzer’s anger and determination to continue regardless. They had come so far! But the terrain was dreadful and it became necessary to hack their way through jungle, at times crawling on hands and knees and at one point wading 200 yards up an icy stream. The terrain, the state of the carriers and lack of food defeated them. The party turned back and finally met up with Dan Claason before heading for Telefomin. John observed their descent into a broad grassy valley on the other side of the “Stars” by writing “It is just unbelievable that two sides of a mountain can be so different.”



Overwhelmed by the hospitality offered at tiny Telefomin, scene of the murder of two kiaps only 10 years before, they ate, drank and partied hard, somewhat embarrassed about the tattered state of their clothing. Ross rejoined them at Telefomin but no sooner had he arrived than he was ordered to take the remnants of the patrol back to Kiunga while Des and John were to wait at Telefomin for the arrival of the Governor-General. Then John would return to Australia and Des was to fly to Daru. The arrangement was frustrating but Des and John filled in time awaiting the G.G. by joining a short medical patrol into the Oliptamin Valley. Back at Telefomin, the big moment finally arrived and the pair was introduced to the G.G. about whom John noted “he seems quite nice but of course very English”.

The kiaps were not happy about the tame conclusion to their heroic patrol which was supposed to be a Kiunga to Kiunga round-trip on foot. It seemed cruel now the hard part was behind them but as it turned out only Des suffered the ignominy.





“The best laid plans Of Mice and Men” wrote John, whose belongings were already on their way south via Moresby when Natmap decided he was to return to Kiunga with Ross, taking astrofixes on the way. The pair, with their police and carriers, left the comfort of Telefomin on April 22 and soon crossed back into Papua. The track they followed was a considerable improvement on their earlier struggles and main points of interest were checking out potential airstrip sites, taking astrofixes whenever possible, mapping and calculating and contending with the Pnyang river, a tributary of the Ok Tedi, which at that time was known as the Alice. One of their two crossings of the Pnyang was by way of a cane suspension bridge, 200 ft long and anchored at each end by large trees. Not having previously experienced this novelty, John confessed that the shaky, swaying contraption was thoroughly unnerving and he was amazed he reached the other bank. The second time they had to cross the same crocodile infested river they had planned on making a raft when a policeman decided to swim across while the others watched in trepidation. He made it safely and hijacked a canoe so they abandoned the raft but John noted that conveying the whole party across this swift-flowing river in a small canoe was a slow and nerve-racking process.

As the walking became easier they pushed themselves harder walking often seven and eight hours a day. By the end of May they had left the mountains behind and it was not only getting a lot warmer but becoming popular with binetangs. John was bitten all over and wrote that he was getting heartily sick of the discomforts. Now they encountered regularly patrolled villages and, instead of camping, found kiap rest houses where they could stay along the way.

At last, sore of foot in boots with paper-thin soles, sweaty and dirty and beset by festering sores, they struggled through the flat swamp country and arrived back at Kiunga on June 7, 152 days after they left it. Their arrival was acclaimed, their achievement had been recognised by the Governor-General and in the press and there was profound satisfaction in knowing what they had survived despite the frustration of not reaching the “top pocket”. Happy to be idle for a few days and soaking up a cold beer or two before flying out, John was the only one of the three expatriates to complete the entire patrol. He later observed “the Star Mountains Patrol was one of the most exciting and memorable experiences of my life”.



# Vudal and the Mataungans 1970

By Gordon Dick

Gordon Dick was Principal of Vudal Agricultural College in 1970.  
This is Instalment #5 of his story.

## Recollection Nine: The October Evictions

There were periods when we appeared to be living with a stalemate. The presence of police personnel and vehicles became all pervasive in Rabaul as well as on the country roads. Rumours of a coming major confrontation with the 'squatters' grew. I asked for information and for adequate pre-warning so that staff and families could move out. Many of those who had families or access to accommodation in Rabaul had by now moved.

When the big raid began (before 6 am) the leading vehicle entering the college area turned into the principal's residence. A senior patrol officer shouted at me "We were told to give you warning. This is it. Don't try to leave. We have a total road block behind us. "Again about 40 truckloads of armed police were in the first group.

I dressed and hurried to visit all staff on the campus. I suggested that we all move into the college administration area – and that is where we spent most of the day. Helicopters clattered overhead and a few more vehicles came up the road. Blessedly we heard no gunfire. I met the students coming to the dining hall for breakfast. Many were agitated and I tried to calm them. I told them that because of the noise and uncertainty there would be no classes that day. They could do private study or catch up with laboratory practical work. But no-one was to go out of the college area.

These things done, I drove to Keravat where the usual road-block was on the Keravat bridge

– drums of concrete with heavy chains holding them in pairs and padlocked chains from these across the roadway. As I arrived I could see the highest ranking police officer\* addressing rows of mostly European police. As I walked towards him I saw European primary school children playing about the open area. I asked "Who is looking after the children?" He said "I presume the teachers are." I replied (knowing both teachers were from Vudal) "They, good souls, are on the other side of your total road-block". He said "It was never a total road-block." An officer nearby said "Excuse me sir, you told us it was a total road-block." I thanked him, said a few words and left.

About mid-morning, the first trucks carrying evictees from the trans-Vudal area arrived at the college area and began unloading their all-male cargo onto the college lawns. I went out and spoke to the young European patrol officer who seemed to be in charge. This was where he was told to unload. He was not sure, but did not think they were under arrest. So, could I speak with them? Again he was not sure. It was a steamy tropical day. More truck-loads were arriving. I approached the evictees and greeted them cheerfully. What did they need? Water. The college had a tractor-drawn water carrier so I sent a driver to bring it up and park it under the trees where the evictees could have access to it. Next day I heard from Port Moresby that it had been reported to Canberra that I had provided food and drink to the evictees. Would that I could have! (I don't know whether this was reported with approval or not. )

The ranks of evictees lining the road and clustered under the trees should have sent a message to the administration and to Canberra. Many were not villagers, but by their dress were clerical and town workers or teachers. Among them was the Anglican bishop of Rabaul showing solidarity with his people. With the Tolais evicted, the administration sent a convoy of trucks carrying prefabricated camping huts, bathrooms, water tanks and camping equipment into the area and set up a new presence. But a week or so later they all withdrew.

\*I have decided not to use the names of the police. I did not know all of those I had dealings with. Several were open and helpful, and some were not.

## Recollection Ten: Living with Tension

The October evictions were followed by a period of confusion and increasing tension. The establishment of a field base of police and Department of Administration officers in the Trans-Vudal area was obviously re-considered and it was withdrawn. The [male] Tolai population increased and more traditional "village elders" influence appeared. Threats and accusations were made against College personnel. My wife was surprised by a group emerging from the forest plantation beyond our house – where no-one was known to be living – and accusing her of having police living in our home. One of the accusers was the one-armed man named Todam, leader of the land-settlement group from the other side of the college lands. We had thought that we had



established good relations with him and the settlers and Beverley was taken aback at his accusatory approach. The issue of having police living with staff at the college had been raised a number of times, both with the staff themselves and from the Mataungans. I had advised against it, but made the point that each staff family paid rent on their house and could make its own decisions about whom it accommodated]. So insistent were the accusations against my wife and me [I was absent] that Beverley simply invited the group in and took them through the house. They appeared convinced and left.

Nerrius Tiotam, a college staff member, who was from the local community, warned me of changes in the attitude of the Tolais, and that they were hearing talk of armed police coming against them and using live ammunition. I would have tried to counter this line of fear but two things happened which shook my confidence: first a tape recording [made by an A.B.C. staffer] was brought to me and played. It was a recording of a briefing by a South African accented officer at the distribution of ammunition to police officers. It was brutal. The second event was a visit by two fairly senior patrol officers. One I had known and worked with in the Highlands, the other was a newer acquaintance. They urged me to “toughen up” and “deal with reality”.

“Can’t you see,” said the ex-Highlands ADO “that this business will be all over as soon as a couple of them are kicking in the dust?”

At this time two Australian journalists got themselves into the Trans-Vudal and reported from there. Their headlines spelt out what appeared to be happening: “These people have gone back hundreds of years in a few days.” Traditional spiritualism and sorcery were being invoked against the fear of the police. Ancient techniques

in the area included the selection of young men for assassination missions. They were drugged with bush medicines and mesmerised with incantations then painted with blue dye. The dye rendered them “invisible” so that no-one would admit to having seen them nor what they did. One evening not a kilometre from the college I saw such young men. Nerrius, in great distress, begged me to turn back, which I did.

Late one afternoon Nerrius came to tell me that several groups of armed warriors were assembled at positions around the college boundary. They had heard that the police were preparing an attack on them. Nerrius feared the warriors would attack the college if the police came.

I drove to Keravat Lowlands Agricultural Experiment Station where the main body of police was encamped. Fortunately, the PNG officer on sentry knew me and directed me to the [European] duty officer. This officer was shocked that I had got past the boundary line. I assured him that it was properly done and that as a matter of urgency I wished to speak to the Commanding Officer. He told me that was impossible but I told him I would make serious complaints to the Administrator if I could not. At that he gave me directions to a house on the research station. The Commanding Officer was not at the house I was sent to, but I learned there that he was at the house of the Senior Agronomist [who was absent on leave]. I knew that house well and proceeded to it.

As I arrived I met the duty officer who had mis-directed me coming out. I said a few unfavourable things to him and to the Commanding Officer I said “I presume you have been forewarned of my visit.” He said “Come in Mr. Dick. I would like to hear from you.” I entered and in the next fifteen minutes came to appreciate something of one of the

finest policemen I have met. He was in an invidious situation and was indeed awaiting orders. But those orders were coming from Canberra! His firearm was in its holster on the table. He stood up and buckled it on, saying “I don’t feel ten feet tall when I wear this.” We spoke of the issued weapons and ammunition, and the fact that the local people were well informed on everything the police did. The prospect of another attack on them was not attractive. As for tonight? He said that in truth he could not rule it out. We walked out onto the veranda. It was dark and the clouds were thickening across the sky. I said it would be a dreadful night to attempt any action against the villagers. He agreed. He said again that he could not anticipate the orders which he might receive, but he could provide many reasons why tonight should not be the night. I said I would go back and tell the people that the police will not be coming tonight. He agreed that that would be a pretty safe step.

I returned to the college and told Nerrius that I had seen the Commanding Officer and that we could tell the villagers to go home and rest – at least for tonight. I drove with Nerrius to several points on the college boundaries where he made contact with the warriors and told them there would be no police coming this night.

During this period of uncertainty those staff and their families who remained at the college were spending more time together, both during the day and gathering for joint meals and social support in the evenings. That evening I remember returning relieved and exhausted to the home of one of the lecturers where most staff had gathered. I told them briefly that the pressure was off for the night. I remember sitting down on the floor with my back against a wall. Someone brought me a plate of food and a drink, and I fell asleep.



# Shake Baby Shake

by Paul Dennett

Early in 1963 I applied for a teaching job in PNG. The first step required me to undertake a six-month course at Malaguna Teachers College in Rabaul to gain teaching qualifications. So in April I joined a group of around sixty keen students there for the fifth 'E' Course. Not long after we began, we received a visit from a Committee that had been set up by the Administrator of the day, Sir Donald Cleland. Its brief was to travel about the Territory and collect opinions from educators and other interested citizens on a proposal to set up a university.

The year before this Canberra had been stung into action on tertiary education, along with other issues, by being roundly criticised in a report tabled by Sir Hugh Foot at the United Nations. The report resulted from a visit he and his Visiting Mission had made to the Trust Territory of New Guinea to survey the achievements of the Australian administration. Papua, of course, was off limits to Foot's Mission as it was still an Australian possession. Hence the creation of the Administrator's Committee on Tertiary Education.

While the Administrator's Committee was in the Gazelle Peninsula it devoted some of its time to us – 'why us?' we asked ourselves: we didn't even have the basics of pedagogy yet! But we all crammed dutifully into one room to hear what they had to say and offer ideas if we could. Well into the session a short,

sharp earthquake struck – a *guria* they are called in Pidgin – the first in our short experience of the Territory. The wooden building bucked and shook much like a large bus with poor suspension clumsily negotiating deep potholes. The creaking and thumping was memorable. The stenographer who accompanied the committee and had up to that stage presented a fairly haughty demeanour, let out a loud parrot-like squawk of alarm and flushed a deep crimson when we all had a chuckle at her reaction. Fred Kaad, a member of the Dept of District Administration, who had been appointed a Committee member said, when the excitement subsided, 'Well, obviously Rabaul's no place to put up expensive buildings!' (The year after this, 1964, Fred famously survived a plane crash. The pilot sadly did not, but from then on Fred was confined to a wheelchair).

We experienced other *gurias* before we left Rabaul. One that I remember occurred as I made my way with a couple of college mates through a stand of coconut palms on the way to the beach at Pila Pila. We instantly became aware of the earth's motion and looked at each other with astonishment as we heard the agitated swish in the palm fronds above. Several coconuts fell nearby with a heavy plop. 'Storying' with an old German missionary some time later, I was taught by him a maxim of Goethe – *Es wandelt niemand ungestraft unter Palmen* or No man walks under the palm trees with impunity. The missionary told me that Goethe had meant it to have a metaphorical application more than anything but for people living in the tropics it had practical implications as well. For my informant had once flopped down at the foot of a coconut tree to enjoy its shade only to have a giant nut

crash down right beside him. From then on I was careful to check my exact position whenever I was in the vicinity of coconut trees.

It was in 1973 at Angoram when I had already come home from school one afternoon, a journey of only some two hundred or so metres, when the township was subjected to a vigorous shake. The epicentre we learnt later had been near the Ramu River in the Madang District, and was not all that far below the earth's surface. It began as a rapid, bumpy, vertical movement and then changed to a side-to-side one. John, our mankimasta (cook), grabbed our two-year old daughter Sophy and was first down the stairs out onto the safety of the front lawn. The fridge door swung open and some jars clattered out; cupboard doors opened and crockery and glasses came crashing onto the floor; books and LPs were thrown from the shelves as Helen and I got the message and quickly followed John down the stairs. As she passed by the large bookshelf-cum-room divider, Helen grabbed a large blue vase, a present from her 21st birthday, that used to stand on top. The motion of the quake at this stage gave us the sense that we were being thrown back up the stairs just as if a giant was flicking crumbs from a tablecloth. We stood slightly dazed but safe on the front lawn, listening to the ominous creaking in the house and watching in alarm as it danced about. The wooden frame up on the roof that held our overhead tank broke, and the tank itself broke away from the plumbing link, releasing water noisily onto the corrugated iron of the roof. Over in the compound people were loudly whooping; more in excitement it seemed than in alarm. We cautiously re-entered the

house some time later to clean up the mess and count the cost. At school next morning I shared my experiences with my class, and one boy in my class of Standard V told us how he was running across a cleared grassy area when, in his own account, a ripple – like the wave from a canoe's wake he described it – crossed the ground and caused him to stagger.

Up to this point of living in PNG we had rather enjoyed earthquakes but after this one we came to view them with some apprehension. Although our AR10 house which stood on 7' braced posts was not structurally damaged, it had developed a pronounced wobble. My favourite party trick was to disappear to the bedroom end of the house, take hold of a couple of door jambs and give everything a long hard shake. Our guests would always react as expected to the very noticeable movement I'd caused.

Manam Island's volcano happened to erupt during our stay in Angoram. The volcano is located right in the centre and is responsible for the island's formation. When I lived in Maprik, a couple of years before this, Manam had had one of its frequent eruptions. I had gone south to Serangwandu School and stayed there overnight so I could see the 'firework display' from Manam as reported by the teacher in charge there. Visibility was good on the night of my visit, but without binoculars I couldn't make out anything more than a dull red glow on the horizon. Some firework display!

Although Angoram was much nearer to Manam than Serangwandu was, it was considerably closer to sea level, so there was nothing to be seen at

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**It was in 1973 at Angoram when I had already come home from school one afternoon, a journey of only some two hundred or so metres, when the township was subjected to a vigorous shake.**

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night during this later eruption. There was other evidence for the eruption, however. As I was travelling out in the middle of the river during the period in Education's flat-bottomed 'river truck', I noticed that there was gritty dust floating about in the air. It was as if I was travelling along a dusty road without goggles. Where could this be coming from? I got rid of a few irritating specks in my eyes before I turned and shouted out a query to my outboard motor operator ('boat boys' they were called) who was sitting on the transom beside the noisy Johnson motor. "Em shit bilong mauden," (ash from the mountain), he shouted back to the unimaginative masta.

Quite a few Manam islanders have died in eruptions since then. During a severe eruption in 2004 all of the islanders – more than 9,000 of them – were evacuated to the Madang mainland. Against the government's wishes more than half of the population have now returned to their fertile ancestral home, where they will be safe ..... at least till next time.

# Over Rabaul in a Beaufort

This wartime story is reprinted from WINGS, 23 January 1945.

Down through the Markham Valley passed squadrons of Beauforts to join another squadron in a series of night attacks on the enemy in New Britain and Rabaul. These raids were to culminate in a combined bomber and RAN action on a Japanese strong post in Wide Bay where the concentration of enemy forces forms one of Nippon's main Rabaul defences.

Putting down on an island within good striking range of the targets, the crews received a thorough briefing. Some airstrips held by the Nips were still serviceable. Two serviceable Zeros were standing near one landing ground. The Japs had ten to a dozen float planes in the area. Ackack could be expected at certain points. Its range and accuracy had been noted, concentrations of supplies and equipment pin-pointed and noticeable enemy activity

marked. The programme was drawn out on photographs and maps.

Then the weather man talked of 'fronts', winds, cloud formations. It was the usual routine, but the routine that spells success or failure in a bombing mission. In the failing daylight our Beauforts took off. They left the strip singly with a two-minute interval between, moved into pairs and as far as the eye could see were strung out across the sea. That night dumps of stores and equipment and concentrations of enemy troops around Tobera aerodrome got a pasting.

'The strip stood out in the moonlight for a great distance before we reached it,' crews told the interrogator. 'We couldn't miss it ... Our bombs landed in here.' They pointed to a spot on the map dead in the centre of the target. Later arrivals reported that bombs were seen exploding all along the area.

The first strike had been almost too easy. The target for the following night was Rabaul itself. Reconnaissance aircraft reported that there was something there to burn and something worth burning. Buildings undamaged in previous raids were believed to hold stores and equipment. The Nips were still strongly entrenched. The formation would pass directly over ackack gun posts, the biggest of which was on the bombing line.

'You'll turn sharply there and strike across the coast to the sea,' W/Cdr Brian Waddy, of

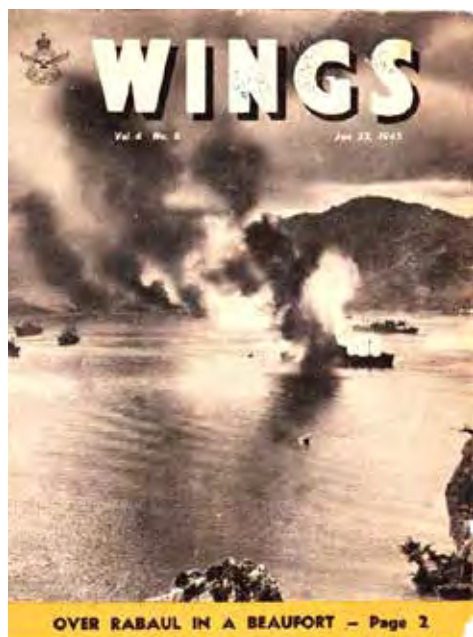
Frewville, SA, told the crews.

The squadrons were under the general command of the wing commander, who was leading the attacks. Aircraft, he said, would go in singly and each pilot was given the minute at which it was his duty to be over the target.

It seemed no time before crews were back at the base, reporting to intelligence officers. The 'Do' had been successful. W/Cdr described it as a 'dead hit'. A successful 'Do'. That generally summed up the story told by the crews. They spoke of bombs bursting along the extent of the settlement and of fires. Characteristic of W/Cdr Hugh Conaghan's brevity was his 'Dead right release'. Some of them met ackack but generally the discharges were so weak as to appear to the airmen to explode just above the ground.

Paltry searchlights were in action. The best of them might have reached our bombers (although that was questionable) but for the Jap's sense of direction, and the lights were operated nervously. Then came the biggest event of the session. The Wing Commander pointed to a spot on the map and announced, 'Tomorrow we expect to join with ships of the Royal Australian Navy in a shelling and bombing action on enemy concentrations on the coast up here.'

F/Lt Joe Hogan, of Port Augusta, SA, built up the story. There was a Jap headquarters there, a wireless station, lookout posts





and a considerable force of troops. The air action was being directed by Group Captain L.V. 'Snow' Lachal, of Melbourne, who was aboard a destroyer. We were called out at 2.30 am, had a cup of tea and a scone, and gathered up our Mae Wests, phones and whatnots. (The number of 'doovers' carried by the navigator always intrigues me.)

### Off to Rabaul

I climbed in alongside pilot F/O Stan Polkinghorne of Griffith, NSW. We flew across the sea in formation, the bomber in which I was flying leading the second flight.

The Navy ships were steaming into the bay as we struck the coast at the break of dawn. All points in the meeting had been nicely timed. We went over the

bay as if to go on further, not with the idea of misleading the enemy, but to give our flight commanders an opportunity of looking over the target. The rear squadron then broke formation and led by W/Cdr Hugh Conaghan, of Coolangatta, Qld, went in on a line to unload their cargoes on a target just below the entrance. Other squadrons continued on across the inner bay.

### Bombs away

Keeping an eye on the navigator P/O Harry Marsh, of Inverell, NSW I saw his hand move significantly. Then I sat up to see bombs hurtling down to the ground below from the aircraft around us.

As we moved on, those behind us were unloading their sticks. Of the installations picked out by

leaders of the flights, an anti-aircraft gun stood out before F/Lt Al Waymond, of Melbourne, and a stick fell across it. Bomb craters were dug along the extent of the bay. W/Cdr Conaghan's squadron registered similar results.

As the RAAF Beauforts passed over the coastline, the RAN warships opened up and shelled Jap installations around the harbour for an hour and a half. Two Bombers stayed to spot for the Navy. Some of our aircraft carried cameras. The pictures secured, with the observations of spotters, left no doubt as to the success of the mission and the change in physical features wrought on Wide Bay that morning.

### Frank Smyth

WINGS correspondent who flew with the squadrons

## Membership

**PNGAA members receive four issues of Una Voce per year and have access to all parts of the website. They have the opportunity to search and access all archival issues of Una Voce and receive timely email notice of upcoming events.**

To become a member follow the link:

<http://www.pngaa.net/Pages/about-m.htm>

OR

contact the Membership Officer, Roy Ranney at [membership@pngaa.net](mailto:membership@pngaa.net)

OR

refer to the yellow Treasurer's Corner insert.

**Annual membership is \$35**



# ACCPN Update

There has been much background work related to the proposed Australian Community Centre for Pacific Nations (ACCPN) including a meeting that Professor Ken McKinnon and I had with Senator the Hon Concetta Fierravanti-Wells, Minister for International Development and the Pacific. This was later followed up by a discussion with Gina Wilson in the PNG Branch of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Further discussion is needed.

Central to this vision for the proposed ACCPN is the relationship between Australia

and Papua New Guinea and other Pacific islands. Educating more Australians to think about its nearest neighbours and providing opportunities for those neighbours to engage in activities together is important. The PNGAA's vision is that the ACCPN would serve as a significant educational, cultural and research facility for Australia and the Pacific. It needs enormous support to be successful and I encourage everyone to write to their local member to engage that support.

**Andrea Williams**

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## Middle Head's Future – Have your say 28 September 2016

The Harbour Trust and NPWS National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) are coordinating planning and community consultation for Middle Head, with the aim of collaborating on whole-of-headland outcomes such as bushland management and a connected network of paths to create a seamless visitor experience.

<http://www.harbourtrust.gov.au>

As at end September, the SHFT/NPWS team's summary of consultative outcomes seems to be a rather comprehensive and unweighted selection of community views from the Open day and follow up consultation phase. Specific "themes" are not well delineated but there is a mention of some of the PNGAA /HPG concerns and concepts for activities but rather vaguely. Certainly and quite properly, the SHFT team analysis of the consultative feedback thus far remains non-committal, but the SHFT team has committed to address emerging themes with stakeholders

as the next step. Presumably PNGAA will be considered a stakeholder enough to get an insight into and audience about those emerging themes. Next steps and stages of process and discussion by the SHFT and NP&WS may be summarised as:

- Address emerging themes with stakeholders
- Prepare Draft Plans
- Provide updates online
- Harbour Trust Draft Plan considered by Board"

Submitted by **Paul Munro**

## What's On?

### 75th Anniversary 2017

The Rabaul and Montevideo Maru group is planning services in Rabaul, PNG, on 22 June 2017 and at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, ACT on 1 July 2017. Further information will be on the website and facebook shortly and in the March 2017 Memorial News.

### Congratulations to Lionel Percy Veale OAM

who was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the Queen's Birthday Honours List - For service to the community of the Gold Coast.

An article on Lionel Veale NX41042 MID OAM was in the Catholic Leader 28 June 2016: <http://catholicleader.com.au/people/war-veteran-took-on-top-secret-missions-but-never-hid-catholic-faith>

### The 2016 History Teachers of Australia Association National Conference, Sydney, 28-30 September 2016.

Our enormous thanks to Patrick Bourke, Karen McPherson (Trinity Christian School, Canberra), Pat Johnson, Andrea Williams and Jo Mills, Karen's sister for ensuring the involvement of the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru /PNGAA group at the History Teachers' Association of Australia National Conference at Sydney Grammar was a great success! Photo of display table attached. Karen kindly stepped in to replace Natalie Baker who submitted the title details for the presentation: 'Sinking the Southern Cross: Uncle Sam, the Rising Sun, and the Montevideo Maru' 'Sinking the Southern Cross: Uncle Sam, the Rising Sun, and the Montevideo Maru' 'Sinking the Southern Cross: Uncle Sam, the Rising Sun and the Montevideo Maru'.



*After the fall of Pearl Harbour in 1941 the Australian mandated territory of Rabaul, New Guinea, was overwhelmed by a Japanese invasion. Five months later 1,053 Australian soldiers and civilians were herded onto an unmarked Prisoner of War vessel. Tragically, all of them would perish when the Montevideo Maru was torpedoed by an unsuspecting allied submarine. The sinking of the Montevideo Maru remains Australia's worst maritime disaster, and its sinking became a clandestine secret buried by the Australian government. Consequently, most Australians have never heard of the Montevideo Maru, or what happened to the Australians at Rabaul during WWII: the massacres, the civilian women and children who became refugees, and the extraordinary stories of escape via the tropical jungle. The Australians in Rabaul became 'hostages to fortune'; their lives sacrificed for Australia's defence. The Australian Government was shaken and our national security was dramatically exposed. In 2017 we commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Montevideo Maru tragedy, which provides a unique opportunity to ensure Australian stories from the War in the Pacific reach our classrooms. This session will provide educators with teaching resources and knowledge to ensure this significant chapter of Australian history does not remain forgotten.*

The Rabaul and Montevideo Maru/PNGAA are also grateful to author and teacher, Sue Lawson, who generously donated a copy of her book 'Finding Darcy' as a prize at the conference. This was won by Danielle Madsen of the St Francis Xavier College, Canberra.

Patrick Bourke had collated information kits to be distributed from the stand. These included:

1. A welcome letter;
2. The teaching document at [www.memorial.org.au/Education/Rabaul.pdf](http://www.memorial.org.au/Education/Rabaul.pdf) ( including a copy of the 15 minute DVD, Some Came Home) ;
3. Background notes about the speakers on the DVD, Some Came Home;



# MEMORIAL NEWS

RABAU AND MONTEVIDEO MARU MEMORIAL NEWS

4. WWI and WWII connections - list of WWI men who are listed as dying on the Montevideo Maru
5. Lorna Johnston's ( nee Whyte ) visit to Japan in 2011, <http://www.powresearch.jp/en/activities/report/201111ausmeeting2.html>;
6. Governor General's commemorative address at the dedication of the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Memorial in 2012 , <https://www.awm.gov.au/talks-speeches/rabaul-and-montevideo-maru-memorial-address-2012> ;
7. Links to the creative arts : The Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Memorial, [https://www.awm.gov.au/visit/rabaul\\_montevideo\\_maru\\_memorial/](https://www.awm.gov.au/visit/rabaul_montevideo_maru_memorial/)
8. Portrait of Tom Herket, <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/ART96812/>
9. Lyrics to the Midnight Oil song, In The Valley, written by Peter Garrett, <http://www.midnight-oil.info/discography/song/In-The-Valley>
10. The young adult novel, Finding Darcy, written by Sue Lawson, <http://www.walkerbooks.com.au/Books/Finding-Darcy-9781742030234>
11. Poem by Patrick Bourke, Drowning In The Sunshine which appeared in the book 'When Anzac Day Comes Around'.

The three day conference had an impressive variety of speakers including Toni Hurley speaking on Frank Hurley and another by Ben Pratten & Catriona Bryce on the National Library Digital classroom and Trove.

Karen McPherson's presentation was a great success with many teachers delighted to discover information they had not heard about before. Her presentation involved much research to ensure its relevance with the curriculum. It will be placed on the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Memorial website.

Patrick Bourke's research connecting those WWI men who died on the Montevideo Maru in WWII was a great opener on the stand. Points included for discussion:

- explaining the sinking of the Montevideo Maru, Australia's greatest maritime disaster – and asking if attendees knew the connection

between this story of WWII and Australia's first involvement with WWI in PNG.

- Highlighting the significance of Rabaul, with the first Australian action on Australian territory linking WWI/the Anzac Centenary with WWII directly relates with the Year 9/10 curriculum.
- Other focal areas for discussion included the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Memorial at the AWM, Canberra – a good spot for lunch with students! One of the planning outcomes for the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Memorial was that it could be tactile, and this is important to teachers too.
- that the AWM in Canberra, the Melbourne Shrine and the PNGVR Museum at Wacol (Brisbane) all have displays related to the New Guinea Islands WWII invasion and the Montevideo Maru.
- In handing out the presentation kits, speakers clarified that with a 15 minute DVD and classroom worksheets included, it should be relatively easy to include this subject in one or two lessons.
- Finally, in asking what school they represented, it was suggested that there might be a nearby relative who might attend the school on special commemorative days such as Anzac Day...we could check our lists and let them know if they decide to follow up with us.
- Feedback was requested with the kits

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## 75th Anniversary Book

- The editors are delighted with the broad range of entries for this book. Keep a watch on Facebook and in the March 2017 issue of Una Voce/ Memorial News for announcement of launch.

Project Team Manager – Gayle Thwaites: Email - [stories@memorial.org.au](mailto:stories@memorial.org.au) or Mobile: 0477 000 771  
PNGAA President – Andrea Williams: Email - [president@pngaa.net](mailto:president@pngaa.net)  
Information at: <http://memorial.org.au/About/Activities/75Anniversary.htm>

Stay up to date with the project via Facebook at [www.facebook.com/RabaulandMontevideoMaruSociety](http://www.facebook.com/RabaulandMontevideoMaruSociety)

## 2016 Annual Commemoration, Canberra:

A link to the Last Post Ceremony on 1 July 2016 is at: <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/AWM2016.2.183/>

## Civilian internee listed on Rose Garden War Memorial, Dubbo

There are several known war memorials. Probably the most interesting and practicable war memorial in Australia is the North Star Soldiers Memorial Bore and Water Supply. W T Cracknell who is recorded as dying on the Montevideo Maru has his name listed here. Cracknell was in the 1st Independent Company and was working in the North Star area of NSW when he enlisted in the Australian Army. The website is at <https://www.warmemorialsregister.nsw.gov.au/content/north-star-soldiers-memorial-bore-and-water-supply>.

In the House of Representatives, Australian Parliament House, on Friday 5 October 1945, the Member for East Sydney and the Minister for Transport and External Territories, Mr Ward, announced that 1,053 persons had been identified as dying on the MS Montevideo Maru. He concluded his statement with the words: "These servicemen and civilians, who died in such a tragic manner, have undoubtedly given their lives in the defence of Australia just as surely as those who died face to face with the enemy. To their next of kin the Commonwealth Government extends its deepest sympathy." (Source: Hansard (Australian Parliament House) House of Representatives, Friday, 5 October 1945. Page 6619. The War).

In view of this statement the name of the late Rev John W Poole, a Methodist missionary who has been listed as dying on the MS Montevideo Maru, (an ex-student of Dubbo High School) has his name inscribed on the war memorial at Dubbo. Refer: <https://www.warmemorialsregister.nsw.gov.au/content/dubbo-memorial-drive-and-rose-garden> The Rev John W Poole's name is on the Rose Garden War Memorial in Victoria Park, Dubbo. Rev Poole is listed as dying on the Montevideo Maru. This is the first time I have seen



Do you know of a memorial where someone who was on the Montevideo Maru or who died as a result of the Japanese invasion of Rabaul is commemorated?

Visiting North Head, Manly, NSW. I was delighted to see one of the plaques in the Memorial Walk dedicated to WS Turner, POW on the Montevideo Maru. If you know where other plaques or tributes are please post!

**Andrea Williams**

student of Dubbo High). Gregory W Benham DSC was not in Lark Force or the 1st Independent Company but he was a Coastwatcher who went behind enemy lines in the New Guinea Islands during 1942. He was captured on New Ireland and executed on or around 1 September 1942. Prior to the war Benham was a patrol officer in PNG. His name and Rev Poole's name is also on a very impressive WWII Honour Roll in the Wesley Uniting Church in Dubbo. This honour roll is on the above website.

**Patrick Bourke**

## New book:

**Double Diamonds:** Australian commandos in the Pacific War, 1941-45 by Karl James

Paperback | Aug 2016 | University of New South Wales Press | 9781742234922 | 232pp | 220x240mm Includes photos

During the Second World War, in the mountains and jungles of Timor, Bougainville and New Guinea, Australian commando units fought



# MEMORIAL NEWS

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arduous campaigns against the Japanese.

The story of these elite independent companies and commando squadrons, whose soldiers wore the distinctive double-diamond insignia, is told here for the first time.

Through 130 powerful images from the Australian War Memorial's unparalleled collection – some never published before – Double Diamonds captures the operational history of these units and the personal stories of the men who served in them, many of whom lost their lives or the friends who trained and fought alongside them.

**Note:** On page 36 of the book, Double Diamonds, there is a good photo of the MS Montevideo Maru with a caption and on the opposite page there is an excellent photo of Private John Day with notes. John Day is one of the 133 commandos from the 1st Independent Company listed as dying on the MS Montevideo Maru on 1 July 1942.

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## HOW THE COASTWATCHERS TURNED THE TIDE OF THE PACIFIC WAR

James Burrowes OAM

The Australian Coastwatchers brought the tide of Japanese invasive successes to a shuddering halt, when two Coastwatchers reported the impending fleet of the Japanese invasion force with 5,500 troops which precipitated the Battle of the Coral Sea in early May 1942, and aborted the invasion of Port Moresby.



This repulse of the enemy was followed by the declaration of the U.S. Admiral William F. (Bull) Halsey when he reported several months later that "The Coastwatchers saved Guadalcanal, and Guadalcanal saved the South Pacific".

The hitherto untold historical and substantive story of the M Special Unit of the Allied Intelligence Bureau (the Coastwatchers) unfolds hereunder:

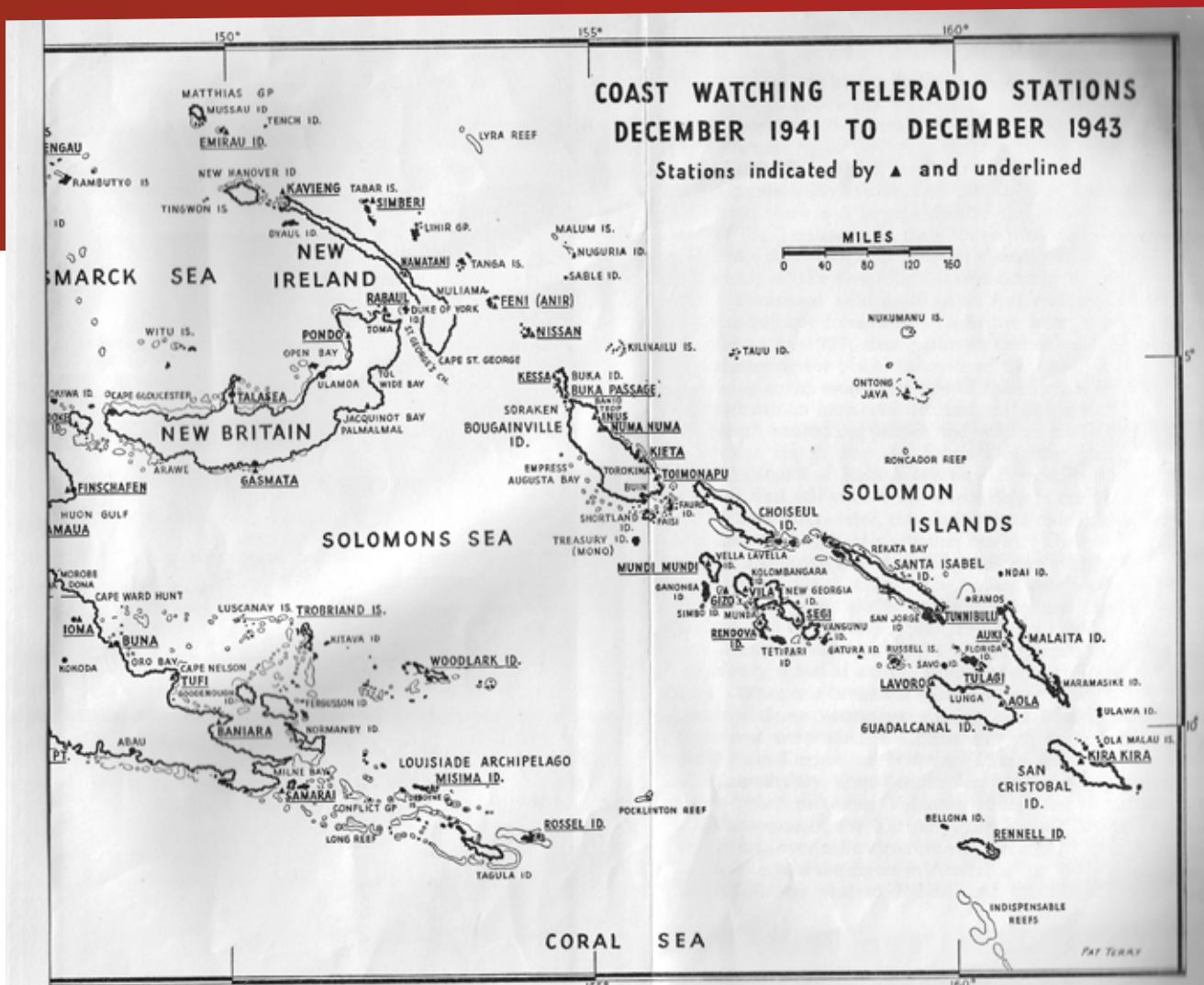
In early 1941, ten months before the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, the Australian government set up the un-published "Malay Barrier" and deployed a series of "Bird" defence forces on the islands north of Australia - the Sparrow Force on Timor, Gull Force on Ambon and Lark Force at Rabaul.

Tragically, these under-manned and under-equipped forces were totally out-numbered by the superior Japanese invasion forces, as it swept south after Pearl Harbor. Hence, these defences were futile disasters incurring huge losses of Australian troops. The first of these invasions occurred on January 22, 1942 just six weeks after Pearl Harbor, when the Japanese invaded and occupied Rabaul, killing and capturing 73% of the token Australian force left to defend it. Subsequently, 1,053 POWs were casualties on the unmarked prison ship Montevideo Maru sunk by a US submarine off Luzon in the Philippines, on the voyage to the Japanese-occupied Hainan Island. It was Australia's largest maritime disaster of the war.

Enemy landings, followed by occupation, then took place at Ambon a week later, followed by Timor a further fortnight on.

After occupying Rabaul, as explained by founder and commander of the Coastwatchers Eric Feldt in his historic book *The Coast Watchers* in late February 1942 "the Japanese despatched a force from Rabaul to occupy Lae and Salamaua... Buka Passage and the Shortland Islands.... Then, in May, they essayed to take Port Moresby from the sea, at the same time occupying Tulagi".

Furthermore, Japan's ongoing effort to strengthen the offensive positioning of their empire in the South Pacific meant that Port Moresby was a primary target. According to James P. Duffy in his book *War at the end of the World*, Port Moresby in New Guinea was the strategic goal of the MO Carrier Striking Force with 5,500 invasion troops, as it was codenamed by the Japanese, and it was intended to isolate Australia and New Zealand from their ally the United States, in preparation for the Japanese attack on Australia.



However, fortuitously, Duffy records, “an Australian Coastwatcher on the Solomon island of Bougainville provided the first news of Japanese movements when he sent his message on 2 May 1942 that a large force of enemy ships was sailing south towards Tulagi. A second, similar despatch was made later the same day by another Coastwatcher on New Georgia. Both Coastwatchers transmitted their sightings to headquarters at Port Moresby which relayed the message.”

Two days later, these warnings by Coastwatchers led to the invasion fleet of the Imperial Japanese Navy being met, and vanquished, by naval and air forces from the United States and Australia in the Battle of the Coral Sea, which was fought during May 4-8, 1942. This was the first naval repulse of the Japanese following their series of conquests during their thrust from the northern to the southern hemisphere. As Duffy records “the most important result of this historic battle was that it averted the invasion of Port Moresby, with all it portended for the safety of Australia and the future of the war”. Moreover, he notes, “Never again would an enemy fleet attempt to invade that vital port city”.

Immediately following the defeat in the Battle of the Coral Sea, the battered and bruised Japanese invasion force limped back to Rabaul, thus saving Port Moresby from the ‘walk-in, capture and occupy’ fate that had been suffered at Rabaul, Timor and Ambon.

Immediately following the Coral Sea battle, the Japanese and the United States fought a six-month long battle of attrition for control of Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands, during which the Americans came perilously close to defeat at times, which would have left Australia isolated. But again, the Australian Coastwatchers played a vital role in a key victory: the ultimate American success at Guadalcanal. See “The role played by Australian Coastwatchers in the Battle for Guadalcanal” [http://www.battleforaustralia.org/Theyalsoserved/Coastwatchers/Coastwatchers\\_Guadalcanal.html](http://www.battleforaustralia.org/Theyalsoserved/Coastwatchers/Coastwatchers_Guadalcanal.html)

Coastwatchers regularly sent two hour warnings of bombers with supporting fighter squadrons “headed your way” from their campsites in the enemy-held jungles of New Britain, New Ireland, Bougainville and other surrounding islands to the US authorities on Guadalcanal, and the



# MEMORIAL NEWS

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Australians at Port Moresby. The alerts thus saved countless lives and casualties of Allied personnel, with planes 'up in the sun' ready to pounce, the Navy's battleships on 'battle stations' and their land forces with their anti-aircraft weaponry ready and waiting for the Japanese attacks.

As a result of these warnings, the US forces at Guadalcanal particularly was able to defend hard-won territory, and enemy losses were of enormous strategic value.

The official acknowledgement by five-star US Admiral of the Fleet, William F. Halsey, was brief and poignant: "The Coastwatchers saved Guadalcanal, and Guadalcanal saved the South Pacific." A memorial recognising the role of the Coastwatchers stands in Honiara today.

In essence, if the Coastwatchers had not routinely signalled their warnings by Morse code, such as those mentioned above, the consequences would have been dire.

Firstly, the capture of Port Moresby by the Japanese would have virtually severed US support for Australia and, using Port Moresby as a base, Japanese bombers would have been able to bomb Cairns -525 miles, Townsville, Mackay, Rockhampton and Brisbane - 1,297 miles, and block the eastern sea approaches to Darwin, only 1,126 miles away, thus 'opening the gate' for the invasion of Australia.

Secondly, as a collateral consequence, the Australians would not have been able to launch their Port Moresby offensive to thwart the Kokoda thrust by the Japanese. This protected a base of operations for the untrained forces fighting in New Guinea with those incredibly courageous young troops who fought on the Kokoda Track and who were ultimately successful in repelling the Japanese from their Buna, Gona, Lae and Sanananda occupations, which in turn was the first land-based repulse of the Japanese drive south, and also repelling the Japanese at Milne Bay. Subsequently, the combined forces of the US and Australia drove the Japanese from their strongholds at Lae and Salamaua, then Finhafen, Saidor, Madang, Aitape, Wewak,

Hollandia, Biak, Wadke and Morotai on the way to the triumphant US return to the Philippines and beyond.

And thirdly, the Allied Supreme Commander General Douglas MacArthur would have been constrained to defending the southern hemisphere disasters of Guadalcanal and Port Moresby, thus precluding him from redeploying his forces to prosecute his successful execution of the island-hopping campaign north of the Equator, to reach and occupy Tinian Island to launch the atom bombs to end the war with Japan.

Thus, the Australian Coastwatchers turned the tide - to destroy the aim of Japanese General Sadao Araki: "It is Japan's mission to be supreme in Asia, the South Seas and eventually the four corners of the world."

The role of Coastwatchers at critical points in the war was also acknowledged by Allied Commander-in-Chief General Douglas MacArthur who stated in a Foreword to Eric Feldt's book "They are officially credited with being a crucial and decisive factor in the allied victories of Guadalcanal and Tulagi and later on in the operations of New Britain."

Apart from their vital intelligence gathering role however, the Coastwatchers also rescued 75 prisoners of war, 321 downed Allied airmen, 280 sailors, 190 missionaries and civilians, and hundreds of local people and others who had risked their lives for the Allies. See "The role played by Australian Coastwatchers in the Battle for Guadalcanal".[http://www.battleforaustralia.org/Theyalsoserved/Coastwatchers/Coastwatchers\\_Guadalcanal.html](http://www.battleforaustralia.org/Theyalsoserved/Coastwatchers/Coastwatchers_Guadalcanal.html)

One of those rescued was US Navy Lieutenant John F. Kennedy, whose PT 109 Patrol Torpedo boat was carved in two by a Japanese war-ship and destroyed in the Solomons waters. After the sinking, the Lieutenant and his crew reached Kolombangara Island where they were found by Coastwatcher Sub-Lieutenant Reg Evans who organised their rescue.

In 1959, a memorial lighthouse was erected at

Madang, on the north coast of Papua New Guinea, to honour the Coastwatchers. The memorial plaque bears the names of 36 Coastwatchers killed behind enemy lines while risking their lives in the execution of their duties. The plaque also bears this inscription: "They watched and warned and died that we might live."

**Note:** Ex AIF Sergeant James Burrowes (now age 93) served 4 years, including 2½ years as a signaller Coastwatcher in 'M' Special Unit of the Allied Intelligence Bureau, and 9 months with the US 7th Fleet Amphibious Landing Force. He spent 10 months in enemy-occupied territory over-looking Rabaul, and is the last signaller Coastwatcher survivor in Australia with the research to tell the story.

Member of the Australian Commando Association.

## Annual Trawool gathering held on Sunday 31 July 2016.



The annual Trawool gathering was held on Sunday 31 July 2016.



Photo L-R:  
Andy Bishop,  
Norm Furness  
of Lark Force  
with Ron  
Cornelius

Photo: Gayle  
Thwaites

**Patrick Bourke** has compiled list of names of Australian WWI soldiers who are listed as dying on the Japanese prisoner transport ship, the *MS Montevideo Maru*, when this ship was sunk by an American submarine, the USS Sturgeon, on 1st July 1942. The list has been compiled from the records of the University of NSW, Australian Defence Force Academy, Canberra, AIF Database Project's website at <https://www.aif.adfa.edu.au> and the National Archives of Australia's Montevideo Maru's website at [www.montevideomaru.naa.gov.au](http://www.montevideomaru.naa.gov.au). They were all living and working in the New Guinea Islands as civilians when the Japanese armed forces invaded these Australian Territories in January 1942. A number of these former soldiers were highly decorated servicemen.

In addition to these 53 Australian WWI ex-servicemen who died on the *MS Montevideo Maru* at least five other men who had served in the 1st AIF during WWI are listed as dying on the *MS Montevideo Maru* on 1st July 1942. They were serving in the 2nd AIF during WWII when they died on this Japanese ship on 1st July 1942.

This list will appear on both the PNGAA and Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Memorial websites.



# *A Didiman's Diary #6*

17th November 1958 I departed on recreation leave and returned on 3rd April 1959 reporting for duty at KONEDOBU head office receiving what I considered disappointing news; instead of returning to FINSCHAFFEN, AITAPE on the North West Coast of the SEPIK District was to be my destination. The new posting took me first via LAE then to FINSCHHAFEN to hand over responsibilities to the incoming Didiman. Back to LAE and on to WEWAK via MADANG. Air transport and travel were rarely straight forward and often involved the charter of aircraft of various ages and sizes.

The District Agricultural Officer at WEWAK, Jack White and his wife, Norma welcomed me. From that day to this they have remained close friends. After a briefing by Jack and the District Commissioner, Bob Cole, I departed for AITAPE 15th April in a small Catholic Mission Cessna 172. Flying over the 85 miles to AITAPE, the aerial view confirmed my worst fears; nothing much more than sago swamps with a small strip of coastal sand. On arrival I contemplated a twenty-one month posting as a liklik didiman. The settlement was right on the coast; very hot and sticky 24 hours a day. The compensating factor was the beach and the surf. The Administration staff numbered five, including myself. There

was to be a cadet patrol officer, however, after two weeks at AITAPE and four weeks all told in the Territory he resigned.

The Franciscan Mission had for many years, their headquarters at AITAPE. Monsignor Ignatius Doggett was the Priest in charge. There were some 20 or so Brothers with various pastoral and administration duties. On occasions the Station residents would be invited to share a meal with them which was always appreciated as they were self-sufficient in meat and milk! I used to wonder (with a degree of sympathy) how the Nuns' managed when they walked in from their Mission outposts in their full habits - procedure or penance? It was suggested,

windcheaters and shorts would have been more appropriate.

Because of the relative closeness to the border of the capital of Netherlands New Guinea (NNG), HOLLANDIA, a social relationship developed with the residents through the Australian Ambassador for NNG, Pat Mollison. Exchange visits were arranged to play tennis; one visit as recorded in a letter home.

*"Social life should tone up for several days. I am flying to VANIMO (Gibb's Sepik Airways – Norseman) on Wednesday for a Station inspection returning on Friday to welcome 40 Dutch, Eurasian, and others who are coming to AITAPE for a day surfing and tennis travelling in*



*the Dutch Governors' yacht M.V. ORANJE. I hope to sail with them 11pm Friday night, after a barbecue dance, to WEWAK. The Tennis Ball is on Saturday night and tennis all day Sunday."*

There were reciprocal visits and on one occasion a Gibb's Sepik Airways Junkers was chartered from WEWAK to continue the "international" tennis challenge.

Perhaps those who commenced their career in a country far removed from their own culture and lifestyle found solace in writing to family and friends. My letters and personal diaries have been kept and are a great source of happy memories. They tell many stories of the pleasure and satisfaction of working in the land that time forgot or as some would have said;" The land of wait a while."

My first impressions of flying into AITAPE were not justified. The geography of the sub-district; the range of developed and developing agricultural enterprises in the areas where I worked were not unlike the FINSCHHAFEN sub district – my previous posting. There were four geographic areas of responsibility: The Coastal Plain extending from VANIMO

through SISSANO, AITAPE to MALOL, the NUKU Sub-District, and the LUMI Patrol Post administration area.

The contrast in the above areas of agricultural development and crops was significant. The entire coastal population had been exposed for over one hundred years to coastal traders, itinerant travelers, explorers, foreign shipping and a German administration before 1914. Prior to 1945 there was little Australian administrative contact; the Missions, in considerable numbers, were active amongst the coastal people and those of the hinterland. The whole of the Coast was thrust into the confusion of the Japanese invasion. Australian government attention and support came to the coastal population following cessation of those hostilities.

VANIMO Patrol Post was one hundred miles south of the Netherlands New Guinea border and significantly the Pacific Islands Regiment maintained a detachment adjacent to the Patrol Post. Trade routes between the people of the Torrecilli mountain range and the coast were well established. Salt, seafood, sago, cowrie shell (girigiri) and mother of pearl (kina) were

some of the important items. Extension work involved the management and marketing of a large range of crops. Peanuts, coffee, copra and cacao were produced with rice trials an important introduction. Coffee robusta had been well established in German times although not as a plantation crop. The Hansenide (leprosy) Colony patients, close to Aitape produced marketable quantities of peanuts. I developed an excellent relationship with the growers.

A Rural Progress Society, "WAIPO", was well established with Directors nominated by the village shareholders along the AITAPE sub-district coast. The Rural Progress Society owned and operated outboard motors: who can remember the "Archimedes A4" or wants to remember them? During later postings they caused a degree of grief! The motors were attached to the rear of the hollowed out log canoes. A canoe which I chartered for coastal travel was called "Kranki"; I don't recall if the name was anglicised pisin English or local dialect.

Moving from the coast to patrol in the LUMI and NUKU areas was an amazing transition from the "sophisticated"

and entrepreneurial coastal dwellers, to the primitive people of the Torrecilli Range – west and south west.

13 June 1959. From my field officer's journal. "Departed WEWAK per Mission Cessna for LUMI – discussions ADO (Assistant District Officer) Tim Terrell".

And from a letter home: *"I am sitting in a native material house one days walk from the nearest civilization, five days walk from WEWAK and three days from AITAPE with Patrol Officer Harry Redmond. We have been out for nearly two weeks in a heavily populated area north of a place called LUMI. The locals, by any measure, are fairly primitive. Over the past eleven days we have walked about 80 miles and climbed to 3000 feet above sea level. The village we are at tonight is about 2000 feet. The climate is cool with plenty of fresh vegetables; a welcome change from the coast. At the conclusion of this patrol, I flew from LUMI to ANGUGUNAK to visit the Protestant Mission where they were building a large native hospital and a Douglas DC3 airstrip! They have a staff of four missionaries and a doctor. A nice break, with lovely people helping them to plan a coffee plantation of 30 acres and to plant the remaining area to native subsistence foods. From there I fly to a place called NUKU which is a really "bushy" area and the locals are a bit wild – a lot of the men still wear a large shell or a*

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**Over the past eleven days we have walked about 80 miles and climbed to 3000 feet above sea level. The village we are at tonight is about 2000 feet.**

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*hollowed out marrow as their only form of dress"*

In the Una Voce, December 2015 an article, "NUKU PNG, Close to 15000 people gathered to celebrate Independence Day". See story by George Oates PNGAA Library – what progress!!

#### **From my Journal.**

"27 June 1959. Packed stores and departed AITAPE 1100 for NUKU arrived 1120. Discussions with Patrol Officer Faithfull on the area and in the afternoon addressed all Village officials in the NUKU Sub-District Administrative Area.

28 June. Visited various sections of the Station to determine a suitable location for coffee garden and nursery. Soil profiles examined.

29 June. Departed NUKU 0900 for SEBETELA. Arrived 1100. In afternoon addressed approximately 300 villagers and Village Officials on the objectives of the Division of Agricultural Extension. Discussions on peanuts, coffee, and rice. O/N

1 July departed SEBETELA 0645 arrived NUKU 0830. Typed out notes and departed per Norseman for WEWAK via MAPRIK."

What a transition! Having the opportunity to move between areas of such developmental contrast was a rewarding experience. If one had an aversion to flying back in those days one would have remained "grounded" The excitement of flying in the Norsemans, De Haviland Dragons and any manner of other aircraft; landing on airstrips new and not so old has stayed with me ever since along with my love of flying. Several visits by aircraft were made to NUKU and LUMI in the ensuing months to follow up developmental work in coffee and rice in between supervising the coastal projects.

On the 1st December I was advised (by telegram) of immediate transfer, after only eight months, to the BAINYIK Agricultural Station – MAPRIK Sub District - as the officer in charge.

Another change another challenge!

**David Montgomery.**



# CREATIVE ARTS + BOOKS & REVIEWS

## Brisbane Writers Festival 2016 – Papua New Guinean writers

By Bob Cleland

The attendance at Brisbane Writers Festival 2016 by three Papua New Guinean writers was a brilliant success. McKinnon-Paga Hill Development Company fellows Francis Nii, Daniel Kumbon and Martyn Namarong travelled from PNG and were joined by Brisbane resident, Rashmii Amoah Bell. As I watched the four writers so capably and eloquently express themselves during their one-hour session at the Festival, I reflected upon the story of how it had happened. I would like to relate that history for the record.

As I read the poetry, prose, fact and fiction in the 2014 Crocodile Prize Anthology, I realised that most of the writers represented were targeting a PNG audience. As excellent as the contributions were, few would excite, let alone be understood by, anyone without some interest in PNG. I thought, these writers need to write for the rest of the world, to allow others to see just how good PNG writers can be.

I'd been attending the Brisbane Writers Festival for some years and realised that future festivals would be the ideal event from which to launch PNG writers into the international scene. I sounded out the idea with people I know who organise the festival and was delighted to discover their enthusiasm.

So I submitted a formal proposal for the organising committee to consider. The interest continued, particularly from chief executive officer Julie Beveridge. With that encouragement, I emailed Keith Jackson with the idea. He jumped at it straight away. We quickly agreed to share the cost of bringing a writer to Australia for the 2015 festival and chose Jimmy



*In Sydney following the session at the Brisbane Writers Festival L-R Emeritus Professor Ken MacKinnon, Daniel Kumbon, Julie Kumbon, Andrea Williams, and Martin Namorang The attendance at the 2016 Brisbane Writers Festival by three Papua New Guinean writers was a brilliant success.*

Drekore. The organisation of that festival was already too far advanced to enable PNG to participate, but Julie wanted to meet Jimmy to discuss future festivals.

So Jimmy came to Brisbane and he, Joycelin Leahy and I met with Julie, who assured us that she would provide a one-hour session for PNG writers in 2016. And that, of course, is what has just happened. The national passion of the four writers was plain to see on Friday. I felt deep satisfaction with their achievement.

*See further article on page 42*

## Randolph Stow's Trobriand Islands

PNGAA members will have seen the entry for Randolph Stow's Trobriand Islands in Una Voce 2016, No2 – June p51. An internet link to the full length review was provided. However, it seemed such an interesting story for our readers, that Author Suzanne Falkiner has provided the full transcript of her review with permission from the Sydney Morning Herald. This review will appear over three issues.

We arrived yesterday afternoon. I'm staying at a sort of hostel outside P. M. It is a lot of huts or donggalas, as they call them, climbing up a steep hill, and I have to climb up a gradient of about 70% to get to the bath-house. I have half a donggala to myself, and servant called Esau to wash and sweep for me, so it looks like being fairly comfortable. The view from here is rather impressive. It looks across a wide bay to a line of green hills, a couple of islands, and miles and miles of Coral Sea, and there are native boats sailing backwards and forwards, so it all makes quite a pretty picture.

— Letter, Randolph Stow to his mother, Mary. Sent from the Department of Native Affairs, Konedobu, Port Moresby, 13 March 1959

In early March 1959, Randolph—'Mick'—Stow, with two dozen other young cadet patrol officers, took off from Sydney's Mascot airport after midnight to fly up the Queensland coast to Port Moresby. The trip, delayed by an outbreak of flu among the trainees, was a noisy and uncomfortable fourteen-hour grind in a chartered DC-4 with hour-long stops at Townsville and Cairns. Stow, at 23, was four or five years older

than most of his fellow recruits, and already a published poet and novelist: a fact of which they were almost certainly unaware. Five weeks later it would be announced that his third novel, *To the Islands*, had won the second-ever Miles Franklin Award, after Patrick White's *Voss* had taken out the inaugural prize the previous year. A post-university stint as a storeman at the Forrest River Mission (later known as Umbulgurri) in the Kimberley in early 1957 had given him a taste for out-of-the-way places and, after a period studying anthropology at Sydney University, he had been encouraged by Minister for Territories Paul Hasluck, a fellow-West Australian, to apply for a job with the Department of Native Affairs in Papua and New Guinea.

In Port Moresby, during the three-week orientation course that supplemented his five weeks' training at the Australian School of Pacific Administration, or ASOPA, at Mosman in Sydney, Mick was quickly inducted into the heavy drinking culture that took place, in strictly segregated bars, among the town's white inhabitants. Within a few weeks, however, the novelty had worn off. 'I am rapidly developing the most strong antagonism towards Civil Servants', he wrote in his diary. 'New Guinea should be cleared of Europeans as much as possible as soon as possible. But I haven't "been thirty years in the Territory" so I wouldn't know.'

Embarking on a biography of Randolph Stow, an introspective author widely thought to be a recluse in his later years, had not been easy at the best of times, but writing about his time in New Guinea in 1959 was troubling on several levels: not least because during his last months there he had experienced a mental and physical breakdown that brought him close to death. I was



him, I was met with silence. The events, occurring not long after the death of Mick's father Cedric Stow, a country town solicitor, had caused great distress to his surviving family members, and still did. Stow himself would not discuss it with his mother and sister at the time, and their fragmented conjectures had led them to believe that, as a barely-trained CPO, he had somehow been left unsupervised in a distant outpost. This combination of circumstances was inclining me towards the conclusion that a cover-up might subsequently have been put in place to protect the reputations of those further up line.

In the moist air this morning the smell of frangipanni was overpowering. Walking to Moresby from here along the dirt road is

Tristesse roses on the horizon, and an old rose glow. There is a fire on Fishermen's Island tonight, or was; but after tremendous heat it is now raining like Niagara and much more pleasant.

- Randolph Stow, diary entry, 17 March 1959

These days, if you say you are going to Papua New Guinea, people tend to issue anxious warnings. Port Moresby is dangerous, they say, and expensive. One friend was so concerned that he offered to send his eldest son with me as a bodyguard. I must not leave my hotel alone, even in daylight hours, or carry a bag containing any valuables, I was advised. I should not attempt to go anywhere at night, even by car, for fear of marauding gangs, roadblocks and car-jackers. More immediately





useful, in the Lamana hotel, where I intended to stay, I should ask for a room that was not above the bar.

In February 2013, on the short taxi ride in from Jackson airport, Port Moresby revealed itself as a sprawling, ramshackle settlement of low buildings scattered over a series of steep hills and bays, with a few high-rise blocks marking its centre. When I retired that night, however, the pertinence of the last piece of advice became apparent: the throbbing beat of dance music in the hotel's nightclub—a dark dive full of serious drinkers—continued until three in the morning, drowning out the room's air conditioner, which itself sounded like a windy tropical storm with pattering rain.

At the hotel desk next day (the telephone in my room works only intermittently) I book a taxi to take me around the town, at 150 kina (about AU\$75) for three hours. My driver, Mark, is calm and affable. When we have negotiated some necessary purchases—a mosquito net and a sim card—with Mark translating for me, we tour the local landmarks: Parliament House, the

ethnographic Museum, the Botanic Gardens, Boroko market, and Paga Hill to see the views of Ela Beach and the harbour. Then, after a detour via the Two Mile and the Four Mile, I try to retrace what might have been Stow's ambulatory route, through old colonial red-roofed wooden houses resembling Queenlanders on stilts, from where he might have been billeted in 1959.

While we drive, Mark, whose father was a civil servant, tells me a story about a sister of his, university educated, who had died by sorcery at a young age. The subject has come up because, not long ago, in a barbarous act that received publicity worldwide, a young woman at Mount Hagen was burned alive after being accused of witchcraft. After expressing my shock and sympathy, I ask how, in his sister's case, his family had known it was sorcery. After her death, they had found black marks on her breasts, Mark confides: whoever had done it had somehow got hold of her bra. They had tried without success to find out who was responsible, and his father had retired from his Government position as

a result. People were jealous of his family's success, he thought. Mark himself thought driving a taxi was less stressful now than seeking out some more ambitious job.

For Mick Stow, things had soon begun to look more promising. A few weeks after his arrival he learned that, instead of being posted out on patrol, he was to be attached to Charles Julius, the Department's anthropologist. In early May he and Julius would go to Kirwina island in the Trobriand group, to investigate the disputed paramount chieftainship of Omarakana. The authority of the Trobriand chiefs appeared to be waning as various factors underpinning their prestige—polygamy, and faith in their power of magic and beneficent sorcery—diminished with the encroachment of European ideas. If the breakdown of order continued, it was believed, lawlessness might result.

On the morning of Saturday 2 May 1959 Mick and Charles Julius left by Canadian Otter seaplane for the tiny island outpost of Samarai in the Milne Bay district, from where they would travel by boat to Kiriwina. At Omarakana, they would study what might happen if Mitakata, the elderly paramount chief of the Trobriands, disinherited his heir, who was thought to have slept with one of his younger wives. The two men would spend some five months together before Julius returned to Moresby to make his report, while Stow reverted to his role as a CPO.

These experiences with Charles Julius in the Trobriand Islands, and later on his tour of duty with his supervising senior Patrol Officer Peter Gall, would eventually result in the novel *Visitants*. Before that happened, however, in December 1959, after a spell in Taurama hospital in Port Moresby, Mick would resign and be repatriated to Australia. Subsequently



Stow was circumspect about these events, publicly as well as privately, and within weeks the larger part of his Public Service file (after being inspected by the 'the minister', Paul Hasluck) had been moved to a restricted category. Hints dropped by Mick about his loneliness had led his family to believe his mental crisis had been brought on by malaria. Certainly, in later life, Stow himself also thought so. Neither Peter Gall, who was still living in Port Moresby, nor Gall's immediate superior, Robert Blaikie, the Assistant District Officer at Losuia on Kiriwina at the time, whom I had traced to Queensland, would respond to my letters or emails. When I tried to ring Peter Gall directly from Australia, the operator in Port Moresby told me his telephone had been disconnected. Finally, from Bob Blaikie, I had received a courteous two-sentence email

thanking me for mine, and stating 'I have nothing to add that would be of any use to you.' Blaikie, who had correctly guessed that I knew nothing, was evidently prepared to leave it that way, and my research so far amounted to little more than a distillation of gossip, hearsay and speculation.

Lamana Hotel, Port Moresby – Sunday, 17 February 2013: Hugh Davies, a tall, thin man in his late seventies, once a friend of Mick's at the University of Western Australia and now a Professor of Geology at the University of Papua New Guinea, arrives to pick me up. His American wife Connie manoeuvres a huge truck into the constricted hotel parking space. Hugh himself had arrived in the Territory as a Departmental geologist a year or two before Stow. I had previously confided in Hugh, during a lengthy email correspondence, that I could

not make contact with Peter Gall, and now it seemed that he had found him, seemingly effortlessly, and persuaded him to meet me. It was a more a dislike of letter-writing, and his failing memory, Hugh maintained, that had prevented Gall from responding before. I had suspected that it was more the imprimatur of another PNG insider that might have changed his mind.

Now we drive a few hundred yards to the Holiday Inn and adjourn to its coffee shop, near where a band of local children splash about in the hotel pool, to meet Peter. Still recognisable from photographs over half a century old by his wide, disarming smile, Gall is another tall, thin man in the tropical bureaucratic uniform of shorts and lace-up shoes. Over several weeks in late 1959, he confirms, he and Stow had patrolled the islands together, including Kitava and the remote Marshall Bennett group, on the Government workboat Pearl, accompanied by an interpreter, a small band of local police and a medical orderly. En route back to Losuia in mid November they had called in at the small nearby island of Muwo, where an isolated copra plantation was managed by an Australian.

His last patrol with Mick had gone quite normally, Gall insists. Mick was unlike the other cadets who had come under his supervision; he was quiet, observant, intelligent, interested in everything that was going on, and although they had had long talks together Gall had had no idea that anything was amiss. Blaming his failing memory, he seems unable to do more than confirm the truth or otherwise of what I already know of their movements. Gall is adamant that neither he nor Blaikie had observed any of the unmistakable signs of malaria —the sweating and fever—in Stow. Hearing that I am to leave



for the Trobriands the following day, he suggests another meeting on my return: I will understand things better, he says, when I have been there.

Another taxi takes me to the Domestic Terminal to catch a smaller plane for the two-hour flight to Losuia on Kiriwina Island.

After two days in Port Moresby, even though everyone I have met is friendly enough, I am feeling very claustrophobic. It is constricting to

be unable to walk about and explore the ramshackle town on my own, and booking a taxi for every outing is expensive and inconvenient. To my suggestion that we meet in the evening, Hugh and Connie demur: living behind high walls with security features, they too do not drive at night. Peter Gall has a different approach: his door is always open. Everyone knows he has nothing in his house worth taking and his neighbours know him and look out for him. So now I am becoming

increasingly apprehensive about my excursion to the Trobriands: with no language skills, and unable to leave the island until the arrival of the next plane in a week's time, I will entirely depend on the kindness of strangers. The Trobriands, because of Malinowski, are a well-worn path for foreigners. Nevertheless, I feel incompetent to handle what might lie ahead.

TO BE CONTINUED

Photos: Suzanne FALKINER

## Since Independence (1975) there has been a large number of books published (in the vicinity of 70) dealing exclusively with Papua.

**CHARLES FLETCHER HAS COMPILED A LIST THAT WILL APPEAR IN FULL ON THE PNGAA WEBSITE.** Here are his comments and a selection from his list to encourage you to read further.

I have listed only books which I think are outstanding and add to the history of Papua. It is necessary to understand the Colonial past. There are books not listed that are important. Some of academic interest only, while others I may have missed because I am simply not aware of them. There are a number of anthropological studies that I have omitted. These will be listed in a later summary.

Culture is ever changing, as scholarly works from expatriates diminish there will be more books on post-independence developments written by National historians. There is a vast amount of written material in Anthropological reports, mainly written by F.E. Williams. Patrol reports are now available for free from a number of web sites. The photographs of the early settlers coupled with those by Frank Hurley and to a lesser extent J.W. Lindt, will ensure that future historians have

much to ponder over and write about.

Some of the books that I have noted are difficult to obtain. At the end of each entry I have noted in brackets the year of publication. Further details on any of the books listed can be found by "googling" The standard of production and the clarity of the photographs are in most cases exceptional. I have listed only English language books, no military, word lists or (with one exception) translations.

One book published prior to 1975 essential to any collector of Papuan history is Ian Stuart's Port Moresby, Yesterday and Today. Published 1970.

In Recollections (The Journal of the National Museum of Australia) Volume 1, Number 1 pages 41 - 53 of March 2006 is an article titled *Australia's Official Papuan Collection. This discusses artefacts that J.H.P. Murray encouraged Field Officers to collect.*

Andrew Goldie in New Guinea 1875-1879: Memoir of a Natural history collector. Memoirs of the Queensland museum volume 6, December, 2012. 216 pages plus two maps.

*A worthwhile addition to any collection. Already this journal is scarce. Andrew Goldie was the second permanent resident of Port Moresby after the L.M.S. missionary Rev. Lawes.*

Lastly, what I call the Rev. John Arnold trilogy. A three volume set about the Methodist missionary the Rev. John Kissack Arnold stationed at the Methodist Mission at Salamo. Volumes 2 and 3 have a restricted distribution.

**Volume 1 A Seeker in Papua.** The Journal of a Young Missionary (John Kissack Arnold). May, 1923 - January 1926. Published 2012

**Volume 2 Through a Seekers Eyes.** The Papuan Photographs of John Kissack Arnold. 1923-1928. Published 2013

**Volume 3 To my Dear Home Folk.** An Anthology of Letters from Papua 1923-1928. Published 2013

All self-published by Mrs. Iris Pederick, the daughter of the Rev. John Arnold. I consider that these three volumes are destined to become classics of missionary work. There are no other that provides such detail of everyday Papuan missionary work. A magnificent publishing effort.



# Thanks Australia! for treating me as one of the writers

**DANIEL: I HAVE** been listening to my wife, Julie's, daily prayers to God in the Enga language in the privacy of our hotel rooms in Noosa, Brisbane, Sydney and Cairns over the action-packed two weeks we were in Australia. All this was made possible by the inaugural McKinnon-Paga Hill Development Company fellowship scheme, PNG Attitude and many other friends of Papua New Guinea. I knew she would find the words to relate her experiences here in Australia but was surprised at how she poured out her thoughts without any hesitation, like a spring. What follows is the word for word transcript:



*Julie and Daniel on the beach at Manly, Sydney*

**JULIE: BEFORE** leaving my highlands home at Wabag in Papua New Guinea's Enga Province just over two weeks ago, I was wondering what kind of place I was going to.

Having seen some action movies about Australia in PNG, I thought I would see violence and rough people on the streets, especially in cities like Brisbane and Sydney. But there was none of it. I think action movies are an illusion that gives a bad image of peace-loving Australians. As soon as I landed at Brisbane International Airport, I saw that Australia was beautiful. I also saw that the people were humble and kind. The coach driver was very helpful. He handled our bags with care and spoke to us with kind words.

A lady in Noosa offered to take my photo in front of the Noosa Blue Resort where we stayed. She told me her dad had fought in New Guinea during the war and that she was happy to meet me. I was made to feel welcome on the Qantas flight to Sydney when one of the cabin crew brought me three bottles of water and spoke to me in Pidgin English, saying he had grown up in Rabaul.

I have seen clean streets, beautiful parks and even saw a lady walking her dog in a public place in Noosa and picking up its excrement using a plastic bag and dumping it in a rubbish bin provided by the local council.



*Daniel signs his book at the Brisbane Writers Festival*



Australians know how to enjoy life. They create heaven on earth and I think many of them will go to heaven. They are so kind, happy and willing to help each other. I think they live less stressful lives and that's why they live longer. I could not believe that Professor Ken McKinnon, our Sydney host, was 85. I am sure he and his lovely wife, Sue, will live to be 100 and I told him so in his apartment where we had dinner with two other guests. He took us to his secret place, a small beach where he swims every morning and has been doing this for many years. I wish buai chewing, cigarette smoking, boozing Papua New Guineans would follow his example and learn to live quality lives. I think lifestyle diseases are destroying many of our people in PNG.



*Julie says goodbye at Cairns International Airport - lukim yu*

I went into many Australian homes, ate with them and shared jokes with those who could speak Pidgin. I sensed that I was accepted as I was – an illiterate woman from a remote province up in the highlands of PNG who was on her first trip overseas. If I struggled with my fork and knife and ate with my hands, they didn't seem to mind or notice. These gestures comforted me. I mixed with them as if I had known them before.

Something I noticed in the shops, train stations, hotels and public transport systems is that everywhere there are people ready to help. I went shopping on my own in Brisbane and Sydney and, when people realised I was new to the place and gave only one word answers, they simplified everything for me. I was able to understand much better and felt at ease. The streets are designed with everybody in mind – the mother with a baby in a pram, the old men, a person in a wheelchair. That's why we were able to take our wheelchair writer Francis Nii to many interesting locations in Brisbane. I wish our towns and cities in PNG could be designed in such a manner so people can enjoy themselves. Francis Nii was even booked into hotel rooms, like at Noosa Blue, especially designed for wheelchair guests.

I will take many memories with me back to PNG but the one that stands out is me standing beside my husband to give presents at the Jackson's home in Treasure Cove to Hon Glen Elmes MP, Noosa Mayor Cr Tony Wellington, Deputy Mayor Cr Frank Wilkie, Cr Ingrid Jackson and many Australian friends including the youngest of all, three year-old Leilani.

And finally, I thank Paga Hill Development Company, Keith Jackson and Professor Ken McKinnon, Ben Jackson and organisers of the Brisbane Writers Festival for treating me as an equal to the PNG writers – Francis Nii, Martyn Namorong, Rashmii Bell and my husband Daniel Kumbon. I received the same treatment and I thank you all for your generosity and foresight.

I am a mother of five children and what I will do now is to encourage my children to read and write more. I know the problems my children's schools face – no libraries, no books, no properly trained English teachers and so on but, despite the odds, it is my duty as a parent to encourage them to read and write more. And maybe one day they can follow in the footsteps of their illiterate mother to Australia.

# BOOKS & REVIEWS

## Land of the Unexpected...Short stories, Anecdotes and Memories of Papua New Guinea

**Author: Peter Comerford**

Publisher: Peter Comerford.

Design, editing and production by APM

Publishing Services

Year: 2016

ISBN: 97809944474259

Pages: 360

Soft or Hardback: Paperback

Additional info: Cover photographs by Peter Comerford

Category: Biography

Available from:

comerfpe233@gmail.com

Cost: (incl postage within Australia where appropriate) \$25 plus \$7.84 postage within Australia

**Description:** This is a book consisting of short stories, anecdotes and memories of an ASOPAN teacher's experiences in PNG from 1971 to 2015. It is based on Peter's experiences as a teacher in New Ireland, and a teacher and Principal at Popondetta and then Bougainville up to and during the crisis when the Panguna Mine was closed due to militant activity, which resulted in a blockade lasting ten years.

## The Scholar Explorer. The Life, the Times of the Baron Nikolai Nikolaevich Mikluho Maclay

**Author: Yvonne Webb**

Publisher: Boolarong Press, Salisbury Australia

Year: 2016

ISBN: 9781925236880

Pages: 221

Soft or Hardback: Soft

Additional info eg: Bibliography, Photographs (colour or b&w), Maps, Index etc See attached

Category: 910.92

Available from: Boolarong Press

Cost: (incl postage within Aust where appropriate) \$29.95 +\$5.50 postage

**Description:** An evocative tale of a feisty science driven man who lived amongst the indigenous people of New Guinea detailing little known facts at that time of their lives and the book is full of little known facts.

A German colleague double crossed him and he was instrumental in the British, German and Australian presence in New Guinea. Archival material sheds light on his recording of the blackbirding trade and the procurement of people from Papua New Guinea and Arnhem Land of Australia into the slave trade of the Moslem Maharajahs of what is now Indonesia.

His story is one of a driven man struggling with the politics of the time. He died prematurely of an undiagnosed brain tumour

## The Chalkies: Educating an army for independence

**By Darryl R Dymock**

ISBN: 978-1-925333-77-0

Australian Scholarly Publishing

Format: Paperback

Publication date: 1st September 2016

**Description:** Between 1966 and 1973, while Australian troops were fighting in Vietnam, some 300 conscripted teachers were quietly posted to Papua New Guinea. Colloquially known as 'Chalkies', their task was to raise the educational level of troops of the Pacific Islands Regiment in what turned out to be critical years leading up to the country's independence. Drawing on the recollections of more than 70 of those National Servicemen, Dr Darryl Dymock, a former Chalkie, tells the story of how these young teachers responded to the challenges of a life in an exotic land on Australia's doorstep. Major-General Michael Jeffery, a former Australian Governor-General, has kindly contributed a foreword to the book.

## THE END OF THE ROAD

**Author: FRANK CARTER**

Publisher: FRANK CARTER

Year: 2016

ISBN: 978-0-473-35548-7

Pages: 456

Soft or Hardback: SOFT COVER

Additional info eg: Bibliography, Photographs (colour or b&w), Maps, Index etc

EMBEDDED QR CODE (gives access to view many old PNG photos, other diaries and 3 videos)

Category: AUTOBIOGRAPHY

Available from: F and R CARTER, VILLA 22KEMPTON PARK, 40 TE PAEROA ROAD, BETHLEHEM, TAURANGA 3110, NZ

Email: frcarter1@gmail.com

Cost: AUD28.00 plus AUD15.75 postage

**Description:** Frank's story encapsulates experiences from early childhood through to the present day and is supported by excerpts taken from his wife Ruth's letters to her mother. His memoir includes tales of pioneering missionary work in the remote mountainous regions of Papua New Guinea, as well as motorbike adventures while there and also in modern-day New Zealand. Further short-term mission episodes to North African countries all contribute to an exciting life.

## Teaching in Papua New Guinea

**Author: Trevor Freestone**

ISBN-10: 1456869582 ISBN-13: 978-

1456869588 Published 2011 88pp

**Description:** I have published a book about my teaching experiences in New Guinea. I spent two years at Ambunti on the Sepik River. Then I was posted to Pagei a very isolated patrol post on the West Papua border. From there I was posted to the Benna Benna. Finally, I went to Watabung a school on the highway between Goroka and the Chimbu. I became a Magician learnt how to be a pyrotechnician. Finally, with the help of the Goroka Technical College boys we put on a firework display in Goroka to celebrate their first Independence Day.

Cost: \$25 including postage

Available from:

trevorfreestone@hotmail.com

# Sing Sing - events and reunions

## Cairns Kiaps' reunion

Thanks to everyone who turned up - Paul Bourne won the distance prize as he came from Vietnam to attend. We had a good turn up, about 35 ex-kiaps and together with partners, family and kindred spirits brought the total up to about 65. It was fabulous to see everyone catching up and telling stories of a life long ago and faraway - maybe next time we should have a tape recorder at every table (censored of course !!). After the main event many people had their own catch-ups which included several who travelled up to Kuranda to stay with Arch and Sue and then on to north of Cooktown to stay with Scunge). Unfortunately, a few people eluded the photographers (you know who you are). The official photographer will get you next time!

The main door prize was a set of New Guinea holey coins, generously provided by Ross Wilkinson, and was won by Tintin Bartlett. The other prizes, a Tultul badge and a Territory Of Papua Councillor badge, were won by Melanie Warrillow and Richard Wiltshire respectively. The Cairns Colonial Club's Poolside venue was very comfortable and the staff were very accommodating. Many thanks to those who helped with the event including Paul Van Staveren, Rod Cantlay, John McGregor, Steve Cutlack and Peter Shanahan (Forestry), who took most of the photos. The years seem to pass faster these days and so I propose the next Cairns reunion for two years' time.

Feedback appreciated. Deryck Thompson



*Laurie Bragge and Martin Kerr  
at Kiaps gathering Cairns*



*Lyll Ford and Mike Press at  
Kiaps gathering Cairns*

## 2016 Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary Reunion

Many thanks to those who attended this year's reunion at the Wynnum RSL Club. Breakfast on Sunday at the Pelican's nest gave us all a further opportunity to reminisce, followed by a final BBQ and out-of-towners headed home early Monday morning. We look forward to welcoming more members and friends at the 2017 reunion. Keep an eye out for details.

**Earl Sanders M 0408 265112**



**PNGAA Queensland members will have two opportunities to choose from to escape the summer heat with tours planned for an exhibition of PNG art at the Queensland Art Gallery. No 1 Neighbour | Art in Papua New Guinea 1966–2016 Queensland Art Gallery, South Brisbane Opening Saturday 15 October till Sunday 29 January 2017**

#### TOUR 1

Wednesday 18 January 11.00–2.15am FREE private tour of the exhibition by Curator Pacific Art, Ruth McDougall. Please indicate if you would like to stay on afterwards at the GOMA Café Bistro. A table will be booked but members will be responsible for their own beverages and meals. Children and grandchildren are welcome. Please RSVP by Wed 11 January to [events@pngaa.net](mailto:events@pngaa.net) or call Sara Mob: 0401138246 (See 'Youth' below for additional details.)

#### TOUR 2

Sunday 29 January 1.30–2.15pm FREE public tour of the exhibition by Curator Pacific Art, Ruth McDougall. Please RSVP by Mon 23 January to [events@pngaa.net](mailto:events@pngaa.net) or call Sara Mob: 0401138246  
Image: [www.qagoma.qld.gov.au/whats-on/exhibitions/no1-neighbour](http://www.qagoma.qld.gov.au/whats-on/exhibitions/no1-neighbour)  
Image: [www.qagoma.qld.gov.au/whats-on/exhibitions/no1-neighbour](http://www.qagoma.qld.gov.au/whats-on/exhibitions/no1-neighbour)



Simon Gende  
*No 1 Kiap blong Australia*  
*Mr Jim Taylor I brukim bush*  
*long Highlands Papua*  
*Niugini 1999. Purchased*  
*1999. Queensland Art*  
*Gallery Foundation Grant*

**School holidays are a time when PNGAA families might holiday or visit relatives in Queensland. So PNGAA is inviting all members to bring their children, grandchildren, or young guests, along to see what you have been talking about all these years!**



**FREE private tour by Curator Pacific Art, Ruth McDougall.**

**Wednesday 18 January 11.00–12.15am**

No 1 Neighbour | Art in Papua New Guinea 1966–2016  
Queensland Art Gallery, South Brisbane

Links to an online Educational Resource suitable for children 12 years+ will be made available to members who RSVP. Please indicate the following details with your RSVP

- Number and age of young guests
- Numbers to stay on afterwards at the GOMA Café Bistro.

A table will be booked but members will be responsible for their own beverages and meals.

RSVP by Wednesday 11 January to [events@pngaa.net](mailto:events@pngaa.net) or call Sara on M 0401138246

**PLEASE NOTE:** this tour is not limited to members with children!



John Siune  
*Boi pren na girl Pren Tupela i stap*  
*long Port Morsbi city. Tupela lusim*  
*pasin bilong ples na kisim pasin*  
*bilong wait man 1999*  
Collection: Helen and Paul Dennett

# Obituaries

## **BAXTER, Barrie D. 3** **September 2016. age 88 at** **Murrumba Downs, Qld**

Barrie was born in Lancashire. U.K. He joined the Grenadier Guards in 1946 resigning in 1948 to join the Lancashire Constabulary from July 1948 until March 1960. He moved to Australia and on 9.5.1960 joined the Tasmanian Police Force resigning on 27.4.1961. On 1.5.1961 he was appointed to the Royal Papua and New Guinea Constabulary as a Sub Inspector. His first posting was to Bulolo where he served for 2 years, followed by appointment as instructor at the RP&NGC police college firstly at Kila and subsequently at Bomana. In June 1965, he was appointed to the newly formed RP&NGC Special Branch and served in this role at Mt Hagen and later at Rabaul until 1969. Between 1969 and 1972 he was the Chief Licensing Inspector attached to the Liquor Commission headed by Ralph Ormsby and later by Vern McNeil. His final posting was as O.I.C. Boroko.

On 3.2.1971, as a result of his cumulative police service, he was awarded the Queen's Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. In accordance with the transitional progress to Papua New Guinea Independence in September 1975, he, like many other permanent Administration officers, was retrenched under the provisions of the Australian Government Permanent Officers Employment Security

Scheme on 27.2.1974 at the rank of Superintendent.

Returning to Australia, he worked for the Brisbane City Council for around 17 years in an administrative role. A keen bowler, tall and "ramrod straight" as a result of his years in the Guards, he represented Papua New Guinea on several occasions in the Commonwealth Games. He leaves a widow of more than 60 years, Catherine (Kitty), three adult children and their families.

Maxwell R. HAYES.

## **BREDMEYER (Dr** **Theodore) CBE D. 25** **September 2016**

The judicial officers and staff of the Supreme Court of WA extend their most sincere condolences to the family of Dr Theo Bredmeyer CBE, who retired as a Master of the court in 2002 after 11 years of dedicated service to the court and a lifetime of service to the administration of justice in Australia and PNG. The family arranged a service on 3 October at St. Andrews Anglican Church, Subiaco. See more at: <http://www.westannouncements.com.au/obituaries>

## **CRAWFORD, Bruce D. 1** **September 2016**

It is with great sadness we are emailing to let you know Bruce died peacefully in the early

hours of Thursday, September 1, surrounded by his family. He had been living with a terminal idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis for some time. Jenny, Katherine and Andrew Crawford

## **CULLEN, Eileen Rose D.** **15 September 2015** **B. 29 December 1925 -** **Widow of Hector Keith** **(deceased April 1973),**

also a Queenslander, and mother of TP&NG-born sons Terence, Alan & Brian, Eileen passed away after a brief illness from complications due to pneumonia. She ceased regular golfing about a decade ago and, in more recent years, her short-term memory had been noticeably failing. Eileen is survived by her sons and their families, Dr Robin King Cullen & Bronwen King Stacey, Julie & Kirsty & Sean Cullen, and Colleen & Libby Cullen, respectively and her own younger sister Marie. As well as Keith, her parents and both older brothers also predeceased her.

As a post-WW2 new bride, Eileen accompanied Keith to Lae where he, as a cartographer and photogrammetrist, was involved in recovery of mapping and other material for Forestry and other purposes. Terry was born in Lae while Alan and Brian had Port Moresby as their place of birth following Keith's relocation there as the Chief Draftsman for Forestry in the late 1940s. Keith was boarded out in 1971 in the public service

Localisation process and the family “went finish” to Brisbane.

Eileen was a stenographer-typist whose skills were such that during her time as a principal private secretary for one Director of Education was often called on as a Hansard Reporter for the early House of Assembly. Bracketting her employment in the Administration through the 1960s, she worked also in the private sector, with Ken Burke’s various enterprises in admin roles prior and later as office manager with Willing English & Devin Consulting Engineers.

As she told it, her early career ambition was to be a solicitor but such was the cultural and economic constraints of her childhood years, that desire was not to be realised and, of the prevailing sex-role stereotypes, it was to be off to commercial/secretarial school. To some extent but post-retirement, she vicariously “studied” Psychology and History from typing up Terry’s assignments (until he finally learnt to touch-type for Journalism) in his Bachelor of Arts degree which was undertaken concurrent with his Architecture course. She attended various of Terry’s graduation ceremonies with the most recent being an MBA in the late 90s and for Robin’s PhD ceremony at UQ several years earlier.

To an extent, Eileen followed closely and took great comfort from the career achievements and personal travel adventures of her sons and families, especially those of Terry & Robin with their regular extended visits to Paris as well as Alan’s various trips such as to Central America and Ireland. After leaving the Territory, she made only one overseas trip herself,

that being with Terry & Robin to Singapore & Hong Kong. These probably diverted and distracted her from the gradual failing health and eventual passing of her many local friends and the many contemporaries with whom she maintained contact.

## **CURTIN, Sir Michael D.** **11 September 2016**

Sir Michael Curtain, owner of civil engineering and construction company Curtain Brothers Limited, has passed away in Townsville just before PNG’s 41st Independence Anniversary. Sir Michael started the Curtain Group along with his brothers Dan and David Curtain in the country in October 1966 with the commencement of operations by the company known as Curtain Bros Papua New Guinea Limited.

For further information visit the following sites <http://giaman.com/pg/?c92718> <http://www.onepng.com/2016/09/sir-michael-curtain-passes-on.html> and <http://www.senatormacdonald.org/news/15-09-16-Vale-Sir-Mick-Curtain-501>

## **FOLEY, Pam (nee Bakewell)**

In 1946 an adventurous young woman named Pam Bakewell, a member of the Australian Army Medical Women’s Service, got on a boat in Sydney to go to Japan to help the occupying forces.

The boat got as far as New Britain, an island off the coast of Papua

New Guinea, and she got off to go to midnight Mass. She asked the local colonel how to get to the church and he introduced her to another Catholic, an Irish lieutenant, Mick Foley, a very tall young man with very white skin and a shock of very red hair, who took her to the church and brought her safely back, as instructed.

Mick was instantly smitten, although Pam wasn’t quite so sure. But one thing led to another and eventually a letter arrived in Sydney for her mother, inviting her to the wedding and, because cloth was still scarce after the war, asking her to remake her debutante dress into a wedding dress. This was duly done and Mick and Pam were married at the beginning of 1948.

By then, Mick had been recruited to work in PNG and was a ‘kiap’, a patrol officer. Eventually he became a district commissioner and member of the House of Assembly. He was then stationed in Gasmata in southern New Britain and Foley settled down to make a home in a place where there was only one boat every six weeks, a situation that made her inclined to be a terrific hoarder for the rest of her life. She also quickly started picking up the PNG pidgin.

In Gasmata, Foley was soon pregnant and her mother insisted that she return to Sydney for her first child, a daughter, Kerry. After that, however, she stayed in PNG despite its lack of medical facilities and over the years the family moved on to Kandrian, Rabaul, Kainatu in the Central Highlands, Mount Hagan and Kuniawa. She gave birth to her second child, son Christopher, in the back of a Land Rover. A second daughter, Kate, was born on the floor of Kainantu council chambers during



a meeting. Mother and baby were carried home by local stretcher bearers

("dokta bois") with police lanterns. The third daughter, Mary, was born 2 1/2 months prematurely on a ship in international waters, delivered by the first mate and christened by Mick with seawater just in case she didn't survive.

Throughout their travels, Foley managed life and family as one of the few white women in the highlands, and one of even fewer of the white women who spoke pidgin. She cared for everyone, including junior officers and their families, and the servants. As Mick moved upwards in his work, Foley also took on entertaining visiting royals and government people. Prince Philip and Lord Mountbatten came to visit at different times. Gough Whitlam, then the Leader of Opposition, stayed on a visit with his wife, Margaret, and Foley's main memory was that Gough wouldn't stop talking and Margaret had to drag him off to bed very late that night.

Then, the early 1970s, Mick developed heart trouble and the family was sent back to Australia. Mick was asked to run the Red Cross in Darwin, but his cardiologist said he could no longer work in the tropics, so the family relocated to Sydney. In 1975, Mick died leaving Pam heartbroken and with three teenaged children still to raise.

She also had to get a job and she started working for a florist. Soon that wasn't enough so she took an administrative position at ASOPA (Australian School of Pacific Administration) in Mosman. Even after she retired from ASOPA in

the 1980s, she continued working at St Michael's Catholic Church in Lane Cove until well into the 1990s.

She also did voluntary work with many charities. She was also for many years' secretary of the Retired Officers Association of PNG. Until she was 90, she volunteered at the Mater Hospital. She also liked to visit the Chatswood Catholic church and chat in pidgin with the Chinese women who had also lived in PNG. She did voluntary work until she was 90, still driving herself around. Then she had pneumonia, and two heart attacks. Her last two years were spent at home, cared for by her family.

Pam Foley is survived by her children Kate, Mary and Peter, son-in-law John, daughter-in-law Emma, five grandchildren, three great-granddaughters and sister Ann-Marie. Her children Kerry and Christopher predeceased her.

Harriet Veitch Life of adventure as one of few white women in PNG  
SMH - Monday, 5 Sep 2016 - Page 26  
Copyright © 2016 The Sydney Morning Herald

## **GEYLE, Adrian Martin:** **17/02/1930 – 22/11/2015**

Born in country Victoria (Berriwillock) Adrian was the third of seven children to Vincent and Philipa.

His avid journal keeping later contributed to his factual and often entertaining chapters of significant events and life experiences in Papua New Guinea. There are more than a dozen of these in Une Voce's Kiaps of PNG

and later chapters of the books that David, his friend of many years refers to in his obituary. The camera and rolls of film Adrian carefully protected from the ravages of the harsh tropical environment captured significant images he would later refer to for a number of large oil paintings, such as the PNG tribal hut.

In a letter written 30 years ago he offered an explanation of how he moved to live in the remoteness of PNG.

'A couple of my knock-about [sic] same- age mates had been away to war and back, unsettling me with their fascinating accounts of what they'd seen and been through. As one of 23 applicants from all over Australia I landed a career job as a cadet patrol officer in Papua New Guinea. At the age of 23 I was appointed an Officer of the Royal Papuan Constabulary and a Member of the Court of Native Matters, a magistrate, stationed in the Upper Fly River area... pretty heady stuff for the boy from Collins Street, Melbourne Branch of the Commonwealth Bank after only 2 years in the field!"

After a break from his two-year patrol officer position for health reasons he returned as a field assistant with two oil search companies in the Sepik District. He did not escape Malaria living in the jungle, but made light of the relapses we saw him suffer when back visiting his mother and father in Ballarat.

Noted in his diaries are dates of his being appointed to the Upper Sepik River Reconnaissance Gravity Survey and core drill party and in 1956-57 as Native

Labour Supervisor. Then in 1968 he became Public Service Commissioner Konedobu Port Moresby. He was responsible for 'drafting the first income tax return form for indigenes and assisted in the education of New Guineans in their responsibilities as citizens in a society in transition through formal education and modernization.'

I can also imagine his enthusiasm in the role he embraced from 1968-1970 advising PNG school-leavers on career choices in schools of the Central District.

It was such a treat to find a private keepsake amongst his things, written by his PNG Party Leader S. J. Paterson "... Mr Geyle's able handling of the Native Affairs, a result of several years spent as a Patrol Officer in the Territory, contributed greatly to the success of the 1956 field season....much of the 1957 party's success in recruiting native labour is due to the goodwill established by Mr Geyle."

Adrian was preparing to teach by completing a two-year teacher training course at the Australian School of Pacific Administration in 1972. However, the intended program lost its impetus when the change in Government funding for PNG schooling impacted on his dream to contribute to the betterment of the isolated tribal communities. He clearly developed a life-long quest to understand and work toward the betterment of life for tribal indigenous people, and continued with additional teacher training through to 1977 with the NSW Department of Education. He later embarked on a new journey working with his own Aboriginal people in Arnhem Land, Gove, after venturing up to Darwin.

Driving a taxi for many years in Sydney provided freedom to pursue his Master's in Education and his insatiable quest for better knowing people and their views on life. He had a particular flair for his chosen subjects of anthropology & politics, and considered his opportunities to talk with his passengers as other chapters in the University of Life. In 1986 a conversation over a long distance cab fare with a Manuscript Librarian prompted his next project which was to complete his writings to share more broadly. Self-publishing was not an option. His memoir and collection of photographs in *Currents and Customs: Stories of a tribal kind* have been stored for posterity at the Pacific Manuscripts Bureau in Canberra and are available internationally. They document through his eyes and the lens of his cameras, his rite of passage through traditional Papua New Guinea indigenous society via the "road less traveled by" (Robert Frost) which he chose and recorded so that we could experience *The Road Not Taken* in our own lives.

After 17 years living in his beloved Ballina in the Northern Rivers Adrian finally settled on the need to live in supported accommodation close by in beautiful Bangalow. Being close to nature, animals and birds was very important, as were his connections to neighbours and friends in the local community who were his chosen family.

Adrian never gave up his quest to make a difference, asking me to support his intended letter to a local minister of Parliament about an aged care anomaly only weeks before he passed away quietly and unexpectedly in late November 2015. This remarkably private and humble uncle sometimes spoke of

regrets that he was never a father. Yet he nurtured so many children throughout his exceptional life, encouraging them to believe in themselves, stimulate enquiry and expand their capacity to take on worthwhile challenges.

Kathryn Geyle

## HOARE, Stuart James D. 30 June 2016 aged 86

Stuart Hoare was born in Annandale in 1929. He and his younger brother attended schools in the Inner West of Sydney. A career in agriculture appealed to him from early on and he wanted to go on to Hawkesbury Agricultural College straight after completing his junior years at Hurlstone Agricultural High School. But he was too young to do this, so he filled in the necessary waiting period by working for two years on his uncle's dairy farm on the Darling Downs.

After acquiring his qualifications at Hawkesbury he took up employment in the Young-Boorowa area with the Soil Conservation Service of the NSW Department of Primary Industry. Following this was work on a large agricultural property near Toowoomba. Towards the end of his twenties he decided to head north to the tropics. He believed that he was the first Australian to be recruited to the former British Solomon Islands Protectorate administration as an Agricultural Officer. He started with a Honiara posting and later was sent to Auki on Malaita. Here he often went barefoot on patrol until his system became infested with the dreaded hookworm. The lesson did not go unheeded.



*Stuart James D. Hoare*

After two years in the Solomons he learnt via Sydney contacts that there were agricultural positions being advertised in Papua. He applied and was soon relocating to Koitaki in the Central District, not far from Port Moresby where he took up a job as assistant manager on a rubber plantation. He was very surprised to see just how fast the latex would drip from a large tree that had been tapped. In the locality were packhorse trails dating from pre-war times that were used to transport bales of smoked rubber sheets down to the Moresby wharves. Stuart arrived in the Territory of Papua & New Guinea just as the payment of income tax became a requirement for expatriate residents. One of the questions asked of those who were filing a return was the date of their arrival in the Territory. He had no difficulty remember his – April 1, 1960.

In the middle of 1961 he was appointed as an agricultural extension officer – a didiman – at Goroka. This was just as the Department of Agriculture Stock & Fisheries began a programme to set up locally owned cattle projects throughout the Highlands. In the course of his work there, then and during a later stint, he visited much of the highlands – Okapa, Kainantu, Aiyura, Henganofi, Minj, Banz, Mt Hagen and Baiyer River. Later at Rigo in Papua, he met Beryl Richardson, a teacher from Kwikila High School. (Beryl made no bones about her reaction at the first sight of Stuart. ‘He’s the bloke for me,’ she told herself). They were married in 1969 and were posted to Bainyik in the East Sepik. Not long afterwards he was appointed Provincial Agricultural Officer in Wewak where his talents and experience were put to good use. After Wewak, he was posted

to Vudal Agricultural College as a lecturer. Beryl taught at Kerevat National High School. He saw out his last year in the country – 1979 – at Mendi.

Coming south, Stuart put his savings into a business venture with a third party. Unfortunately, this failed so he had to go out and earn a living again. He worked for a while with a pest control firm and later with the NSW Education Department. Other challenges he had to deal were his separation from Beryl and the sad loss of his younger daughter, Jacinta. His elder daughter, Renata, married and much to Stuart’s delight produced two grandchildren, Katiya and Oskar. He retired to the Gold Coast where he kept himself busy with such activities as performing charitable work with the Salvation Army, helping with Meals on Wheels and lecturing with the University of the Third Age. He eventually moved back to Sydney and lived with Renata & Chris and their family for all save three months of his last eight years. He maintained a keen interest in Papua New Guinea and, to Renata’s mild alarm, continued to add appropriate PNG titles to his library till the end. No pastime appealed to him more than simple yarnning – recounting his experiences in PNG and listening to those of others.

## **MARVELL, Peter Clifford D. 8 June 2016**

Peter Marvell was born in North Sydney on 27th May, 1932. He completed his schooling at North Sydney Boys’ High School from where he matriculated in 1949. He excelled at Rugby and represented



Combined High Schools. He remained throughout his life a keen member of the Old Falconian's - an old boys club from North Sydney Boys High School. From the end of 1949 to the start of 1954 he worked for Ku-ring-gai Council as a clerk. In January 1954 he accepted a position with the Administration of Papua New Guinea. By then he had married Mondy Healy. They had met when they were both only 16, engaged at 18 and married in 1952, both aged 20.

Peter applied for a job in 1954 and was accepted by the Department of Agriculture Stock and Fisheries, Port Moresby. He had to leave straight away even though Mondy was pregnant with their first child. Although promised housing it took six months to secure married housing and by that time Monday arrived she was carrying their six-week old son Steven in her arms. They were picked up at the airport by great friends Norm Webster and wife Pat. Norm passed away in April 2016, two months before Peter. They remained close friends all their lives.

Twelve months later Peter was promoted to Supply Officer for the Department. Like many others at that time he accepted much responsibility at a very young age. Peter joined the Konedobu Hockey Club and later went on to represent Papua. Mondy had joined the Papuan Players and appeared in several plays and musicals. They had a great life in Port Moresby and were very happy there. In 1955 Peter was transferred to the Lae office as Regional Clerk replacing Jack Thomas a B4 who was retiring. They secured a house on a hill above the hockey fields. You could see all the way to Salamaua. Unlike Port Moresby they had to get used

to the extra rain and the earth tremors. His position included the regular internal audit of all agricultural centers, promotion of cash crops for the locals, quarantine control on the New Guinea mainland and he travelled extensively through the country. Peter became one of the founding members of the Lae Hockey Association.

After nine years in Papua New Guinea, with the children getting older and with the lack of schooling locally, there was a need to send them to Australia for schooling. Peter and Mondy could not entertain the thought of sending them away so in 1962 they returned to Sydney. The family then comprised Steven (born Sydney), Cheryl (born Port Moresby), Garry (born on leave in Sydney) and Kevin (born Lae). Peter obtained a position with Sydney University Union where he was to become Secretary (CEO) in 1969 and the first Secretary of the amalgamated Union and Sydney University Womens' Union in 1972.

In 1973 Peter moved to The Grain Elevators Board of NSW-later to become the Grain Handling Authority of NSW. He took the position of Board Secretary and stayed for the next fifteen years. Recreation during those years included coaching junior Rugby and sailing. In 1988 he took early retirement from the Authority to concentrate on the wholesale plant nursery which he and Mondy were establishing on four acres of land at Terrey Hills. While at Terrey Hills Peter became involved in local affairs and served as Secretary and Treasurer with the Terrey Hills Progress Association for several years. The nursery (Petamon, a combination of both

their names), although small, became quite successful but by 1998 the heavy work was taking its toll. They decided to sell and retire to North Turrumurra. In retirement, as a hobby, they took up beekeeping, both Peter and Mondy became active in the North Shore Beekeepers Association where Peter served as Librarian, Secretary and President. In 2013 they were both made Honorary Life Members of the Association. Over the years they won many prizes for their honey at the Hawkesbury Agricultural Show and the Sydney Royal Easter Show. Peter was a great supporter of the Papua New Guinea Club and was an early adopter after its inception. His daughter Cheryl is a current member. Peter made many great lifelong friends from his time in Papua New Guinea and it remained a highlight of his and Mondy's lives. His family and friends miss him terribly

## METH, Maurice D. 4 September 2016

Maurice Meth was a long time employee of Burns Philp (PNG) from 1972 to 1990. He served in the Burns Philp Shipping & Transport division in Lae and Port Moresby. Maurice's funeral was very fitting in a small church in Mossman (North Queensland). There were eulogies by one of his brothers, his niece and friends from the golf club. All attested to his life-long passions for golf, the business of shipping, and an always-optimistic outlook on life. Vale Maurice.

## **PROBERT, Ben D. 14 August 2016**

Ben passed away in his home in Bristol UK aged 86. Ben came to Australia in 1966 and worked in the Northern Territory for a number of years before becoming a mature age Assistant Patrol Officer 1970. He spent his whole career in the Southern Highlands with postings in Ialibu and Koroba before taking over from me as Assistant District Commissioner at Tari in 1979. In 1986 he left the service and worked in Wafi and Mt Kare before returning to England in 1996 to be near his family. In retirement he travelled extensively, enjoyed his grandchildren and spent many hours tending to his allotment by the village common, growing vegetables.

On a more personal note we became good friends during the time Ben was in Koroba. After we returned to Australia he became a regular correspondent and was always interested in hearing about PNG friends and colleagues. We exchanged visits and on one of those journeyed to the Orkneys, a sort of "Geriatric Griswalds go to Scotland". This included a canal trip in Wales, where I skippered, whilst Ben and Maxine opened and closed lock gates. Unfortunately, it rained and I was stuck outside in a yellow raincoat and hat looking like an overgrown canary, while the rest were inside, including Maxine's mother Betty, drinking tea. Ben was a great travelling companion even if we did spend an inordinate length of time looking for the cheapest cuppa whenever we stopped.

Ben's funeral was held on the 25 August. He is survived by his daughters Valeri, Marion and

Hilary and sons Keith and Steve and his 6 grandchildren & 2 great-grandchildren. Rob Campbell from Scotland, a didiman in Tari for a number of years, represented Ben's PNG colleagues and friends. "Waltzing Matilda" was sung, representing Australia and rugby, both were important to him. In a salute to his beloved allotment his coffin was bedecked with vegetables (grown on family members' allotments) and his garden fork. A respected colleague and good friend, who will be missed by many. Noel and Maxine Wright

Details provided by daughter Hilary Cox

## **RACE Sydney, D 5.9.2016, at Gosnells, W.A. aged 79**

Photo: Syd and his wife, Judy, with Police Overseas Service Medal awards.

Born in Castletown England. On arrival in Australia, he joined the West Australian Police Force on 11.2.1963, serving until 8.7.1965. On 11.3.1966 he was appointed as a Sub-Inspector in the Royal Papua & New Guinea Constabulary and served widely throughout Papua New Guinea.

In accordance with the provisions of the Australian Government's move to Papua New Guinea Independence in 1975 he was retrenched from the Constabulary under the provisions of the Contract Officers' Permanent Employment Security Scheme on 21.7. 1974 at the rank of Inspector 2/c. The family returned to Perth where he took up a position with the West Australia Prison Service until 1978. In 1979 the family

removed to Darwin where he joined the Northern Territory Prison Service where he served with two other former RPNGC officers, Don Dale and Fred Mercer. During his tenure, Lindy Chamberlain was an inmate. He retired in 1997. For his extended service in the Constabulary and prison services he was awarded the National Medal 1975 and more recently the Police Overseas Service Medal with clasp TPNG. Co-incidentally his wife, was also awarded this medal for her service as a Sgt 2/c in the RPNGC Reserve. He leaves his widow of over 50 years, Judy and five adult children and their families.

Supplied by M.R. HAYES.

## **REITANO, Mary Alice Kathleen D. 18 August 2016 in Brisbane, Qld aged 99 years.**

Mary was born in Bangalow, NSW and was a wartime nurse and social worker. Her full obituary was published in The Courier-Mail 1 October 2016. Words by Paul Reitano.

## **ROWE, Peggy (nee Margaret Florence Austin) D. 2 July 2016 in Melbourne.**

Peggy was born on 10.02.1929 and had three children and six grandchildren. The family lived at Gunantambu at Kokopo, formerly the home of Queen Emma, pre WWII.

# Market

Hat maker, Rosie Boylan collaborates with Papua New Guinean bilum weavers to create new headwear styles available now in her Sydney store.

A select range of bilum headwear is for sale in Rosie's Sydney shop in Newtown. Check her website for directions and opening hours. [www.rosieboylan.com](http://www.rosieboylan.com) phone 0412 744 186

The ancient technique of twisting and looping fibres to create colourful utility bags has been the creative practice of PNG women for centuries. Rosie recently travelled to Mt Hagen in the PNG highlands to collaborate with regional bilum weavers under the leadership of Barbra Pagasa. Introducing milliners' hats blocks and conducting training sessions around headwear proportions, the Hagen weavers have quickly adapted their techniques to produce bilum berets and beanies in vibrant patterns and colours.

Creating export opportunities for the bilum weavers extends their market reach, builds business enterprises and draws international focus to the talented women of PNG.

Featured in VOGUE Australia, these light weight, hand-crafted berets make the perfect Christmas gift to send to friends of all ages, men women, and young people!



*Complex patterns with multiple threads*



*Miriam working her Bilum pattern on a hat block*

## WEBSITE WALKABOUT

The PNGAA website working-party is continuing to 'fight the good fight' behind the scenes to bring this new communication tool to life for members. Aspects being further developed include: Text searchable on-line Una Voce articles, facility for member contributions, easy access to archived Una Voces, new membership applications and renewals, events, photo galleries, PNGAA collection, DVDs for sale and recent PNGAA & general news.

Meanwhile for more wonders of technology, if you have access to the internet, go to this site for an aerial view taken by a drone! Is this the POM you remember?

[http://skerah.com/PNG/travel/droning-around-port-moresby/?utm\\_source=twitterfeed&utm\\_medium=twitter](http://skerah.com/PNG/travel/droning-around-port-moresby/?utm_source=twitterfeed&utm_medium=twitter)

### Channel 9's 60 Minute report

Visit these links to view a Channel 9's 60 Minutes report on the Swamp Ghost, B17 Bomber – PNG war relic now housed in Pearl Harbour, Hawaii, at the Pacific Aviation Museum

**Part One:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dUKfT7pOKHE>

**Part Two:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YNOUQlxJFsk>

Supplied by Bruce Hoy



## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Mr Peter BARR	41 Alexander Street, MANLY	NSW	2095
Ms Denise GILCRIST	3 Elmsted Court, CAIRNLEA	VIC	3023
Mr Richard HESSION	Unit 8 17 - 21 Wetherill Street, NARRABEEN	NSW	2101
Mr Graeme SCOTT	P.O. Box 229, HAMILTON	VIC	3300
Ms Lynne SHORI	23 Kangaroo Street, MANLY	NSW	2095
Mr Timothy WILLIAMS	49A Reid Street, WANGARATTA	VIC	3677
Mr Peter WOHLERS	PO Box 739, BARMERA	SA	5345

## CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Mr Ron STORER	12 Mooloolah Road, MOOLOOLA VALLEY	QLD	4553
Mr Donald DANIELS	GPO BOX 2130, BRISBANE	QLD	4001
Mr Peter CHANDLER	2 Harts Farm Cottages, Hoe Lane Bosham, Chichester, WEST SUSSEX	UK	PO18 8ER
Mr Hugh RICHARDSON	Unit 29 33-93, Spinifex Avenue, TEA GARDENS	NSW	2324
Ms Gillian NIKAKIS	Unit 2, 25 Morven Street, MORNINGTON	VIC	3931
Mr Darryl WARHURST	C/O "Walwa", Gurrundah, Via GUNNING	NSW	2581
Mr Mal SHANNON	P.O. Box 39, TAIGUM	QLD	4018
Mr Gerard YATES	8/6 Belangason Way, SHOAL POINT	QLD	4750
Mr Murray BLADWELL	16/523 Coronation Drive, TOOWONG	QLD	4066
Mr Denis RUEDIGER	4210 Mary Valley Road, BROOLOO	QLD	4570
Dr Kirstie BARRY	29 Gwelo street, WEST FOOTSCRAY	VIC	3012
Mr William PARSONS	Villa 4, 500 South Street, GLENVALE	QLD	4350

**Members will be able to contact other members through the new website coming soon and therefore it has been decided not to print the Membership Directory at this stage. If you require a hard copy of the Membership Directory, please write to the PNGAA or phone the Membership Officer (see p1) and it will be sent to you with the November 2016 Una Voce.**

# THE PORT MORESBY GAME FISHING ASSOCIATION



The Port Moresby Game Fishing Club is located at the Royal Papua Yacht Club grounds in Konedobu. The club continues to enjoy strong support from the local & expat community hosting monthly fishing competitions & events with many corporate sponsors.



Recently the club celebrated what they believe was their 50th Anniversary since inception, however due to the absence of records between 1960 - 1975, we were unable to confirm the actual year of association. If anyone has any information or feedback regarding the official commencement of the club please let us know by emailing Brett Schofield on [bschofield@acrabatrading.com](mailto:bschofield@acrabatrading.com)

For those that may remember the good old days of fishing in PNG, attached are a few photos from the past & current fishing competitions.

*Images provide by Brett Schofield.*

## Coming up – Tropicana Billfish Tournament

The Tropicana Billfish Tournament, a 9-day event in Kokopo scheduled for 12 to 20 November 2016 is organised and sponsored by John & Sandra Lau of Tropicana Ltd.

For details contact: [nbgfc@global.net.pg](mailto:nbgfc@global.net.pg)





*Ruth Ross-Pe'er, Belinda Rogers (nee Coote), Ally Martell, Belinda Macarney*

**A great day was had by all who attended Brisbane's Ship Inn for the PNGAA lunch on 16 October 2016!**

With just under 50 attending there was lots of chat and laughter, a sunny day and a perfect location—we couldn't have asked for more! Members are looking forward to the next Brisbane event, the screening of the DVD 'Kiap: Stories Behind the Medal' followed by a relaxing Q&A with former Kiaps Bob Cleland, Bob Fayle, David Hook and Vin Smith on 12 November 2016.



*John Kelly, Jim Fenton, David Hook, Mike Cunningham, Bruce Dunn and Paul Johnson*



*Rob Priest, Warwick Emanuel, Ismay Selby, Bill McGrath (front right), Jeff Kelly, Di Buckley*



*Phil Ainsworth, Jeff Kelly and Sylvia Spring*



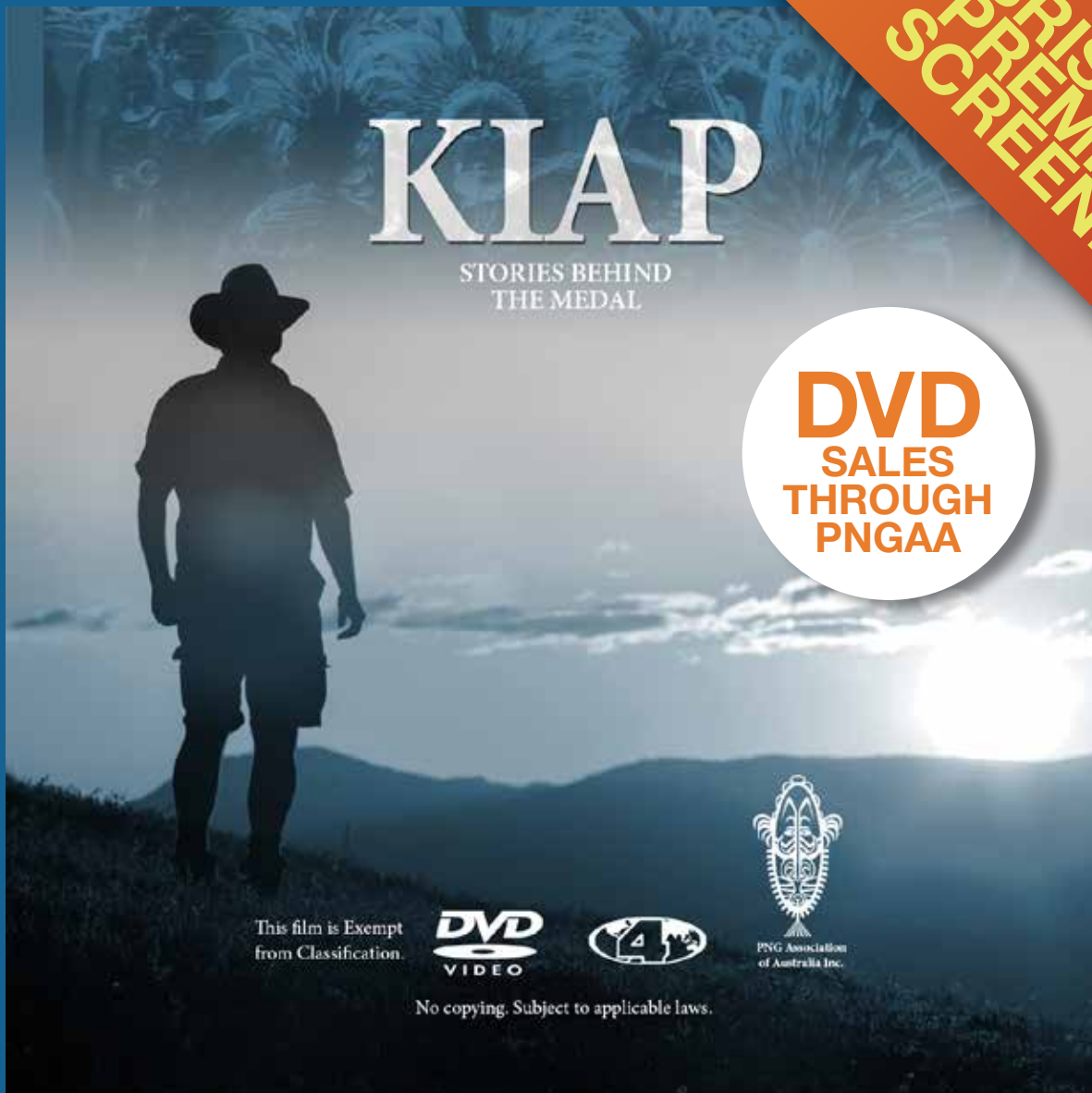
*Bob Hoad, Francis and Kieran Nelson*



*Don Green, Dwight Walker*



BRISBANE  
PREMIERE  
SCREENING



## Brisbane screening – KIAP: Stories Behind the Medal Saturday 12 November 2016

**KIAP:** Stories Behind the Medal  
– screening at Queensland State Library  
**WHEN** Saturday 12 November 2016  
**TIME:** 2.30pm (film will commence 2.45pm) – 6pm  
**WHERE** Auditorium 2 Queensland State Library, Grey Street, South Brisbane  
**COST:** \$30 per person, including light refreshments to follow  
**RSVP:** 25 October 2016 to [admin@pngaa.net](mailto:admin@pngaa.net)

Following the screening there will be a Q & A with former Kiaps Bob Cleland, Bob Fayle, David Hook and Vin Smith to answer further questions about a Kiap's role in pre Independence PNG. Members and friends – all welcome! Numbers are limited though, so please respond ASAP!

Please note that we have been advised there will also be a major public event in the precinct and if you are driving it is advisable to arrive early for parking.

Payment to Papua New Guinea Association of Australia Inc (Commonwealth Bank): BSB: 062 009 Account No: 0090 7724 with reference 'KIAP' and your name. Please also email [membership@pngaa.net](mailto:membership@pngaa.net) to notify details of the payment, including your phone contact.

For more information, please contact Andrea Williams, [president@pngaa.net](mailto:president@pngaa.net) M: 0409 031 889 or Sara Turner [events@pngaa.net](mailto:events@pngaa.net) Copies of the DVD for sale. \$30 members \$35 Non-members the Medal reflects on an era now long gone but which had such an extraordinary and lifelong impact on Australians living in Papua New Guinea prior to PNG Independence.

### KIAP: Stories Behind the Medal DVD – For Sale

*Papua New Guinea Association of Australia and Gum Leaves Productions*

**Cost for DVD:**  
\$30 PNGAA members  
\$35 for Non Members

**How to order?**  
[www.pngaa.net](http://www.pngaa.net) or on enclosed Treasurer's Corner  
A short excerpt is available here:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8C52NlcXD6I>

## TREASURER'S CORNER – Dec 2016

Payments to – PNGAA, PO Box 453, ROSEVILLE, NSW, 2069

If you would like to:

1. Renew your **Membership** of PNGAA;
2. Purchase the **Walk into Paradise** DVD;
3. Purchase **Dianne Ferrari Fundraiser** tickets – Penrith Plaza;
4. Purchase the **'Kiap – Stories Behind the Medal'** DVD;
5. Public Screening of **'Kiap – Stories Behind the Medal'** at Qld State Library
6. Attend **2016 Christmas Luncheon – Killara Golf Club, Sydney**

Please **print** your name and address below and fill out the relevant parts of the order form overleaf.

**Please also check your address label – this tells you when your membership expires and also shows your membership number.**

Membership number (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

Full name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I would also like to receive Una Voce by E-mail.

☐ I would like to receive the Una Voce only by E-mail instead of a hard copy

\* If you have an e-mail address, or have recently changed it, please let us know as it makes communication with members much quicker and more efficient. . . . and will facilitate the new web site log-on.

\* Members who are resident outside Australia will pay Australian resident membership fees if they elect to receive Una Voce by E-mail rather than by post (e.g. no postage surcharge). See the checkbox above.

Christmas LUNCHEON –

I will attend the Luncheon and will have as my guests:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

If possible, I would like to be seated with \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Number of vegetarian meals (if any) .....

Please feel free to make up your own table of Ten.

RSVP by 24 November

<b>ORDER FORM</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>PNGAA Membership Renewal</b>		
<b>Resident in Australia</b> 2016 : \$35                      2016/2017 : \$70                      2016/2019 : \$105 <b>Resident in Asia/Pacific Postal Zone</b> 2016 : \$55                      2016/2017 : \$110                      2016/2019 : \$165 <b>Resident in Rest of World Postal Zone</b> 2016 : \$65                      2016/2017 : \$130                      2016/2019 : \$195		
<b>Walk Into Paradise DVD</b>		
Member Price ..... \$25		
Non-Member Price ..... \$30		
<b>DIANA FERRARI Fundraising Night - Penrith Plaza (Sydney) Wednesday Nov 9</b>		
Price ..... \$10                      RSVP: 1 November 2016		
<b>'Kiap - Stories Behind the Medal' - DVD</b>		
Member Price ..... \$30		
Non-Member Price ..... \$35		
<b>Public Screening of 'Kiap - Stories Behind the Medal' at Qld State Library</b>		
Date: Saturday 12 <sup>th</sup> November    Time: 2:30 PM    Venue: Auditorium 2		
Price ..... \$30 per person    including light refreshments		
<b>PNGAA Christmas Luncheon - Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December</b> Price . . . . \$65 per person		
Or tables of 10 .....\$650		
Killara Golf Club - Killara		
<b>TOTAL COST</b>		

### **PAYMENT DETAILS**

*Please circle method of payment*

Payment is accepted by cheque, EFT, bank draft, MasterCard, Visa.

Payment for Membership or DVDs can be made through our web site: [www.pngaa.net](http://www.pngaa.net)

*EFT payments are made to PNGAA, BSB 062-009 (CBA, Wynyard), account 0090 7724. Please ensure that the information provided with your payment allows us to identify you. To be sure, please send a confirmation e-mail to [membership@pngaa.net](mailto:membership@pngaa.net)*

### **CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS**

Type of card:    MasterCard    Visa    Expiry date \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_

Card number \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_

Name on card (please print)\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of card holder \_\_\_\_\_Date\_\_\_\_\_

*All payments must be in Australian currency*





**PAPUA NEW GUINEA ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA, Inc.**  
**2017 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Sunday 30 April 2017**  
**NOMINATION FORM**  
for the election of  
**MEMBERS OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 2017 – 2019**

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

.....

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

..... of .....

.....

for the position of \* .....

Signature .....Membership No. (if known) .....

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

.....

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

Signature .....Membership No. (if known) .....

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

.....

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

Signature .....Membership No. (if known) .....

\* Positions are President; Secretary; Treasurer; Editor; General Committee (8)  
(Please photocopy if you require more than one Nomination form)

**THIS FORM MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE SECRETARY,  
PNGAA, PO BOX 453, ROSEVILLE, NSW, 2069,  
BY 5:00PM ON Tuesday 31 January 2017**

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

## Notes

If you want to know more about these voluntary jobs, workloads etc, please contact the President at Email:

[president@pngaa.net](mailto:president@pngaa.net) or Mob: 0409 031 889

Computer literacy, whilst not essential, is an advantage and would assist in the smooth running of the Association.

Meetings are currently held in Sydney, but this may be flexible, with travel expenses to meetings borne by the member. There are provisions for telephone conferencing.

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) 8 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.
- (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 by close of business on 31 January of the year in which elections are held.
- (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.

**PLEASE RETURN THIS NOMINATION FORM BY 5PM TUESDAY 31 JANUARY 2017**

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