



Journal of the
Papua New Guinea
Association of
Australia Inc.

2017, No 1 – March

Una Voce

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



Lowy Institute - Emerging
Leaders Dialogue



Mick Leahy & Namu
reunited after 30 years



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WEBSITE WALKABOUT

Website Update

By now, all members will be aware that the new PNGAA website is being developed to utilise updated technology and enable more interactivity amongst our community than the former website. It has been a lot of work given the resources at our disposal. But we are almost there. The website will be set live in the coming weeks as a work in progress.

Members will be able to:

- Log on and manage their own password
- Include personal information about their PNG experience in their profile
- Review basic profiles of other members and make contact with them, providing a virtual meeting place where members can interact and engage with one another.
- Read articles in the Una Voce on-line
- Submit articles on-line for potential publication in the Una Voce
- Search the archives of all previous Una Voce issues
- Review photo galleries submitted by other members
- Look up the latest info on events, meetings, reunions, functions, etc.

Shortly an e-mail will be sent to all financial members, who have provided a valid e-mail address, explaining how to access the website and how to utilise its opportunities. Therefore, it is important to make sure that we have your correct e-mail address.

If you have any questions, please contact Roy Ranney via e-mail: membership@pngaa.net

PNG News

2016 PNG Update Inaugural Address by His Excellency Mr Bruce Davis Australian High Commissioner to Papua New Guinea, 3 November 2016

The Australia –Papua New Guinea Partnership: Shared challenges and opportunities

<http://png.embassy.gov.au/pmsb/513.html>

FRONT COVER: HEBOU PNG Barramundis in Canberra to play ACT XI at Manuka Oval

L–R Kila Pala, Kipling Doriga, Jason Kila and Doura Gavera. **Photo:** Jay Cronan/Fairfax Syndication

PNG's cricketers have made a big impact at the Canberra International both on and off the pitch. In February, 2017 they played before more than 7,000 fans who cheered them onto a thrilling three run victory over a team drawn from the Australian Capital Territory (ACT). PNG and ACT played the curtain raiser to the touring Sri Lankans and the Australian Prime Minister's team. D. Hook



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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 \$40. 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
No receipts are sent for subscriptions as it would add to our postage costs.

2016-2017 PNGAA Office Bearers

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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 or PH (02) 9489 0824

PNGAA mailing address: PO Box 453 Roseville, NSW 2069

PNGAA Website: 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!

May 2017, Issue No2

COPY DEADLINE for all contributions is 14 April, 2017

To Editor@pngaa.net

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT



It was wonderful to see three new nominations for the 2017-2019 PNGAA Management Committee join nominations from former committee members. Welcome to Russell Wade, Yana Di Pietro and Chris Warrilow - joining Doug Wood (Treasurer), Roy Ranney (General - Membership), Murrough Benson (Secretary), Belinda Macartney (Editor), Sara Turner (General - Events), Phil Ainsworth, Steven Gagau, Steve Burns (General - PNGAA Collection) and myself. This is a full complement on the committee and, as nominations did not exceed positions available, there is no need for a postal ballot. There was no nomination for President and the position will now be filled as a casual vacancy by a member of the PNGAA Management Committee.

After eight years on the PNGAA Management Committee Paul Munro AM will be stepping back from a front line position but we look forward to his future involvement from the sideline. Paul has done an outstanding job as Public Officer and as an active member and regular contributor to committee activities. Whilst Paul has assisted in all areas of the PNGAA Management Committee, the committee was particularly grateful to have his help with the Ten Terminal in 2016. His attention to updates and submissions has been incredibly detailed and thorough. The last submission to the SHFT and OEH/NPWS was due in just before Christmas! Paul has been a reliable support to me, personally, and his wise counsel has been much appreciated by all the committee. On behalf of the PNGAA Management Committee and members, we thank you, Paul, for enriching our lives and with all your

efforts to strengthen the Australian PNG people to people relationship.

The PNGAA AGM will be held on Sunday 30 April 2017. A recommended change to the rules of the PNGAA by Special Resolution is to be considered and determined at a Special General Meeting to be held immediately prior to the Annual General Meeting. The motion for an amendment to the rules to establish that 10 members, not 20 members, constitute a quorum at an AGM was discussed in General Business at the 2016 AGM. A proxy form is attached and we ask members to urgently vote on this. Our Treasurer, Doug Wood, has prepared a one page concise P&L and Balance Sheet for inclusion in this journal. If you are unable to attend the AGM and would like a full set of accounts when they are ready, please email treasurer@pngaa.net.

Every PNGAA member can assist with the activities of the association in strengthening our people to people links between Australia and PNG; as a priority, encourage people to join the PNGAA!

I regularly get calls with terrific ideas but the resources of the committee are limited to a small group of people who should not solely be relied upon. Members can offer to speak with local schools about PNG (especially around Anzac Day), have a morning tea or other event to raise funds to assist either a special project in PNG or the PNGAA itself in the area of digitisation. Or they might know of someone who could influence a special project organised by other PNGAA members, and approach 'the influencer' to see if they know about the PNGAA and its network and activities, enhancing our role in the community and

widening our membership base further. Due to our unique network base, we are being continually asked for funding assistance or to contribute resources in some way. Whilst Una Voce and other resources (DVDs), the website, the historical PNGAA Collection (always needing funds for digitisation) and various cultural events are the backbone of the association, the broad network of interested members is what makes it all happen. If you are considering donating funds or resources anywhere as a well-meaning gesture, please consider carefully. This association is a valuable resource but it could be eroded if too much attention goes elsewhere. Instead, building the PNGAA network increases capacity to support others.

In this issue we hear about Peter and Marion Comerford who, together with Gordon Doyle and others, recently organised a Trivia Night for the children of Tingwon Primary School in New Ireland. PNGAA has offered to assist in collecting donations on their behalf. After making a donation by EFT (put Tingwon in the subject line) please email membership@pngaa.net providing your details and noting the amount donated.

Also in this issue - Paul Oates contacted the Management Committee regarding a 'Kiap Scholarship' to 'perpetuate the name of the PNG Kiap after we are all gone'. This project will be developed by a team outside the Committee and with Committee support.

There were several events late last year much enjoyed by our members. A wonderful afternoon was had by all those who attended the screening of 'Kiap: Stories Behind the Medal' at the State Library of Queensland in November 2016. We were grateful to, and thank, Bob Cleland, Bob Fayle, David Hook and Vin Smith for their assistance with a Q&A panel after the film was screened.

Sara Turner organised 'something different' - a ladies night at Diana Ferrari which was great fun for all who went.

The annual PNGAA Christmas lunch in early December was a thoroughly enjoyable day thanks to Sara Turner's organisation. The Adelaide and Perth lunches were lovely occasions too and our appreciation goes to the organisers. In Sydney we were fortunate to have Monique Turner-Carroll lead us in the national anthem and song with her beautiful voice. Little Ruby, Sara's granddaughter and Monique's daughter, assisted Roger with the raffle. It was a special day as one of our regular attendees, Libby Cadden, turned 100 years just a few days later. Monique and Ruby helped present pretty balloons and a posy of flowers to Libby.

We were also delighted that Roy Mumu (Secretary for Transport - PNG Government) from Port Moresby was able to join us. He was impressed by the passion that those at the lunch had for the Australia-PNG relationship. It also highlighted the potential that the PNGAA network has to assist with business, professional and civil engagements between PNG and Australia in the future.

Highlighting the achievements of both Australians and Papua New Guineans recognises the hard work and commitment in achieving goals.

It was exciting to hear that the HEBOU PNG Barramundis were to play ACT XI in the Prime Minister's XI curtain raiser at Manuka Oval, Canberra, on 15 February. Our congratulations to them for their well-deserved win!

In Brisbane again - and many of our members visited the 'No 1 Neighbour: Art in Papua New Guinea 1966-2016' exhibition at GOMA which was outstandingly spectacular. If only it was permanent! 'A Bit Na Ta' was also the title of a project commissioned by GOMA for this exhibition. Comprising a music video installation and performance event, the project featured newly commissioned songs by leading Australian and Papua New Guinean musicians including the celebrated George Telek. These drew on the rich oral histories of the Tolai people, transposing into contemporary beats, personal stories of the period between 1875-1975, thanks to Gideon Kabakin. Project leader, musician and producer was David Bridie.

2017 is the 75th anniversary of many Australian battles in Papua New Guinea. The Rabaul and Montevideo Maru group, integrated into the PNGAA in early 2013, have organised services in Rabaul on 22 June 2017 and at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra on Saturday 1 July 2017 with a dinner following. All are welcome. Tragedy brings people together and these services are to remember all the men, women and children who suffered because of the start of the Pacific War in January 1942. On 1 July 1942 over 1000 Australian men died on the MS Montevideo Maru. Others died because of the Japanese invasion, of sickness, starvation and drownings, the Tol Massacre and other atrocities. People on all New Guinea islands,

whether soldier or civilian, regardless of nationality, were affected and we remember them.

Late last year I met with Doug Roser, President of the Battle for Australia Association of NSW. Doug explained that the objectives in their Constitution require them to foster the special relationship from WW2 with PNG and also focus on education of children. Against this background the Battle for Australia Association NSW would like to work with the PNGAA to ensure the PNG connection of the Battle for Australia is recognised in future Services held on the first Wednesday of September each year at the Martin Place Cenotaph, Sydney.

On committee news, we are still looking for a person to be the webmaster for the new website. If you know of anyone who can assist us in this voluntary capacity it would be hugely appreciated.

There was a flurry of visits by Australian politicians to PNG in October, November and December 2016. Minister for International Development and the Pacific, Senator the Honourable Concetta Fierravanti-Wells travelled to Alotau Milne Bay Province, and Goroka, Eastern Highlands Province in mid-December 2016.

Labor Senator Penny Wong, the Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs together with New MPs Damian Drum (National Party), Ann Sudmalis (Liberal Party) and Madeleine Kind (Labor Party) visited Papua New Guinea in October 2016.

The visit was organised by Save the Children Australia. Save the Children Australia director Stuart Schaefer said that the visit was part of the international program of educating Australian

parliamentarians early in their career in understanding the development challenges and how they could improve their policies.

In early November 2016, Tony Abbott visited Port Moresby where he met Papua New Guinea Prime Minister Peter O'Neill and a group of Australian Federal Police officers deployed to PNG during his time as Prime Minister.

Penny Wong, in a discussion paper for the Lowy Institute on 9 November 2016, made a point that we believe is and should be common ground between many who share an interest and concern about the importance of Australia's relationship with PNG:

'PNG is spoiled for choice when it comes to international partners and its own engagements with global interests. Australia cannot afford to be complacent when it comes to investing in a strong relationship with our nearest neighbour.

Because Australia's place in PNG's changing worldview is not assured, we face an ongoing challenge to strengthen our relations with PNG, both at a high level in terms of strategic interests, and at an on-the-ground level of investment by civil society and people on both sides of the bilateral relationship.'

I am encouraged by those remarks and by my contacts with Ministers and staff of the current government to believe that there is a fairly high level of bipartisan acceptance of the need to meet the contemporary challenges to an optimal bilateral relationship.

Now, if only both sides of government could see the benefit in funding an Australian Community Centre for Pacific Nations on Australian soil to strengthen those links!

Andrea Williams
16 February 2017

Letters



Vale it is!

My view is that the word "Vale" is definitely appropriate and is preferred to the word "Obituaries". The use of the singular word "Vale" in this context, as a heading, is grammatically legitimate. "Vale" has been in common use in English for a long time as an expression of "farewell" to the loss of a friend or associate – particularly for a member of a community organisation. In the context of Una Voce, I have always regarded its use as a formal declarative expression by the PNGAA as an organisation of a sense of poignancy and regret at having lost a valued friend or member who was part of the PNG journey that we have shared. In other words, "Vale" in this context is really a message or a statement made collectively by the rest of us. The noun "Obituaries" is simply a raw descriptor that fails to convey any sentiment. In this context "Vale" is not a being used as a noun; it is a verb in its imperative form. So, the fact that there may be multiple deceased persons listed under the heading is not relevant. The accepted convention in modern English is simply the statement "Vale".

Paul Johnston

UV: Many thanks for this comprehensive explanation.

Shirley Richardson

Thanks to **Peter Beinssen** for sending in an article on Shirley Richardson which appeared in the Myall Coast Messenger Edn No 66 25 October 2016 and which speaks about her life in PNG with Hugh and her voluntary work in her local community of Myall Lakes.

For more details contact Peter beinssen@gmail.com

Please pass on my thanks

Hi Roy, I was glad to be able to attend the Christmas lunch; this time of the year is incredibly busy where I work, so the reminder and contact are much appreciated in helping to keep people 'linked in'. Please pass on my thanks also to Sara Turner, the Events Coordinator who also spoke well at the lunch, and the rest of the Committee team. Kind regards, **Robin Mead**

UV: Such compliments for the hard-working committee members deserve to be shared.

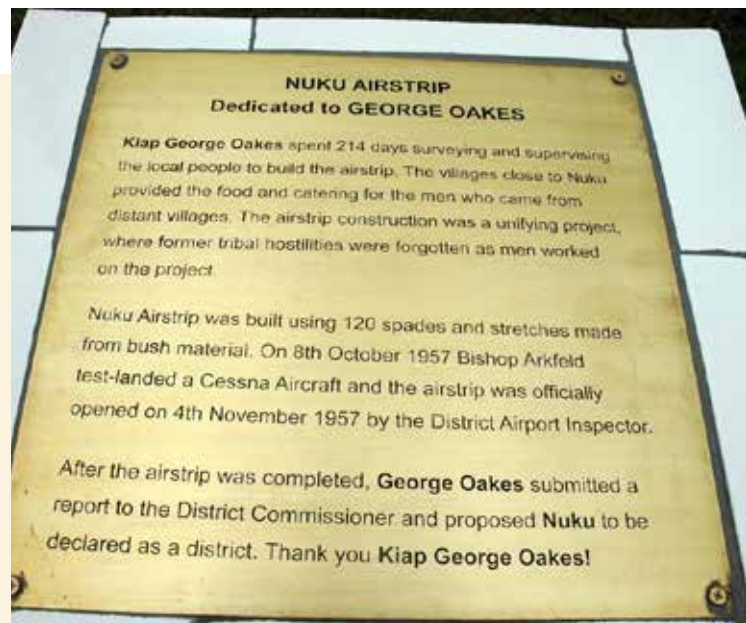
Thanks to **Neil Gow** for responding to a UV request; the name of record cover designer for *Tripela Liklik Pik* and *Liklik Retpela Hat* is Jane Lodge

Nuku Airstrip

UV: As a follow-up to our successful Kiap — Stories Behind the Medal screening, **George Oakes** sent this contribution.

When we visited Nuku in 2015, the 40th Anniversary of Independence I was asked to unveil a plaque. I did not know about this beforehand. However, I did what was told and unveiled the plaque. I have now been told that I am the legend of Nuku. When I returned very few people who were involved in the building of the airstrip were still alive. It was a very moving time. I think the plaque sums up what a lot of people think of kiaps. Kiaps and others need to get back to the grass roots by contacting people who live where they had previously served. They are certainly hungry for information.

In late 1956 and early 1957 I patrolled the Nuku area where fighting was still taking place. From April to October I supervised the building of the Nuku airstrip when I had up to 1,500 men working per day on the airstrip with an average of over 600 per day. Having these great numbers working side by side saw the end of tribal fighting. The airstrip was finished and opened towards the end of 1957. I believe this plaque is one of the few cases in PNG where the work of kiaps has been recognised.



The art of New Guinea (following a visit to No1 Neighbour exhibition)

I was doing some filing today and found a clipping I'd kept from Sydney Morning Herald (Travel section SMH January 23-24 2016). Richard Bangs - an award-winning travel writer and broadcaster - was asked about his 5 favourite places in the world. He said about PNG "I grew up in Washington DC and took several field trips to the National Gallery taking in a share of Matisse, Munch and Monet. But I was not prepared for the flamboyant art of New Guinea. Wherever I turned in PNG there was art, and it spoke to me as something raw, original and brash - with feeling."

Enjoying the journal still.

Pamela Oberman

Memories of an old Aviator

Today I found a 2003 copy of Una Voce and in the Vale I noticed about the Death of Lawrie Crowley which brought back Old Memories

In 1965 while working at the Kagamuga, I was advised that an Army Survey Crew would be using the Strip for a Base for 5 -6 weeks. A Hercules arrived with 120 Soldiers and Equipment to carry out Survey and Mapping of East and West Sepik and Laurie Crowley had the contract to drop personnel at different locations with his Piper Aztec. One day the Captain asked me if I wanted to go out for a day checking on progress. Annanburg, Olsobip and Maprik were three places that I remember.

Running late to be home before last light, we were about 10 minutes from Kagamuga when Laurie called Madang flight service and said

continued..

we were landing at Kagamuga and then we would proceed to Hagen. And again, before we even landed at Kagamuga, he advised taxi-ing Kagamuga for Hagen. As we quickly unloaded, Captain Laurie advised Flight Service “Landed at Hagen Cancel SAR Watch (Search And Rescue)”. By now we were 10 minutes past last light and should not be in the air. It was getting very dark and it’s not a long way between the Airports but that night I wished I was in a jet. Then we ran into a big rain squall on final approach to Hagen; I couldn’t see a thing in front but on the side window two parked Bristol Freighters’ tails zipped past. When we parked up, Laurie looked at me and simply said “You all right, Bruce?”

Bruce O’Reilly

Editor’s Note

In this issue, we feature the 75th anniversary of the battles fought so close to Australian shores. We are reminded of the sacrifice many made and hope that the stories and memorial events found here will pay honourable respect to those men, women and their families.

PNGAA Una Voce editorial team is looking for a columnist to discuss PNG News in neutral terms: six x 100 words outlining big or interesting matters just past and about to happen (last quarter, next quarter) for example, APEC plans; big sports; VIP visitors; election dates; provincial headlines, giving web references if possible.

Please send your expression of interest with a short bio to editor@pngaa.com

Members contributing to UV are reminded to please use the following template and guidelines to assist the editorial team in compiling an interesting read four times a year.

TEMPLATE FOR BOOKS AND REVIEWS

Title:
 Author:
 Publisher:
 Year:
 ISBN:
 Pages:
 Soft or Hardback:
 Additional info e.g.: Bibliography, Photographs (colour or b&w), Maps, Index etc
 Category:
 Available from:
 Cost: (incl postage within Aust where appropriate)
 Description:

Contributors’ Guidelines

- All contributions are subject to editorial consideration. Every attempt will be made to represent contributors’ submissions respectfully subject to time and space.
- Word counts ... Articles with a maximum of 1,500 words and obituaries of 300-500 words are preferable for a publication of this length. Longer stories may be split over two or more sequential issues.
- Contributions to be submitted as Word Documents. Please use Arial font, size 11 for all electronic submissions.
- Photos should be submitted as Hi Res Jpeg 1-3mb with photographer acknowledgement and captions.
- Appropriate references are required if the article has been taken from a website or another primary source.
- Obituaries to be sent to editor@pngaa.net
- Articles should be submitted to editor@pngaa.net
- COPY deadlines are critical

I hope you enjoy your first Una Voce for 2017!

Belinda Macartney

PNGAA LUNCH IN PERTH

WHERE: RAAF Airforce Association Club at Bull Creek

WHEN: Friday 7 April 2017 at 11.30am.

COST: Whatever you wish to order from the canteen (please pay when ordering)

RSVP: Linda Manning 9434 2628

Email lindam121@bigpond.com

PNGAA AGM

ALL WELCOME

WHERE: The Waratah Room, Hornsby RSL

4 High Street, Hornsby

(across the road from the Hornsby Railway Station)

WHEN: 30th April 2017 @11.30am

COST: \$40pp

NB. Please advise of any dietary requirements when you are booking prior to the event)

RSVP: Friday 21 April 2017

Sara Turner M: 0401138246 events@pngaa.net

PAYMENT: to Bank CBA:BSB 062009; account No. 00907724

Please notify admin@pngaa.net when payment is made.

PANEL PRESENTATION - TALES OF PNG-THE EXPERIENCES OF THREE WOMEN

ALL WELCOME This may also be of interest to High School History students

PRESENTERS

MRS JOY BENSON

Registered Double Certificate Nurse (General & Midwifery) Diploma in Nurse Education

MRS. LIZ CORNER

Early Childhood Education Western Sydney University

JANE TURNER

Secretarial Diploma, St Patrick's College, Sydney

WHERE: Gordon Golf Club

2 Lynn Ridge Ave., GORDON

PARKING AVAILABLE (15 minutes-walk from Gordon Railway Station or about \$7:00 cab fare)

WHEN: Sunday, 28th May, 2017

TIME: Registration 11:00

COST: \$15pp

Email: events@pngaa.net or admin@pngaa.net

LUNCH IS AVAILABLE WITH MAINS PRICED FROM \$14:00-\$20:00 approximately

(please advise if you have any special dietary requirements when you book prior to the event.

RSVP: Monday, 22nd May, 2017

Sara Turner M: 0401138246 events@pngaa.net

PAYMENT TO Bank CBA: BSB 062009; account No 00907724 Please notify admin@pngaa.net when payment is made. Attendees to pay for their own lunch/

drinks on the day.

75TH ANNIVERSARY SERVICE RABAU AND MONTEVIDEO MARU

WHERE: Rabaul, PNG

WHEN: Thursday 22nd June, 2017

Contact: events@pngaa.net

75TH ANNIVERSARY SERVICE AND DINNER RABAU AND MONTEVIDEO MARU

WHEN: Saturday, 1st July, 2017

WHERE: Australian War Memorial – Service at 1pm

Followed by: Dinner at Canberra Mercure Hotel

Cost: \$80 (3 course including soup)

Contact: events@pngaa.net

PNGVR SERVICE FOR MONTEVIDEO MARU

WHERE: Hall of Memories, Brisbane Cenotaph

WHEN: Saturday 1st July, 2017 - 10am

Contact: Colin Gould M: 0424 562 030

pngvr@optusnet.com.au or Phil Ainsworth

M: 0418 730 348 p.ainsworth@kingco.com.au

THE COAST WATCHERS - J.J.MURPHY STORY

PNGAA Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne

Presented by: Mr. Philip Selth OAM

Retired Executive Director of the NSW Bar Association and CEO of the Australian Bar Association. Keep your calendar open to hear this experienced and entertaining speaker. Dates to be advised!

ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL PORT MORESBY - CENTENARY CELEBRATION

27 June to 01 July 2017

Geoff Shorthouse sends his tips, which may help with making individual travel/accommodation arrangements for this reunion.

I can recommend Flight Centre Travel Consultant, Laura Musgrave, Assistant Manager at Sydney International Airport, who took care of my every need. Her contact details are :- Phone 02 8622 1300, Fax 02 8622 1399, and email laura.musgrave@flightcentre.com.au

I will be staying at Citi Serviced Apartments & Motel at Lagatoi Place in Boroko, where some other students are also staying.

Geoff Shorthouse Ph 07 4126 8984

Email wantokshorty@bigpond.com

Help Wanted

Tingwon Primary School Fundraiser (see SING SING)

How you can help! If you would like to donate to this project to help Tingwon Primary School, the PNGAA have offered to support the organisers by collecting funds on their behalf. Please EFT to the PNGAA bank account at Commonwealth Bank BSB: 062 009 Account No: 0090 7724. Please include the word 'Tingwon' in your reference field and include your surname if possible. Please also email your contact, phone number and details of amount transferred to membership@pngaa.net.

From the President: Just shows what an initiative like this can achieve. Wouldn't it be good if there could be a 'pay it forward' for various schools in PNG? And if people throughout Australia managed to organise other fundraisers like this it would spread awareness about Australia's connection with PNG too!

Madeleine Ruga is trying to locate some expatriate bosses of her late father (Justin Arada) when he was an employee with Comworks in PNG between 1960 and 1970. One she remembers was Bill Fishburn and there was another one known to them as 'Bob' who lived out at 14 Mile at that time.

If anyone is able to assist Madeleine could you please contact her direct by email at: MRuga@pngjudiciary.gov.pg

I am researching provenance information regarding Clive and Esme Gordon

who were based in Madang and New Britain in the late 1920s and 1930s. The hearsay information is that they were in some "official" capacity there, however I do not know their profession.

I am based in New York and a retired curator, so can access databases if the records are online in libraries or other compilations. Any advice or direction would be much appreciated.

Virginia-Lee Webb, Ph.D., AAA
http://virginia-lee-webb.com
vwebb@nyc.rr.com
212-777-2384 917-742-4075
mobile

Muliama Harbour - historic details on previous trade/ commerce

I'm researching for a project to be located at Muliama in southern New Ireland and enquire if through your networks, you may have historic information and photos of Muliama harbour which is at Cape Sena region on the east coast in southern New Ireland?

I'm related through my mother (grandmother) who was from Weilo village at Cape Sena. When I last visited Muliama I saw remnants of small wharf and see potential for some form of commerce for these communities. It would help if I could secure some historic details on previous trade/commerce activities in the area to support these projects. Chris Marshall
E: chrismkaltanep1@icloud.com
M: 04011 80534
PO Box 1367, Woodford Q4514

Grave site or headstone in Port Moresby for Edith Melva Foldi

If anyone knows of a grave site or headstone in Port Moresby for Edith Melva Foldi, it would be nice to have a photograph of it to give to my sister-in-law for family records.

Please contact Betty Forster (nee Kleckham) Email: betty.forster@hotmail.com
mobile number is: 0402 772 887.
address is: 25/2 Longwood Street, Minyama. Qld. 4575.

Back copies of BLACK & WHITE

I am trying to source a few back copies of *BLACK & WHITE : The Territory's Monthly Magazine* - the final issue was July-August 1969. I need the following issues to complete my personal set. Can you assist me please?

December 1966, January 1967, March 1967, August 1967, October 1967, January 1968, May 1968

Contact Bill McGrath
PACIFIC BOOK HOUSE
Post Office Box 1072, BURLEIGH HEADS, Gold Coast, Queensland 4220, Australia
Within Australia: (07) 5522 4110
From Overseas: + 61 7 5522 4110
www.pacificbookhouse.com.au

Needed: information about the vessel known as *Bulldog* (early 1900s), owned by the Whitten Brothers, based in Samarai. There were no British New Guinea newspapers at the time. The most likely source would seem to be a news item, or advertisement in one of the North Queensland papers. Thank you. Contact John R Horne, 61 Wargundy St, Dunedoo. NSW 2844

Committee Round-up

NOTICE OF SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING and ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

A Special General Meeting, commencing 11.30am, will be held immediately before the AGM.

The 66th Annual General Meeting of the Papua New Guinea Association of Australia, Incorporated, will be held in Sydney on Sunday 30 April 2017 at the Hornsby RSL, 4 High Street, Hornsby, NSW, commencing at 11:45 am.

A Luncheon has been arranged starting at approximately 1:00 pm.

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING - AGENDA

11.30 Sunday 30 April 2017

1. Members Present and Apologies
2. Receipt of Proxies
3. To consider and if thought fit, pass the following Special Resolution:
 1. SECTION A. That Rule 28 of the Rules of the PNGAA be amended by deleting from paragraph 28 (2) the words "twenty members" and substituting "ten members".
 2. SECTION B. That upon carriage by Special Resolution of the alteration to Rules set out in Section A of this Special Resolution, the Public Officer of the Association shall cause the alteration to be engrossed and consolidated with the Rules as in force after the adoption by the Special Resolution of 30 April 2017

and submit the consolidated copy of the association's rules as now amended for registration by the Director General under the Associations Incorporation Act 2009.

Please note: This Special Resolution is recommended by the PNGAA Management Committee

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – AGENDA

11.45AM SUNDAY 30 APRIL 2017

AGENDA

1. Members present and apologies.
2. Confirmation of the Minutes of the 65th AGM (circulated with June 2016 Una Voce)
3. Business arising from the Minutes
4. President's Report
 - 4a) to note result of Special Resolution of 30 April 2017
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Receipt and Adoption of the Audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2016
7. Correspondence
8. Appointment of Honorary Auditor (Refer Rule 37 of the Constitution). Mr. Phil Williams, offers himself for re-election
9. To note the election (unopposed) of the Management Committee of the Papua New Guinea Association of Australia for 2017-18 Rules 16 and 25(2)c of the Constitution
10. General discussion

AGM Luncheon Details

Please note that alcoholic beverages will be available from a cash-only bar.

Members, their families and friends are all welcome – but please let us know if you wish to come to the luncheon by completing the booking form and payment details on the separate yellow insert and returning it as soon as possible.

Anyone with special dietary requests? Please let us know.

There is free on-site parking available to those driving. The train station is close by.

The cost is \$40 per person – this does not include liquor or soft drinks - those attending need to pay by 12 April please, and not at the door. If you wish to confirm any seating preferences or that your payment has been received, please ring Sara Turner on Mob: 0401 138 246 or

Email: events@pngaa.net prior to 12 April.

Cancellations advised by Thursday 13 April, 2017 will secure a full refund. This is the date we inform the Club of final numbers – after this date the Association must pay for those unable to attend. Easter is 14-17 April this year so please RSVP as soon as possible to assist with arrangements.

Please complete the booking form and payment details on the separate yellow 'Treasurer's Corner' insert and return by 5pm Wednesday 12 April 2017.

Please note that there is no postal ballot for the 2017 election as positions have been filled unopposed. Details regarding the Annual General Meeting will be posted on our website in the near future.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC.
31 December 2016 Unaudited Concise Financial Report

	2016 \$	2015 \$
INCOME		
Advertising/Donations	900	415
DVD sales	2,867	2,555
Functions	8,564	18,059
Interest	4,363	3,236
Membership	38,690	<u>38,096</u>
TOTAL INCOME	54,484	<u>62,361</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Administration	9,236	8,723
Donations – Crocodile prize	-	5,000
Functions	8,763	17,106
Una Voce	40,750	<u>35,081</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	58,749	<u>65,910</u>
(LOSS) for the year	(4,265)	(3,549)
Less: Income tax	(819)	<u>(713)</u>
Operating (loss) for the year	\$(5,084)	<u>(\$4,262)</u>
ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	175,198	195,556
Inventories	8,620	<u>8,835</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	183,818	<u>204,391</u>
LIABILITIES		
Provision for audit	550	550
Provision for income tax	819	85
Subscriptions in advance	32,593	36,818
Trade creditors	194	<u>12,192</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	34,156	<u>49,645</u>
NET ASSETS	\$149,662	<u>\$154,746</u>
MEMBERS' FUNDS		
General Reserve	27,267	27,267
Historical Preservation Reserve	13,243	12,361
Rabaul & Montevideo Maru Reserve	79,380	78,144
Retained earnings	29,772	<u>36,974</u>
TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS	\$149,662	<u>\$154,746</u>

The objects of the Association are:

1. to strengthen the civil relationship between the peoples of Australia and Papua New Guinea;
2. to foster and encourage contact and friendship with Papua New Guineans and promote friendly association among members;
3. to foster and maintain an interest in contemporary and historical events in Papua New Guinea;
4. to provide appropriate financial, material or intellectual assistance to projects of benefit to Papua New Guinea as an Association individually, or in conjunction with other agencies;
5. to publish journals, magazines, newsletters, websites, books and other media to inform and educate people about Papua New Guinea and to provide a means of communication among members of the Association and others;
6. to encourage the preservation of documents, historical and cultural material related to Papua New Guinea; including the production and recording of oral and written histories.
7. to safeguard and foster the retirement conditions of superannuated members of the former services in Papua New Guinea.

In pursuance of these Objects, the association:

1. Will not be involved in, nor engage in partisan politics; however this does not prohibit the association from engaging with members of parliament or public servants in pursuit of its objects.
2. May raise funds for its approved projects.

In so far as the original association was formed to safeguard and foster the retirement conditions of superannuated members of the former services, including conditions applicable to their widows and dependants, the association shall continue to represent such members, their widows and dependants in all superannuation matters appropriate to their prior service in the former services.

Committee Round-up

Member Subscription Fees

The PNGAA is a not-for-profit operation and as such we try to keep our fees as low as possible for the benefit of our members. However; our costs, mainly our postage costs for the distribution of the journal, Una Voce, have increased to the point where we are operating at a loss despite all the labour and administration contributed on a voluntary basis. In order to ensure the sustainability of the PNGAA and Una Voce, the Management Committee has needed to make the following changes:

“Proposed \$5 per year increase for all members with the exception of those who have elected to receive only a soft copy of the magazine (their rate to drop from \$35 to \$25) was agreed. It was further agreed that pre-payment of subscriptions should be restricted to two years. The new rates are to be effective from 1 May 2017.”

Annual Membership Subscription Fees shall be increased by \$AUD5.00 per annum for each geographical region for the year 2018 and onwards. Thus the new rates for 2018 will be:

- Australian Residents: A\$40 per annum
- Asia Pacific Zone: A\$60 per annum
- Rest of World: A\$70 per annum
- Digital copy only: A\$25 per annum

Members shall not be able to pay more than two years in advance. (Members currently paid in advance will not be impacted by the rate change.)

Included in your membership is:

- A copy of Una Voce delivered to your postal address (as supplied by member)
- Information on PNG functions & reunions
- Invitations to regional PNGAA gatherings
- Access to the Members section of our NEW web site – which is almost ready.

SAVE! You can choose to reduce your membership subscription fee by requesting an electronic copy ONLY of Una Voce. To do so, please contact PNGAA membership officer BEFORE 1 MAY and provide your updated email address. CONTACT membership@pngaa.net

We thank you for your assistance and understanding.

Una Voce Key Dates – 2017

For the benefit of contributors and those who are able to help with the distribution of our magazine, below are the key dates for the production of Una Voce in the current calendar year.

The ‘Label Day’ is when a group of volunteers gets together in Sydney (usually Chatswood on the North Shore) to stick the pre-printed address labels on the 1,250 or so envelopes, in preparation for posting out on the ‘Pack & Post’ day two days later (see photo below), again with the help of a band of volunteers.

These ‘days’ start at 10:30 am, generally only take a couple of hours, provide plenty of opportunity for a good chat and are followed by a delicious morning tea (provided by our willing workers). **Anyone who would like to join us is always very welcome so if you are able to come please contact either our Membership Officer, Roy Ranney, on 0412 556 593 or Secretary, Murrough Benson, on 0448 216 049.**

Issue	Final Date for Copy to Editor	Label Day	Pack & Post
June	14 Apr	23 May	25 May
September	7 Jul	22 Aug	24 Aug
December	22 Sep	24 Oct	26 Oct



PNG IN THE NEWS

A local newspaper for the Oro Province was launched in Popondetta by Governor Gary Juffa in November 2016.

The paper, with the masthead “Northern Observer” will publish monthly, is aimed at informing the local people about happenings in their province and nationally, and also to provide a platform to allow locals to have their say and contribute towards the development of Oro.

Governor Juffa said that despite the lack of adequate and consistent funding from the National Government, Oro Province will continue to promote positive activities with its minimal resources and the “Northern Observer” will serve as its medium.

In line with these aims, the paper will also publish details of funds received and funds used and projects delivered, including achievements and constraints. Governor Juffa intends the paper to inform residents about how their money is used. “It is the people’s paper and they can also contribute,” he said.

In addition, the paper’s regular features will include an Oro Administration column on updates and reforms, kid’s corner, Didiman Page, Youth & Women’s section, Church, Sports, Champions of Oro, General Knowledge Q & A and general news items.

Meanwhile, two Grade 8 female students from Popondetta Primary School in Northern Province have appealed to the political leaders in the province to deliver infrastructure service rather than buying vehicles and other unnecessary items that do not benefit their education.

Judy Mary Reyes and Prunella Korina from Popondetta Primary School made the call during the launching of the local newspaper, “Northern Observer”.

They have called on their local MP for Ijivitari David Arore to observe the conditions of their school, the biggest primary school in the province, and deliver what he promised.

They said free education was not helping as infrastructure was falling and there was a great need for help from the government. Mary Reyes said Mr Arore had promised their school 20 TV screens and K20,000 for their library but this has yet to materialize.

See <http://www.onepng.com/2016/07/juffa-to-launch-local-northern-observer.html>, <http://www.looppng-sb.com/content/change-mindset-and-appreciate-change-juffa>, <http://www.looppng.com/content/local-newspaper-promote-good-governance-province>.

From Mike Lean

STOP PRESS NEWS - Governor General Sir Michael O’Neil passed away Saturday 18 February at PNG Government House.

Bob Dadae named next Governor-General of Papua New Guinea

By Joy Kisselpar

Papua New Guinea’s Parliament has selected a new Governor-General for the country. MPs voted for Bob Dadae, a serving MP in the same party as Prime Minister Peter O’Neill. He received 55 votes in the 111-seat parliament, beating former Defence Force Commander Ted Diro and former MP Timothy Bonga. Unlike in Australia, PNG’s Governor-General is elected by Parliament rather than being appointed on the advice of the prime minister.

Mr Dadae has served three terms as a Member of Parliament for Kabwum, in Morobe Province, and is a former Minister for Defence and former Deputy Speaker of Parliament. Mr Dadae will be officially sworn into office on February 28, when current Governor-General Sir Michael O’Neil’s term expires. There were numerous calls for PNG’s new Governor-General to be a woman, but parliamentarians did not nominate any female candidates.

Una Voce also offers sincere congratulations to the new Australian Consul-General appointed for Lae – Paul Murphy.



Bob Dadae is selected as PNG’s new Governor-General.

Catalina Estate Mystery

By Bob Piper

After World War II and into the 1960s a drive to Sirinumu Dam, in the cool heights above Port Moresby in Papua New Guinea, always meant passing a mysterious and derelict Catalina flying boat beside the road. Some stopped and pondered while others just drove slowly past. Where did it come from, who did it belong to and what were the circumstances of a flying boat sitting among the banana fronds in a rubber plantation far from the coast?

Books, articles and stories always speculated as to its origin. Subsequent letters to editors in magazines and newspapers also failed to solve the mystery or produce a single photo of the aircraft wreck. The landmark was so significant that the area became widely known as Catalina Estate and is still recorded on current maps by that name.

Just recently American wartime historian Edward Rogers was studying the U.S. Navy records for their VP101 wartime Catalina squadron and may have stumbled on and solved the mystery of our aircraft. The diary recorded that:

At about 1645 hours an Australian Army post about 50 miles north east of Port Moresby heard a plane roar overhead apparently in distress. A few seconds later it was heard to crash.

The diary also recorded (perhaps a little over dramatically) that the plane was totally demolished, wreckage scattered over an area of 550 yards. Engines were found 200 yards apart (broken off and spun away), the CO2 bottles (to extinguish fire) for the engines had been discharged. Every evidence on the starboard (right) engine condition pointed to a fire in this position while in the air.

The main lead to the left magneto was burned and completely fused as a result of high temperature. The starboard firewall, oil tanks, fuel tank and after portion of the engine were charred. The probable cause of the fire was a short circuit in the ignition harness.

The plane was on fire in the air as evidenced by the entire path made on the ground. With his starboard engine on fire and instrument flying conditions prevailing there was no choice for the pilot but to attempt an emergency landing.

The plane cut through heavy timber and dense undergrowth, causing complete (nearly complete?) destruction of the aircraft and scattering wreckage through the area. The crew, who were all killed, were:

Pilot: Lieutenant Edgar Brown Graff.

Co Pilot: Chief Pilot Elbert Lee Rafferty.

Amm2c Roger L. Bomstad.

Amm2c Phillip E. Plotts.

RM2c Rudy N. Acosta.

RM2c Charles R. Holden.

A propeller blade from the flying boat was at one stage in the Port Moresby Museum. It was inscribed at the top with a comment to the crew who lost their lives and included a 5th Air Force insignia on a background of blue. Obviously it had been done during World War II by someone who cared.

Any aircraft that cuts a swathe through jungle and scrub for 550 yards is actually in a shallow descent and attempting a forced landing. A current aviation map of the Port Moresby area revealed that 50 miles north east of Port Moresby is a position almost on top of Catalina Estate.

Is the Catalina estate mystery now solved? Does any reader have a photo of the old flying boat wreckage or the propeller blade at the museum please?

Contact: Bob Piper on mars55@tpg.com.au

PLANTATION LIFE

Ralph Sawyer

Plantation life is largely the untold story of TPNG. There are several reasons for this. Plantation owners and managers were practical doers rather than reporters and recorders. Clearing, planting, harvesting and labour management were the main focuses of their lives. They were often physically isolated and felt alienated from the aims of the central Administration. Labour regulations seemed, to many, intrusive and unfair.

The early German and Anglo/Australian plantations had to contend with dangerous isolation. The post-World War 1 managers had to cope with falling prices. The Second World War largely destroyed plantations and a new start had to be made in the 1950s.

The rush to Independence led to political pressures and uncertainties. The plantation owners now saw themselves as outsiders and even referred to as “neo colonialists”. Plantations became vulnerable to wholesale takeovers and were no longer investment propositions.

Most retreated and gave up. A few resilient ones with quick feet made the transition to alternative businesses or transformed into native partnerships.

Whatever the outcomes, plantation agriculture, together with government agricultural stations, was instrumental in providing the stock and the skills for indigenous people to set up their own co-ops and individual cash crop enterprises.

A CASE STUDY: EPO RUBBER PLANTATION GULF DISTRICT PAPUA.

The genesis of Epo Plantation emerged in the person of a colourful character Staniforth Smith. As the ex-Federation member of Kalgoorlie, he came to Papua as the first Director of Agriculture with a staff of three. His ultimate aim was to become Lieutenant Governor but he didn't take into account Sir Hubert Murray who held that position from 1906 to 1940.

Staniforth Smith went to British Malaya in 1906 to study rubber plantations. In 1907 he started rubber plant nurseries inland from Moresby and invited planters to take advantage of this new opportunity. Fairfax Harbour Plantations and British New Guinea Development Company took up the challenge and started plantations.

Epo plantation at the head of Kerema Bay became one of those plantations, with its owner Steamships Trading Company becoming the new flagship, with its distinctive K boats that serviced the Papuan coast for over seventy years.

In 1955 Ray and Bertha Flahavan took over as managers of Epo plantation. They took over from the well-known Ron Preece who had transformed the plantation into a well-oiled operation. Ray employed one hundred highland Chimbu labourers. They were on a two-year contract at three pounds a month, rations and an air fare home. Ray had ten skilled tappers who carefully sliced the bark and dripped the white milk into the jam tins. Ten others collected the latex and cooked it into white sheets which were wrapped into blocks to be shipped out for further processing. Most of the others kept the floor of the plantation clean with *sarifs*, which were primitive blades made from heavy gauge hoop iron. Ray had a novel scheme of a fresh food unit who had a daily quota of garden to plant and weed. These bananas, paw-paw and taro plants supplemented their rations of rice, wheatmeal, tinned beef and fish. Most of his workers had shiny skin which Ray put down to their fresh food.

Every morning at seven there was a parade for rations,

cooking and lik-lik doctor. Any cuts and abrasions were treated urgently with black ointment and acroflavine to prevent runaway tropical ulcers. Maybe five were stood down with malaria if they exceeded 102 degrees Fahrenheit. Scabies or grille skin rashes were painted with gentian violet.

Snake bite was the most serious event on the job. Skilled medical attention was hours away and the Papuan Black only left you time for a quick cup of tea. The highlands had no venomous snakes so the Chimbus tended to pick them up for *kai kai*. Ray put on “*dai pinis*” pantomimes to emphasise how serious snake bite could be. His standard treatment was generous razor blade slashing, a tight bandage of heavily laced potassium permanganate and lashings of coffee. He also insisted the victim stayed on his feet and was kept walking which goes against all the books.

Up at the plantation house Bertha held court on the verandah with a round tin of fifty Craven A's on the table beside her. Kaupa and Mailala were her *hausbois* who kept the place spotless.

Her constant companion was Danny the cattle dog. No one, black or white, was allowed within two feet of her without dire consequences. The Chimbus were especially wary of Danny and linked his name with the legendary Danny Leahy of Mount Hagen.

To supplement their income, Bertha sewed hems on red calico “ramis”(sarongs) which

she sold for ten shillings. She also traded bales of southern newspapers at sixpence a double sheet for use as cigarette papers.

“I warn you Ray, I’ll really dong you if you don’t come out; we’ve got to get back before they burn the joint down.”

Running the plantation was a seven day a week job. The only time off was Anzac Day and Christmas. Ray and Bertha canoed down to Kerema where Frank Ryan or John Murphy put them up. Invariably, Ray would get into a floating poker game at Peter Maloney’s or one of the teacher’s houses. Bertha would get on the war path, breathing fire.

“I warn you Ray, I’ll really dong you if you don’t come out; we’ve got to get back before they burn the joint down.”

Her real worry was Fufu the cuscus. Fufu was a beautiful tree kangaroo that looked a bit like a ring tail possum with big black shiny eyes. Fufu was their child. She slept in their room and had her own high chair with saucers of pawpaw and bananas. Bertha’s constant fear was that Fufu might end up in a Chimbu pot. Consequently, Kaupa’s job was to look after the pampered animal. The constant refrain was “Where’s Fufu?”

Fufu almost cured Kevin McCoy. In 1961 Kevin came out on the “Kobe” to service the plantation vehicles and diesel generator.

While the vessel delivered supplies and loaded rubber, Kevin spent several days on the job. His favourite refreshment was Bundaberg rum iceblocks. On his first night he ironed himself out and was settling down when a horrible vision appeared. A shadowy figure emerged from the wardrobe, walked over to the verandah door and quietly shut the door behind him. Kevin confidentially questioned Ray about his ghostly encounter but Ray could not enlighten him. Kev stuck to S.P. lager for the next two days.

Soon after disaster struck. Fufu disappeared. Bertha issued dire threats through Ray but only got “sorry too much” from the Chimbus. Kaupa the house boy and personal keeper was put under a lot of abuse and pressure to almost mental breakdown. He wandered from room to room constantly repeating “*Mi pindim, mi pindim, mi no pindim.*”

Three months later Fufu turned up with two babies; she would not come back inside but visited the verandah every night with her brood. Bertha was heartbroken but reconciled. Fifty years have gone and so have Ray and Bertha. The plantation is overgrown and the Gardiner generator is silent. The Papuan caretaker lives in the main house and makes sure the place isn’t demolished for spares. He does report that a family of cuscus scramble around the iron roof at night and feed on the pawpaw that encroach over the verandah railings. The old plantation days are over and Fufu’s descendants are reclaiming their inheritance.

NGVR & PNGVR Association Patron Awarded Royal Life Saving Society's most prestigious award by The Queen

A renowned Brisbane paediatrician whose work led to the fencing of backyard pools to prevent toddler drownings has received the Royal Life Saving Society's most prestigious award from the Queen at Buckingham Palace.

Professor John Pearn, a world leader in preventing child drownings, was presented with the King Edward VII Cup at a palace reception on 23rd November, 2016 to mark the society's 125th anniversary. The 76-year-old said it was an "enormous privilege" to receive the cup, which is awarded every two years to Commonwealth members of the Royal Life Saving Society.

"It's been very special to have the work of not just me but so many people who work to keep children's lives safe recognised in this way" Prof Pearn told reporters after the awards ceremony.

"Her Majesty, of course a great grandmother herself, loves children very much and is very sympathetic to all who work to keep children safe."

The Queen, who is the life saving society's patron, presented the award in the palace's picture gallery and posed with Prof Pearn in front of the very large cup, which will stay in the UK.

Back in the 1970s when backdoor pools became



Her Majesty the Queen presenting our Patron, Maj Gen John Pearn with his award at the Palace, 23 November, 2016

affordable and popular, Prof Pearn and other child safety advocates noted a spike in toddler drownings. "In my own city of Brisbane, a child was pulled out of the water dead, or apparently dead, once every week within 25 km of the GPO," he said.

A campaign led to legislation requiring the fencing of pools.

"Now for example it's extremely rare for a toddler to drown in a backyard pool in any of the Australian states where there's rigorously enforced safety barriers around backyard water hazards," Prof Pearn said.

"It was also important to teach first aid and resuscitation which can greatly increase the chances of survival", he said. But child drowning remains a worldwide problem. "Even today, unbelievable numbers of children drown in Bangladesh, 20,000 a year," Prof Pearn said.

He is known for his work at Brisbane's Royal Childrens' Hospital and the University of Queensland's School of Medicine and in 2009 was awarded an Order of Australia (AO) for service to medicine.

Justin Scarr, the CEO of Royal Life Saving Society Australia, was at the reception and said the award to Prof Pearn was an honour for all Australians.

"To this day swimming pool fencing legislation is a really effective way of reducing child drowning."

For the past 10 years, Professor Pearn has been the Patron of NGVR & PNGVR Association. He is a former Surgeon General of the Australian Army. He served in PNGVR as a Medical Officer in C Company, Goroka and 2 PIR. He was also a member of the medical recovery team at the time of the tsunami near Aitape in 1998.

IDENTITY OF THE TWO COASTWATCHERS - A sequel

By James Burrowes OAM

The following is a sequel to the 'How Australian Coastwatchers turned the tide of the Pacific War' article printed in the December edition of Una Voce, in which it was told 'the Japanese invasive successes were brought to a shuddering halt due to two Coastwatchers, who reported the impending fleet of the Japanese invasion force, which precipitated the Battle of the Coral Sea in early May 1942 and aborted the invasion of Port Moresby.

In his book, WAR AT THE END OF THE WORLD, James Duffy, accredited US historian, had recorded, '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.'

Herewith is the identity of those two Coastwatchers:

Firstly, the Australian Coastwatcher on the Solomon island of Bougainville was **District Officer R.A.N. Lieutenant Jack Read**, (as recorded by Philip Selth OAM, author of his proposed biography) 'who sent the signal early on 3 May 1942. He had been told of the enemy ships anchored in Queen Carola Harbor by Lieutenant J.M. Mackie the previous day.' This is also confirmed by R.A.N.Commander Eric Feldt's book, The Coast Watchers (p.131) ...but it was not until early on the morning of 3 May that the clouds cleared 'just long enough' for Read to 'spot the vessels preparing to put to sea' and he 'immediately sent a message to that effect'. Read was awarded the DSC (Distinguished Service Cross -US) for his services.



*Adm. Fitch &
Maj. Kennedy, Feldt*



Lt. Jack Read, Feldt

The second Coastwatcher mentioned by Duffy '...another Coastwatcher on New Georgia' was **Major D.G .Kennedy**, a New Zealander of the British Solomon Islands Protectorate Defence Force, when he was at Segi - New Georgia' (Ref: Feldt's book p.110), and then ... 'On the 1st May 1942 (p.108) and then ... 'Next day Kennedy (i.e. 2nd May 1942) reported two ships at anchor in Thousand Ships Bay at Isobel sixty miles away (p.109).' and then... 'The intelligence that Japanese ships were in Thousand Ships Bay had been passed to the US Naval Forces...etc' and then... 'the carriers hurried off to meet and defeat the forces moving to attack Port Moresby at the Battle of the Coral Sea...etc'

Kennedy was awarded the DSO (Distinguished Service Order) for his services.



Maj. Kennedy 2, Feldt

KAVIENG'S WIRELESS COMMUNICATION – 100 YEARS

by **Jim Ridges**

Today mobile phones, email and internet, make it easy to forget that for almost the first 100 years of New Ireland's development from the earliest colonial days, it was accomplished without any form of rapid or instant communication.

From about 1880, when the first traders were living in the Kavieng area, to December 1916 the fastest communications to Rabaul and the world beyond, was a written letter, taken by the next available ship, and the reply, once written, was by ship back to Kavieng from wherever the destination of your original correspondence was.

So, weather and shipping schedules permitting, a fast reply from Rabaul might be one week, Australia 6–8 weeks, and Europe 3 months. So planning ahead was obviously essential, and on the spot knowledge and decision making necessary, based on experience.

This began to change in New Ireland a century ago in December 1916, no doubt as a consequence of the 1914–18 war and the military occupation, by Australia, of German New Guinea, plus the fact that a major wireless communication centre, with three masts 384, 280 and 155 feet high, was completed and open for traffic at Bitapaka, near Kokopo in September 1916, call signal VJZ, having been commenced by the German administration and Australia using the equipment found there at Bitapaka.

In December 1916 the Kavieng wireless station first went 'on air', operating a 5 KW unit with the call sign VJY. It was initially operated by the Australian Navy contingent of the Australian Naval & Military Expeditionary Force (AN & MEF) administering German New Guinea, to keep track of all shipping activities in the area and also to open up communications for the former German territory. It was one of several stations built at Woodlark Island, Madang VIV, Morobe VZK, Kieta VIU, and later Salamaua, Wau and Bulolo. It operated out of quite a substantial building on the east (inland) side of what is now Tabar Terrace, near the junction with Kawok Street, and was called 'Haus Toktok', and the messages mainly went via Woodlark, for onward transmission to Australia, and Rabaul.

Nearby, towards town, was the grave of the infant Gustav Hoffmann, died 30th August 1911, son of the

German doctor William Hoffmann in Kavieng. He was buried there, in what were then the very beautiful botanical gardens at the rear of Boluminski's house.

In those early days the communications were 100% by Morse code, no speech. It required a trained skilled operator able to hear and accurately 'read' the dots and dashes being received in sequences over a long distance, frequently through much 'static' noise and/or weak signals. Then accurately type the telegram messages that were received - for delivery by the messenger or Telegram Boy - and also be able to send messages accurately at high speed, from the handwritten messages received for transmission from the Administration and private business, often in a coded form and/or of a highly confidential nature. The first teleradio using speech was opened in Rabaul in 1935.

During the period of the First World War, and the Military administration, that lasted until the 9th May 1921, and in order to equate the military pay with the civilian equivalent, operators were given the rank of Chief Petty Officers (C.P.O) in the Australian Navy. These operators were - after 1st July 1922 in the Territory of NG - employees of Amalgamated Wireless of Australasia (AWA).

Most of the names of those radio telegraphists in Kavieng, from 1916 until the Japanese invasion on 23rd January 1942, are known to us, and a little of their history.

It is probable that the first of these, and probably to oversight the construction and opening of the wireless station, were Warrant Officer H. Neal and S. C. Ambler, both gazetted on 15th March 1916 to come to Kavieng as Chief Petty Officers.

CPO Alan Fraser of the A.N & M.E.F was the wireless operator in Kavieng on the momentous occasion when the message confirming the Armistice in Europe, and the end of the First World War from 11am on 11th November 1918, was received in Kavieng, probably early on the 12th November, taking into account the 10 hour time difference and relayed transmission delays. A celebration parade of all military and police in Kavieng was held to mark the occasion, and as Fraser had a camera, there is a posed group photograph of the event, including Fraser in his Navy uniform.

CPO Fredrick Wreford was actually a technician, a rigger, skilled in the maintenance of the, so important, tall wireless masts, but died on New Year's Eve 1921. He is buried at the Pakail cemetery.

Jimmy Widdup possibly took over from Fraser and was in Kavieng in 1921 and probably also in 1924

His replacement in 1921 was James (Jimmy) Kemp Twycross. After joining the Navy in 1914 and serving in the HMS Shropshire in the Mediterranean, he first went to Woodlark in 1916. He married Anne Winterbottom at Omo near Kavieng on 23rd November 1921, after she arrived a few days earlier on the Burns Philp ship 'Matarum'. In August 1922 a daughter Gladys was born in Kavieng - Dr. J H Jackson and Nurse Trenauth attending - who in 2009 was still alive in Perth, Western Australia and who, with her daughter Erica, willingly provided information and copies of photos.

In Kavieng, Twycross, as OIC Wireless was, until 31st December 1921, part of the AN & MEF, then until 30th June 1922 temporarily attached to the TNG Administration, after which he was employed by AWA following the transfer of all radio communications in TNG to them. The photo of 'Haus Toktok' in Kavieng was taken by him.

In March 1924 Twycross was transferred to Bitapaka and in 1924 became O.I.C., later moving to Rabaul where he remained until 1938 before returning to Australia. Rabaul was the last contact with the famous aviatrix Amelia Earhart, after she departed Lae on the next leg of her ill-fated round the world flight, and disappeared forever. He was in Rabaul with his family in 1937 during the volcanic eruption that formed Vulcan volcano.

Harry Holland was definitely in Kavieng as wireless operator in 1926-7, and possibly earlier, but it is not certain whether he replaced Twycross, Jimmy Widdup, or someone else. Holland had been wounded at Gallipoli in the First World War. In 1916, after recuperation, he was trained as a wireless operator and sent to Bitapaka.

Holland tendered for and bought the expropriated German buildings of the first hotel in Kavieng, built in 1912/3 in German times, 'The Strand', and lived there with his wife and two children, Fred and Betty.

Holland was also in partnership with Les Bell and Frank Saunders at the store, workshop and slipway on the waterfront where the Malagan Beach Resort is now. He also had the expropriated plantation land at Pinikindu, but in 1938 transferred to Rabaul. In 1937, when the



Telegraphic Wireless Station 'Haus TokTok', on Tabar Terrace, Kavieng about 1922, opened Dec 1916.

Photo Jim Twycross

volcanic eruption prevented the wireless station in Rabaul being used, he worked long hours in Kavieng relaying the messages to and from Rabaul received and sent immediately after the eruption via the ship Golden Bear near Rabaul. As a prisoner of the Japanese he died in the war on the *Montevideo Maru*, torpedoed and sunk off the Philippines on 1st July 1942.

Edward (Ted) Bishton took Holland's place in Kavieng in 1938. He had been working at Bitapaka and Rabaul for many years, but after the eruption in 1937 his wife wanted to move. He lived where the Holland's had, at Section 5 lot 53 on the waterfront near the Malagan Beach Resort today. Bishton was already the owner of Ulul-Nono plantation, and bought Lamernawei, on the west coast, in about 1939.

Bishton was the wireless operator when three armed German merchant ships appeared at Emira island on 20th December 1940, and disembarked 496 survivors from 10 ships sunk by Nazi raiders in the Pacific. After the ships left, the SDA mission pinnace brought the news to Kavieng on Christmas Eve, and Bishton had to advise Rabaul and relay all messages that resulted from this war news.

Ted Bishton left Kavieng in September 1941, after the arrival in Kavieng of the 1st Independent Co. of the Australian Army in July, and was replaced by the almost 60 year old 'Tommy' Thomas as wireless operator.

Thomas departed Kavieng with a heavy portable tele-radio the day before the Japanese invaded on 23rd January 1942. He joined the District Officer Jerry MacDonald and businessman Harry Murray's group that walked down the west coast to Ulapatur - having destroyed the radio before leaving Kaut - over to Namatanai and down to Mulima ahead of the Japanese. They obtained a small boat, the 'Quang Wha', from the father of Sir Julius Chan at Tanga island and eventually their group of 17, bolstered by some escapee soldiers from Rabaul, departed New Ireland on 30th April 1942 and reached safety on the north coast of Papua on 6th May 1942.

Mick Leahy and his Reunion with Namu after 30 years

As told by Ken Sevenoaks

From 1965 through to 1968 I was the mechanic for Jascar Ltd in Kainantu in the Eastern Highlands. Jascar was a coffee processor and coffee plantation owner & coffee buying company with Mike Collins running the company.

Mick Leahy was one of the directors of the company and I met him many times and got to know him on a casual basis. Mick was a very interesting man to listen to when he used to talk about his exploits while looking for gold 30-odd years beforehand

On one of his visits to Kainantu in 1967, I had to go to the Forai (Fore) District to recover a broken-down vehicle. Mick asked if I'd mind if he came along as he said that he'd walked through the area 30-odd years ago. Would I mind? Ha, I was honoured! Mike decided to come along also.

When we arrived at Forai, Mick looked around and said that the area looked familiar, even after all the years since. He told us there was a village on the other side of this large hill where he hired some native carriers including a young native called Namu. He was impressed with the young man, especially because Namu was the only one willing to stay with Mick while the rest of the men wouldn't leave the area. Mick said that he was such a good honest worker that when they finally got back to Lae he gave Namu a ride in a plane, bought him some knives and other equipment that Namu had no idea existed and an axe.

When I was working on the broken-down car some men came to see what we were doing (as they did at that time), Mick asked them where they come from and they said at the village over the hill. Mick asked if there was a *lapun* there named Namu. They said that he still lived there and Mick told them to go and get him.

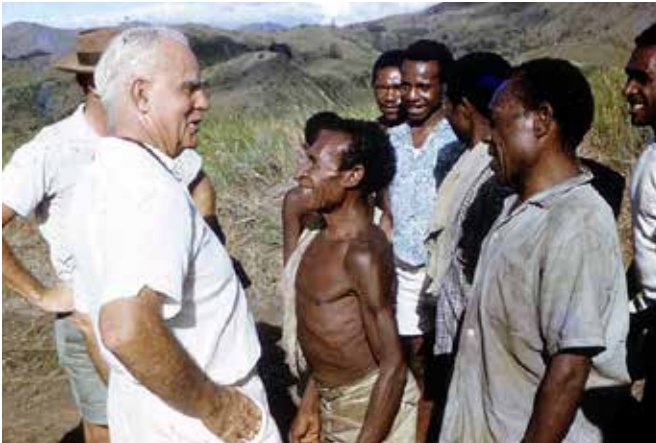


About 30 minutes later a lot of people came over the hill, among them was an old bloke carrying an old axe. Mick squinted and said "that's him". The old bloke stopped about 20 - 30 feet away and squinted. The look on his face when he realised the identity of the white man was priceless. He yelled out "Masta Mick", dropped the axe and ran up to Mick and grabbed Mick's hand with both his hands. He was really excited to see Mick and that Mick had asked for him.

Mick pointed out the well-worn axe head to Mike and myself and told us that that axe head was the first steel axe to come into this area.

He then told all the men to sit down and he told them all about the old days and what a brave man Namu was and that everybody should treat Namu with great respect as Namu was a hero in Mick's eyes. Namu had a grin from ear to ear.

Mick laid it on really thick and as we left later Mick said that Namu will be riding high for some time on the wrap that he gave him in front of the villagers



Michael "Mick" James Leahy MBE was an Australian explorer and gold prospector, famed for his discovery of the Highlands area of Papua New Guinea.

Mick Leahy set off from Salamaua in 1930 in search of gold. He travelled up the Markham River into PNG's rugged interior, but there was no gold to be found. He did, however, discover a handful of tribes who had never seen a white man. The following year Mick and his brother Dan were given a grant by a gold mining company to search deeper into the Highlands. Again, they didn't find any gold, but what they did find was a bustling stone-aged civilisation of over one million people living in the Central Highlands. In his later life, Mick had a large and successful cattle, dairy and poultry farm at Zenag, about halfway between Lae and Bulolo, near Mumeng. His grandson Stan still runs the operation, which produces 85% of PNG's eggs and a large proportion of its chickens, and employs 900 local workers.

Born:

February 26, 1901,
Toowoomba

Died:

March 7, 1979, Zenag,
Morobe Province, Papua
New Guinea

Siblings:

Tom Leahy, Paddy Leahy,
Jim Leahy, Daniel Leahy

Parents:

Daniel Leahy, Ellen Stone
(Irish immigrants)

Kokoda Incident by BOB FAYLE

It was a Saturday in early 1965. I was the Assistant District Commissioner (a Kiap) at Kokoda in the Northern District of Papua New Guinea and as usual on a Saturday I was down at the airstrip awaiting the Patair DC3 together with a gathering of plantation husbands and wives and various couples from a number of government departments. The plane's arrival was always something of a social morning and time to chat. Heather, my wife, had decided to stay back at home on the station. Theo Verbeck, an Agricultural Officer (a Didiman), was pursuing his hobby of catching butterflies. Dressed only in a pair of shorts and joggers and armed with a net he was heading along the road south of the station.

Meanwhile in a nearby village a local fellow named Jack (that was his name) believing that his wife had been unfaithful declared loudly to the people that he had great sorrow and shame. He stated that he felt obliged to manifest this by killing someone and that once he had taken his axe from his house he would kill the first person he met. Naturally, by the time he re-emerged from his house with his axe the village was devoid of everyone other than Jack. Men, women and children had hurriedly decamped. Jack proceeded along the road north towards the station.

Jack and Theo were on a collision course.

When they met Jack immediately attacked and attempted to strike Theo on the head with his axe. Theo bravely moved forward to grapple with Jack and the head of the axe went over his head but the shaft struck him along the top splitting the skin and causing a good flow of blood down his face and chest. Jack

had fallen over and Theo turned and ran back to the station being chased all the way.

The local people materialised from everywhere, knowing they were quite safe as Jack had chosen his person and was after him. A large number of people ran along behind to watch the show. Theo was bleeding profusely and he ran to my house where Heather was at the time busy doing her nails. She opened the door to Theo who came inside and noticed he was bleeding all over the floor and not wishing to make a mess he ran through the house and stood in the bath tub. Heather was left to face Jack with his axe. So, she closed the door and called our house staff, a chap named Egi and told him to get me as quickly as he could.

As the station is on a plateau Egi took a short cut over the side and ran to the strip where he informed me of what had happened. I jumped in the Land Rover and headed for home. Once home, I confirmed that Heather was alright. There were many people milling about but there was no sign of Jack and I was told he had returned to the village. Seeing to it that Theo was being looked after and having his head bandaged I took off for the village.

On arrival, I saw that the village was deserted except for Jack who was standing in the doorway of his house. The house was about two metres off the ground with steps leading to a small veranda. I asked Jack to come down and talk to me and he refused. I therefore went up the steps and I arrested Jack and took him to the vehicle. I put handcuffs on him and sat him in the back of the vehicle and drove to the station.

At Kokoda station, I removed the handcuffs and we sat on the ground

outside the Sub-District Office and we discussed the events of the day. We were very visible to the assembled crowd as I wanted them to see and hear what was happening. Jack was very forthcoming and open about what he had done. I told him that it was a most serious matter and that he would have to go before the Supreme Court and be charged with grievous bodily harm.

It was then that another of the Agricultural Officers arrived on the scene and he ran up to us carrying a rifle. I suggested to him that it would be best if he took his rifle home as it was obviously causing concern. I committed Jack to a sitting of the Supreme Court and he was placed in the local Corrective Institution awaiting that sitting. It was a few days later that the Sergeant reported to me that Jack had absconded and that a watch had been placed on his house back at the village. This nearly resulted in his capture the next night but he was too fast for the police and he successfully made his getaway. I then nailed one of the newly minted twenty dollar notes to a tree outside the office and let it be known that the note belonged to the person or persons who brought Jack in.

Two days later there was a commotion coming down the road from the village and a great number of men, women and children appeared outside the Office with Jack trussed on a pole in the manner of carrying a pig. He was naked so I grabbed a blanket and covered him and cut his bonds. He was obviously relieved. However, I do believe that he had not been carried far as his hands and ankles were unmarked and the arrival performance was purely for my benefit. It was impressive. I looked up to see that

the twenty dollars was gone as was the nail.

Jack made no further attempts to escape and was in fact something of a model prisoner. At the Supreme Court sitting, Mr Justice Minogue

sentenced Jack to six months and at the end of proceedings he asked Jack if he had anything to say. Jack said that he would like to thank the Kiap (ADC) for saving him when the Didiman wanted to shoot him.

It was about a year later I was at Higaturu Council when the Clerk told me that an applicant for a labourer's job said that I would recommend him. I looked outside and it was Jack. He got the job.

CHOW, Sir Henry **D. 21 January 2017 aged 83**

Sir Henry Chow, born 1933 Rabaul, was patriarch of the Chow family – a long-established and respected line, whose roots in Papua New Guinea go back to the latter part of the nineteenth century. Sir Henry, was educated in Rabaul and Australia. After World War II he served an apprenticeship and trained as a boat designer and builder in Australia.

The Chow family's forefathers were peasant farmers of Guangdong Province in southern China. In 1895, the colonial government of German New Guinea recruited a family member as a personal servant for one of its administration officers and the young man arrived in Rabaul to be soon followed by two younger brothers. Over time, the family became part of the history and development of East New Britain and New Ireland and now has its sixth generation in PNG. Members of each generation have been active in community affairs and contributed much to the development and advancement of the areas where they lived.

Sir Henry married in Australia and returned to Rabaul in 1958, establishing the Toboi Shipbuilding Company. The business grew quickly, expanded and prospered. Starting with eight local employees in 1958, over the next 14 years the company built 170 vessels and increased its workforce to 120. During that period, Sir Henry formed a joint venture with the Kambara Kisen (Shipping) Company to build steel ships for the coastal trade in PNG and the South Pacific. But after building six vessels,

the venture collapsed in 1971 due to lack of orders for steel ships.

In 1972 the shipbuilding side of the business was phased out but the Toboi Shipbuilding Company is still active in providing services to the coastal shipping industry and the fishing industry. These days Sir Henry's family owns, operates and manages a number of successful businesses in the major centres of PNG including shipping, engineering and machining, biscuit manufacture, smallgoods, fast food restaurants, real estate and plantations, fishing, and logging and sawmilling. The business group employs 1,200 people.

Sir Henry was one of the most generous philanthropists in PNG, his companies contributing to 26 sporting clubs, many churches and giving generously to charitable organisations that assist people in need. From a young age, he showed a keen interest in politics. In 1962, aged 29, he was elected vice-president of Rabaul Chamber of Commerce. In 1964 he became a member of Rabaul Town Council, being elected Chairman in 1970, he served four years in the position. From 1970-75 he was national secretary of the PNG Local Government.

At the same time, Sir Henry was beginning to make waves in national politics, although he never sought elected office. He was a senior executive officer of the Peoples' Progress Party (PPP) for 17 years from 1967-84 and was its national coordinator in three elections - 1972, 1977 and 1984.



Three of Sir Henry's sons manage his many business enterprises. Adrian Bernard Chow, Fabian Clement Chow and Ian Andrew Chow are all hands-on managers with many years of experience between them.

For his long service to the people of PNG, Sir Henry was made an Officer of the British Empire (OBE) on Independence Day 1975 and on 1 January in the millennium year, 2000, he was promoted to Knight Bachelor. Just two years ago, in an address to the PNG Association of Australia, Sir Henry said, "the people of Papua New Guinea are looking forward to the day when they will have good government leaders who will manage their wealth wisely and deliver the services they so desperately need to improve the life for themselves and their children." It would be Sir Henry's outstanding legacy if these words could be honoured by the political leaders of PNG.

UV: Sir Henry addressed the PNGAA Christmas lunch in December 2015 and an excerpt from his speech is on our website.

Contribution by Keith Jackson

Thomas Arthur Steen

27/06/1932 to 3/11/2015

Contributed by Bessie Steen

Tom was born in Leeton, New South Wales, the eldest of three children, spending his early years in Yanco where his father was the licensee of the Yanco Hotel.

The family then moved to Sydney where Tom attended Primary School followed by Manly Boys High School, where he gained his Intermediate and Leaving Certificates.

After leaving school he worked as an Advertising Assistant for Associated Newspapers and at Atlantic Oil and the Commonwealth Public Service as a Taxation Clerk. Then in July 1955 he applied for a position as Cadet Patrol Officer in Papua New Guinea and on 6th February 1956 he joined the Department of Native Affairs; his first posting was Balimo Sub-District in the Western District. This is also where he met the Kleckhams who were to become friends. Betty Foster (nee Kleckham) has been visiting Bessie recently in Scotland.

He carried out patrols in the Aramia, Gogodara and Gaima River Areas. Tom related many memories such as coming face to face with a monitor lizard in the rain forest which gave him quite a fright and travelling up the Fly river on a Government work boat with a German entomologist.

To the north of Balimo was Mount Bosavi, an unpopulated area, so it was rarely patrolled; but where some fifty years later the BBC made an exciting documentary on the wildlife, flora and fauna in the region. Tom remembered a lot about this area and the programme brought it all back to life.

Tom attended the long course at ASOPA in 1958. Whilst there, he was involved in the publication of the magazine "Tok Tok". All his life he had an interest in writing articles and drawing, especially maps and cartoons. There was a short interruption to the course whilst he had his appendix removed.

In March 1959 he was posted to the Western Highlands to Tambul in the Mount Hagen Sub-District, where he was involved in Census and General Administration work. Whilst stationed

at Tambul he worked with P.W.D. and the Komio people in the hacking out of a route through the Highlands Moss Forest along the side of Mount Giluwe [13,400 feet high] at elevations of over nine thousand feet. One friend commented that he had seven blankets on his bed whilst stationed at Tambul. The house he lived in was made from local materials and one day it burnt down. He did however save his cat, typewriter and a tea chest of papers.

Tom helped with the hauling and manhandling with ropes, three of the land rovers that were slipping in the rain and steep boggy gradients on the rough corduroy track, mainly consisting of logs laid across wet ground to Minabel and then along a made road to Mendi, part of the road that was from Lae by way of Kainantu, Goroka, Kundiawa and Mount Hagen. Some sixteen years later he took his family by road from Lae along the Highlands Highway to Goroka and Mount Hagen in the comfort of a car; experiencing only the inconvenience of a swarm of locust which they encountered at the start of their journey.

After spending time in Mount Hagen, Tom transferred to the Morobe District. He served at Pindiu on Census patrols and patrols for the collection of Head Tax. Here he carried out his first election patrol for the election of councillors to represent the Dedua wards.

After leave he was sent from Port Moresby to Kerema to accompany A.D.O Arthur Carey who in August 1961 was leading a patrol to investigate the reported massacre at the Kukukuku hamlet of Yaba. This patrol was to meet up with a patrol led by A.D.O. Hastings accompanied by C.P.O. Joe Hicks from Menyama. The upper Tauri was difficult terrain and Tom was involved in bringing up supplies, organising carriers, manning the radio whilst A.D.O. Carey reconnoitred ahead. Additional supplies to refurbish the patrols were dropped at a site between Yabba and Hauwabanga [the present site of the Kaintiba airstrip] by a TAA Douglas DC3 from Lae. Before the joint patrols withdrew it was decided that a government station would be set up in this area.

Tom stayed around the Gemantua and Wiani creek area whilst the police investigated suspects and witnesses. They



recruited additional carriers and then crossed over the range [6,175 feet] to descend into the Uyei valley and on to Hauwabanga [5,200feet].

At this point the patrol personnel numbered two hundred. Tom left Hauwabanga with C.P.O.Hicks to go to Menyama for supplies before returning to escort the thirty prisoners to Kerema. The Tauri River was in flood and an immediate crossing was impossible. The patrol took twelve days to reach the start of the coastal plain to Mamuro. Small outrigger canoes ferried most of the patrol down the creek to Mamuro where the Administration launch M.V. "T.N.G" together with the local council outboard-driven double canoe had arrived and was waiting for the patrol. This was the first time most of these Kukukukus had seen the sea and boats and two had to be picked up and carried on to the launch due to fear.

Fergus Anderson had walked up from Kerema to take over Kaintiba which was tentatively selected as the site, being mid-way between Yaba and Hauwabanga. Sadly he was drowned crossing the Tauri River.

Tom was advised that he was to be the Officer in Charge of Kaintiba. In November 1961 he returned there. Tony Heriot was already there working on the construction of the air strip by locally recruited Kukukuku labourers. The work was done with picks and shovels. The site was supplied by carriers from Kerema and Menyama and by air drops. Tony Heriot practised his javelin throwing on the emerging airstrip; he was later to compete in the Commonwealth Games.

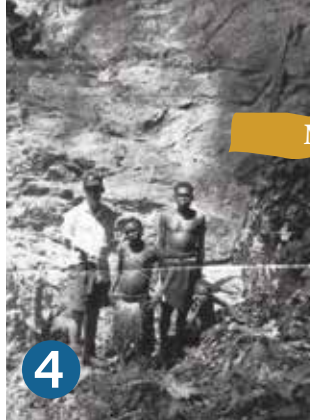
When they felt the air strip was suitable for a small Cessna type aircraft to make a first landing an officer from the Civil Aviation Department together with a Civil Engineer made a short visual appraisal of the strip. The pilot commented "This would be the worst strip in P.N.G.". The Civil Engineer replied "No, it's not the worst in P.N.G but the whole world!"



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Whilst digging the airstrip a small ancient stone pestle and mortar was uncovered. This was taken by Senta Taft; who had come in to Kaintiba on a flying visit, hopefully, it went to a museum which is what Tom would have wished for.

At this time Father Fournier, a Swiss Catholic Missionary, was establishing a mission close to the Government Station at Kaintiba. Tom's days in the bush were relieved by all the reading matter sent to him by his father and a friend Robbie Robinson, from Angus and Robinson, the book publishers in Sydney.

Maslyn Williams, who produced films for the Commonwealth Film Unit, paid a visit to Kaintiba. He later wrote a book, "Stone Age Island", in which he included details of the Yaba massacre. Tom manned the station alone for several months until he went on leave at the end of 1963.

It was whilst he was on leave in Sydney that he met his future wife, Bessie; she

had taught with his sister Barbara and she lived at Queenscliff with Heather. They were having dinner one evening at the Newport Hotel and Tom went along too. It was during this time that Tom introduced Bob Fayle, who was down on leave, to Heather.

As with his earlier appendectomy Tom's work was interrupted by an operation.

Whilst on leave as a result of a routine chest x ray for T.B. a heart defect was found.

Tom was operated on at St. Vincent's Hospital, Sydney in March 1964. He was unable to return immediately to P.N.G. and was seconded to the Department of Territories in Sydney where he took visiting Papua New Guineans to see the sights and places of employment in Sydney. He fully embraced city life and caught up on theatre, films and seeing friends.

TO BE CONTINUED

- 1 *Building the airstrip with manual labour at Kaintiba.*
- 2 *Port Moresby 11.11.1965*
- 3 *Tambul 1959*
- 4 *White Stone Outcrop, Uyei Divide, Gulf 1962*
- 5 *Night Club Sydney. Tom 3rd from right*
- 6 *Party at Douglas Airways on Tom's return to PNG Jan. 1965 (Dennis Douglas 2nd. Left. Tom 3rd left)*
- 7 *Tambul April 1959*
- 8 *Kokoda August 1976. Tom and daughters. Jack and Ruth Karukuru and family.*
- 9 *Catherine Steen's 4th Birthday Party Popondetta August 1976*

ACCPN Update

Australian Community Centre for Pacific Nations

PNGAA's proposal for an Australian Community Centre for Pacific Nations, (ACCPN) thus far has been given support by those most directly responsible.

Draft Management Plans for the Middle Head/ ASOPA precinct were issued on 3 November 2016 by the Harbour Trust and the NSW National Parks (NPWS). Public comment on the drafts was required by 16 December 2016.

Notably, the draft plan no longer advocates a major commercial development of the Commonwealth Heritage site at Middle Head. Some small modifications of the uses envisaged to the site make some concessions to points raised in the 800 submissions made to the harbour trust about its Middle Head Management Plan. It is likely that the majority of those submissions came from interested members of the PNGAA and allied organisations. Thanks to everyone concerned; keep up the good work.

A major defect of the Draft Plans is that, despite 18 years of neglect, there is still no clear function envisaged for the Ten Terminal buildings, nor is there a clear acceptance of generating within the precinct an interpretive education facility of the kind proposed by both your association and the Headland Preservation Group. PNGAA's detailed concept and proposal for an ACCPN, along with much of the support mastered for it, seemed to have disappeared without a trace in the Harbour Trust and NPWS processes up to this point.

PNGAA lodged written submissions in response to the draft Management Plans. Our submission pressed for a considered

response to the proposal for an ACCPN, criticising the lack of response having regard to the heritage values of the site and the national interests that would be served by establishing an ACCPN.

The absence of establishing a footprint for the ACCPN in the Management Plan for the Middle Head precinct would deprive both the Trust and the PNGAA of the opportunity for developing support and funding around the concept.

At a meeting in public of the Harbour Trust Board on eight December some members of the Board appeared to accept that a close consideration would be given to the PNGAA critique of the Draft Management Plan.

The Harbour Trust and the NPWS are expected to make decisions about the Draft Plan by and February 2017.

In the meantime, it is important that members and interested parties supporting the use as we propose for the former ASOPA precinct do what they can to put the case for an ACCPN with politicians and possible organisational or business sponsors. The PNGAA will need to make best use of its own limited resources if we are to make progress; any member who might be interested to make a continuing contribution to the project should contact the President.

Andrea Williams and Paul Munro

MEMORIAL NEWS

RABAUL AND MONTEVIDEO MARU MEMORIAL NEWS



75th ANNIVERSARY SERVICES RABAUL and MONTEVIDEO MARU - to be held in RABAUL on 22 JUNE 2017, the AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL, CANBERRA, ACT, on 1 July 2017. These services remember all those lost in the New Guinea islands in 1942.

Thursday 22 June 2017 – 75th anniversary service at the Montevideo Maru and Rabaul 1942-1945 Memorial. The Australian High Commissioner to PNG, Mr Bruce Davis, has accepted our invitation to attend the event.

The PNGAA Rabaul and Montevideo Maru group together with Susie McGrade and the Rabaul Hotel/Rabaul Historical Society are working to ensure a memorable few days in Rabaul visiting historical and fascinating sites. Rabaul Hotel has put together a package including accommodation, meals, tours and transfers for five nights. Please contact Susie McGrade at Rabaul Hotel on email: susie@rabaulhotel.com.pg. Details are also on both the PNGAA and RMvM websites: www.pngaa.org/site/ and www.memorial.org.au and Facebook. Airfares, drinks and any optional expenses are additional and to be organised and paid for independently.

Air Niugini - daily flights from Brisbane to Rabaul and return.

Three flights weekly from Sydney to Rabaul and return.

Please contact Andrea Williams M: 0409 031 889 for further information on airfares.

Saturday 1 July 2017 – 75th Anniversary Commemorative Service and Dinner, Canberra, ACT.

75th Anniversary service

The service will be held at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, ACT, on Saturday 1 July starting at 1pm. All welcome – please let your family and friends know. Information on www.pngaa.org

RSVP for 75th Anniversary service by 14 June 2017 to 75thanniversarycommemorativeservice.floktu.com. Further information/queries: admin@memorial.org.au

75th Anniversary Dinner

Dinner 6.30pm

Venue: Mercure Canberra, Corner of Ainslie and Limestone Ave, Braddon, ACT 2612

COST of dinner on Saturday 1 July – \$80 for 3 course meal with soup - Payment will confirm booking.

MEMORIAL NEWS

RABAU AND MONTEVIDEO MARU MEMORIAL NEWS

CONTINUED...

Please RSVP by 14 June 2017 at: pngaarabaulandmontevideomaru75thanniversarycomme.floktu.com

Further information/queries: admin@memorial.org.au.

To confirm, please contact Sara Turner E: events@pngaa.net or Andrea Williams E: admin@memorial.org.au and provide this information:

- The full name of each person who wishes to attend.
- The age of each person who wishes to attend (optional but helpful).
- Any mobility issue
- The full postal address, phone number (home and mobile) and email of each person who wishes to attend.
- The relationship, if any, of the person to the events of 1942 (if you did not attend a previous event in Canberra).
- The address and phone number, where each person intends to stay while in Canberra.
- Any other people you are travelling with.

Even if you do not have all this information at this stage, please tell us what you can.

Further information on pngaa and memorial websites and Facebook.

The PNGVR Association will also be holding its annual Montevideo Maru service at the Brisbane Cenotaph at 10am on Saturday 1 July

– this year commemorating the 75th anniversary. Further information: Colin Gould M: 0424 562 030 E: pngvr@optusnet.com.au Phil Ainsworth M: 0418 730 348 E: p.ainsworth@kingco.com.au

Have you any old photographs or letters, stories, or historical documents of the service men or civilians who lived in Rabaul and surrounding islands before WWII?

Education:

The Anzac Day Schools' Awards competition 2017 closes on 26 May 2017.

Updated information for the 2017 competition is now on the Anzac Portal at <http://anzacportal.dva.gov.au/competitions/anzac-day-schools-awards-2017>

Educational Information/Resource Folder

Patrick Bourke contacted various offices promoting Project 150, the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru education package in 2016. The list of information in these folders was included in the December 2016 Memorial News.

1. A copy was sent to the **Shrine of Remembrance**, Melbourne, for use in their education team and volunteer library.
2. Patrick Bourke received the following response (excerpt only) from the Hon Dan Tehan, Minister for Veterans Affairs in late 2016:

'Thank you for your email of 6 October 2016 regarding the planned 75th Anniversary activities commemorating the sinking of the Montevideo Maru. I also appreciated the opportunity to read the article you included on Bill Neave, a remarkable man.'

Thank you also for your contribution to Australian history in the work you have done highlighting the tragic story of the Montevideo Maru as a teaching resource. The loss of the some 1,000 prisoners on board the ship has been described as 'the worst maritime disaster, in peace or war, in Australian history and, as such, is a significant national story.'

As a general rule, the Department of Veterans' Affairs does not provide links to externally produced education units on their website however, we plan to retain the material and use it as an internal resource to inform future briefs and information requirements.

I commend the efforts you and the Papua New Guinea Association of Australia have done in commemorating the tragic story of the fall of Rabaul and the loss of the Montevideo Maru.'

3. Following communication with The Hon. David Elliott, Minister for Veterans' Affairs (NSW), permission has also been granted to the Office of Veterans' Affairs to publish content on official Government websites.
4. **Reply from Minister for Veterans**, Victoria: A letter to the Premier of Victoria received a reply from the Hon John Eren, Minister for Veterans, regarding the provision of education

materials for the Premier's Spirit of Anzac Prize in Victoria. The letter says:

'I appreciate your interest in the Prize and thank you for bringing to my attention the teaching materials available on the Rabaul and Montevideo Society website. I have provided the details of these resources to the Veterans Branch of the Department of Premier and Cabinet who are responsible for the coordination of the Prize. I would like to thank you for taking the time to share these resources which are a valuable tool for educating Victoria's young generation about Australia's war history.'

5. The NSW Premier's Anzac Memorial Scholarship (PAMS) is accessed through **Resources, Centenary of Anzac**, on the

website at <http://www.veterans.nsw.gov.au/education/resources/>.

6. **Dianne Tenbrink, Senior Projects Officer, the Premier's Anzac Prize, in Queensland** said:

'Thank you very much for this interesting information which I'll certainly include in our resources page for the Premiers Anzac Prize students to assist students when they are researching service people. Yes, it does add another aspect to our war history ... I have also forwarded this on to some other colleagues who may be interested in this information.'

It should appear on The State of Queensland, Dept. of Education and Training website at <http://education.qld.gov.au/students/grants/scholarships/anzac/resources.html>

Congratulations to Sr Berenice Twohill who turned 100 on 9 November 2016



Sr Berenice Twohill surrounded by family gather with Mr Kerry Stokes AC and Rear Admiral Ken Doolan AO RAN (Rtd) on her 100th birthday, 9th November 2017.

Sister Berenice Twohill, who survived nearly four years captive in Rabaul during WWII, and who had to evacuate from Vunapope to Ramale Valley, features on the docudrama *Sisters of War* and the DVD, *Some Came Home*, turned 100 on 9 November 2016. A short segment appeared on the 6pm Channel 7 News in Sydney on 10 November 2016 showing Sister Berenice with her birthday cake and receiving flowers from Kerry Stokes AC, Chairman of the AWM Council. There was also a short clip from the 2010 film, *Sisters of War*, in which her wartime experiences and the wartime experiences of her good friend, the late Lorna Whyte (married name Johnston), the Australian Army nurse, after the fall of Rabaul in January 1942, were dramatized by Australian actresses. Earlier in 2016 Sr Berenice celebrated 80 years as a Daughter of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart.

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2/22nd Battalion Service, Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne

Happy 95th Norm Furness!

On Sunday, January 15, 2017, the annual 2/22nd Battalion service was held at the Shrine of Remembrance. The Salvation Army Band played prior to the Service.

Following the service those attending joined others for light refreshments.

Do you know of memorials to those on the Montevideo Maru or lost in the New Guinea islands? Let us know!

Right is a photo of the plaque in memory of my brother Jack Mills who went down on the Montevideo Maru, it is in the RSL building in Cowell, Eyre Peninsula, South Australia.

Jack joined up from there and later volunteered for a secret mission and was allotted a new number



The Service this year just happened to fall on the same day as Norms 95th Birthday. Mr Dan Tehan, Minister for Veterans' Affairs, accepted an invitation to attend the service and afternoon tea.



SX 11448. He was a heavy artillery soldier and sent to Rabaul. They were all heroes.

Bruce Mills

Book News: Line of Fire by Ian Townsend ISBN: 9781460750926 Paperback and EBook 2017 304pp Non fiction \$29.99 Photos, notes and references Available from book stores.

See Book News on page 38 the little known and intriguing WWII story of an eleven-year-old Australian schoolboy who was shot by the Japanese in Rabaul in 1942 as a suspected spy - a compelling story of spies, volcanoes, history and war. Further information in Book News in this journal.

The author was interviewed on radio here:

<http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/latenightlive/line-of-fire/8249032>

A review appeared in the Courier Mail:

<http://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/brisbane-author-sifted-through-75-years-of-volcanic-ash-to-find-the-truth-about-execution-of-australia-child-during-world-war-ii/news-story/9a5996896a3bc147ba097d4ec0674c41>

75th Anniversary Book of Stories – further details available soon.



75 years on, shocking Tol Massacre forgotten in Australia & PNG

Max Uechtritz

IT WAS one of the most callous atrocities of the Pacific war.

Seventy-five years ago, 160 Australian prisoners were bayoneted, beheaded, shot or burned alive by Japanese troops – on what was then Australian territory. So horrific was the Tol Massacre on the island of New Britain that the Australian government suppressed details for 47 years.

That this tragedy is barely remembered and rarely commemorated blights Australia's national conscience and to this day rankles the distressed families of the victims.

Few Australians know of the carnage at neighbouring Tol and Waitavalo plantations - nor that it came soon after one of the most shameful episodes of our war when 1,400 diggers and civilians were abandoned as 'hostages to fortune' ahead of the Japanese invasion of Rabaul on 23 January 1942.

Rabaul was the capital of Australian-mandated New Guinea and was protected by a tiny garrison consisting mainly of the 2/22nd Battalion Lark Force. The town was quickly routed by a massive Japanese fleet of carriers, destroyers, submarines and fighter and bomber aircraft.

When the order "every man for himself" was given, soldiers and civilians fanned out over New Britain looking for escape routes through the most rugged terrain imaginable.

Some endured an epic trek through dense jungle – battling malaria, dysentery, tropical ulcers, leeches, exhaustion, malnutrition and crocodile-infested

rivers – to eventually reach points where they were able to escape on small boats.

But this was not the majority, including those who reached Tol Plantation hoping to be rescued. To their horror, five barge-loads of Japanese troops were on the beach to meet them. There was no option for the starving, exhausted, virtually unarmed Australians but to surrender. At first it seemed they would be treated as normal prisoners of war. Then an order to execute the prisoners was given. Red Cross brassards were ripped off medics. Men were trussed together in small groups with fishing line or ropes and taken into the jungle and slaughtered.

They stood or sat listening to their mates' death cries – awaiting their own fate by blade or bullet. The few survivors told of grinning Japanese soldiers emerging from the bush wiping blood from their bayonets and beckoning their next targets.

Some victims - asked if they wanted to be shot or bayoneted - chose the gun only to be stabbed. Two wounded men found alive in Waitavalo Plantation homestead had been smeared in pig grease to be burned alive in the house.

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“As the Japanese were moving off, the man next to me groaned. One of the Japanese soldiers came running back and stabbed him once more. By this time I could hold my breath no longer. When I drew a deep breath the soldier heard me and inflicted four more bayonet wounds.

Requests for final cigarettes were refused. Some men prayed, some begged for their lives, others said cheerio to their mates.

They were covered in palm leaves and left to die. Incredibly, several men feigned death and survived to tell the story. Private Billy Cook of the 2/12 Field Ambulance survived 11 bayonet wounds. He wrote:

“The first stab knocked us down. The Japs stood over us stabbing madly. I received six wounds in the back, two just missing the spine, two more breaking ribs...

“As the Japanese were moving off, the man next to me groaned. One of the Japanese soldiers came running back and stabbed him once more. By this time I could hold my breath no longer. When I drew a deep breath the soldier heard me and inflicted four more bayonet wounds.

“The last thrust went through my ear into my mouth, severing an artery on the way. Seeing the blood gushing out of my mouth, he assumed that I was at last dead, he covered the three of us with coconut fronds and vine leaves and left.”

Cook somehow crawled off into the jungle – as did five other survivors – and eventually was evacuated from New Britain to Port Moresby with 156 soldiers, sailors and civilians aboard the overcrowded government yacht, the Laurabada.

An estimated 1,053 of the troops and Rabaul residents who remained in the town or who were captured would eventually perish as prisoners when their prison ship, the Montevideo Maru, taking them to Hainan then occupied by Japan, was sunk by mistake by an American submarine off the Philippines.

The details of that episode and the miserable way victims' families were treated for decades - plus the disgraceful abandonment of Rabaul itself - are stories for elsewhere. So, too, is the shameful way in which the Chinese population under Australia's protection was left behind along with indigenous workers employed by the colonial administration.

But this weekend we remember the 160 poor souls who died such unspeakable deaths at Tol and Waitavalo 75 years ago.

Many were just boys – the average age of Lark Force soldiers was 18 and a half – while some of the civilian volunteer rifle men were granddads in their fifties and sixties.

Some remains were retrieved post-war and buried at Rabaul's beautiful Bitu Paka war cemetery - but the bones of others rot still in the jungle soil of a place whose name most Australians have never heard.

They deserve better.

Lest We Forget.

Published 5 Feb17: http://asopa.typepad.com/asopa_people/2017/02/75-years-on-shocking-tol-massacre-forgotten-in-australia-png.html#more



The Montevideo Maru

My grand-daughter Caitlin Nash, great grand-daughter of Eric Clive Green, won the Northern NSW RSL Public Speaking Competition some 8 years ago, as a 12 year-old, with this Legacy Speech about my father, who was lost on the Montevideo Maru. In this year of the 75th anniversary it is timely to re-visit her words.

Provided by Denis Green

The impenetrable darkness sets upon the Pacific Ocean. It is the 22nd of June, 1942. Deep beneath the waves, an American submarine, the USS Sturgeon, lines up its oblivious target. The crew waits for the signal from Lieutenant William Wright. Finally, it comes; a single, deadly torpedo is released, slicing through the water towards the unsuspecting Japanese troop carrier. It made its mark, forcing a huge hole in the stern of the ship. While the 18 Japanese crew members clambered into lifeboats, the Australian human cargo was left for dead in the hull of the sinking ship.

A Japanese soldier, numbed by the sounds of war, death and terror, watches the ship sink in merely 6 minutes. His blood chills, at the sound of the trapped 1,056 Australian mates defiantly singing 'Auld Lang Syne', a memory that will haunt him for the rest of his life. Within the terror, a lone man enjoys his last breaths and silently remembers his wife, two sons and beautiful life and the

tranquillity of Papua New Guinea.

Clive was the superintendent of Keravat agricultural station. A government based experimental station through which he introduced the growing of coffee and other crops to the area. He lived an ideal and peaceful life with his wife Grace and two young sons who liked to amuse themselves playing in the extensive gardens with the native house boys. Life was wonderful, until the invasion of the Japanese.

In January, 1942, the Japanese swarmed on Rabaul. Most of the women and children had been evacuated to Australia, but there was no evacuation for the civilian men as room was reserved for the precious cargo of copra. These men enlisted, but with no organisation, equipment or training, had no choice but to stand guard over their beautiful paradise. A small, ill equipped Australian force, the 22nd battalion, was sent as a delay for the invading Japanese army. Massively outnumbered, they

fought and were forced to retreat through the untamed jungle, each man for himself.

As the Japanese enveloped the island, Clive eluded capture for several months. He used the crops and stores of Keravat to hide and feed the retreating soldiers directing them through the impenetrable jungle south toward safety.

Late one afternoon, Clive was captured at Keravat. He was interned as a civilian prisoner of war at Malaguna Road concentration camp. Here he suffered many unspeakable hardships, beatings and hunger. Ironically, he would become known as one of the 'luckiest prisoners' after a fellow Australian implied that he had hidden the Commonwealth Banks gold bullion on Keravat soil.

Clive and a bank worker were taken to Keravat by the Japanese. They were tortured cruelly for 4 days in the nearby jungle. Even enduring unimaginable torture,

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dehydration and starvation, they protested their innocence.

Forced to dig their own graves, kneel at the edge, with the cold steel end of a gun at their backs, they believed this was surely the end. At the last moment, they were saved, reprieved by the guilt of the man who laid false witness against them.

They were taken back to Malaguna Road, saved, only to be taken aboard the unmarked troop carrier named the Montevideo Maru. A combination of soldiers, civilians, priests and even

members of the local Salvation Army were crowded below, like stock in the hull of the ship.

My name is Caitlin Nash and I am the great granddaughter of Eric Clive Green, who risked his life to help defend Australia the best way that he could. Like Clive, many of the Australian citizens enlisted in Rabaul, however the paperwork was lost in the ensuing Japanese invasion. Their families had to wait 4 years to discover their fate. Despite their bravery, loyalty and sense of mateship they have never been formally recognised.

The Montevideo Maru, sunk by the USS Sturgeon, is still today the largest loss of Australian life at sea. 1056 Australian men lost their lives, 400 more than the HMAS Sydney and twice as many as the entire Vietnam War. We stand here today in a democratic country with freedom of speech, thanks to the Australian men and women who selflessly gave their lives and even today continue to fight for our way of life.

Lest we forget

PNGAA Collection

The process of updating the PNGAA Collection register is ongoing and all your donations are welcome. Updated 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 Ken Sevenoaks (scanned slides of various locations in the Highlands in the 1960s and his story on Mick Leahy [included in this issue]), an Atlas of PNG donated by Darryl Warhurst and a set of three books donated by Esma Camp.

1. Inauguration of the Legislative Council for the Territory of Papua and New Guinea, 1951 HALLSTROM, E.J.L.

(hardcover book describing the ceremonies and speeches of prominent members of the Administration on the occasion of the inauguration of the first Legislative Council.)

2. Papua New Guinea Independence, 1975 MCGREGOR, Anne

(booklet of photos and stories of significant events and personalities leading up to independence. Foreword by Chief Minister Michael Somare.)

3. A History of the Coffee Industry in Papua New Guinea, 1978 CARTLEDGE, I. V.

(hardcover book describing the history of the coffee industry in PNG from inception to 1975.)

For enquiries regarding donations to the PNGAA Collection, please contact Committee Member Steve Burns (sburns1@outlook.com.au).

A tribute and legacy of a humble visionary, the late 'Sir' Pendepa Hera

Shila Phopo, Khaka Phopo, Raki Phopo

Adelaide, Australia

18 January 2017

This is an attempt to write a tribute to a legend, an idol, a visionary, yet one of the most unique humble Yuna men who ever lived. In so doing we ask that 'Sir' Pendepa Hera's dear wife and widow Eleta Ekepi Hera; his children namely Joseph, Alice, Aggie and others; his siblings George Hera and others; his wider extended family; and many friends and colleagues throughout Papua New Guinea and abroad may forgive us for this brief tribute to your dearly loved and our admired humble father, grandfather, uncle, leader and icon.

We feel a sense of awe in saluting the late 'Sir' Pendepa Hera. Sir Hera was before my time. I only met him briefly as a child and again had the opportunity to know him further when he lived with our then family in Port Moresby from 2005-2007. I can clearly remember meeting him for the first time on a certain day in January of 1982 when I was a 7 year old, short stunted little girl at Kamenda village at the border of North Koroba and Lake Kapiago Local Level Government Jurisdictions of the Lake Kapiago Koroba district electorate of the new Hela Province.

Papua New Guinea became an independent country on the 16th September 1975 from Australian colonial rule. Established as a Westminster democratic system of governance where national

elections run every five years, the first election occurred in July of 1977¹. Sir Hera contested the Lake Kapiago Koroba electorate and then and again in 1982. Sir Hera however came only second in both elections. The Lake Kapiago Koroba people didn't vote him into parliament to represent them. Being from the Wagiye village in the North Koroba Local Level Government, he could speak both the Yuna and the Huli languages. So he knew customs, traditions and practices of both language and tribal groups. Sir Hera was a qualified teacher himself.

The Lake Kapiago Koroba electorate is one of the three electorates in the new Hela Province approved by the national government in 2012. The electorate is home to over 70,000 population which is the most heavily populated amongst the Tari Pori and Komo Magarima district electorates². Lake Kapiago Koroba electorate shares its borders with the Western and Sepik Provinces, not geographically far from the West Papua and Iran Jaya borders. Located towards the Western end of the province, the Yuna and the Huli tribes that occupy this vast land have been isolated from mainstream development and the outside world for many generations. The Koroba district being closer to Tari, the provincial headquarters is more advanced in terms of roads, bridges, telecommunication services, health facilities and school infrastructure. I remember my people walking to Koroba station for celebrations or

humble shopping expeditions. On the other hand, villages in the Lake Kapiago district remain isolated from all basic social services and infrastructure to this day. There are no economic activities, primary schools are dysfunctional with lack of resources and trained teachers, women give birth in caves and bushes and living conditions are poor³.

In 1982, at the age of seven, I, along with forty other students from my village Pakura and other nearby villages saw a light for the first time. We could enrol and go to a school. The then Haredege Primary School was opened by 'Sir' Pendepa Hera when he was yet again campaigning for the second time in the national elections only to come second again. Our parents and their parents never had an opportunity to get an education. That group that completed year six in 1987 were the chosen ones to bring light to their community, because the school got shut down since then to this day.

Although Sir Hera's people did not vote him into parliament, he had a vision. That vision was an important one. It was not to make his people rich or build town houses or build bridges or businesses. Sir Hera knew that in order to achieve all of these one had to be educated. Educated with knowledge and information. The art and science of understanding one's own situation and dream of a positive, a better, future. Sir Hera believed in education as freedom, liberation,



'Sir' Hera's burial site in Wagiya village



Campaign banner at a rally in 1982



Community rallying for a funeral feast after 'Sir' Hera's burial

and development which the school was going to bring to this primitive tribe. As Paolo Freire famously said, 'give education and liberate a person to contribute to society' ⁴. To salute Pendepa Hera 'Sir' is fitting for the legacy he has left since his passing a few days ago.

Haredege Primary School has produced some of the finest elites now contributing to the development of Yuna, Hela and PNG in many different fields and roles. On behalf of Stanley Newe, an electrical engineer working in Australia, Priscilla Waya with Masters in Education working as a lecturer at University of Goroka, Ariba Male with Masters in Education now a High School Principal and myself a nurse doing PHD in Australia, to name a few, I cannot thank you, Sir Hera, enough. If it wasn't for you, your humble vision for education, we would not have come anywhere this far. Haredege Primary School has been closed since the first batch of year six students passed out in 1987. The Haredege people needed information to vote 'Sir' Hera into parliament so the seed could be groomed. Sadly, our people needed to be less ignorant. But 'Sir' Hera didn't fight for fame, popularity,

power, wealth or prestige. 'Sir' Hera, all his life since then, lived in decency, humility and humanity. He was a natural leader. He didn't seek praise, nor recognition, nor reward. All of Yuna learnt how to be a truly humble leader and a truly genuine Yuna from this man. Most times his decency and rare unique humanity have been taken for granted. This didn't discourage him. He truly was educated. Educated with the richness of our Yuna culture and heritage. Educated with the heart for a better Yuna. Educated to vision a dream for his children and their children. And educated for Yuna to see the brighter and bigger light of which he saw a glimpse. Only he, 'Sir' Hera could have seen because he was ready, was wise and truly genuine.

We are still shocked by his too soon passing. In farewelling 'Sir' Hera to your final resting place, your legacy, Haredege Primary School will live on. We the pioneers will hold hands and walk together to empower our people and set the standard of our school to a best learning space it can be for our young generation. Although as humble as you were, you wouldn't take compliments, I assure you can be very proud that the smallest seed you have shown

is the best and only thing you did with your capacity. And that was all that was needed to be done with the biggest impact for many more years to come. May your kindred soul rest in eternal peace.

To be continued ----

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CREATIVE ARTS + BOOKS & REVIEWS

BOOK REVIEW

by Anthony Radford

Man of the Moment

by Ken Clezy

Ken Clezy, well-known to PNGAA members—having been a surgeon who worked up and down PNG for over 30 years with a special interest in leprosy—was finally appointed as Professor of Surgery at UPNG. This is Ken's second book; the first was an autobiography *Now in Remission* (Wakefield Press, 2012).

Magnus Anderson is the central figure in Clezy's recently published first novel *Man of the Moment*. Anderson had been a successful Sydney obstetrician. He retired early and met Sally, a Sydney midwife, in a chance meeting in Singapore. Almost overnight Anderson finds himself offering, and being accepted, as a locum specialist surgeon at an understaffed, up-country 'mission' hospital in East Africa to which Sally is headed.

The parent mission is of the conservative, evangelical mould which pits Anderson at odds with many of the issues with which they are all confronted. He debates these with the multi-skilled medical superintendent, Dr Richard Adamsmith, the British GP superintendent, and with Sally. Magnus and Sally fall in love and run a hurdle-race relationship. Their story unfolds despite Sally's belief that she can't pursue a relationship with an unbeliever and one thirty years her senior.

The medical jargon of the book may get some non-medical readers bogged down, not to mention disturbed, but such

parts can easily be glossed over. Those from PNG will recognise and smile at many of the incidents that relate to expatriate matters such as living and working cross-culturally, issues around calling it a day and handing over to a national worker less well-prepared than one would like, as well as paternalism and post colonialism.

There is a contemporary flavour to the setting of the story with debates concerning many problems associated with contemporary Islam and Christianity. There are numerous similarities between the conservative Christian and Muslim approaches to issues like abortion, marriage and ignorance of each for the other.

Dr Adamsmith is a compassionate, hard-working veteran of several decades in Africa, who has seen it all before. Like many isolated rural doctors (in government and mission situations) in the less-developed world he is multi-tasked, always in the background with advice and support for his staff. Wives of PNG expats will recognise the stress of the husbands and their spouses, their own personal and social isolation as well as their support role for which they often received minimal recognition.

Health workers will find the use of nurses in much extended roles such as midwives and anaesthetists of interest, such as happens in PNG and in rural Australia, especially in under-resourced situations such as Aboriginal communities.

Man of the Moment is a thoroughly readable book, told at a galloping pace. In summary,

it is a great story, entertainingly written, that moves so quickly you will have difficulty putting it down. Although set in Africa it will resonate with many PNG expatriates.

Title: *Man of the Moment*

Author: Ken Clezy

Publisher: Wakefield Press, Adelaide

Year: 2015; reprint 2016

ISBN: 978 1 74305 344 7

Pages: 379

Cover: paperback

Category: Fiction. Missionaries, Medical.

Cost: \$29.95

Available from: booksellers

Suau: the sons of seafarers

By Konetero (Ronnie) Dotaona

Winner of the 2015 Crocodile Prize Cleland Family Award for Heritage Writing.

Every Suau-speaking lad is fond of the ocean. Ask him. And ask him about his dream. 'Go to Maritime College, join the navy or build a workboat.'

If a Simbai is born with all the secrets of the forest, then a Suau is a born seafarer. Infant boys are carried by an uncle or grand-uncle to the beach. He is made to face Tupu Yalasi, the direction of the west wind. The old man will make the infant to dance and perform the ritual song calling on the Yalasi wind to inundate the infant with strength. And the baby will be taken to the front of a sailing canoe in rough storms and the waves will spray his face while uncle or grand-uncle sings. Later, young people reaching manhood or womanhood undergo rituals connected to the sea.

Our fathers sail kemuluwa or amuyuwa, ocean-going canoes with sails made of dam, woven dried pandanus leaves.

The craft remind me of the skill it took, and the tragedies experienced, on the part of my ancestors in crossing thousand miles of ocean to reach the land we call home. I do not know if the seas were pacificus in that era. The names Kemuluwa and Amuyuwa signify that these voyages journeyed across the Muruwa or Muiuw seas near what are now the Woodlark and neighbouring islands. They built and sailed wolibote, workboats without motors, driven by sails.

I asked my grand-fathers where the name originated. I came to understand that these boats were similar to whaleboats, thus the name Wolibote was coined. The arrival of marine motors motivated them to share the dream of a white man, Reverend Charles Abel, to build boats. Our fathers were trained at Kwato Island by Australian boat builders. Some were trained at Wako Wakoko Slipways and at Sariba Island, while others pioneered the Salamo Slipways on Fergusson Island. The quality of work our fathers did in the boatyards was comparable to Australian and British boat builders.

I recall the stories of my grand-uncle. When he sleeps on the deck at night, he feels the pattern of currents and waves hitting the boat. He tells the tiller man if they are approaching a reef or nearing land. He uses the stars to navigate. He knows all the current patterns and uses them to his advantage. His clan totem is the sea eagle. I had a chance to travel the coast between Milne Bay and

Morobe. On many occasions, I spotted Kubona on the ship at dawn. The first thought that entered my mind was, 'I've seen the same star, my Lapita ancestors have seen.'

We hear stories of our fathers meeting sea monsters and storms and the parts of the Milne Bay waters where one is not allowed to utter a word. They tell us the different names of ocean waves and describe the areas from Milne Bay to the Motuan to the Gulf coastline that we need to know.

Suaus take pride that their sons were some of the pioneers to sail the oceans of our country. The songs of our forefathers were composed and sung on these journeys, songs of leaving their loved ones behind, coming ashore on foreign soil and of young lasses eloping. Our fathers taught us the lives of sea birds - sea eagle, sea hawk, frigate bird, tern - and what we can learn from them. Sayings like: 'being shark-eyed and not of a stingray' or 'sleep like a turtle' or 'wake up like a tern' were coined.

Around the evening fires, we have heard stories and legends of the sea and its monsters: sineligusi salasala, sineboudalili, polepole, bolisaielo, sasalutu gwanegwane. If that was not enough, our mothers created games: string figures such as the Amuyuwa, Kubona the dawn star, the ocean tides and currents, Taubodidi the seafarer. When kids play these figures, they are drawn closer to the spirit of seafaring.

A Suau man knows the look of a strong workboat; boats that can load at the same time and withstand the storms. As lads, we were taught the names of hardwoods that resist the naval

shipworm, hardwoods that will last. Suaus are a headache to the provincial maritime authority, because they breach strong wind warnings. They take pride in riding on the waves, even though they know that the ocean does not keep memorial headstones afloat.

May the Suau lads sail the waters and build hardwood boats out of love, respect and character, boats that will stand life's stormy seas. May they, in future, cross oceans with outrigger canoes. May their sails be filled with the trade winds. To our forefathers who have already sailed away. You're a mariner.

Fair winds!

NOTE: Ronnie, 33, is from Milne Bay and is a science teacher with a deep passion for indigenous knowledge.

'I carved my profession out of a childhood hobby for the love of arthropods,' he says. 'I'm a self-taught multi-instrumentalist, a prankster and love telling stories with kids. My spare time is occupied by gardening or woodworking or a bit of melody therapy. Never keep me away from the sea for too long.'

Line of Fire by Ian Townsend



ISBN: 9781460750926
Paperback and EBook 2017
304pp Non fiction \$29.99 Photos,
notes and references Available
from book stores.

The little known and intriguing
WWII story of an eleven-year-
old Australian schoolboy who
was shot by the Japanese in
Rabaul in 1942 as a suspected
spy - a compelling story of spies,
volcanoes, history and war.

In May 1942, in the town of
Rabaul in the Australian territory
of New Guinea, five Australian
civilians were taken by Japanese
soldiers to a pit at the base of a
volcano and executed as spies.
A mother, her brother, her
husband and her friend. And her
11-year-old son.

Who were these people and what
had led them to this terrible end,
under the shadow of a volcano?

Acclaimed 4th Estate author and
award-winning science journalist
Ian Townsend has uncovered
a fascinating story that sheds
new light on a largely forgotten
but desperate battle fought on
Australian territory. The Australian
Government, unable to reinforce
its small garrison, abandoned
more than 1500 Australian
soldiers and civilians as 'hostages
to fortune' in the face of the
irresistible Japanese advance. Set
against the romantic, dramatic
and ultimately tragic backdrop of
Rabaul in WWII, this is a wholly
intriguing narrative of Australian
history, military conflict and
volcanology, woven together
with the story of one ordinary but
doomed Australian family.

The author was interviewed on
radio here:

[http://www.abc.net.au/
radionational/programs/
latenightlive/line-of-fire/8249032](http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/latenightlive/line-of-fire/8249032)

A review appeared in the Courier
Mail:

[http://www.couriermail.
com.au/news/queensland/
brisbane-author-sifted-through-
75-years-of-volcanic-ash-to-
find-the-truth-about-execution-of-
australia-child-during-world-war-ii/
news-story/9a5996896a3bc147b
a097d4ec0674c41](http://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/brisbane-author-sifted-through-75-years-of-volcanic-ash-to-find-the-truth-about-execution-of-australia-child-during-world-war-ii/news-story/9a5996896a3bc147ba097d4ec0674c41)

My Walk to Equality

Edited by Rashmii Amoah Bell
2017, Pukpuk Publications, 278
pages. Paperback \$US10.53
or Kindle \$US1.00. ISBN-10:
1542429242. ISBN-13: 978-
1542429245. Available from
Amazon



My Walk to Equality, a first
ever collection of women's
writing from Papua New Guinea
edited by Rashmii Amoah Bell,
is outstanding. It is inspiring,
engaging, groundbreaking and
important.

Given an excerpt of 80 pages
to review, accounting for 14 of
the more than 80 pieces in the
book, I am impressed. Through
these excerpts we can smell the
village fires, be astonished at the
intuitiveness of these women and
gasp at the ease with which they
can flit between western ideology
and village traditions, comfortable
in both societies - yet we can also
feel their patriotism and need to
be valued.

This journey is explored through
four key themes - relationships,

self-awareness, challenging
gender roles and legacy. The
courageous women who
collaborated to share these
diverse personal accounts
open their hearts, painting vivid
pictures. The content is sensitive,
constructive and offers more than
the title suggests. Their stories
reflect an era of change whilst
retaining their cultural identity.

Emma Wakpi writes with passion
about her family and her country,
taking the reader on powerful
journeys from traditional cultural
life to contemporary Papua New
Guinea.

Drum beat by Vanessa Gordon
pulses through the reader- the
crescendo of drumbeat echoing
the explosion of voices wanting,
collaborating, to be heard and
acknowledged.

Leila Parina's A Paradigm Shift
reflects an extraordinarily mature
outlook. It is a contemporary and
profound take on conciliation,
traversing custom and modernity.

PNG, a country of 800 languages,
speaks with a common voice
and a clear message. Traditional
excuses for violence against
women can no longer be
tolerated and the tenuous thread
which persists needs cutting - its
place now in literary history.

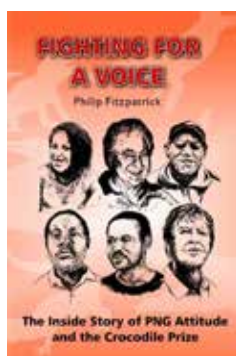
Papua New Guineans' cultural
beliefs and tradition are
longstanding, important to
PNG society and, in the main,
deserving of our respect. All
countries, Australia included, still
have trailing intergenerational
differences where daughters can
remain unheard. PNG women
need to feel safe, with boys
and girls being encouraged to
grow up respecting each other.
Engaging male champions on this
issue is a priority. Congratulations

to Australians with a PNG heart - Phil Fitzpatrick and Keith Jackson who have walked with these women. The issue is now to find more Papua New Guineans, both men and women, to share and support these endeavours, both individual and national.

This book is a significant contribution to PNG progress and history. My Walk to Equality is refreshing in its candour and written by women with informed judgement who want to make positive contributions to society based on respect and equality. It is an easy, enjoyable read. If the rest of the book is of this calibre, it is a masterpiece. Editor Rashmii Bell and every person who has contributed to this collection deserve congratulations.

Andrea Williams

Fighting for a Voice: The Inside Story of PNG Attitude and the Crocodile Prize



Philip Fitzpatrick, Pukpuk Publications, 2016, 369 pages, ISBN: 978-1533616906, Available from Amazon Books (US&UK), Barnes & Noble, The Book Depository, US\$13.33, £7.40, €8.47, AU\$18.00, K42.20 plus postage.

Author's note: For most Australians Papua New Guinea is a mysterious place somewhere north of Cape York and roughly between Bali in Indonesia and the resorts in Fiji, Vanuatu and New Caledonia in the South Pacific. As a place it sits at the bottom of their consciousness.

Papua New Guineans, on the other hand, know a lot about Australia. Many of their goods and media come from there and the big companies exploiting their resources are often Australian.

There are, however, a small band of Australians who worked or served in Papua New Guinea before independence in 1975. For these people it sits permanently and warmly in their memory and consciousness. Many of these people belong to organisations like the Papua New Guinea Association. They follow events in Papua New Guinea through a range of publications and on social media. In the latter case one of the most influential and informed is the Keith Jackson and Friends: PNG Attitude blog. For them and for many Papua New Guineans it is an enduring mystery why the two nations, so physically close together and with a shared history, don't have a much stronger relationship.

That relationship as reflected on Keith's blog is the focus of this short history. It details the attempts by Australians and Papua New Guineans to broaden and expand the relationship.

It is still a work in progress but the story of PNG Attitude and the Crocodile Prize points to what is possible when the right people get together to make things happen.

When I was asked to write the history I pondered the best approach, should it be an academic treatise looking at the phenomenon of social media in PNG and Australia and PNG Attitude's place in that context, or should it be a rollicking yarn about the unusual characters who have inhabited its cyber pages over the years, or should it be something else?

I eventually decided on something else and that was to simply let those characters tell their own story. As a result just about everyone and their dog gets a mention in the book and to top it off I have included the life stories of many of the most consistent contributors and commentators in a lengthy appendix.

The book begins in 2006 and traces the history of the blog and the prize right through until early this year. It is an open-ended history, of course, because both PNG Attitude and the Crocodile Prize continue on. What the future holds is anyone's guess.

I hope I have done the whole enterprise justice; I will be interested to see what readers think.

The Middle Kingdom: A Colonial History of the Highland of Papua New Guinea

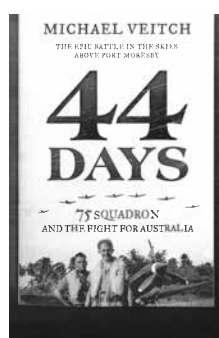


by James Sinclair ISBN10 186333324X ISBN13 9781863333245 Hardback 622pp Crawford House Press Pty Ltd Adelaide Cost: \$89.95 plus tracked boxed satchel postage to any address in Australia at \$15.50, total \$105.45. The general hardcover edition is now available from Pacific Book House, P: 07 5522 4110. There is also a deluxe leather, numbered, limited and signed [by the author] edition. E: mcgrath.pacificbookhouse@gmail.com

This is an account of the 'discovery', exploration, pacification and development of the Eastern, Western and Southern Highlands, Simbu and Enga Provinces of Papua New Guinea, from their beginnings to independence in September 1975 – the colonial era, New Guinea was the last of the great land masses of the world to be 'discovered' and explored by Europeans. But this is a European conceit, for Indonesians and Asians knew of the existence of New Guinea, and had visited its shores long before the first Europeans sighted the islands in 1512. However, this is a history of the colonial period. A lot of fresh research into PNG Highlands history has been conducted in recent decades, by the author and a great many others. Sinclair has endeavoured to bring as much as possible of it together in a very detailed book, which goes far beyond sagas of exploration. It documents the growth and development through administration, industry and all that is associated with the establishment of a growing infrastructure. The author personally knew many

of the great figures in Highlands exploration, notable Mick and Dan Leahy (he also knew Jim and Paddy), Jim Taylor, and Ivan and Claude Champion. They have all passed on, but not before telling Jim Sinclair their stories of 'discovery'.

44 Days – 75 Squadron and the fight for Australia.



The epic battle in the skies above Pt Moresby by Michael Veitch ISBN 9780733633638 ISBN.10: 0733633633 Published 2016 Hachette Australia Paperback, kindle, CD 336 pp Available book stores.

The epic World War II story of Australia's 75 Squadron - and the 44 days when these brave and barely trained pilots fought alone against the Japanese.

Assessing Food Needs Following a Natural Disaster in Papua New Guinea

by Matthew Kanua, Mike Bourke, Brendan Jinks and Michael Lowe, with the support of the Church Partnership Program, Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Adventist Development

and Relief Agency. 2016 ANU Research Publications. Can be downloaded free of charge from <http://hdl.handle./1885/109282>

Papua New Guinea is vulnerable to natural disasters, including drought and frost associated with El Niño weather events and excessive rainfall associated with La Niña events. Drought, frost and excessive rainfall can cause major disruptions to village food supplies. Drought also reduces villagers' access to clean drinking water, which in turn has a negative impact on peoples' health and the capacity of schools and hospitals to operate. There are often other impacts — damage to crops and property by wildfires, out-migration and an increased death rate.

In 1997–98, and again in 2015–16, a major El Niño event caused significant disruption to drinking water and food supply for many Papua New Guinean villagers. Staff of many agencies, including those working through the Church Partnership Program El Niño Drought Response Program, were involved in assessing the impact and providing relief in 2015–16. This publication brings together the experiences of those working on the Church Partnership Program response to the 2015–16 El Niño event and serves as a guide for assessing future food shortages and to help those in need. No 1

Neighbour – Art in PNG 1966 - 2016 at Queensland Art Gallery and Gallery of Modern Art.

PNGAA members were doubly impressed by this exhibition and by the knowledge and commitment of Curator, Ruth McDougall when they enjoyed a private tour for PNGAA members in January, 2017.

Extract from the Essay by Ruth McDougall in exhibition catalogue is published with permission.

How many Australians really know anything at all about Papua New Guinea? What percent know the name of the PNG Prime Minister? Who knows that PNG was once an Australian territory? Probably not many.

“No1 Neighbour – Art in PNG 1966 - 2016” at Queensland Art Gallery and Gallery of Modern Art was designed to help address some of the questions above. In fact, a key conceptual thread within the exhibition was the importance of the ongoing relationship between Australia and Papua New Guinea. It achieved this by introducing Australian audiences to artworks that expand our knowledge of shared history.

The exhibition attracted 200 386 visitors from 15 October 2016 until 29 January 2017. With displays of traditional and contemporary masks, bilums, carvings, pottery, fashion, photography, music and multi-media presentations audiences experienced an exciting display which provided the framework for deeper understanding of the issues faced by the people of Papua New Guinea.

Six broad themes were used to introduce the culture of PNG:

- Continuing dynamism and strength of custom
- Importance of sing-sings
- Storytelling and its translation into image
- Tensions between traditions and modernity
- Vibrancy and strength of women’s voices
- Contemporary initiation process involved in “making men”

During Australia’s governance of PNG from 1906 until 1975 the region experienced extraordinary cultural and economic change as well as two world wars and three major volcanic eruptions. Numerous Australians participated in these events of change including administrators, kiaps (patrol officers), teachers, soldiers, nurses, scientists and missionaries. These people are acknowledged by the artists in the exhibition which demonstrates how the PNG people themselves have reflected on colonial occupation in history. And it is their insight and perspective that the exhibition profiles.

Some installations were specifically commissioned for the Gallery’s exhibitions and Collection including spectacular spirit house entrance - Kwoma Koromb. Exhibition Curator, Ruth McDougall and Co-curator Martin Fowler made two visits to the villages of Apengai and Tongwinjamb to discuss the project with elders and villagers. Artists from Abelam and Kwoma then travelled to Brisbane to create, work and engage with gallery staff. To further outreach, interviews with artists and staff were videoed and played near the Koromb. The positioning of the Kwoma Koromb at the beginning of the exhibition is a nod to the ceiling at Parliament



*Curator, Ruth McDougall
pictured centre.*

House in Port Moresby which is inspired by the ceiling of a Koromb. Along with the exhibition title this positioning alludes to the formal legacy of the Australian administration and the importance of strong ongoing relationships.

The a Bit na Ta (Source of the Sea) project describes elements of the colonial period from the perspective of the Tolai people of East New Britain. Songs written collaboratively by Tolai musician George Telek and Australian David Bridle draw on research by historian Gideon Kakabin and expose events occurring in and around Blanche Bay between 1875 and 1975..

The exhibition also celebrated pioneering PNG artists in the era of independence including Timothy Akis, Mathias Kauge and Jakupo Ako.

The No 1 Neighbour exhibition was an invitation to acknowledge Australia’s colonial past in PNG and in accepting the invitation it compelled us to participate in new conversations and partnerships that recognise the vibrancy, richness and strength of our number one neighbour.

‘No.1 Neighbour’ was supported by the Gordon Darling Foundation and through the Australian Government through the Australian Cultural Diplomacy Grants Program of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Coronation Parade – London 1953

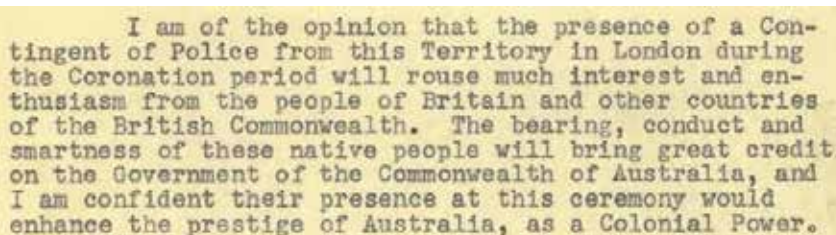
by Stephen Burns

In March 1953, a contingent of Royal Papua and New Guinea Constabulary was chosen to attend Queen Elizabeth II's Coronation Parade in London.

Approval for the attendance of representatives of the RPNGC was not straightforward. Despite a request from the Commissioner, JS Grimshaw to the TP&NG Government, approval was not initially granted and the RPNGC was not part of the original Australian Services Contingent that was due to leave Sydney on HMAS Sydney in April 1953.

It was only after the intervention of the Prime Minister Robert Menzies, at the urging of his Minister for Territories Paul Hasluck, to the Coronation Commission in London that approval was ultimately forthcoming.

The RPNGC contingent was away for about 12 weeks, departing Port Moresby on the MV *Sinkiang* at Easter, Thursday 2nd April 1953, and arrived in Sydney on the 9th. There was controversy about their travel arrangements as the Australian Navy refused to allow them to accompany the rest of the Australian Coronation Contingent on HMAS Sydney. It was feared that they would miss their connection, as their UK-bound ship was due to sail on the 9th, but the departure was delayed and they sailed out



I am of the opinion that the presence of a Contingent of Police from this Territory in London during the Coronation period will rouse much interest and enthusiasm from the people of Britain and other countries of the British Commonwealth. The bearing, conduct and smartness of these native people will bring great credit on the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia, and I am confident their presence at this ceremony would enhance the prestige of Australia, as a Colonial Power.

Extract from a letter from the Commissioner of Police to the Government Secretary – 2nd August 1952

from Sydney at 6am on 11th April on the *New Australia* and arrived at Southampton on 9th May.

While in Sydney before their departure, the contingent marched through the city from Circular Quay to the Cenotaph in Martin Place to lay a wreath.

The Sydney Morning Herald described the scene:

Hundreds of people lined the route from the approaches to Martin Place as the platoon of 24 men (sic), led by the Eastern Command band, approached the Cenotaph, where several thousand waited.

Office-workers watched from most windows surrounding the Cenotaph, and dozens of girls stood precariously on window parapets.

Members of the constabulary wore uniforms of black native

tunics and red shoulder sashes.

They carried rifles with bayonets.

Marching with fine precision, they arrived at the Cenotaph and there was a loud clap of sandled feet as the platoon halted.

SMH Saturday 11th April 1953

In London, the Coronation Parade consisted of thousands of soldiers and police in hundreds of groups from all over the British Empire including; Ghana, Nigeria, Gambia, Malawi, Kenya, Tanganyika, Uganda, South Africa, Jordan, Aden, Burma, Malaya, Canada, Pakistan, India, Ceylon, various West Indies, Fiji, Hong Kong, New Zealand, Australia, and little Papua New Guinea.



The RPNG Contingent on Birdcage Walk, London – June 1953

The above photo was taken in London on 2nd June 1953. Inspector Bill Burns (front row, right column), and to his left, the other officers are Sub-Inspector Broman, and Inspector Sandy Sinclair, ex-Scots Guards. They are waiting to march at Birdcage Walk, near Buckingham Palace.

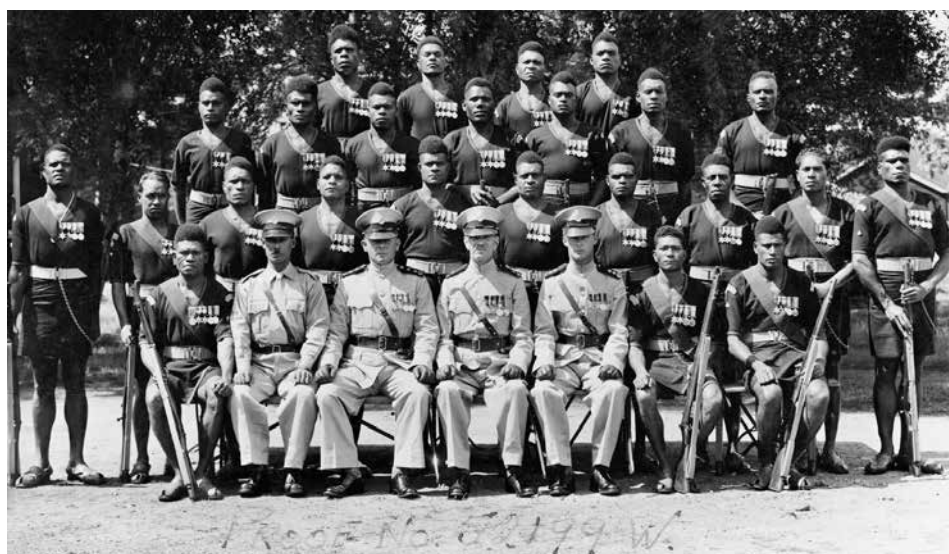
All these PNG men were hand-picked decorated World War II veterans. They had never left their country before, and most were illiterate. The tall PNG man is Sgt-Major Kari (Second row, left column) from Manus Island. He was a famous war hero who spent much time protecting Coastwatchers behind Japanese lines. He saved numerous Australian soldiers' lives, and "eliminated" many Japanese along the way.¹

The other two are Sgt-Major Saura (second row, left column) from the Waria River in the Morobe District, a famous recruiting area for the toughest PNG police, and Sgt-Major Sairere (second row, centre)

from Aitape on the north coast of PNG. The tall man in the second row is Corporal Auwai from Markham River country near Lae.

The grizzled old veteran Sgt-Major Merire, for whom his Australian officers had great respect, was also a famous war hero. He came from Gomema village in the Markham Valley near Lae. When the Japanese landed in Madang in 1942 he moved all the residents with their supplies into the jungle to avoid capture. His coast-watching exploits along the coast as far

as Finschhafen helped guide US bombing raids on Japanese positions. He was repeatedly captured and escaped, always with new information which he was able to pass on to the Australian troops, for whom he was a valuable guide when they recaptured the island. For his efforts he was awarded the British Empire Medal, visible at the centre of his chest in the photo below, next to his War Service Medals. In 1952 he was featured on a stamp of Papua New Guinea.



RPNGC Contingent - Pirbright Camp, Surrey – June 1953

Back Row: LCpl Ganki, Const Duna, Const Kosen, Const Katka

3rd Row: Const Dau, Const Kemai, Const Kaporis, Sgt Keivi, LCpl Kamai, Const Augwi

2nd Row: SM2 Kari, SM2 William, Sgt Sorovi, Sgt Konimoro, Cpl Auwai, LCpl Wangu, Const Peiwa, Sgt Daemen, SM2 Ligo, SM2 Saura

Front Row: SM1 Merire, SM1 Guise, Insp WM Burns, Insp AM Sinclair, SubInsp PA Broman, SM1 Christian, SM2 Sairere

¹ Barbara Burns (Bill's wife) described Kari as one of the most impressive PNG men she ever knew – he was a quiet giant of a man, a dignified natural leader who commanded respect from all who knew him. Peter Ryan in his 1985 book "Fear Drive My Feet" stated more than once that Kari should have been awarded at least the Military Medal for his bravery and leadership behind Japanese lines.



Sgt Major Merire – 1952 P&NG stamp series

These PNG men were not to be trifled with, as some Arab souvenir merchants found out to their cost in Aden when they tried to rip off some of the men whilst en route via ship to the UK!

The PNG men had tribulations with the jolly English summer weather...they were freezing and in drizzling rain all day – hence the groundsheets used as raincoats. There were big problems with their footwear. The English sandals which had been pre-ordered from PNG were all too small for the PNG-style feet. Their new sandals had to be urgently specially made at the last minute – extra wide! The men would have much preferred bare feet, New Guinea style! After marching around London all day in these brand-new sandals their feet were cold and blistered. Some men were bed-ridden for days afterwards. Note their flimsy tropical clothing compared with the English spectators. Despite wearing woollen underclothes, most caught colds.

The contingent attended a reception at Buckingham Palace for the Commonwealth Forces and received the Coronation Medal from the Queen. They were invited to the Trooping the Colour Parade at Horseguards and also

to the Fleet Review at Spithead, where they were on board HMAS Sydney. The contingent was inspected by HRH the Duke of Edinburgh at Pirbright Guards Depot in Surrey. Prior to the Coronation Day Parade they were camped in Kensington Gardens and were invited to many other forms of entertainment such as a visit to the British War Museum, Windsor Castle, an RAF training centre to see Air Force guard dogs being trained, the British and Commonwealth Museum in Kensington, sightseeing in London and visits to many English counties such as Hampshire, Surrey, Sussex and others. They also visited the Austin Motor Works in Birmingham, attended parades at White City and visited the Bishop of London's Palace (Bishop Wand). Whilst there the contingent gave a drill display under SM Christian on the Palace lawn for him and other visitors who were present. They witnessed the changing the guard at Buckingham Palace which was being carried out by the Australian Army. Also present that day were the Prime Minister of Australia, Robert Menzies and Mrs Menzies, and Lt-General Sir Edmond Herring. Rev Father Bodger visited the contingent in camp and addressed them in their own language (Binandere, Wedauan and Wanigela – three distinct Papuan languages²), much to the astonishment of other Colonial troops and newspaper representatives. He had been a Missionary in Papua.

The standard of drill of this group was amazingly high, and drew much comment and compliments from many other groups, especially the Brigade of Guards.

They had practised every day well before leaving PNG via Sydney, Perth and Aden, at least twice a day on the ship. In England, the Australian contingent's officers actually asked if they could practise with the PNG contingent in the days leading up to the big Parade, so they could sharpen themselves up. The Australians, and many others, were embarrassed to be outshone by the 'natives'. Other contingents would often come to watch the PNG men at their drill practice at Pirbright Barracks in the weeks leading up to the big day.

They returned to Australia by air arriving in Sydney on 21st June on a BOAC Super Constellation, a trip taking four days with overnights in Beirut and Singapore, where they stayed at Raffles Hotel. They were on the ground in England for 40 days – from 9th May until 18th June.

They spent several days in Sydney on their return, which included a visit to Government House, where they were inspected by the Governor, Sir John Northcote, and were given morning tea. They left Sydney to return to Port Moresby on 26th June on the MV *Shansi*.

Sgt Major John Guise was the senior PNG officer in the contingent and acted as interpreter in many of the dealings that the men had with the public and with other servicemen both in Australia and the UK. The grandson of an English adventurer, who came to Papua in 1880 and married a local woman, Guise was to become the first Governor-General of Papua New Guinea.

² Binandere is spoken in the Mamba River region of Oro Province, near Kokoda, Wedauan is spoken in Dogura in Milne Bay, and Wanigela is on Collingwood Bay on the north coast of east Papua.

Sing Sing - events and reunions

A focus for this year

Hello everyone

My first year as Events Coordinator was one of much learning. I do not anticipate anything to change drastically this year. I will be attempting a few other ideas that have come to light over the past year and I am more than happy to hear from Members as to what they would like to see happen.

A focus for this year will be to have Speakers at various venues to present their areas of interest to us all. Naturally I would be thrilled to hear from anyone who would like to participate or who would like to suggest a possible speaker to me. My idea of changing venue is to hopefully make these Events available to different areas & encourage others to come along.

Mr Philip Selth, Retired Executive Director of the NSW Bar Association and CEO of the Australian Bar Association, has agreed to speak in Sydney, Brisbane & Melbourne. He will speak about the Coast Watchers of PNG – a topic that has interested many for years. Keep an eye out for confirmation of event details TBC.

To present a perspective of life & times in PNG from a woman's perspective, I have great pleasure in informing you that Mrs. Joy Benson (Nurse), Mrs Liz Corner (Teacher) and Ms Jane Turner (Secretary/teacher) will present on a panel in Sydney. Everyone is welcome.

Other speakers are being canvassed presently for other possible events. The purpose of the talks is to reminisce, encourage our younger generation to come along & recognise it's not "just Mum & Dad going on", and to inform friends.

We aim to continue our networking with other groups, who are involved with the Pacific. I would be so very pleased to hear from anyone who has an idea that they would like to see happen for our members of the PNGAA.

It will be wonderful to see you at some of the events.

Sara

Events Co-ordinator



Tingwon Primary School Fundraiser Trivia Night

A very successful Trivia Night Fundraiser for Tingwon Primary School was held on the 28th January at St John's, Gordon, NSW, and was attended by 60 plus adults and children. Peter and Marian Comerford and Gordon Doyle who have a long association with Tingwon gave a short talk on the school, the students and the story of baby "Peter" published in Una Voce in 2016. PNGAA committee members Steven Gagau and Roy Ranney and wife Pam were supported by Rabaul wantoks, Bonnie Sahin and her daughter Linda. The event including donations has raised \$2 750.

We would like to thank everyone who attended and Cris and Phil Hunt who coordinated the evening and prizes. Many thanks. Peter and Marian Comerford.

UV: See HELP WANTED for your way to contribute.



*Libby Cadden at Christmas lunch
- celebrating 100 years*



Proposal for a Scholarship Scheme to promote mutual understanding between Australia and Papua New Guinea

Background

The lack of awareness of PNG in Australia, given our two countries reside either side of the Torres Strait, is palpable. This lack of understanding is often referred to by those Australians who have served in Papua New Guinea (PNG). Many former field staff (Kiaps) maintain an active engagement with PNG and her people. They now feel that their experience and knowledge of our shared history will simply be allowed to disappear along with those few former Kiaps who, as yet, remain.

While Australian educational curriculums favouring European histories are currently promoted, it seems strange that there is no recognition of the benefits associated in developing a mutual understanding and knowledge between PNG and Australia. Promoting such a mutual understanding could only be beneficial for both nations in this ever more uncertain world. It has been noted that there are now many educational opportunities offered to PNG students and government officers in other countries to our north.

Proposal

A suggestion has been made that some limited scholarships should be offered to assist PNG students train in Australia. While many PNG students do train in Australia, when they return to their own country the effect is marginal and unable to be assessed. Similarly, it is thought that Australian students would benefit from gaining an understanding and education about our nearest neighbour given the rich cultural differences.

In order to perpetuate the memory and dedication of TPNG Administration Field Staff, it is proposed to call the scholarship 'The PNG Kiap Scholarship'.

How would the Scholarship operate?

It is proposed that a sustainable fund be created for the operation of such a scholarship. Requests to accumulate the necessary funding to operate such scholarships would be circulated to former field staff (Kiaps) and anyone interested in the initiative, including possible sponsors from business entities in both nations. All available options will be considered.

The fund would be managed by the PNGAA and audited as part of the Association's annual budget. Scholarship recipients would be decided by a combined committee of PNGAA representatives and former field staff. The inclusion of a suitable representative from the PNG education system could also be considered. Those wishing to avail themselves of a scholarship would be required to apply in writing to the review committee.

PNGAA Approval in Principle

The PNGAA Committee has given approval in principle, so a more detailed brief will be prepared for the Association to consider. Subject to the Association's approval, the intention would then be to advertise the initiative and request donations prior to the Bi-annual Field Officers gathering at Kawana Waters this year (12th November 2017).

Paul Oates

29th January 2017
205 Bunjorgen Road
Boonah Qld 4310
07 5463 4383

Lowy Institute's 2016 Australia-Papua New Guinea Emerging Leaders Dialogue



It was a real honour to be selected for the 2016 Australia-Papua New Guinea Emerging Leaders Dialogue. The Dialogue is the flagship event of the Lowy Institute's Australia-Papua New Guinea Network, which aims to enhance people-to-people links between the two countries, with the support of the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Held in November the Dialogue brought together 20 young leaders from both countries to share ideas on important national issues for Papua New Guinea and Australia. The Dialogue was held in Brisbane, Australia and saw participants from a broad range of backgrounds including law, government, civic society, health, education, media, academia and the arts. The art sector was particularly prevalent; the Dialogue coincided with the "No 1. Neighbour" exhibition at Queensland Art Gallery, showcasing work by artists from Papua New Guinea from the mid-1960s until today. The exhibition demonstrated the importance of the ongoing relationship between Australia and Papua New Guinea with projects profiling creative relationships between communities and individuals.

Unfortunately, my participation in the Dialogue could only be described as bitter sweet. Bitter because it occurred on the day after my grandfather, Lawrence (Lon) Tomlinson, passed away (see Obituaries). Lon, who spent a considerable portion of his working life in the Territory of Papua and New Guinea (as it then was), had turned 100 a few days earlier.

And sweet because I believe Lon would have been incredibly heartened by the valuable work being carried out by many of the participants, especially the PNG contingent.

While there was plenty of conversation throughout the week of the Dialogue, it was not merely a "talk fest". Participants developed a number of proposals to grow links between the two countries and expand understanding of Papua New Guinea in Australia. These included:

Encouraging cross cultural exchange between young people in both countries, focusing on youth in regional centers, with the intent of fostering



Sebastian De Brennan front row second from left

shared culture, wantok/neighborly understanding. Revisiting scholarship funding between Australia and Papua New Guinea for high school and tertiary institutions.

Incorporation of Melanesian culture and shared history into Australian school syllabi, and the creation of resources/materials package to enable teachers across Australia to easily teach this syllabus.

Within Australia, promoting greater diversity of media coverage on Papua New Guinean and Melanesian issues in new forms of media, particularly social media, in order to reduce the reliance on a sometimes apathetic mainstream media. On the Papua New Guinean side, promoting a positive national image and national branding to promote tourism, particularly at the Ministerial level.

Increasing engagement within and between Indigenous Australians and Papua New Guinea (two members of the Australian delegation were from Indigenous backgrounds).

In an age where media has at times been driven by negative stereotypes around the PNG-Australia relationship, the Dialogue was a positive reminder that there are so many emerging leaders acting as powerful agents for democracy, peace and social and economic progress.

For those interested in learning more about the Dialogue visit: <https://auspng.lowyinstitute.org/>

Sebastian De Brennan

Vale

ANDREWS, Daera 2/8/1940 - 6/1/2017

Daera was born eldest Child of Mea Lahui and Hane Puka of Poraporena (Hanuabada). Her childhood was spent largely at the LMS Mission at Hanuabada where she received a basic primary education. She then attended the Primary "T" school and advanced to the top level Grade 8. She then went on to the Co-operative College in Port Moresby and graduated as qualified book keeper.

She was then appointed the first ever female inspector of Co-operatives. She was also sent on a tour of Co-operatives in Queensland for further familiarisation. In 1964, on a career change, she was selected to attend the South Pacific Training centre in Suva where she took a year's course in Home Economics and Social Welfare. Returning to PNG in late 1964 she worked in the Western District, the Ahioma Training Centre in Milne Bay and finally in the Madang District.

She married Roy Andrews in 26th February, 1966. Roy and Daera moved to the Southern Highlands, then Chimbu District and Milne Bay. At all these stations Daera on a voluntary basis ran Women's Clubs and engaged in training women in domestic skills.

Roy and Daera returned to Australia for good in February, 1974 firstly for 2 years at Frankston and then for over 33 years at Chirnside Park, Lilydale. She was a tireless worker in the swimming fraternity, the school canteens, the Church

where her legendary plant stalls earned thousands of dollars for the Church and its charities, plus many other community activities. Her culinary skills and her hospitality were legendary. Her loving and generous nature earned much love and respect and this was never more evident than at her requiem service attended by over 300 people (plus many apologies). A service was also held at Hanuabada United Church on the same afternoon.

Daera is survived by her husband Roy, Her Children Maria, John, Christopher and his wife Rebecca, Bubu to Harrison, Teyah, Billy, Ruby, Lily and Zoe and 4 God Children and her sister Geau Rone in Port Moresby. Greatly loved and sadly missed by all.

Provided by Roy Andrews

BARLOW, Lt Peter Donald 145927 13.6.1939 - 25.12.2016



Peter worked with Customs in PNG. Prior to his enlistment

in PNGVR in the 1960s, Peter was a National Serviceman. He was a WO2 at PNGVR's annual camp in 1969 and was on the No1 Guard at the Presentation of PNGVR Colours in Lae. Peter was commissioned in the early 1970s and was a Platoon Commander in A Company, Lae at the time PNGVR was disbanded in 1973. He returned to Australia in 1973 and transferred to the RCMF (Reserve of Officers). Whilst in PNG he married Therese. Peter kept his links with National Servicemen and was a member of the Northern Suburbs Branch, Brisbane of the NSAAQ. In 1983 Peter was involved in the formative years of the NGVR & PNGVR Association. Over the years both Peter and Therese attended Anzac Day and other reunions.

GRACE, Geoff D. 20 NOV 2016

A former British infantry platoon commander, and British colonial police officer, Geoff joined ASIO where one of his first jobs was as officer in charge of ASIO's Rabaul office, in January 1964. ASIO later seconded him to help establish and build the expertise of the Special Branch of the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary. He left PNG in March 1969, only to return again in 1971 as the Deputy Director of PNG's Intelligence Branch, a position he held when that organisation was restructured and renamed the Papua New Guinea Security Intelligence Organisation (PNGSIO) in 1972. He later returned to Australia, and continued to work for ASIO.

CHOW, Sir Henry
D. 21 January 2017 aged 83

(See an expanded account of Sir Henry's life p23)

HERA, 'Sir' Pendepa
Died at Wagiya Village in North Koroba LLG, Hela Province 13th January 2017.



(See Part 1 of the account of his legacy in this issue.)

HEWITT, Peter Ronald

Born in Windsor U.K., died suddenly on 30.9.2016 aged 88 at Cockfosters, Herts, U.K. . In 1946 he joined the Royal Navy Fleet Air Arm attaining the rank of Petty Officer before leaving to join the British Colonial Police Service in November 1953. Between that date and until September 1962, he served in the former British African colonies of Kenya, Cyprus and Nyasaland. He migrated to Australia in 1963 and on 11.11.1963 was appointed to the Royal Papua and New Guinea Constabulary He served at Port Moresby, Goroka, Kundiawa, Kavieng, Rabaul and Lae During his period at Goroka he flew to Nondugl and with a small group climbed to the summit (about 16,000feet) of Mount Wilhelm He resigned at the rank

of Inspector 3/c on 10.4.1972 to join Her Majesties Diplomatic Service as a security officer. He served in Sierra Leone, East Berlin, Guyana and Portugal. He is the author of a book based on his experiences in Kenya during the during the Mau-Mau emergency, entitled "Kenya Cowboy". He leaves a widow, Altan.

Provided by M.R.HAYES.

HOLDER, Iain
D. 22 November 2016.

Iain Holder passed away in Cairns after a long illness. Iain was originally a Traffic Officer with TAA and after the formation of Air Niugini, became Air Niugini Goroka Manager. Iain was in partnership with Dave Hunter (Air Traffic Controller in Goroka) in the Kotouni Trout Farm outside Goroka. Iain settled in Cairns and after obtaining a pilot license, was the Cairns Base Pilot for Talair. He later joined Flight West Airlines in 1987. Iain's wife lost her life in a car accident on the Kuranda Range. Iain raised his daughter Serena. A Memorial Service was held for Iain in Cairns on 15 December.

Provided by Bob Fulton

HOLT, Colin Raymond
D. 26th October 2016.
Age 87 at Townsville, Qld

Colin (known as Tim) was born in Nambour Queensland and joined the Queensland Police as a Cadet in 1948. He was sworn-in in 1950 and transferred to Townsville where he served until 1959 when he resigned from the Queensland Police in order to join the Royal

Papua New Guinea Constabulary.

On 20th April 1959 Colin was appointed to the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary as a Sub Inspector and stationed at Port Moresby. In 1961 he transferred to Sumarai as District Inspector Milne Bay District. In 1964 Colin transferred to Port Moresby and promoted to Inspector Third Class Shift Inspector Port Moresby then Prosecutor Port Moresby, promoted to Inspector Second Class in 1966 as officer in charge Port Moresby. Colin became District Inspector Southern Highlands stationed at Mendi in 1968 and in 1972 he was promoted to Inspector First Class and transferred to Mt Hagen as Officer in Charge. From 1972 - 1974 he served as District Inspector Western District , stationed at Daru. Colin was awarded the Police Long Service and Good Conduct Medal on 19th April 1972. In 1974 Colin was transferred to Police HQ. Konedobu and appointed chief Licensing Inspector (Liquor Commission) - a police position, and advisor on other licensing matters to the Commissioner of Police. He was seconded twice to the Liquor Licensing Commission to act as Chief Licensing Commissioner.

Colin resigned on 3rd July 1975 just before Independence and returned to Australia with his wife and son to make a home in Townsville. Colin and his wife Joan travelled extensively around Australia and between trips Colin took on various short-term positions. In 1982 he commenced with CSR Humes the Bohle as their concrete tester, retiring from the work force in July 1995.

JONES, Paul Milton **D. 18 December 2016,** **aged 74 years**

Mr Jones was a Patrol Officer with the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary from 1963 to 1971, where he was a Commissioned Officer and later became a Magistrate. He joined the Australian Capital Territory Police on 20 May 1974 and transitioned to the Australian Federal Police in 1979. He retired from the Australian Federal Police as Superintendent, Operations Support Services, on 16 February 2000.

In recognition of his service he was awarded the Police Overseas Service Medal, National Medal and 25 year clasp. Mr Jones also received the Commissioner's award for excellence on his recruit course.

Geoff Woodman and the AFP

MARVELL, Peter Clifford **27 May 1932- 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 Falconians- an old boys' club from North Sydney Boys High School.

From the end of 1949 to the start of 1954 he worked for Kuringgai 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 Turramurra.

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.

Provided by Cheryl Marvell

MIDDLETON, Veronica **Valda "Val"** **04-03-24 – 11.12.16**

Val was born in the front room of the family home at Carnegie, Victoria, not far from the Caulfield Racecourse. She was the youngest of 3, having a brother who was 14 years her senior and a sister who was 7 years older. Her education commenced at the local Catholic Primary school which was not far to walk and then she was fortunate to win a scholarship to complete her secondary schooling to leaving (year 10) at the Presentation College – Catholic Girls School at Windsor. This involved a huge amount of travelling by tram and walking. This was the beginning of her life long involvement with her religion and the nuns.

Her first job was in a Department Store in the city of Melbourne and her mother used to come and have lunch with her regularly. At the of 17 years she sadly lost her mother

to Breast Cancer. Whilst in her early 20's Val made the decision to broaden her life and become more adventurous by gaining employment with the Commonwealth Government in the Territory of Papua, that was in the mid 1940s just after the war. It was the beginning of a 25 year association with this adopted country. It was here that she met Vince Middleton and they were married in 1958 in Australia and returned to Port Moresby where both their daughters Mary and Helen born. She returned to Australia for the final time in 1969 and settled in Nambour in 1972.

Over the years Val still had the adventurous spirit with travelling as a family or with one daughter at a time. Sport played an important part of her life and even just before she passed, horse racing was still being watched at home daily.

Val was diagnosed several years ago with Alzheimer's and this coupled with Breast Cancer in more recent times showed her true determination to maintain a life as normal as possible. She was cared for at home by family until the last few days of her life. She is survived by her daughters, Mary and Helen and granddaughter Alana.

MITCHELL, Iain – A **Memorial** **93 Years. (Date of Decease** **not stated)**

Born in Glasgow, Scotland on June 7, 1924, Iain was 15 when the Second World War began. At 18, he joined the Royal Navy, and served in the North Atlantic, the Murmansk and Malta convoys, and was aboard HMS Arathusa for the Normandy landings on D Day. He survived

torpedo attacks and his ship hitting a mine. He was recently awarded a medal for his Russian convoy service.

In November 1951 Iain and his wife Margaret immigrated to Australia. Iain soon secured a job with Cadbury as a sales representative, travelling NSW in all seasons with eskies full of chocolate in his non air-conditioned station wagon. After a successful sales career, he was offered the position of Cocoa Buyer with the Cadbury Company in Rabaul.

The family arrived in Rabaul in 1964 and led an idyllic existence until this was marred by the death of Robyn, their first child in 1966. After a trip to Scotland seeking medical help, and a brief return to Australia, the family returned to Rabaul for the next nine years.

Iain's business was Cocoa buying ... accepting only the cocoa that met the stringent standards of Cadbury. The smell, the taste, the texture all taken into consideration. After a number of years he left Cadbury and founded his own company in Rabaul, The New Guinea Cocoa Export Company, and sub contracted for Cadbury. He exported cocoa worldwide.

Both Ian and Margaret (Greta) were wonderful hosts. Many parties were held in Paluat, their Rabaul home - for the church, friends, Scottish parties, Robbie Burns parties. Occasionally bagpipes could be heard, mournful sounds drifting through coconut palms down to the beach.

On Easter weekend 1973 the Mitchell's house burned down, after a kerosene refrigerator blew up and the family lost everything. A few months later Ian was involved in a serious motor vehicle accident. Due to his injuries he had to sell the company and return to Sydney. Never one to give up, after much

rehabilitation, Iain took up work again in the Government Insurance Office.

When Iain retired he needed outlets to keep him occupied. Probus was one of those outlets for him, engaging in the activities Probus offered. He was never idle.

He studied Political Science, -because, as he said, it's interesting and challenging - and achieved his degree as a mature aged student. An avid reader; he loved literature and poetry, Burns in particular.

Anzac Day was sacred for him. Three days before his death he asked his son to take him to the march - a wonderful insight as to where his mind was near the end... to be with his comrades.

Iain meant many things to many people. A comrade, a work colleague, a neighbour, a fabulous host, an employer, an employee, a father, a competitor, a member of their congregation. Iain was a complex mix. He was able to converse with a wide variety of people. A larger than life gregarious man who looked life and adversity fair and square in the eyes, saying, "It doesn't matter what you say life, I'll do it my way".

REITANO, Mary Alice Kathleen

Born: 3rd July 1917 Died: 18 August 2016

Wartime Nurse (QFX52128),
Social Worker, Netballer,
Embroiderer

Mary Alice Kathleen Reitano was born on the 3rd July 1917 in Bangalow, NSW. Mary was one of 11 children born to Alexander and Alice Fleming. At 99, Mary outlived them all. The family lived

on a farm near Bangalow. From here Mary did her early schooling at Corndale Public School along with her younger brothers, often riding to school on horseback. Mary later attended Lismore High School. These were largely carefree days for Mary. Her Dad and the older boys worked the farm while Mary and her younger brothers and sisters enjoyed the country life – playing with their friends, and going on picnics. Her family attended the Presbyterian Church in Clunes every Sunday before returning home to have the Sunday roast.



The Great Depression impacted all walks of Australian including country NSW. Unemployed men wandered throughout the country side looking for work. Sometimes her Dad was able to provide work for them. Her Mum used to send food packages to the needy in Lismore. Mary saw poverty at first hand. These were indeed hard times. Mary never forgot these early experiences. Since then, Mary always had a strong sense of social justice and caring for others.

War clouds were gathering in the 1930s. Mary enlisted in the Australian Military Force at Redbank Plains on the 8th June 1943 before transferring to the Australian Army Medical Service. Mary completed her

initial training with the 1st Women's Training Company. Mary nursed at 2/6th Australian General Hospital (AGH), Rocky Creek, Queensland, from 9th July 1943 before embarking from Cairns to Morotai, Borneo, on the Hospital Ship 'Manunda' on the 10th July 1944 to support to the Allied advance against the Japanese. Mary nursed wounded soldiers. After the cessation of hostilities on 15th August 1945, Mary and other nurses embarked from Labuan for Sydney on the Hospital Ship 'Wanganella', on the 16th December, 1945. Mary was transferred to the 2nd Women's Hospital Brisbane on the 6th March 1946 before being discharged on the 2nd April 1946. For her war service Mary was awarded the Pacific Star, War Medal, Australian Service Medal 1939-1945, 1939-1945 Star, and Australian Service Medal 1945-1975 (clasp SW Pacific).

Five of Mary's siblings also served in the Second World War. Her brother, Allen Carsen Fleming, served in the 2/3 Motor Ambulance Convoy in Malaya, was captured by the Japanese and sent to work on the Burma/Thai railway as a POW. He died there and is now buried at Kanchanaburi; her other brother William Birdwood Fleming, served with the 18/80 Anti-Tank Battery, was captured by the Japanese in Ambon (then The Netherlands East Indies) and served out the war as a POW; another brother, Robert Fleming, served with the 9th Division in North Africa; Mary's sister, Keir Fleming, served with 2nd/6th AGH; her other sister, Agnes Fleming, served in the Australian Women's Land Army.

It was during Mary's service in Borneo that she met her future

husband, Frederick Victor Reitano. He was the escorting officer for a group of nurses to a dance when somewhere along the journey their eyes met. They were married on the 10th January 1946. At the time of their meeting Frederick was serving with the British Borneo Civil Affairs Unit. This job of assisting in the reconstruction of war ravaged regions of Borneo seems to have provided Frederick with a natural progression to the Australian colonial administration in the Territory of Papua and New Guinea. Soon after tying the knot they caught one of Burns Philp ships, the 'Malaita' to Port Moresby. After a stint in Mt Hagen, Frederick was selected to attend the 1st long course at The Australian School of Pacific Administration. He graduated in 1951. Frederick's first posting was to Bogia as a Patrol Officer. By this time, Jeffrey and Paul appeared in the world. While Frederick was out on patrol, Mary did her best to make our lives comfortable in this isolated outpost. Other postings in the next 12 years included Wewak, Maprik, Goroka, Manus and Rabaul.

It was during Frederick's posting as an Assistant District Officer at Lorengau, Manus, that Mary first became actively involved in community affairs. As guide leader of the girl guides along with Mrs English and RAN wives, Mary encouraged community activities with Manus Island girls. In 1957 the family moved to Rabaul, New Britain, where Mary started her career in social work. Mary was also a great gardener. Colourful shrubs surrounded their home, and in Rabaul Mary displayed a great sense of resourcefulness by using Japanese war helmets as hanging baskets for flowers. This love for gardening continued throughout her life.

After graduating with an LLB from the University of Queensland 1961 Frederick took up a position in Crown Law at Port Moresby. Mary continued her social work when she was stationed at Ela Beach Sub-District Office. Ably supported by Papuan assistants Mary often travelled to faraway places to promote healthy lifestyles amongst village women. Mary travelled either by Land Rover or by local coastal traders. These were interesting times. Along with Lady Cleland, Mary developed netball in Port Moresby. The aim was to promote sport and in general healthy activities but also to encourage girls to network with girls from other villages.

Mary genuinely cared for the welfare of Papuan New Guinean people. During her time in social work she had to deal with some difficult cultural situations involving divorce cases, for example, often intervening to settle matters of estate. These were also very sensitive times as Papuan New Guineans were transitioning from colonial rule to independence. Mary and Frederick left Papua New Guinea in 1975. They spent 3 years in Darwin where Frederick worked in Crown Law. He retired in 1978.

After settling in Sunnybank, Queensland, they both became involved in a range of activities. Mary joined The Embroiderers' Guild at Fortitude Valley in 1980. Over the years Mary produced magnificent hand stitched patch work quilts for family members; Mary was also involved in quilting classes for young people. Mary and Frederick moved into Cazna Gardens RSL Care in 2010. Frederick passed away on 16th October 2012. Mary did not lose her common touch with people;

she would often stop by a fellow resident's room to say hello and to check on their wellbeing. Mary was expert at the harmonica and used it to bring cheer to both staff and residents.

Mary lived through a period of great change but this child who grew up during the Great Depression never changed. Mary always put others first. Mary served her country for which we are very proud. Beloved Wife of Frederick Victor (deceased); Loving Mother of Paul and Jeffrey; Mother-in-law of Janelle, Kate, and Susan; Beloved Grandma of Odette, Noel, Emma and Peter; and Great-grandmother to Nikolas, Daniel, Ashley, Gabrielle, Michael and Nicola.

Provided by Paul Reitano

SAGE, Mark D. 2016, Melbourne

On 14 November, 2016 I received a 'phone call from Warren Dutton in Kiunga to inform me of the death of Mark, here in Melbourne. I knew Mark in Bougainville in 1968 and flew with him in his C. 210. I last saw Mark in Kiunga a couple of years ago, when he was helping Warren to get one of his boats ready for "survey". Mark discussed with Warren the time he died on the operating table a few years earlier but was revived some minutes later and thus was cherishing his extra time. Vale Mark.

Provided by Chris Warrillow

STEEN, THOMAS ARTHUR

27/06/1932 to 3/11/2015

Tom Steen was born in Leeton, New South Wales. Tom attended the long course at ASOPA in 1958. Whilst there, he was involved in the publication of the magazine "Tok Tok". In March, 1959 he was posted to the Western Highlands to Tumbul in the Mount Hagen Sub-District, where he was involved in Census and General Administration work. Following a long and cherished career in PNG, he made the decision that he wanted to live in the U.K. In early 1979 he went to Heptonstall in Yorkshire, then moved to Scotland for health reasons. He leaves behind his wife Bessie, daughters Fiona and Catherine, grand-daughter Nea, and grandsons Samuel, Conrad, Harrison and Hector, sons-in-law, Charlie and Boyd, and his younger brother Philip.

Tom asked the following be written on his grave. "Bihain mi lukim yu" (See Part 1 of the full account of Tom Steen's contribution to PNG in this issue.)

STRANG, JOHN FRANCIS RODERICK

A.O. 20/07/1940 TO 29/09/2016

We honour and celebrate the life of John Strang who died peacefully at home on 29 September 2016 after a long illness. He lived a life of purpose, of achievement and most importantly lived a life filled with great love; a deep love for family, for friends, for colleagues and for life itself.

John was a humble man, and for him, actions spoke far louder than

words. He was an amazing Father, Husband, Grandfather, Friend, Mentor, Visionary, Entrepreneur, Chairman and Industry Leader. But most of all he was a wonderful human being.

In 2016 John was awarded an Order of Australia (AO) for distinguished service to the transport and logistics sector through executive roles in progressing industry development and to professional business organisations.

TOMLINSON, Lawrence 'Lon'

17 November 1916 - 21 November 2016

Surrounded by family, Lon Tomlinson passed away a few days after his 100th birthday in Sydney.

A World War II veteran, Lon had a long affinity with PNG and its people. He commenced as a Field Medical Assistant in or about 1946. In that capacity, he was intimately involved in the disaster recovery efforts on the ground following the volcanic eruption in Mount Lamington in 1951.

After various health and medical education postings, in 1959 he was elevated to the position of Assistant Director, Department of Public Health (Administration) and, concurrently, the position of Secretary at the Institute of Human Biology. Like many PNGAA members, Lon was required to undergo a number of courses at the Australian School of Pacific Administration (ASOPA) and spoke fondly of the friendships he made there. Lon was also awarded a World Health Organisation Fellowship in London which he used to further explore solutions to some of the health related challenges in PNG.

Academically, Lon published a number of articles on topics as diverse as the origins and use of superstition in PNG and Western cultures, Health Workers in the new public service and Health Education in Rural PNG.

Lon was particularly well known for his avid sense of humour. In 1971, the then Director of Public Health for the Territory of Papua and New Guinea, Dr Symes, said: "Everyone I know enjoyed working with you. In the midst of our daily crises you brought often a tension-easing laugh to the conference table and showed frequently the pathway to a solution of a problem".

He will be sorely missed.

Lon's daughter, Christi De Brennan, who faithfully cared for him for over a decade, is a current member of PNGAA.

WILLIAMS, Kelvin (Kel)

died 20th January 2017 at the Caboolture RSL Care Centre.

Kel regularly attended PNGVR Anzac Day marches until a couple of years ago when his medical issues curtailed his movements. Kel served with the PNGVR in Port Moresby for about a year in the early 1950s. He was working on oil exploration rigs in the Gulf. On his return to Australia he served until retirement with the Queensland Fire Emergency Service.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Mr & Mrs Don and Sandy ANDERSON	PO Box 40, CAULFIELD SOUTH	VIC	3162
Mr Trevor BERGIN	9 Colrene Drive, NERANG	QLD	4211
Mr Mike CARTER	PO Box 534, MALANDA	QLD	4885
Mr Michael CUNNINGHAM	65 Woodfield Road, PULLENVALE	QLD	4069
Mr Peter EMMERY	34 Seaview Road, YEPPOON	QLD	4703
Mr Norm ENSOR	Villa 3 50 Turvey Street, REVESBY	NSW	2212
Mr Peter Harvard JONES	33 Karina Street, GAILES	QLD	4300
Ms Liz MACKINLAY	10/6 Carr Street WAVERTON	NSW	2060
Mr Gerald PEACOCK	24 Camelot Crescent, Middle Park, BRISBANE	QLD	4074
Ms Christie PEARCE	P.O. Box 202, BONDI JUNCTION	NSW	2090
Mrs Yana PELIKAN	7/148 Glen Huntley Road, MELBORNE	VIC	3184
Mr Douglas John ROSER	561/1001 The Entrance Road, FORRESTERS BEACH	NSW	2260
Mr Warren YOUNG	3 Grand Street, BALD HILLS	QLD	4036

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Mr Tony BEARD	Verona Unit 28, 15 Aspinall Street, WATSON	ACT	2602
Mr Donald DANIELS	GPO BOX 2130, BRISBANE	QLD	4001
Mr Keith DYER	Unit 132, 9 Salford Street, VICTORIA POINT	QLD	4165
Dr Wally JOHNSON	Apartment 24, 18 Austin Street, GRIFFITH	ACT	2603
Mr Richard JONES	5 Barkley Mews, BENDIGO	VIC	3550
Fr Kevin KERLEY	Horton House, 8 D'Aram Street HUNTERS HILL	NSW	2110
Sir Peter MCKAY	5/87 Barkly Street, MORNINGTON	VIC	3931
Mr Robert McLELLAN	9 / 69 Melavista Avenue, NEDLANDS	WA	6009
Mrs Mary PULSFORD	2 Timaru Street, TURRAMURRA	NSW	2074
Ms Alison RUEDIGER	4210 Mary Valley Road, BROOLOO	QLD	4570
Mr Bruce SHANDS	11 Kaufling Circle, COOMA	NSW	2630
Mr Mark STUBBS	PO BOX 100, LYNDON	SA	5351

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)



**HEBOU PNG
Barramundis'
Captain, Jack Vare
after the home match
against Kenya in
May 2016 with his
daughter.**

Photo by Daniel Potuku.
Supplied courtesy Cricket PNG.

HEBOU PNG Barramundis

By Patrick Bourke

I recently watched the PNG national cricket team, the HEBOU PNG Barramundis, batting at Hurstville Oval, Sydney, during the 50 over match on Sunday 12 February 2017. They were playing a NSW Second XI team. Two members of the PNG team have played in Australia recently. Lega Siaka who was in the Melbourne Renegades squad for the Big Bash (T20, 20/20, competition) this year, and Chad Soper who plays 1st grade for Gordon in the Sydney grade competition. Both are still young. Lega Siaka is 24 and Chad Soper is 25.

PNG Barramundis play most of their cricket in the limited over games format i.e. 20/20 (20 overs for each team) or the one day game where each teams bowls 50 overs each. The longer games are a challenge for the players but they are making progress as this article by Nagraj Gollapudi testifies. <http://www.espncricinfo.com/magazine/content/story/892025.html> .

More information about the PNG Barramundis tour of NSW and their match in Canberra is on the Cricket PNG website at <http://www.cricketpng.com>.



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20th-24th June 2017

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