

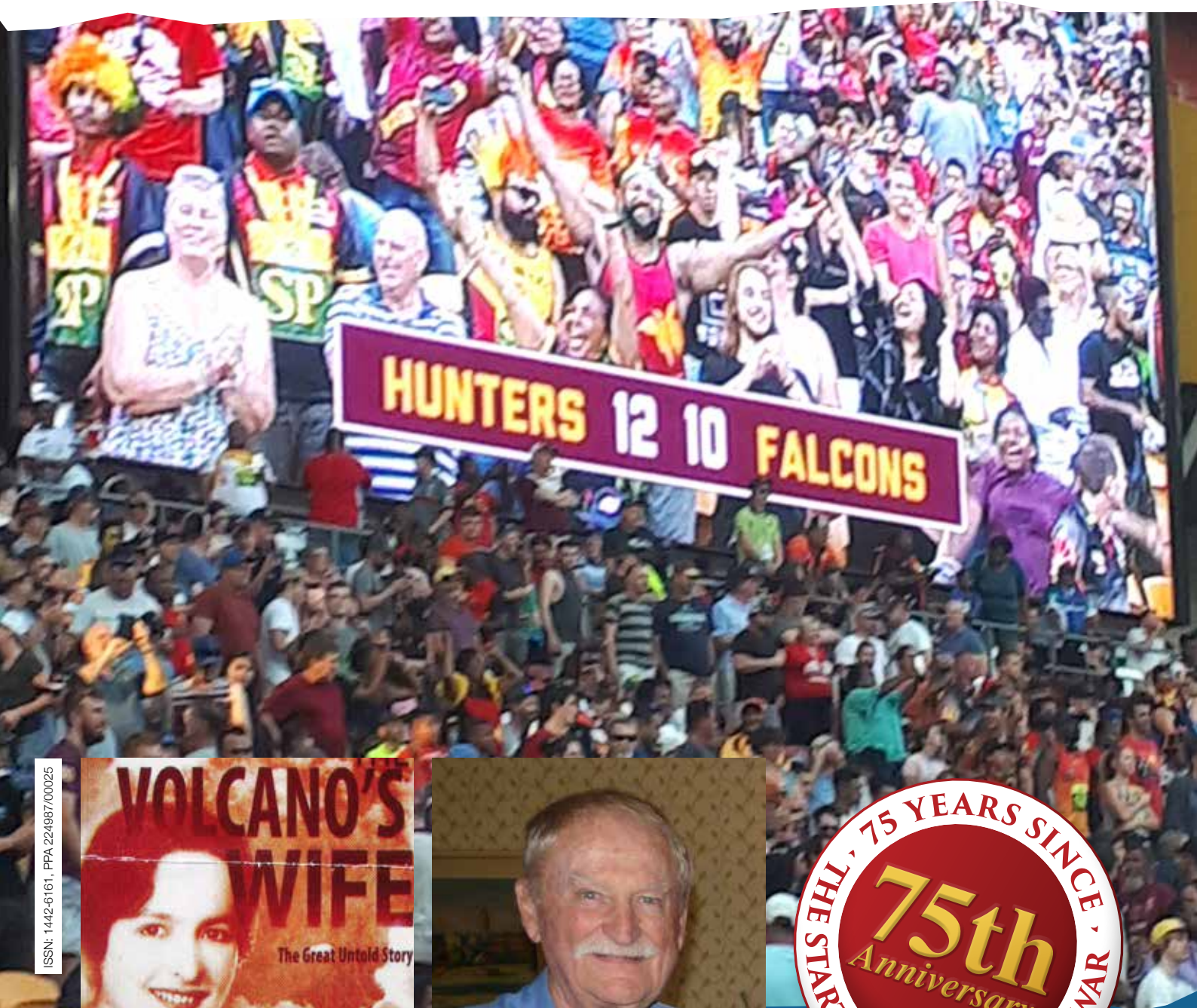


Journal of the
Papua New Guinea
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Australia Inc.

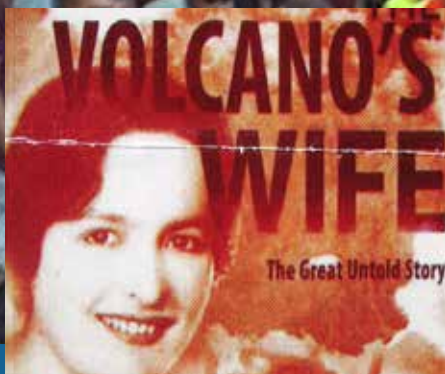
2017, No 4 – December

Una Voce

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



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Support PNGAA's Helpim
Wantok Project. Page 43



STOP PRESS
Vale James (Jim) Sinclair





Photos: Raka Rava

PNG election: Controversial PM Peter O'Neill re-elected, promises election review

By Papua New Guinea correspondent Eric Tlozek. Updated 2 Aug 2017, 8:34pm

Papua New Guinea's controversial prime minister Peter O'Neill has secured a second term after a troubled election process that took almost six weeks. Mr O'Neill mustered enough support on the floor of parliament — 60 votes to 46 — to secure the Prime Minister's post after several days of coalition negotiations.

Key points:

- Peter O'Neill won the parliamentary vote 60 to 46
- He will face an even larger Opposition in the new Parliament
- Mr O'Neill said electoral processes will be reviewed after several controversies

Cover photo: by Greg Pike

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.

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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 member 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 Membership Officer by email when you have made payment. membership@pngaa.net Thank you.

COPY DEADLINE

18 January 2018, Issue# 1 2018

All contributions to editor@pngaa.net

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

At our last Committee Meeting I offered to be the first to undertake the huge task of being the Acting President for three months. Now you will all agree that it was a brave, some might even say fool-hardy move, considering how capable President Andrea has been. However, I was reassured to take the plunge as the rest of the committee assured me that this period of the year was 'quiet'. I am relieved to say it has been a pleasure and I have been able to refer to the committee for guidance. Grateful thanks to you all for this understanding and support.

Members will be pleased to know that the PNGAA is still up and running, and ready to be handed to the next A/President, Doug Wood. Sharing the role of President amongst committee members with other roles is an interim measure though. PNGAA has been going since 1951 and is a strong association with a clear focus and it needs its members to think about a suitable person to volunteer as its President. This is an urgent matter and needs everyone's consideration.

If you feel you can offer assistance, or if you wish to discuss this further, please contact the Secretary, Murrough Benson Phone: 0448 216 049.

The event at Wacol (Brisbane) on 9 September with Philip Selth speaking on the Coast Watchers

was a marvelous success with a large number of members and friends attending. It is a fine example of a collaborative effort by PNGVR, NSAAQ and PNGAA. This type of working together seems sensible as all groups are finding that their members are time-poor, and volunteers are harder to find. The success of this day was due to the efforts of those who volunteered to help and a sincere thank you to you all.

PNGAA has undertaken the challenge (financial and physical) of transporting tables and chairs donated by University of Technology, Sydney, (UTS) as a gesture to give back to PNG. This has been postponed until early 2018 but our funding efforts are continuing. Education opens doors for us all and equipment does make this process easier. Steven Gagau is the Project Coordinator for "Helpim Wantok". All donations are welcomed – big or small – all are going to benefit the students of PNG. You can donate by visiting our website at: <https://pngaa.org/site/blog/2017/08/10/helpim-wantok-project/>

We appreciate Paul Munro keeping us up to date with the Headland Park Interpretation Strategy project. Members can read more on page 9 and on the Harbour Trust Website. The draft submission was on display until Monday 9th October, 2017. There has been a lot of effort from the Committee and Members in our attempts to procure the 10 Terminal site for



an interactive centre for PNG and it is disappointing that Australia's long affiliation with PNG, particularly on this site, is not better recognised. We encourage you to write to your local member expressing the need for more Australians to learn about our joint history and, therefore, the need for such a centre.

As we near the time for Melbourne's PNGAA event, I encourage you to attend Philip Selth's informative talk in October; Yana Di Pietro and Chris Warrillow have been working towards our 14th October day at Hampton RSL. Thanks to you both for undertaking this journey. I will be thrilled to join you in beautiful Melbourne.

It is worth noting that 5th December is International Volunteers Day. Since so much of our Association, and in fact, all aspects of the Australian way of life, is facilitated by Volunteers, it would be appropriate to send a cheerio to all the PNGAA volunteers on that day. In particular, big thanks should go to Patrick Bourke, historian (Canberra) and Karen

McPherson, teacher (Melbourne) for their huge efforts again in presenting support materials for teachers in the exhibit hall at the National History Teachers Conference in Brisbane, September 2017. A bus to the PNGVR Museum, Wacol, and a guided tour of the facilities there, was co-sponsored by the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Group of the PNGAA and the NGVR/PNGVR Ex-Members' Association, enabling teachers to attend at no additional cost. Thanks to Phil Ainsworth and his colleagues for their generous in-kind support, ensuring the museum left an indelible impression on the teachers. Next year, the conference will

be hosted in Canberra, so think about getting along; it's a wonderful opportunity to tell the PNG story!

The PNG NRL team, The Hunters, won the Intrust Super Championship – Queensland Rugby League Cup in an exciting grand final and it was great to see the interaction occurring on our Face Book page. This is what I find wonderful about this modern age of technological connection; technology is not one of my strengths and I know it's more good luck than good management when I manage to achieve something in this area. But I do realise it's the way of today and isn't it marvelous that

we can communicate with each other across the country, oceans and cultures. The world is made definitely smaller with such advances.

In my time as Acting President, I did enjoy meeting so many of you over the phone. It is always good to share PNG memories and even more satisfying when a friendship link is made when common friends are discovered. It's good to have a laugh and a chat as many members find it harder to attend activities and events.

So, call a friend today and have a chat!

Sara



STOP PRESS

VALE JAMES (JIM) SINCLAIR CSM OBE D. Litt (18/04/1928 – 9/10/2017)

As this edition of Una Voce goes to press we have received the sad news that Jim Sinclair, passed away in hospital at 12:15am on 9 October 2017.

Jim was one of the old school of Kiaps and joined the administration of the then Territory of Papua and New Guinea in 1948 as a Cadet Patrol Officer, retiring as District Commissioner of the Eastern Highlands District in 1975.

Jim was a member of this Association for 40 years, having joined in 1977.

Jim's significant contribution to Papua New Guinea, not only as a Kiap, but also through his repertoire of highly respected books on PNG, leaves an extraordinary legacy...a history of which Australia can be tremendously proud.

He will always be remembered by the PNG community and may he rest in peace.

The President and Committee, on behalf of the members of PNGAA, express their sincere condolences to Jim's wife, Jan, and sons David and Michael and their families.



Jim Sinclair with Pami of Lake Kapiagu

Letters



Letter from the editor

That's a wrap! The fourth issue of the 75th year anniversary is an extraordinary one to wrap up the year. Just when I think it's an over-whelming job, something arrives in my in-box to make it all worthwhile; like the emotional face book posting about the Hunters win, the reminiscing article about 'Dick' Sprunner, the amazing images of the Rabaul New Guinea Club devastation, and the continued enthusiasm of members to share their stories. I have never had to ask for articles!

In this issue, we've included one longer article for your Christmas reading! There are several articles that have been prompted by the anniversary year, and many wonderful images to make the written word come alive both here and on the website. So, thank you for another big year; I was privileged again to be part of the journey.

Whatever the new year holds for PNGAA, and for all our members personally, I wish everyone a safe and happy time at Christmas.

Belinda Macartney

WE WON! In a sensational finish before what may have been a record crowd for a Intrust Super Championship Grand Final! PNG, down 6-10, scored a try with 90 seconds to go and converted it to win 12-10!

Chris Warrillow

This win is for the mother who has to walk several kilometres to give birth. It's for the man who cries in shame because he can't send his kids to school. It's for the little boy who has no shoes on his feet as he walks to school. Thank you Hunters ... this is more than just a win you have given us reason to hope again.

Pochon Lili

The legendary Frank Alcorta

After 50 years, the legendary Frank Alcorta is presented "The Medal for Gallantry" from Governor-General Sir Peter Cosgrove in Canberra on 8th Nov 2016. The Battle of Long Tan is remembered each year on 18th August in Australia. Frank Alcorta is the bravest man I have ever met. It was a privilege to have served with him and it is a monumental miscarriage of justice that he was not the recipient of several bravery awards. Cumulatively, his bravery deeds warranted a VC but he was awarded a Mention in Despatches during Operation Vaucluse in September 1966 while acting platoon commander 2 Platoon, 6th battalion RAR.

Frank's books include *A Trip To The Stone Age*, the fascinating account of his arduous expedition across PNG in 1973-74. He retains outstanding loyalty and love for his adopted country, Australia.

Robert Parer



Correction

UV: See September Issue #3 2017. The photo on P14 of the article by Ben Scheelings (A Chalkie) was taken by Peter Barr (not Peter Worsley).

Cover image on September Issue #3

Looking at the cover image of the September Issue #3 of *Una Voce*, I soon recognised a section of the New Guinea Club in Rabaul several years after the 1994 eruptions that virtually wiped out over 70% of Rabaul. I am sending just a few photos of the New Guinea Club before and after the massive volcanic eruption. I thought that these photos could be of interest to the PNGAA. They certainly bring back memories of a time that changed Rabaul a lot.

I was sent up to Rabaul in September/October 1996 to help Ela Motors establish a temporary branch at Kokopo and I was up there for nearly two months straight. On Sundays I spent lots of time photographing huge sections of Rabaul's destruction and over the time I took nearly 300 photos. I also had the chance one Sunday morning of taking a helicopter ride over Rabaul and surrounding places and naturally my camera worked overtime taking aerial photos of Rabaul.

Charles Betteridge



Rabaul's New Guinea Club. 22nd. October, 1985



Rabaul's New Guinea Club. 16th September, 1996



The New Guinea Club - 2 years later. Monday, 16th Sept. 1996

Response to Didiman's Diary #7

by Bill Brown

This response is intended to maintain the reputation and archival integrity of Una Voce. It also needs to be said because Frederick Peter Christian Kaad OBE, one of the two PNGAA Patrons, was involved.

In my opinion, David Montgomery has been led astray by the lady he has quoted, Jeanette Westley (nee Mears) in A Didimans Diary #7. The Germans did not plant the Rain Trees along the Maprik - Bainyik road. There was no Maprik station; there was no Bainyik; and there was no road between those non-existent places in German times.

The nearest the German administration ever got to where Maprik would eventually be located, was when the famed German explorer, Thurnwald, walked overland from near Marui, on the Sepik River, through the Abelam country to the north coast in October November 1913. World War I broke out in 1914, the German administration and Thurnwald left New Guinea shortly after that.

In 1937, a year after Charlie Gough was murdered at Lehinga, Maprik was established as Government Station with John Miller as Patrol Officer and Tom Ellis as Medical Assistant. (Many years, later Ellis claimed that he planted the Rain Trees along the road; unlikely, as Medical Assistants were unlikely to have been involved in roads, but one never knows.)

Bainyik station was marked out by 1938. Ian J L Wood. Wood was the first Agricultural Officer posted to the Sepik, with responsibility for the coast up to the Dutch border and up the Sepik as far as Ambunti. A great potential was recognised for the Maprik area, especially for cocoa and upland rice. Wood surveyed and mapped out the Bainyik Agricultural Station while based at Maprik.

The golfing anecdote makes good reading but Bob Bunting did not live in a native material house at Maprik, and did not build his permanent material home. If he lived in temporary accommodation, he would have been accommodated at the small Maprik Hotel; the Assistant District Commissioner's house which he lived in at Maprik was built in 1956-57, three years before he arrived.

Fred Kaad, transferred to Maprik in early 1956, moved into the permanent material house ADO's house and did not like it. That house had been constructed for Bob (RR) Cole by the Army in 1945. Kaad organized the design, approval and construction of a new residence to replace the ex-Army Cole edifice, which was in serious decline, but never got to live in it. He was transferred to Wewak as DO Sepik. Arthur and Jean Carey were the first occupants; I lived in it when relieving them in 1958 (Bunting was still ADO at Wau) and I lived in it again from 1962 to 1966.

That said, nothing can detract from Bobby Bunting's remarkable life—not even a golfing anecdote. His name will live in history, not only for his achievements in New Guinea where he served for 29 years - District Commissioner, Vanimo, at the end. A RAAF fighter pilot in World War 2 “awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for a lone attack on 50 Luftwaffe aircraft Italy 1944; awarded American D.F.C. for destruction of enemy planes, Corsica, 1944.” A truly remarkable man and a friend

(Una Voce reminds readers of the disclaimer that appears on contents page.)

► What's on?

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON-SYDNEY

WHEN: Sunday, 3rd December, 2017

TIME: 11:30 am to 3:30 pm

WHERE: Killara Golf Club, 556 Pacific Highway, KILLARA, Sydney (plenty of parking/10-minutes walk from Killara Railway Station) Disability access available

COST: \$67:50 pp (two course meal)

NB: Please advise if you have any special dietary requirements when you book prior to the event

NB: attendees to pay for their own beverages at Members' rates

RSVP: Fri 17 November 2017

EFT PAYMENT: Bank CBA: BSB 062 009; account No. 0090 7724

NB: please notify admin@pngaa.net when payment is made

NB: You are able to make up your own table of ten or request seating with friends

CONTACT: Sara Turner
Mob: 0401 138 246 or
Yana DiPietro
Mob: 0452 771 359



CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON-MELBOURNE

WHEN: Saturday 18th November, 2017

TIME: Welcome/arrival: 11:30 am - 12 Noon

Lunch: 12 Noon - 3:30pm.

WHERE: Clayton Bowls Club Champions Bistro
37A Springs Rd
Clayton South, 3169

COST: \$40/pp (3 courses)
Buffet style Christmas Lunch

NB: Please advise if you have any special dietary requirements when

you book prior to the event

NB: attendees to pay for their own beverages at Members' rates

RSVP: 10 November 2017

EFT PAYMENT: Bank CBA: BSB 062 009; account No. 0090 7724

NB: please notify admin@pngaa.net when payment is made

CONTACT: Sara Turner
Mob: 0401 138 246 or
Yana DiPietro
Mob: 0452 771 359

SYDWAN KRISMAS PATI

Dei: Sat 25 November 2017

Taim: 6-11pm

Ples: Celebrity Lounge, City Tattersalls Club, 194-204 Pitt Street Sydney

Bilas: 80s-90s Theme

Prais: \$50pp includes finger food)

Laiv Musik: Moonshine Drive

For tickets contact facebook.com/sydneywantok

CAIRNS REUNION 2018: KIAPS & KINDRED SPIRITS

DATE: Friday, 13th July, 2018

VENUE: Poolside Bar, Cairns Colonial Club

TIME: 12 noon - 10pm

- This re-union is in the alternate year to the Kawana Waters Reunion (November).
- Cairns is an attractive destination and is convenient travel time and cost-wise to PNG residents
- Being held mid winter is attractive to those in the southern States of Australia

ARRANGEMENTS will be the same as last year 2016. Please indicate your interest and email Deryck Thompson at - dandy51@bigpond.net.au.

Further information will be sent by email as the event approaches.

WHAT ARE OTHER STATES DOING FOR A CHRISTMAS FUNCTION?

LET US KNOW!

We can put it on Social media for you and let others in your area know about the get together. Most States have a get together at this time of year. Let us help spread the word. Just need the venue, date, time, contact.

Sara – events@pngaa.net Mob: 0401 138 246

Yana - coordinator@pngaa.net Mob: 0452 771 359



PNGAA PERTH CHRISTMAS LUNCH

It's on! Merry Christmas Perth PNGAA

Date: Friday 24th November 2017

Time: 11am for a 12 noon sitting Counter lunch at the RAAFA Club, Bull Creek.

Contact: Linda Cavanaugh Manning
Ph: 08-9434 2628

E: lindam121@bigpond.com

Committee Round-up

Advertising rates

Printing/postage costs of the four annual issues of Una Voce are ever-increasing while membership fees that support the publication remain stable.

PNGAA is seeking sponsorship for the hard copy version of Una Voce. The following advertising rates apply from January 2018.

Quarter Page	\$470 single ad.	@\$395 each in a booked series x 4 editions
Half Page	\$890 single ad.	@\$770 each
Full Page (incl IBC)	\$1 680	@\$1 400 each
Inside Front Cover	\$2 200	@\$1 900 each
Outside Back Cover	\$2 400	@\$2 100 each

Editorial contributions

Contributors' Guidelines (June 2016) - assist members in submitting articles for publication.

All contributions are subject to editorial consideration. The team also reserves the right to reduce copy and/or postpone stories to following issues subject to time and space. Every attempt will be made to represent contributors' submissions respectfully.

Word counts to be included with article. Articles and obituaries of 300-500 words with a maximum of 1,500 words are preferable for a publication of this length. Longer stories are welcome. However, they 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. Note: PDFs and handwritten submissions will be subject to availability of volunteers to transcribe them into word documents.

Photos should be submitted as separate documents in Hi Res Jpeg 1-3mb with correct photographer acknowledgement and captions.

Appropriate references are required if the article has been taken from a website or another primary source. For further reading, provide the URL for inclusion on PNGAA website.

Obituaries to be sent to editor@pngaa.net with VALE in subject line.

Deadlines are critical and articles should be submitted to editor@pngaa.net

COPY DEADLINE FOR Issue#1 2018 - 18 January

Forward all contributions under guidelines as outlined above to editor@pngaa.net

Just a quick, short note to congratulate you on your fine efforts to have the latest edition out well on time and so well produced. I also recognise that other members volunteer their time to pack, label and mail the hard copies.

Chris Warrillow

ACCPN Update

Middle Head - Headland Park Interpretation Strategy

PNGAA members will recall that the PNGAA Committee engaged with the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust (SHFT), an entity of the Australian Government, on the future proposals for the use of the Mosman Headland Park. PNGAA submitted a concept for the Australian Community Centre for Pacific Nations (ACCPN) located within the former 10 Terminal Regiment precinct, with the aim of preserving the heritage of the Australian School of Pacific Administration (ASOPA).

SHFT engaged consultants GML Heritage to develop a Draft Interpretation Strategy. SHFT notified PNGAA on 20 September 2017 that the Draft Interpretation Strategy report was on the SHFT website at <http://www.harbourtrust.gov.au/webform/headland-park-interpretation-strategy>.

Comments were due at SHFT by COB Monday 9th October, however this has been extended to COB Monday 16th October 2017.

The draft Interpretation Strategy report addresses key opportunities for interpretation

of the Headland Park and has developed four interpretive themes in section 3.2.1, namely:

- *Rocky Shores, Sandstone Ridges and Thick Woods;*
- *Mi Mi Waranara: What are You Looking For?*
- *Defence Life on the Headland;*
- *Public Pleas for Protection.*

The consultant's understanding of the history of ASOPA as a tertiary institution for Pacific nations' development under the aegis of the Department of Foreign Affairs (and Trade), being totally separate from Defence functions and land use, is inadequately expressed. The later titling of ASOPA as the AIDAB Centre for Pacific Development (later AusAID) firmly entrenches ASOPA as a sponsored entity of now DFAT. The theme of "Defence Life on the Headland" would inadvertently, if not intentionally obscure ASOPA, its successor organisations and potentially the ACCPN concept from due recognition and from an appropriate level of interpretation by visitors

and by former graduates and staff.

The PNGAA has requested that an additional relevant 'Interpretive Theme' is included to recognise Australia's territorial policy in decolonisation and Pacific development. Taking PNG to nationhood is an opportunity Australia could much better recognise.

Following the closure of comments on the Draft Interpretation Strategy, SHFT will conduct further consultation with stakeholders. The PNGAA Committee will undertake further representation to SHFT and other key stakeholders, to assert a more emphatic position on the separation of ASOPA and the AACPN concept from the Defence context.

If anyone is interested in assisting the PNGAA with representation to SHFT and other stakeholders, please email admin@pngaa.net or speak with Andrea Williams M: 0409 031 889, Paul Munro M: 0431 898 009 or Steven Gagau M: 0475 922 166.

Commentary

Effective democracy and good governance

by Otto Alda

Effective democracy and good governance (administration) are inextricably linked.

I was prompted to ponder this last year when I saw a follow-up documentary to the great TV episodes beginning with “Joe Leahy’s Neighbours” and found that Joe now lives in a bush house, has no coffee, and has no title proof for any of his holdings. The police are disinterested and there is no one to turn to.

At the risk of generalisation and exaggeration, and an open mind to other views, here is what I think.

Break down of administration means no upward link of trust for government, central or provincial, and a resurgence of powerful local powerbrokers. Interestingly, development funds are now being distributed to a level below provincial

governments and this will bolster the bikman system. Those recipients have no idea what is being creamed off at the national level. Nor do they need to care. The payments they receive cultivate patronage, guaranteeing their status. When an election comes the result is guaranteed to favour the largess givers, who in turn support the government. Who needs administration? We have a self regulating system without it - just like in the gut taim bipor.

Those who control the levers of ‘government’ can cure disaffection by dolling out a little more now and then from funds got from squeezing administration and services, such as it is, even further. Rather neatly, with the population growth overwhelmingly highlander based, the numbers in the House are now locked in behind a permanent highlands based regime.

Tying Australian aid to projects is one thing, but

unless all aid is made contingent upon progress along an irrevocable road-map towards sound administration then it will not fix or even influence anything. So far as any unscrupulous national leaders are concerned the country would indeed be better off cutting links with Australia and getting some other country to feed smaller amounts of money directly to them.

We got out of the highlands too soon for governance principles to be understood and embedded. This is terribly sad for those coastal areas now at the bottom of the food chain.

National fragmentation anyone?

PNG IN THE NEWS

Malaria discovery suggests carbohydrates key to effective vaccine

Australian researchers have made a breakthrough that could lead to new malaria vaccines and treatments being developed within the next couple of years.

Experts from the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute, a Melbourne independent medical research centre, have discovered carbohydrates play a vital role in the malaria parasite's infection of humans.

Justin Boddey and his team made the discovery, debunking the long-held belief that the single-celled malaria parasite only uses proteins to infect humans.

'So what this research has shown is that the parasite tags many of the proteins on its surface with carbohydrates...And this ability to do so is really important for the parasite to be able to complete its lifecycle' he said.

Dr Boddey's team found that without carbohydrates, the parasite cannot infect humans.

The discovery could prove significant to the more than 200 million people infected each year with the debilitating and potentially deadly malaria parasite.

Further information and source:
<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-09-16/malaria-study-suggests-carbohydrates-key-to-vaccine/8952312>

Huge genetic diversity among Papuan New Guinean peoples revealed

The first large-scale genetic study of people in Papua New Guinea has shown that different groups within the country are genetically highly different from each other. Scientists at the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute and their colleagues at the University of Oxford and the Papua New Guinea Institute of Medical Research reveal that the people there have remained genetically independent from Europe and Asia for most of the last 50,000 years, and that people from the country's isolated highlands region have been completely independent even until the present day.

Reported in *Science*, the study also gives insights into how the development of agriculture and cultural events such as the Bronze or Iron Age could affect the genetic structure of human societies.

With approximately 850 domestic languages, which account for over 10 per cent of the world's total, Papua New Guinea is the most linguistically diverse country in the world. To discover if the linguistic and cultural diversity was echoed in the genetic structure of the population, researchers studied the genomes of 381 Papuan New Guinean people from 85 different language groups within the country.

They found that groups of people speaking different languages were surprisingly genetically distinct from each other.

Further information and source:
<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2017/09/170914152337.htm>

Last Post – Sergeant Richard Leslie “Dick” Spinner

By Frazer Harry

On the day of the ceremony at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra, to mark the 75th Anniversary of the sinking of the *Montevideo Maru*, after the event, that evening the Last Post Ceremony was held in the Commemorative Courtyard. Each night the Last Post Ceremony tells the story behind one of the names on the Roll of Honour which lists more than 102,000 Australians who have given their lives in war and other operations over more than a century. Those who attended on that particular evening would have heard the story of Sergeant Richard “Dick” Spinner, of the 2/22 Battalion, AIF – a man who died in the sinking of the *Montevideo Maru*.

This story touched on Dick’s family, his schooling, and eventual job as a teacher in Melbourne. It went on to tell of his signing-up with the AIF, his eventual posting with the 2/22 Btn in Rabaul, PNG, his capture by the Japanese, and boarding of the *Montevideo Maru* from Rabaul Harbour, the ship on which he was to perish with so many others.

Dick was also a great mate of my father, Pte C.O. (Bill) Harry. Dick and Bill were both in the same Headquarters Section of the Intelligence Unit within the 2/22 Battalion. Co-incidentally, in the recently published book “When the War Came: New

Guinea Islands 1942” in the chapter on my father, I had included a story about Dick Spinner. I never knew Dick, but my father often spoke of the mates he lost, and Dick sort of came alive in a way through those stories as not just another name, but as a man with colour, family, friends, achievements, a sense of fun, and a man who enjoyed life and drew others to him. When I realised that this Last Post ceremony, just through chance, included a focus on Dick, representing all those others who lost their lives, for me it was a little bit of synchronicity. I stood there and said a little hello and thanks to Dick, and my dad.

Dad made it home, had a successful career, a wife and family, and lived and experienced so much before dying in 2011 aged 94. Dick never had that chance, never had the rest of his life.

For those who might be interested, the following is an extract from “When the War Came: New Guinea Islands 1942”, which tells a brief story of the Dick Spinner my father knew.

“Most of dad’s mates in the war never made it home. Of the Intelligence Section Battalion Headquarters, he was the only one who survived. Some were massacred at Tol, after capture or surrender, and some were

on the *Montevideo Maru*. One of his great mates, Ivor James, made it onto the *Laurabada* with dad, only to succumb to a combination of dysentery and malaria, dying on board. Only a few months earlier, dad had been Ivor’s best man at his wedding.

Dick Spinner was another mate – a solid bloke, with a big round face and glasses. Dad would tell the story of how Dick’s father, worried that his short, stocky and short-sighted son would get picked-on, decided that he needed to learn how to box. Dick learnt not only to box extremely well, but as he was so light on his feet, and moved so well, he was a bit of a master on the dance floor too! During leave one time, to liven things up the Americans decided to stage a boxing match, with a huge, fat American cook, with a crushing right hook, as their man. The Australians put up Dick Spinner, and of course the Yanks thought they had it won before the bout even started. Dad was Dick’s ‘second’ (the man in Dick’s corner), and saw first-hand how the American fighter suddenly realised Dick could box, midway through the first round! Dad would tell this story so well, about how the Yank muttered to Dick in the clinches, trying to convince Dick to allow him a few free hits, so he’d look good to his fellow Americans (Dick wasn’t silly enough to fall for that

one!), until Dick eventually ‘let him have it’, putting a beautiful combination into the Yank fighter’s mid-section – leading to the American ‘losing control of his bodily functions, from both ends’, as dad so delicately put it, right in the middle of the ring! The Yanks lost all their money, the Australians made a pile, and this was a story dad told years later with a great laugh, and sparkle in his eyes, remembering

his closest mate – who later lost his life on the Montevideo Maru.

Dad remembered the good stuff, the great stories, and the fun they all had – and he had a real knack in telling these stories. We felt we got to know a little of these men through those stories, their personalities came alive. But so often, after the big belly laugh, there would be the quiet rider to the story, that this or that fellow never came home.”



Bill Harry (rear middle), and his great mate, boxer (and dancer!) Dick Spinner front right.

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A Didiman's Diary #8

1 October 1960 – I signed off at BAINYIK Agricultural Station having made travel arrangements for a posting to the opposite side of the New Guinea mainland at KEREMA in the Gulf District of Papua as acting District Agricultural Officer.

By David Montgomery

Travel, as mentioned in earlier Una Voce's, was never straight forward. I flew from Maprik by Gibbes Sepik Airways Norseman, a tubular steel framed, fabric covered, high wing monoplane, to Wewak, a Mandated Airlines DC3 to Port Moresby via Lae and a Piaggio – possibly – TAA to BAIMURU and then a workboat, the MV Magila to Kerema.

Another change, another challenge and a posting only to last a little over four months.

The Gulf District was a fascinating area. A coastal "jungle" of twisted tidal waterways, lowland river deltas and areas of fertile grasslands stretching and rising up to the Southern Highlands. Many of the waterways were navigable either by Government workboats or the traditional canoes made from hollowed out logs invariably powered by an outboard motor attached to the back of the canoe.

There were two major developing agricultural extension projects. A rubber factory at CUPOLA, South of Kerema, together with an extensive rubber nursery and mature rubber trees providing training to local farmers with a view to developing small holder areas for rubber production at Murua.

Murua Agricultural Training Station was being established several miles up - stream beside the Murua River north across Kerema Bay. Community housing for native trainees and a somewhat basic house for European staff and likewise for the Agricultural Fieldworkers who had graduated from VudaL Agricultural College near Rabaul.

Transport was, necessarily, by log canoe with an Archimedes outboard motor of questionable reliability or perhaps worse a Seagull - possibly one of the very original outboard prototypes. Depending on sea conditions in Kerema Bay, the tidal influence and rainfall effect on the Murua

*Motorbike and myself boarding the "ferry" to cross Kerema Bay
– photo Gillian Marks*

River, it could take up to three hours to reach the station.

On one occasion, having entered the river, the outboard motor noise suddenly stopped. I looked around from where I was sitting in a camp chair to see that our motor had disappeared. A slow paddle to the Murua station wharf followed. Arrangements were made next day at low tide to locate and attempt to recover the motor with a congo-line of local villagers wading down the river. The search was called off when a healthy sized crocodile was sighted on the river bank.

The latter part of October and most of November was spent away from Kerema, patrolling and reporting on village activities and supervising the Murua developments. All tropical cash crops were in the mix. Traditionally copra production as



Gillian meets her first crocodile on the beach at Kerema!

well as cocoa, peanuts, lowland coffee and rubber.

Sailing through the lowland flood plains and waterways between Kerema and Kikori was a fascinating experience; somewhat like being a paid tourist. The workboat facilities were basic however there were cold showers, toilets and bunks to sleep in! One of the culinary delights of these trips was the abundant supply of mudcrabs generally purchased with twist tobacco. The crabs were restrained with tropical twine and delivered alongside our workboat. Any oversupply were placed overnight in the shower recess to be kept wet and cool. One morning when I opened the shower door I was confronted by a dozen or so angry, clawing mudcrabs that had broken free of their constraints. There is a technique to restraining large crabs. I had to call for expert assistance,

John Fowke, at the time, was Officer in Charge at BEARA, the BAIMURU sub-district headquarters. Following a day visit to several of the villages on the BAROI River, the evening was spent with John at his "residence". We were about to settle down for the night after a couple of "cold teas" – Negrita

rum and water – when the house rats came out to play. John, irritated by their presence, got out his service pistol, loaded it with a several rounds declaring he would put paid to the scampering rats. One of the offenders ran under his bed sail. John lay prostrate on the limbom (sago palm) flooring and fired. Not one but several shots. There was a muffled, weak "pop pop" from under the bed. Humidity had got the better of John's ammunition! We slept with the rats that night.

John's recollections of Baimuru – Una Voce No.2 June 2017 – brought back great memories of The Palace Flophouse so named by my predecessor at Kerema – Francis Xavier Ryan.

Aircraft continued to be part of my New Guinea experience. No less in Papua. The infamous and unreliable Otter amphibian was operated by TAA. Port Moresby, Yule Island, Kerema Baimuru, Kikori route. The landing wheels were recessed into the floats and hydraulically operated. To ensure they were fully extended (and locked!) when landing, the passenger sitting next to, and on the right hand side of the pilot, would be asked to manually crank the handle to ensure the wheels were down and locked. To the embarrassment of one TAA pilot landing at Baimuru, on the moss covered marsden matting 'strip, the wheels were not fully extended and locked and he skidded to a halt on the aircraft floats. No serious damage was done.

My friend from college days, Gillian Marks arranged to visit TPNG in late December "to check the place out". Prior to

coming to Kerema Gillian flew to SaMurua and travelled by workboat to Esa'Ala in the Normanby Group of islands for a week stay with another college friend, John Gosbell, then working for the Department of Agriculture. Having heard no word of Gillian's departure for Kerema, I radioed, "please advise the whereabouts of Gillian Marks"? The telegraphic reply was almost instant, "no Otter we've got her"

Five years of my descriptive writing to Gillian and her brief initiation to the country was the catalyst for her to say "yes" when I proposed on New Year Eve 1960. Gillian returned to Australia in mid -January with a wedding planned later in the year. Her departure from Kerema was not without drama. Several aircraft bookings were made South from Port Moresby. Initially the Otter was unserviceable and with the second attempt it was en-route Kerema when it made a forced landing at Morobe. Finally our goodbyes and too, to her parents relief to know their daughter was on her way home.

Recreation leave was due and bookings made for early February. I was asked to defer this and design and prepare an exhibit for the Netherland's Nieuw Guinea HOLLANDIA Show, Trade Fair and the opening of the 1st Netherlands New Guinea Council – the Nieuw Guinea Raad – 5th April 1961.

HOLLANDIA - April 1961.

An official visit to Netherlands New Guinea was a rewarding conclusion to the five and a half years in the Territory of Papua New Guinea. (TPNG)

Hollandia had been visited previously to play tennis when I had been posted to Aitape on the south west coast of the New Guinea mainland.

The Dutch Administrator had invited the Department of Agriculture Stock and Fisheries, Extension Division to prepare a display for the 1961 Netherlands Nieuw1 Guinea Show and Trade Fair and to attend the opening of the 1st Netherlands NEW Guinea Council – the New Guinea Raad - on 5th April. Several days after my departure from Kerema, were spent in designing and acquiring material for the exhibition and arranging its dispatch to Hollandia. Our presentation was located at the Hollandia Fair grounds and was to be ready by 4th April. We didn't realise that no work was done between 2 pm and 5 pm. We adjusted to this and our display was completed on time.

An unbelievable number of activities had been programmed to celebrate the inauguration of the Council and entertain some 135 official delegates and the many thousands of West Papuan people who had made their way to Hollandia.

Accommodation had been arranged on the vessel MV Kasimbar. A number of relaxed meals were shared with the ship's Master, T van der Molan a welcome change after bachelor and patrol camp cooking. During one of the luncheons a Petty Officer walked up to the table, saluted, and passed to the Master a piece of paper. T van der Molan studied the paper, thanked the message bearer and said to those at the lunch: "the Indonesian Air Force was planning a bombing raid 1200 hrs



Bales of rubber being loaded at Cupola – photo David Montgomery

today". "It is now 1300 hrs they are always running late". With that we all enjoyed our lunch. Up to 1961 and into 1962 the Indonesians had been intimidating but there was no aggression.

The speech by Nicholas Jouwe, Vice President of the Netherlands New Guinea Council at the Council opening was passionate and decisive expressing a wish to see the country evolve into an independent democratic nation. On that day His Excellency the State Secretary for Home Affairs, Dr TH Bot's opening remarks said: "For the people of Netherlands New Guinea this day is an important landmark on the road to self-determination" and further into his speech, "The Netherlands will continue to assist in the process of your speedy independence, the fighting of poverty and ignorance – the bringing of peace, quiet and order where these did not exist before" As I listened to the speeches I felt confident that Papua would move forward. A ten year plan was agreed!

History has recorded the events of 1962 – just one year later and the people of West Papua have had to live with the transition of its country; its people; its independence; to no longer own their culture and their way of life.

Forward to the Weekend Australian June 3-4 2017 and

an extract from Hugh Grant's book "Subtle Moments" on the occasion he met Dean Acheson the (then) US Secretary of State. Acheson tells him he had asked the Dutch if they really wanted to hang on to West Irian. They did not. "Well if I could get the Australians to take it was that alright?" Acheson wondered. It sure was and the sooner the better the Dutch replied. After consulting President John F. Kennedy, Acheson rang "that fat fraud Bob Menzies". He declined saying they had enough trouble with their own half of New Guinea. So West Irian only went to Indonesia after you wouldn't have it"

If what Grant has written is factually correct it is a terrible indictment of process and the United Nation's role. Bruce Grant was a former High Commissioner, an advisor To Gough Whitlam and a consultant to Gareth Evans - a former foreign minister.

The visit to Hollandia and the celebrations were of part of history in the making. To recall that visit and those times a "table" display will be presented at the Christmas luncheon on 3rd of December 2017.

David Montgomery 1956-67

KAIRUKU VILLAGE

By Graham Hardy

Chris Warrillow's letter in *Una Voce* Sept. 2017 regarding Kairuku village in the Upper Purari got me thinking of a series of events over several years from 1950 to 1954 which culminated in a raid on Kairuku in 1954.

In 1950 or 1951 Lyn Clark, OIC of Beara Patrol Post in the Purari Delta, went on a patrol up the Purari and towards Mt. Karamui which was then part of the Gulf District. Somewhere south of Karamui they were ambushed and, despite the police in the lead deflecting the first arrows with their rifles, Lyn was hit in the head with an arrow which entered near the temple and lodged between the skin and skull. The carriers dumped their loads and bolted. It took the police two weeks to get Lyn back to the Purari just below Hathor Gorge from where they could use canoes to get him to Port Romilly Sawmill. By this time, Lyn was very ill and was treated by the doctor at Kapuna, the London Mission Society hospital across the river from the sawmill, before he could be evacuated to Port Moresby. Lyn recovered and returned to duty at Beara. A first- contact patrol to the area was then mounted by Ted Hicks and Ken Chester as far as Karamui but they were met with a friendly reception. They had no luck in identifying the attackers.

I arrived in Kikori in October 1952 as a raw cadet. I was there only a few weeks when I met Lyn very briefly as he was catching a Catalina flying boat to go on leave and posting in another district. After about four

months learning the ropes about everything except patrolling, I was sent to babysit Beara for six weeks until a permanent PO arrived. Circumstances changed and I ended up being there alone until April 1954. I learnt patrolling from patrol reports and the patience of the police detachment for whom I was for ever grateful. In early 1954, I was told that I would soon be transferred to Kerema Sub-district but there was no definite date.

For some time I had played with the idea of doing a patrol up the Purari to carry out an initial census. The Pawaia speaking people who lived on the Upper Purari and the Vailala were bush nomads, relatively few in number and who moved about the trackless bush from sago patch to sago patch which provided their staple diet. The last patrol to specifically visit the Pawaia was in 1948, but patrols from Kikori to what was to become the Southern Highlands often came home by canoe or raft down the Purari. From time to time these nomads had been told to establish villages on the Purari for the convenience of the government. This was done but usually had only small numbers of caretakers in residence. The Pawaia felt much safer wandering the bush than being targets for the head hunters who lived further inland and would raid them from time to time. For some time, murders committed by these head hunters had been reported but it had not been possible to do anything about it because of lack of staff. These reports were supported

sometimes by mutilated human bones.

I had already seen the lower part of the Upper Purari by launch when I was sent to meet Bill Johnstone who was rafting down after a patrol in the Samberigi Valley. The Purari was (and no doubt still is) a magnificent river and I fell in love with it. As I would not get another chance, I decided to take off and do the census. As the station had no radio transmitter the sooner I got out of contact and disappeared the better! On the 4th April 1954 I arrived at the top of Hathor Gorge where an exploratory party of the New Guinea Resources Prospecting Company had a semi -permanent camp in charge of Jack Sargent, a former patrol officer. Their job was carrying out surveys of the major Papuan rivers' capacity to determine the possibility of a major hydro-electric station being built to provide power undersea to an aluminium works under consideration in North Queensland. The Hathor Gorge was of great interest. The Gorge is six miles long with a fall of 600 feet from top to bottom. I recall they had one reading of 250,000 cusecs of water. One cusec was a cubic foot of water passing a given point in one second. Jack Sargent told me that in a few days' time he was taking a party further inland across the Pio River, a Purari tributary, and beyond if it was worthwhile. There was a radio message from District Office Kikori that I was to finish the patrol and prepare to move on, so I gave up the idea of going as far as Lake

Tebera and began recording the census at the nearby villages and then work downriver. On April 7th 1954 I arrived at Kairuku and stayed overnight. The local people were very nervous as there had been a recent visit from a head hunter who told them to expect a raid soon. My carriers, being coastal people, were also nervous as were the police. When I went to bed in the rest house, which was set slightly apart from the village, I made sure my loaded revolver was under the pillow and promptly went into a deep sleep!

I was wakened by two of the police stamping around inside the rest house. They had a story to tell. Because of their nervousness many of the villagers and carriers as well as the police decided to sit up all night around a fire. One of the locals went off into the shadows to relieve himself. He let out a yell and raced back into the firelight yelling that one of the enemy had drawn an arrow at him but did not fire it. I gladly

accepted the offer of one of the police to sleep on the rest house floor. The next morning I heard the sequel. Another local sitting around the fire gave a yell and said he had seen one of the enemy again. What he saw was a pig which wandered into the firelight. The general opinion was that the first alarmist had let his imagination run away and had only seen a pig.

The next day we continued the patrol and arrived back at Beara on 14th April and I shortly afterwards packed up and left without a replacement and arrived in Kerema on 25th April 1954. I was then posted at Kukipi for about 5 months before going on leave. I had not heard of any further events on the Purari and when I got on the Catalina at Kerema to fly to Port Moresby it was a pleasant surprise to meet Jack Sargent on the plane with a story to tell. They had left for the Pio River a few days after I had left downriver and arrived at the Pio after a couple of days.

There they met a local man who informed them that he was the government ferry man who had been appointed by the patrol two years before. He was upset because he had not seen any more patrols and he had not been paid for his labours. When asked who he ferried he said his passengers included the head hunters on their way to and from their targets. Jack heard chanting and yelling on the other side of the river and the ferry man said they were a raiding party he would be bringing across the next morning. He suggested Jack's party leave at once, which they did. During their walk back to Hathor Gorge they could hear the raiders behind them but didn't see them. Jack's party reached their camp without mishap. The head hunters turned off to visit Kairuku and killed five Pawaia and took their heads as trophies. As far as I know nothing was done about these killers either.



When the War Came: New Guinea Islands 1942, published to commemorate the 75th Anniversary in 2017.

This book is a collection of personal stories, memories and reflections.

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KORFBALL in Papua new Guinea

by Roy Kirkby

Korfball is a handball-type sport a little like netball or basketball. A major difference is that it is a dedicated mixed team sport with an equal number of both genders playing together. The game and rules are based on three principles for success in play: all round ability, cooperation and ball handling and movement skills without contact. (For more information see the Korfball Australia or IKF websites). I had played the sport in England and the main reason for introducing it in my schools was that I recognised that the time would come when male and female would need to work together more closely and an ideal opportunity would be through their experiences in school. Further, the sport had an educative tradition that seeks to develop the social skills of boys and girls playing together. It also encourages the development of more community-related skills particularly those that foster gender cooperation and involvement in community development. However, as you might expect, there could be some challenges with getting acceptance of or commitment to these Western cultural values in some of the traditional communities of Papua New Guinea.

Kompam, Western Highlands District, PNG, 1962-63

In 1962, I graduated as a teacher from the 3rd "E" course and was posted to Kompam. This area at the time was partly uncontrolled territory where the people had only had contact for a few years and many were still engaged in traditional fighting. However, the Government Patrol Post of Kompam, like a little village, had government employees such as native police and their families who would be from the coast and would have played games such as football (soccer) and I assumed that my local students may have seen a football game on the station, if none other.



The school nestled on a spur at about 1600m on which there was a grass airstrip

The students were a mix of some station children, local Enga boys from hills around the school and boarders from clans with only recent contact some days walk away. All were about 11 years old, except for



Here we are preparing for the first games of korfball in New Guinea. The fibreglass baskets weren't very effective but a start.

some of the station children who were younger and included a couple of girls. I had plenty of time to explain the idea of playing a game and to make the equipment. The game would take place next to the school on the side of the grass airstrip, the game taking up in those days an area about the size of a football pitch divided into three zones with four players from each team in each zone, so 12 in a team.

I allowed the children to select the teams and we started playing. After a few minutes there was a noise of loud arguing behind the play. Then suddenly they began to disappear quickly off the pitch and down to their dormitories and returning with

spears and knives. They lined up in two lines on the pitch opposite each other about 8 metres apart. They began shouting abuse at the other line in their language and threatening with their weapons while slowly moving towards each other. I realised then that they had divided themselves into traditional allied clan lines and were doing what their elders did at the first sign of disagreement, which was to prepare to have a fight! It took me a few minutes to stop them, calm them down and force them into two separate dormitories with the help of my Enga haus boi who was a local like them and who thought it all great fun.



The older boys playing in mixed clan groups



The fibreglass baskets weren't very effective but a start and students in the picture above were those involved in the first game and ensuing clan-based trouble

After that, korbball did continue but I was careful to make sure that the different clan groups were mixed in both teams and the rules about settling arguments were to be European-style with the first port of call the referee! Eventually I had all the school playing but with some modifications. For example, I had to have the few girls we had

in the school all playing in one division-they were not yet ready for mixed gender activities.

Jimi River, Western Highlands District, 1963-64

My experience at Kompiam encouraged me to try again at my next posting, Jimi River. The school was built on a mountainside on a number of levels but with one of the terrace levels large enough on which to play korbball. Again, the local people had only a few years' contact with Europeans but there were no dominant clans represented by the students in the school. They were mainly boarders and who came from eight different language groups from the length of the Jimi valley. So, when forming teams, we didn't have to worry that rivals might be enemies – they might be but they would not have the numbers to take on others or have established allies! Again I was limited to less than a year in the school but I seemed to get further with these children.

They began to recognise the characteristics of this game and I was even able to get two teenage girls to play in a division with boys successfully, which was no doubt partly due to them being bigger than the boys and their father being the senior policeman on the station.



Korbball was wonderful here for I could also look out on to beautiful mountains and down the valley. You can see in this shot two girls in the far division who are playing with boys.

However, again the game could only be played within the school since there were no other schools in the valley and no

access roads out. I was on the move in just over a year but this time to the main highlands valley – the Wahgi and to Keltiga a few kilometres from Mount Hagen.

Keltiga, Western Highlands District , 1964-5

The people of Keltiga had nearly 30 years' experience of Europeans but they maintained their traditional culture which still meant it was difficult to get the people to recognise the importance of having girls educated in school. Hence my Year 4/5 class was all boys but they really enjoyed korfbal and a couple of them – the first to attend high school - I was later to meet again as students at Madang Teachers' College where they took up korfbal again.



My class at Keltiga formed two teams. Jon and Tomas, first and third from left front row, played korfbal at Madang Teachers' College some years later where they were student teachers.

However, korfbal at Keltiga was fairly short-lived because of my involvement with introducing tea production and a pilot New Maths Project. I did not get further than having korfbal as a class activity. However, my new Prep class of 6 year olds was

composed of one-third girls and they did get to play together. My move to Mount Hagen Primary School as Deputy Headmaster and involvement in the extended New Maths project meant I did not get to introduce korfbal there. But that was just a hiccup in the development of the sport in Papua New Guinea.

Goroka Teachers College, Eastern Highlands District 1968 -70

In 1967 I was posted again but this time to the new UNESCO-sponsored Goroka Teachers' College. The college trained primary and high school teachers who would be posted to all districts of the country once they graduated so it was an opportunity for the first time to think about expanding korfbal. However, I did not consider this initially and I just wanted to introduce it as another sport students could play in the college.

Another change here was to get real korfbal baskets and I contacted the International Korfbal Federation (IKF) and began corresponding with Henk van Driel, who was then the Secretary-General and he sent me a pair of baskets and balls from The Netherlands – the original home of korfbal. From these baskets we were able then to show local basket weavers what was required so we could set up local suppliers.

The students were very attracted to korfbal. By the second year, in 1969, our korfbal numbers

amongst the students had expanded to make it one of the most popular sports in the college. We had students from every major cultural group across the country. This was unusual because for other sports they tended to form on a cultural regional basis. What is more important we had as many male as female wishing to play and playing together without any gender issues.



The first group of korfbal players at Goroka Teachers' College, 1968

These students had a lifetime contact with European cultures. All had a full mission or government high school and some part-university education so they were sensitive to European values and to possible changes in their own cultural norms.

The college encouraged identification with their cultures and while the students were playing korfbal and other sports one day, on another they would be engaged in a singing to celebrate their traditional cultures.

The students thought we should put together a booklet showing some korfbal skills including, at this stage, the "sling shot" useful



Some of our korfballers in their cultural activities.



An illustration from the first korfball manual

in 3 division korfball. They thought the pictures might be a useful teaching aid if they introduced korfball in their practice teaching or schools when they were posted.

The korfball students soon began to consider other social occasions they could celebrate together and the Australian



Goroka korfballers visiting Madang in 1970 to introduce korfball at the Madang Teachers' College

barbecue was popular. The korfball students also got involved in raising money for various community and college projects and for making equipment.

At the time we didn't consider expanding the game other than introducing it in other teachers' colleges around the country. When opportunities came, It wasn't easy for the students to visit the other colleges since we had to fly to other centres carrying our own posts and baskets often on smallish aircraft and at great personal expense. But they were keen to do this.

One of the first students to take an interest in korfball was Malevu

Kove. She was a great sports enthusiast and encouraged other students to start playing the game and, significantly, not just from her own cultural group. It was easy then for the College and the korfball community to agree to choose Malevu to be awarded the first College Sports Prize and it was for korfball.

Malevu, on her own initiative, introduced korfball into Australia when she was on tour in NSW with the PNG Netball Team in 1968. She was staying with a NSW physical education teacher in Sydney and introduced the sport to students and staff at that teacher's high school. When Malevu completed college she was posted to her own

Central District on the coast where she introduced korfbal in a number of villages and Port Moresby. However, most sadly, Malevu died only a few years later and before PNG was to play in the first World Championships in 1978 where I am sure she would have starred as a player, as a great ambassador for her country and a true pioneer of our sport through the world.



Madang Teachers' College, Madang District, 1972-75

A year's absence from PNG in 1971 was followed by a return to lecture at Madang Teachers' College. I found that as a result of our Goroka students' enthusiasm, when they visited a couple of years previously, korfbal was established as a sport at the college. So I could take it to a more sophisticated level. At the college a korfbal club was started, partly as a result of my visit to Blauw Vit club in The Netherlands. We established ourselves in the college and Madang community. We raised money to purchase and construct equipment and make it available to the local schools and sports centre. We undertook projects for the college and the community, in one case a shade hut on the college sports field for players and spectators (see above).



Raising money running a chocolate wheel at the Madang Market on a Saturday morning

We often had korfbal excursions to the college island at Nagada, where the boys caught fish and the girls prepared coconut and other local foods.

For the expansion of korfbal, we focused on its educational worth - valuing cooperation between males and females, developing non-contact physical skills, sportsmanship and community consciousness. It therefore became very attractive to school organisations and of course teachers. In Madang we were able to develop it as a community activity with the blessing of the Catholic Mission in Madang utilising its Sports Centre and fields to play 3 division korfbal outdoors in the first instance.

Sunday afternoon at Madang Community Centre home for the outdoor 3 division league, and Gabriel

Sometimes I would play a game and referee a couple of games meaning three hours out in the



tropical sun. However I was helped considerably by Gabriel Chawan, a refugee from West Irian (Dutch New Guinea) who had learnt korfbal as a young boy when his country was ruled by the Dutch. He became an enthusiastic advocate for the sport in Madang where he was one of our first referees.



Above: Jackie Kine, President of PNGKA presents the Henk van Driel Shield (we named it in honour of his role in helping us establish korfbal in PNG) to the winners of the Madang Field Korfbal League in 1974. In the following year it was my team United's turn to win it.

We introduce Micro Korfbal which was the popular developing indoor form of the sport internationally which is played in two instead of three zones and of course on a smaller court - 20m by 40m.

From the first I insisted on all leadership positions in club and national association should be held by nationals and I would be the advisor. Madang Teachers' College was the base for the first club (MTC) and we set up a national association - Papua

New Guinea Korfball Association - and we were granted membership of the International Korfball Federation in 1974.



Frances Poluma and Anne Sevua first leaders at MTC and Jackie Kini, a lecturer at Madang Teachers College, who became the first President of PNGKA in 1974

In the early 70s we were now hearing that graduates from Goroka were introducing korfball all over the country so we set about creating resources for them. Baskets were being made in Madang at a Lutheran Mission and sent where needed, a newsletter was started and the Rule Book published. We had a poster designed and a series of introductory film strips and posters made by the Department of Information.

We had korfball being played in all districts and in urban and village settings. However, with the fully localised administration it was a difficult time. At Independence, President Jackie Kini moved on to a high position



in teacher education. Many other like her were suddenly thrust into high flying jobs in the country's administration and their skills were redirected to more important jobs serving the new nation. Anne Sevua graduated as a teacher, married and had children, but maintained her interest and in 1978 came along to the World Championships as Joint Manager of the PNG team.

Korfball World Championships 1978

Just prior to Independence in 1975 I left the country after 13 wonderful years there. In 1978 the first world championships were organised and Papua New Guinea was invited to take part with all air fares and accommodation financed very generously by KNKV (The Royal Netherlands Korfball Association). The Foreign Minister of PNG contacted me in Australia requesting that I organise and accompany the

team. Therefore I went up to PNG in mid-1978 to select a squad through trials coupled with referee and coaching courses in Port Moresby and Madang to re-energize the sport.

The squad was selected and at a meeting just prior to my return to Australia I went through the procedures required before they could leave. This included getting passports, health checks and immunisations and letting them know the appropriate organisations to get these from such as the Foreign Office and Department of Health. There was silence for a couple of minutes after I had gone through these including writing them on a large sheet of paper. Then there was a response:

“I have an uncle who works in the Foreign Office who has a cousin who works in the Passport Office and he can organise our passports”



Madang and Port Moresby coaching and referee course participants from which were selected some of the national squad to participate in the first IKF World Korfball Championships in The Netherlands in 1978



The PNG team touring in The Netherlands in 1978

“My sister-in-law works at the hospital and she can organise the injections.”

All the arrangements would be made - they were using the “wantok” system of family and friend connections. Traditional means for modern needs continued to be valued.

Everything worked out well and I was able to meet with the team in Sydney on the way to The Netherlands. On arrival in Amsterdam, the PNG team were all given winter wear including raincoats and boots by Dutch friends since none had been overseas before nor experienced this intensity of cold. They were a great hit wherever they went especially when they included some traditional dancing in traditional dress, though I had some problems in winter trying to get sufficient leaves for decoration in the dances. They were also very popular to watch playing partly because they were not disciplined like the other teams so these opponents didn't know what they would do next. In addition they played with great enthusiasm. Swan, the Dutch

National Coach, had organised some coaches for them but in the end he told them to let them play their natural game which they did for every spectator's joy and attracted national television wherever they played.

Politics did play a small part in the event. At that time some West Irianese and others resisting Indonesian rule had been involved in terrorist activities in Holland and it was feared by the PNG and Dutch governments that the korfballers might be used to promote their political activities or even kidnapped! These people felt a close affinity with Papua New Guineans since they shared a border and cultural ties. We decided not to have an overt security presence. As it was, a large band of West Irianese came along to all the PNG games and our players befriended them. Our PNG management asked just one thing from them and that was to not show any West Irianese flags or other political signs so there could be no embarrassment for the players or their government.

They agreed to this and behaved perfectly throughout the time. At the end, they arranged for a special mumu for the PNG team and no one was kidnapped and they all had a great time.

But it was to be the end of an era. After the 1978 championships I was able to keep in contact with various players for a few more years. However, the organisation fell apart, as for many sports in the country after independence, especially those run by Papua New Guineans who had far more important contributions to make to their country's future. However, I am sure you could go back there now and walk into many villages and find someone who knows about the sport or who had an uncle or an aunt or grandparent who played. You might even find a village or a school playing the game, adapted to their own rules of course.

Postscript

Korfball is now well established in Australia and nearly 70 countries around the world. The PNG example is often quoted as one where it was successful in countries with a strong non-Western cultural tradition in the way both genders took to playing the game together and its part in establishing better gender relationships. Roy Kirkby is the President of Korfball Australia and can be contacted at president@korfball.org.au.

More information about the sport can be found on the websites of Korfball Australia and the International Korfball Federation (IKF).

A Chalkie (Pt 3)

Ben Scheelings

CONTINUED

A warrior named Apio confided in me that the meat of humans tastes like pig, gutpela kaikai tru but sori tumas nau emi tambu, like the playing of cards - thank you, Sinake Girigiri.

One fine day some students excitedly told me about the many bees in a tree in the school grounds and to come and have a look. Indeed, on arrival I noticed a huge swarm of bees hanging from the low branches of a casuarina tree. Having some knowledge of bees and their swarming habits, I quickly found a cardboard box, shook the branch and collected the swarm into the box. This was the start of our apiary project and although the bees were quite happy in their box, judging by the combs of honey created over time, I subsequently ordered an observation hive with glass panels, a smoker and other such things from a supplier in Australia and then enticed the bees into their new home. As an educational tool this was a real goer; example of community living, all working for a common goal, no fighting while at the same time being useful by pollinating coffee tree blossoms, etc. The collected honey (in combs) was distributed and eaten while the left over wax was collected (alright, spat out), heated in a tin and poured into bamboo tubes with wicks to produce candles. So here we had useful nature cum social studies lessons, honey to sweeten the tea and candles to brighten the night. I had no idea where the bees originated from (delete; not necessary) but as these were the same types as we have in Australia someone must have imported them at one

stage. The highlands climate and the abundance of coffee tree blossoms were ideal for honey production. My ultimate aim was to teach the students and locals the apiary business so that it would develop into a viable cottage or local industry. Transfer time caught up with me but I have often wondered what happened to my bees and the honey production project after I had gone.

While Asaro school had its honey production project, a fellow teacher based at Watabung (Geoff Gray?) had his duck project. Geoff imported baby ducklings from Australia, taught his students duck husbandry and, I presume, tried to establish a duck production cottage industry. His ducks were called 'highland wonders', probably because they wandered all over the place. What happened to that project I have no idea; it probably died when Geoff, like me, was transferred to yet another place.

Tennyson Lau of nearby Ufa-Ufa Primary School, having inherent entrepreneurial blood, included commercial activities in his curriculum and had a native materials trade store built next to his school. Students were taught to do market research, purchase trade store goods, set prices and profit margins and manage the store outside school hours under Tennyson's supervision. Tennyson eventually left the teaching game and established his own successful business in Goroka.

Don't get me wrong, we chalkies were not the only ones getting our hands dirty with extra curricula activities and trying to create commercial enterprises for our students, as we knew

not everyone of our pupils would find employment out in the big world. Messrs Gerry Chan and Joe Nitsche, employed as DASF officers in Goroka, got into the act and were experimenting with cultivating mushrooms using coffee husks as a medium. They had a shed of native materials built, the use of his large coffee shed as a theatre and the back of a coffee truck as a podium to show movies every Saturday night at one shilling per entry. Cowboy movies proved very popular but Tarzan was the best, judging from the crowd's reaction. In short, after some months we had ample money to cover the costs of having the new school building project started, ultimately completed and blessed with a mumu. Credit for the work goes to our Papuan carpenter who did an excellent job and did most of the work on his own, including the concreting of the floors, although with the help of students' parents. In due course I was given the news that I was due to be transferred to Popondetta. I declined the kind offer and instead accepted an entrepreneurial position in Lae, leaving the movies and honey projects to my unknown successor.

With the demise of my beloved Marina in October 1972, I returned to the big umbrella and was recruited for the job of Localisation Officer (back in Port Moresby and back in Ranuguri hostel) – a job that did not exist until it dawned on the authorities that with looming independence expats would be leaving and the vacated jobs had to be filled with either trained local officers or other expats. Life as a localisation officer is another story.

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Teachers from all over Australia and as far as Singapore visited the PNGAA/Rabaul and Montevideo Maru stand at the History Teachers Association of Australia Annual Conference in Brisbane from 27-29 September 2017. The display stand was manned by Patrick Bourke, Belinda Macartney and Andrea Williams. Phil Ainsworth and Karen McPherson led a workshop to the PNGVR Museum on Thursday 28 September and teachers attending were truly impressed. See page 30 for further information.

On 12 December 1941, five days after Japan entered the war, War Cabinet decided to compulsorily evacuate Australian women and children from New Guinea. Evacuation orders were

broadcast over Rabaul radio on 16, 18 and 20 December. Males over 16 were to remain in Rabaul with their fathers, but in a few cases younger boys stayed. The evacuation order did not apply to indigenous, mixed race or Chinese people.

The six government nurses were offered evacuation but volunteered to stay. The Australian Army Nursing Service nurses were not given the opportunity to evacuate as it was deemed their duty to stay with the men.

So Christmas Day 1941 was a memorable day for the European women and children who had been evacuated from Rabaul on the MV Neptuna and the MV Macdhui just three days earlier, with only a small cabin bag each. As the ships

steamed south to an unknown destination the women and children, whose men remained in the New Guinea islands, felt deeply uncertain about their future – how long the war would be, where they would live, how they would survive and care for their children etc.

(Ref: <http://memorial.org.au/Assets/Recognition.pdf>)

22 June 2017 - Gideon Kakabin spoke at the 75th Anniversary service in Rabaul, Papua New Guinea. He related the following story.

A Warwick Ure Ra Umana Kaina e I ga Taday Go Kaveve a Umana Lolo Niu Britain

The story about the bad times that came to our islands of New Britain

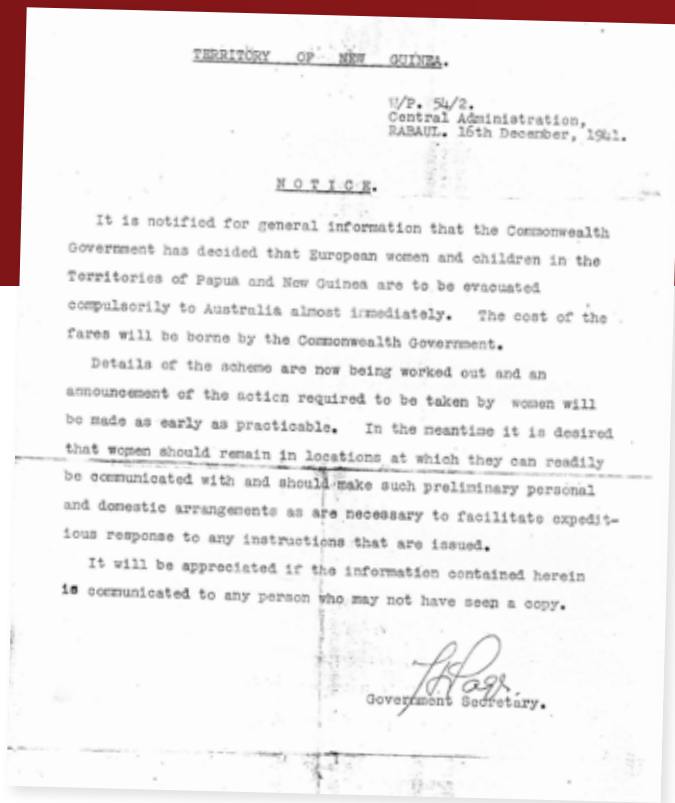
By an unknown author, translated from Kuanua to English by G Kakabin

When the news came that Japan would own these islands we, the black people, were confused about their rule and about their behavior. The white people told us that their rule was not always good; they told us that we had to obey their rules and laws, otherwise we would be killed.

It was not long before there was ships arrived and they filled up the sea in New Britain. However, I will tell about the wartimes here in the Ulu District.



Thursday 25th December 1941 Christmas Menu on MV Neptuna
Courtesy: HJ Ross Family Collection



Left:
*Evacuation
Notice with
thanks to
Doreen
Macgowan*

Benjamin Talai – a Reverend from Ulu, Duke of York Islands; William Taupa, the son of Talai; Assam Ravian; Erin Tamaren; Melinda Kukuraina; Romulus Aria; Iosepat To Wamilat; Daniel To Riga; Esau To Waira; Kitiona Tamdip

Source:

Unknown: A Warwai Ure Ra Umana Kaina e I Ga Tadvav Go Kaveve a Umana Lolo Niu Britain. A Nilai Ra Dovit. Melbourne, December 1946, p1

Royal Australian Historical Society

Patrick Bourke visited the Royal Australian Historical Society's (RAHS) office and gave the Society a copy of the book, *When The War Came: New Guinea Islands 1942*. The RAHS's September edition of their History magazine should include a review of the book, *When The War Came: New Guinea Islands 1942*. The book will be placed in the RAHS library and information about the book is on the RAHS's Facebook page.

Australian War Memorial Last Post Ceremony 1 July 2017 – Sergeant Richard Leslie "Dick" Spinner by Frazer Harry

On the day of the ceremony at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra, to mark the 75th Anniversary of the sinking of the *Montevideo Maru*, the Last Post Ceremony that evening was held in the Commemorative Courtyard. Each night the Last Post Ceremony tells the story

When the Japanese arrived at the beach they first destroyed the houses for the white people and their animals were shot. Later it came to our turn, the black people from here.

They arrested our Minister, Mister Shelton, and took him on to the warship. We said goodbye to him at the bridge at Mioko Palpal, and we cried and were sad because he was no longer with us. And the Japanese filled up this small island of Duke of York.

So...first, they kill of d our animals and they removed our things – clothes and shell money. Then they killed some people for minor cases of disobedience, and they recruited the men to fight. Then they recruited the men to work and build the place where aeroplanes would land. That was very hard work that the men did. They did not eat and their bodies became weak as the Japanese beat them up also. They arrested us too – the missionaries and church workers, mothers and their babies, the sick, old men and old women.

This is how they made us suffer. They tied our hands to a tree at our back and then they beat us with big sticks. They hung some upside down, with their heads down and legs up, and some of us were made to drink water so that we could die. And then they removed eight missionaries and one black Minister to be killed. His name was Benjamin Talai. We were forbidden from worship, but the church did not leave our hearts and we continued to believe in Christ.

The lives of the people weakened slowly, and many died because they did not eat good food. We became thin and there was no medicine.

One day we were surprised that we saw the Japanese... they threw their weapons into the sea. We were also surprised that a medical person from our Government came and told us that the war was finished. He came to heal us of our sickness and he was strong in his work.

These are the names of the black people that perished:

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behind one of the names on the Roll of Honour which lists more than 102,000 Australians who have given their lives in war and other operations over more than a century. Those who attended on 1 July 2017 would have heard the story of Sergeant Richard "Dick" Spinner, of the 2/22 Battalion, AIF – a man who died in the sinking of the Montevideo Maru.

This story touched on Dick's family, his schooling, and eventual his job as a teacher in Melbourne. It told of his signing-up with the AIF, his eventual posting with the 2/22 Btn in Rabaul, PNG, his capture by the Japanese, and boarding of the Montevideo Maru from Rabaul Harbour, the ship on which he was to perish with so many others.

Dick was also a great mate of my father, Pte C.O. (Bill) Harry. Dick and Bill were both in the same Headquarters Section of the Intelligence Unit within the 2/22 Battalion. Co-incidentally, in the chapter on my father in the recently published book "When the War Came: New Guinea Islands 1942", I had included a story about Dick Spinner. I never knew Dick, but my father often spoke of the mates he lost, and Dick came alive through those stories as not just another name, but as a man with colour, family, friends, achievements, a sense of fun, and a man who enjoyed life and drew others to him.

When I realised that this Last Post ceremony, just through

chance, included a focus on Dick, representing all those others who lost their lives, for me it was a little bit of synchronicity. I stood there and said a little hello and thanks to Dick, and my dad. Dad made it home, had a successful career, a wife and family, and lived and experienced so much before dying in 2011 aged 94. Dick never had that chance, never had the rest of his life.

For those who might be interested, the following is an extract from "When the War Came: New Guinea Islands 1942", which tells a brief story of the Dick Spinner my father knew.

"Most of Dad's mates in the war never made it home. Of the Intelligence Section Battalion Headquarters, he was the only one who survived. Some were massacred at Tol, after capture or surrender, and some were on the Montevideo Maru. One of his great mates, Ivor James, made it onto the Laurabada with Dad, only to succumb to a combination of dysentery and malaria, dying on board. Only a few months earlier, Dad had been Ivor's best man at his wedding.

Dick Spinner was another mate – a solid bloke, with a big round face and glasses. Dad would tell the story of how Dick's father, worried that his short, stocky and short-sighted son would get picked-on, decided that he needed to learn how to box. Dick learnt not only to

box extremely well, but as he was so light on his feet, and moved so well, he was a bit of a master on the dance floor too! On one occasion during leave, to liven things up, the Americans decided to stage a boxing match, with a huge, fat American cook, with a crushing right hook, as their man. The Australians put up Dick Spinner, and of course the Yanks thought they had it won before the bout even started. Dad was Dick's 'second' (the man in Dick's corner), and saw first-hand how the American fighter suddenly realised Dick could box, midway through the first round! Dad would tell this story so well, about how the Yank muttered to Dick in the clinches, trying to convince Dick to allow him a few free hits, so he'd look good to his fellow Americans (Dick wasn't silly enough to fall for that one!), until Dick eventually 'let him have it', putting a beautiful combination into the Yank fighter's mid-section – leading to the American 'losing control of his bodily functions, from both ends', as Dad so delicately put it, right in the middle of the ring! The Yanks lost all their money; the Australians made a pile - and this was a story Dad told years later with a great laugh, and sparkle in his eyes, remembering his closest mate – who later lost his life on the Montevideo Maru.

Dad remembered the good stuff, the great stories, and the fun they all had – and he had a real knack in telling these stories. We felt we got to know a little of

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these men through those stories, their personalities came alive. But, all too often, after the big belly laugh, there would be the quiet rider to the story, that this or that fellow never came home.”



Above: Bill Harry (rear middle), and his great mate, boxer (and dancer!) Dick Spinner front right.



A tribute to John Eshott Carr at the 75th Anniversary, AWM, Canberra. Photos by Priscilla Cox

T/Capt Ken Hummerston

In March 2017 Ross and Pat Johnson attended the traditional Last Post service at the Australian War Memorial. Of interest it was for a T/Capt. Ken Hummerston who was the first (or one of the first) Australians killed in Korea. Originally a L/Cpl with the 2/22nd Battalion, he escaped on the Laurabada following the Jap invasion of Rabaul. The service included the full Catafalque party with a RSL guard of honour and went for 20 minutes. Ross took a video which he converted to DVD if anyone might be interested in a copy? He's mentioned at page 44 (photo of the B Company Baseball Team) of the book 'Little Hell The story of the 2/22nd Battalion and Lark Force'.

Also found (and photographed) a plaque for Lark Force – available if anyone wants a copy.

When the War Came: New Guinea Islands 1942

ISBN: 9780 6480085-1-4 Published July 2017 by Papua New Guinea Association of Australia/Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Group. 543 large format pages; over 460 photographs; maps; 150 stories; 75th Anniversary; Introduction; Abbreviations; Index;

Cost: \$60 plus \$20 postage within Australia

Available from the Papua New Guinea Association of Australia: <https://pngaa.org/site/blog/2017/07/11/when-the-war-came-new-guinea-islands-1942-book-orders/>

Personal stories of those who face WWII on Australian territory and our greatest maritime disaster – the sinking of the Montevideo Maru.

In January 1942 Rabaul was Australia's front line in the Pacific war. This war was fought on Australian soil against Australian people. It was a critical time in the history of both Australia and what was then the Australian Mandated Territory of New Guinea.

When the War Came, published to commemorate the 75th anniversary of this period in the New Guinea Islands, validates and brings into focus the actions and characters of young men, who left home to willingly serve their country, and then literally vanished off the face of the earth; of nurses and missionaries who volunteered to stay to help both the war effort and the local people; and of civilians— both men and women— caught at home on WWII's Pacific front line. Alongside are incredulous stories of escape and survival in an environment that threw every obstacle in their path. Their journeys deserve to be heard, too.

PNGAA Presentation at History Teachers Association of Australia National Conference, Brisbane 27-29 September 2017

History teachers from all over Australia took part in an excursion as part of the recent History Teachers Association of Australia National Conference. The excursion was sponsored by the PNGAA (Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Group) and PNGVR, visiting the NGVR/PNGVR Museum in Brisbane on 28 September 2017.

Hearing about what happened in the New Guinea Islands in WWII: the Tol Massacre; later the Kavieng Massacre, Australian soldiers and civilians becoming prisoners of war in Australian Mandated Territory for five months before embarking a Japanese ship, the Montevideo Maru, only to be torpedoed with the loss of all their lives; the nurses and officers who went to Japan, the nuns who remained in Rabaul for the duration of the war years; seeing WWII artifacts including rifles and the teleradio that the coastwatchers used, and the Japanese pamphlet promising that Australian lives would be saved if they surrendered – all brought this incredible Australian WWII story alive. The teachers who visited the Museum were clearly inspired.

One of the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru books – ‘When the War Came: New Guinea Islands 1942’ was raffled at the Museum – with congratulations to Emily Donders of Perth who was delighted. Ian Townsend kindly donated a copy of his recent book ‘Line of Fire’, and that, together with a copy of ‘When the War Came’, was drawn in the raffle at the History Teachers Conference.

For the second year, Karen McPherson, from Canberra, was accepted as a presenter on behalf of the PNGAA (Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Group) and used the excursion as an extended workshop. A bus was hired to take the teachers to the Museum.

Patrick Bourke arranged for and set up a display stand at the conference so that teachers could have the opportunity to take one of the excellent Rabaul and Montevideo Maru group education packages, comprising a DVD produced by John Schindler and accompanying worksheets and



Patrick Bourke on the PNGAA Rabaul and Montevideo Maru stand at the History Teachers Association of Australia National Conference in Brisbane 27-29 September 2017



background notes, all designed to fit into one or two lessons of the year 9/10 history curriculum. Further information is at: <http://memorial.org.au/Education/index.htm>. If you know of a secondary school which could use it, please email: education@memorial.org.au.

With thanks to all who share our Australian/Papua New Guinea history – and thanks to those

PNGAA and PNGVR host teachers at History Teachers Association of Australia National Conference, Brisbane 27-29 September 2017

volunteers from both the Papua New Guinea Association of Australia (PNGAA), and the NGVR/PNGVR Ex members Association, who enable the story to be told.

A note to let you all that we had a very productive time at the 2017 History Teachers Association of Australia's National Conference in Brisbane.

During the conference Andrea Williams and Belinda Macartney staffed our exhibitor's table with me during the conference. Thank you, Andrea and Belinda. We spoke to many teachers and handed the teaching kit to interested history teachers.

On the Thursday afternoon of the conference Karen McPherson with the assistance of Phil Ainsworth and members of the New Guinea & Papua New Guinea Volunteer Rifles Ex-Members Association presented a workshop at the NG & PNGVR museum in the Brisbane suburb of Wacol for history

teachers. The museum covers the sinking of the MS Montevideo Maru, the Tol Plantation Massacre, the New Guinea WWII Campaign and New Guinea historical artefacts. The feedback from the teachers was very positive. Thank you Karen, Phil and the NG & PNGVR museum guides for your efforts in showcasing this Australian history to Australian history teachers.

These history conferences are a very good way of prompting our history project to teachers. The next national history teachers conference will be in Canberra. We ask that you do all you can to promote our project.

Further information from
E: education@memorial.org.au

Patrick Bourke

King of the Airways May 2, 2017

From the small islands of Milne Bay, one man has risen to be one of the most esteemed captains in the aviation industry both in Papua New Guinea and internationally.

He was the first Papua New Guinean to fly an A310 Airbus of the United Arab Emirates airline in 1991.

On Saturday, guests at the Digicel PNG Foundation Men of Honour gala dinner had the opportunity to hear Captain Granger Narara share his life story from the humble beginnings in Samarai to flying some of the most modern airline aircraft.

Capt Narara, currently a senior examiner on the Airbus fleet with Etihad Airways, had previously worked with national airline Air Niugini for 14 years before moving to the Dubai in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

He has been instructing and examining pilots and pilot instructors on wide body jet aircraft in the UAE for 25 years since 1991.

During that time he has also held positions of chief pilot with Emirates, vice-president operations with Etihad Airways and chief operating officer with Air Seychelles.

Born in 1959 on Salamo, Milne Bay, Capt Narara's father was a carpenter from Fergusson Island and mother from Dobu Island.

They lived in Samarai with until his father decided to move the family to Madang Province in 1963.

In 1965, Capt Narara's father was recruited by the church to build a hospital in Kudjip, Western Highlands Province.

Capt Narara said relocating from Samarai to Madang and then into

Western Highlands was a big move for a small family from Milne Bay.

He said it was his father's determination to break out of his comfort zone and grab opportunities for his family that influenced him to do the same by moving to Dubai with his sons Nigel and Duane.

"I was the first Papua New Guinean to work in that country, the UAE, and had to even show the immigration department where it was so they could enter it into their database. The airline I chose to fly for was a very small one, only 5 planes, and had an uncertain future due to the war but I was confident and knew this was the right move. That airline, Emirates is now the biggest airline in the world with over 250 wide body aircraft and 5, 000 pilots. The gamble paid off, my own brother (Tim Narara) and many other PNG pilots soon followed. The similarities to the string of events my father had instigated in 1965 are compelling," Capt Narara said.

Capt Narara attended a primary school in Banz and completed high school at Ukarumpa.

His family moved back to Milne Bay in 1971 but a Nazarene missionary family, Wallace and Mona White, asked his parents if they could look after him and sponsor his high school education. He completed his high school in 1976 and in 1977 left PNG to learn how to fly at the Nationwide Aviation Space Academy at Cessnock in New South Wales, Australia. Some of his counterparts included Joe Kumasi, Francis Pohonelan and Simon Naua.

"After we completed our pilot licences, we returned to PNG to take up roles as First Officers on F27 aircraft in April 1978," Capt Narara recalled. Air Niugini required all national pilots to do at least 3 years flying in the bush to gain command experience, so in mid-1979 I joined Taliar for a 3 year secondment to achieve this."

"When I rejoined Air Niugini in 1982, I trained for my captaincy on the 4 engined Dash 7 and became the first national to be an instructor on airline aircraft. I remained in Air Niugini until 1991, flying the F28 and the Airbus A310, both on which I was also an instructor."

When Capt Narara joined Etihad Airways in 2006, he was ranked 85 on a seniority list of a few thousand pilots.

"My father's teachings and instructions on being confident and moving forward with one's life when opportunities presented itself still rang through," he said.

Also following in his footsteps are sons Captain Nigel Narara and Captain Tim Narara have also followed in his footsteps.

His other son Duane lives and works in China.

"My life has been moving forward with such speed and momentum that I have never really paused and reflected on how I got here. I am grateful that through this interface with Digicel Foundation I have been able to examine and share how my life has unfolded and the basic rule that I applied for my success, in the hope that it may help others in PNG," Capt Narara said.

Kalibobo Spirit Sepik Exhibition

27.12.2016 – 02.01.2017

Continued

Reflections by Dame Carol Kidu DBE Dr (Hons)

New Year Eve Dinner aboard Kalibobo Spirit

Time was catching up with us as we dropped off our local guide and sped back to the main river (only getting a little “lost” on the lake once but then back on track). Soon after 5pm as pre-arranged for a sing-sing group, we arrived at Kamindimbit village on the bank of the main Sepik river. The sing-sing and more market mania filled our brief visit before returning to the Kalibobo Spirit to prepare to head further back downstream.

31st December 2016

New Year’s Eve was partially a rest day in the morning and Sir Peter allowed for Dr Jo to return to the Timbunki Health Clinic to check on progress of the buffalo victim. We found him in a similar condition but even more distressed with pain and unable to sleep at night. His mother was eager to allow Jo to cut the wound by this stage and Sister Anna and Dr Jo quickly went into action. Our next destination downriver and left on the river truck to follow the Keram River tributary of the Sepik for a one hour full speed trip to Simundo Village. It was a glorious journey (with a local guide to help on the river) passing family hamlets nestled between their vegetable gardens, lush forests and endless pitpit grass. There was birdlife galore in both directions and of course we slowed to a stop for

the river traffic to avoid swamping the long dugout canoes loaded with people and produce.

When we arrived at the village renowned for story boards, superb Story boards emerged from all directions plus string-bags made by the ladies. Time was limited because of the long journey back but patient was transferred to the minor surgery room and both sister and doctor quickly gloved up. I was so impressed by the immaculate way that Sister Anna maintains the clinic and how she was able to provide Jo with almost all she wanted to perform the minor but painful surgery to cut an outlet point and release the pressure of the abscess then flush out the wound with salinesolution. We left knowing that Jo had probably saved the buffalo boy’s life and just hope that the antibiotics would finish the task. He was a very brave young teenager and deserves to live a full life. Thanks Sir Peter for making it possible to add to the very many medical rescues that you have done during your lifetime relationship with the Sepik. By 4pm on New Year’s Eve we had the river truck loaded and money in the hands of the crafts-people before our departure for the long return journey to the Kalibobo Spirit. It was a New Year that the people of Simbundo village will remember.

The Kalibobo Spirit continued downstream to anchor off-shore from Bien village for New Year’s Eve and a special dinner of succulent turkey and roast

vegetables followed by Christmas pudding with brandy custard. But the truth is that every dinner was a special three course meal and lunch was two course plus hot breakfasts and fruit galore. No chance of losing the weight that I wanted to lose. I had neglected to inform in advance that Dr Jo is a vegetarian but the chef extraordinaire, Tau, quickly catered to that. And Captain Peter could not resist getting into the kitchen to bake fresh cakes for us.

New Year’s Eve dinner was accompanied by French champagne and party poppers exploded by the Captain and spraying us all – guests and crew - with tinsel and glitter everywhere. Most of us retired after yet another exhausting day and re-emerged close to midnight to give a treat to Bien with foghorn blasts and flares. To our surprise Bien returned our treat with their treat of real fireworks exploding up and down the shore – undoubtedly purchased from someone with access to the Indonesian border. It was a good night but I think most of us forgot about any New Year resolutions!!

1st January 2017

The morning was spent travelling to the mouth of the river where we noticed that one of the logging mother ships had departed with its cargo of logs, most likely unrecorded.

We headed on through the ocean swell to arrive at Boisa Island and village in the early

afternoon. The island of volcanic rocky outcrops and an ocean swell created a more difficult landing from the river truck than the banks of the Sepik but there were many helping hands for those who might fall like me. The villagers were so pleased to have visitors that they did continuing welcoming activities starting with traditional dancing before the introductory speeches started by a community leader and finished by Bruce who said he was there as a tourist but addressed the attentive crowd with the eloquence that marked him as the Bossman bilong Australia insait long Papua New Guinea. There were many activities to observe – cooking to prepare for a village feast for the chief that afternoon; then further along

bananas being cooked in the fire ashes where a one year feast for a young boy who had died the year before was being held; Bruce contributed K100 to mark our respect for the occasion and on our return past the area later a bunch of bananas was given from under the sitting platform to a young girl to carry to the river truck to reciprocate; Jo was asked to visit a sick lady who could not walk; then we joined the group who had proceeded to the SDA choir welcome song; then there was more traditional dancing and Georgia and I got into the swing of the dance which instigated much hilarious laughter from the crowds; not to be out-beaten, a Catholic youth came with his guitar to sing a song about Carol Kidu and of



Kaminimbit Village, Kalibobo Spirit in Background



Haus Tambaran, Tambanam

Basic Information about the Kalibobo Spirit

The Kalibobo Spirit is a 20m luxury motor yacht owned by MTS and operated largely as a private charter vessel in PNG waters. It operates several scheduled cruises along the Sepik River and outer islands including the Trobriand, D'Entrecasteaux groups in Milne Bay.

Accommodation is limited to 12-16 passengers in double, twin and single cabins all with private bathroom, TV, telephones. There is a separate lounge, dining room, upper covered deck and flybridge. The vessel has a helipad, hydraulic aft ramp, three tenders including a fast river truck that can carry 20 passengers at 30kts to remote areas and waterways.

The vessel is under full PNG Survey and equipped with radars, GPS, Depth Sounders, Sonar all of which has a back up. It is crewed by up to 9 PNG qualified crew members and the Company has more than 40 years experience in operating expedition ships in PNG and Solomon Islands.

The vessel is based in Madang at the Madang Resort which

has direct air connections 3 times a day by Air Niugini and PNG Air to Port Moresby and beyond.

More Information: www.mtspng.com Email info@mtspng.com T: +675 424 1300 F: +675 422 3541 or write for a brochure and schedule for 2017.



course at the end whispered to me and told anyone willing to listen that the Catholic church need more guitars and a keyboard!! . With all the activities along the way we never made it to the school which would have been an up-hill climb.

Throughout the total walk people were presenting mangoes and other fruit to our team with a special focus on Alistair and Georgia. Laughter, friendliness and generosity followed us all the way back on to the river truck because time was moving and we still had one more village visit to do after a quick swim by the young ones in our team

Too soon the Kalibobo Spirit headed off again towards Manam Island – an active volcano in the Pacific Ring of Fire that surrounds the Pacific Ocean. Two distinct smoke spirals were rising from the crater of the volcano but no fireworks erupted during our short stay. However meeting the people of Manam certainly made up for that. Manam volcano erupted in 2004 and the population was

evacuated to Care Centres on the mainland. It was a relocation fraught with problems and some chose to return to the island after the volcano settled down and have been rebuilding their hamlets (although the children still go to school in the Care Centres during the school year). The walk through the hamlets was peaceful and beautiful and I loved the feel and sound of the volcanic ash crunching under our shoes. The volcanic ash and larva result in bountiful supplies of fruits and when Sir Peter said he wanted bananas and fruit to buy for the ship and the resort, bunches of bananas, mangoes and pineapples appeared in dishes on ladies' heads from all directions – far more than needed but Sir Peter kept buying rather than sending people away disappointed.

And then he offered the ride in the river truck – how many can fit in the river truck??? Children and adults raced from all directions for the ride – full to overflowing to the enjoyment of all. All to soon our adventure was over and the

Kalibobo Spirit set a course to take us back to the Madang Resort.

2nd January 2017

Alistair and I were on deck early to be greeted by a most brilliant sunrise that seemed to go on forever and on the opposite side of the ship were two rainbows running parallel and disappearing into the sky. What a glorious ending to the best cruise that I have ever been on. Thank you to Captain Sir Peter Barter and his wonderful attentive crew for making it possible. Thank you to my fellow adventurers – it was a great pleasure travelling with all of you. And thank you of course to our friends – Kali who terrified village kids wherever he went but would not hurt a fly and Jojo the cockatoo who joined us for K50 and loved sleeping in Dr Jo's shower recess.

My bucket list now has on it to return to the mighty, massive, monumental, mind-blowing, mysterious and mystical Sepik River during the dry season so I can see the rhythm of the river in a different cycle.

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Walk Into Paradise DVD
<https://pngaa.org/site/blog/2014/06/12/hello-world/>

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Remember to keep your contact details up-to-date membership@pngaa.net



CHRISTMAS READING!

When the War Came: New Guinea Islands 1942
\$60 plus \$20 p&p within Australia.
<https://pngaa.org/site/blog/2017/06/14/pngaarmvm-book-when-the-war-came-new-guinea-islands-1942>

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Membership see new link
<https://pngaa.org/site/members/become-a-member/>



STOCKING FILLER!

Rabaul and Montevideo Maru 70th Anniversary - Commemorative DVD
<http://www.memorial.org.au/About/Activities/DVDs.htm>

ADVENTURES IN KIANANTU CIRCA 1954

by Leo Butler

During 1954 I travelled with Jack Rice and Kevin Hilliard, who were carrying a load of 44-gallon drums; the convoy had 2 ex-Army Jeeps, plus 2 fully loaded ex-US Army GMC 6x6 trucks, which carried Aviation Fuel, Motor Spirit and Diesel.

The trip was through the Markham Valley past Nadzab then crossed the unbridged and fast flowing Leron and Umi Rivers then through the foothills of the Mountains to Kassam Pass at an altitude of approx 8/10000 ft. As we approached the Pass it became very cold but Jack had prepared for this and suitable clothing was available. We finally reached the Valley which led to Kianantu.

Our trip had taken 2 days and one night spent inside the trucks to avert the cold. This was a massive change from the oppressive Heat and Humidity of Lae. Mobil's Agent at Kianantu was Buntings and their Manager was Jack Scurrah a long-time resident to PNG. Whilst in Kianantu I borrowed a Jeep from Jack to visit one of Mobil's major customers a Chinese Trade Store Business Man who had an

old-style hand operated petrol pump outside his store.

He was also the largest seller of Lighting Kerosene in the Area. The natives used Tilley Lights and Heating which operated on Lighting Kerosene.

The Trade Store was situated at the top of a hill in Kianantu and had a large Native Village situated below the store. I parked the jeep outside the store and applied the brakes. I went into the store to discuss Business prospects, whilst inside we heard a rather large amount of shouting and screaming from outside, and on rushing outside we encountered a chaotic scene, the Jeep was gone and we observed it had come to rest after demolishing a native house. Great panic was shown by inhabitants of Village and an ugly scent was developing. The Trade Store owner quickly dispatched his assistant to the Administration Office to seek help to settle the Natives down. Help soon arrived in the form of the District Officer along with four of his Native Police Boys. On investigation the District Officer established calm through the Village Elders, and fortunately no persons were injured. The D/O successfully negotiated a settlement of repairs to be made

to the house as well as a cash settlement. What had actually happened was I had forgotten to leave the 4-wheel drive Jeep in first gear as well as applying the brake.

Jack was able to retrieve the Jeep and fortunately there was little damage to this Jeep.

You can envisage the fun Jack had at the Kianantu Club that night as Butler was forced to pay for drinks for all and sundry including the D/O and his staff. The next day we travelled through the Valley to Goroka without any further incidents. Again, I had to suffer further embarrassment as Jack retold the story to the locals at the Goroka Club. I flew back to Lae whilst Jack returned by road with a load of coffee. He never forgot to remind me of this incident. I had some explaining to do when I returned to our Lae Office, but fortunately Mobil's Insurance covered the costs involved. I later heard from Jack Scurrah of Buntings that they felt no loss of business nor did it affect the Chinese Trade store.

A life changing experience for me but Jack and I remained good friends but it gave him some ammunition to throw at me on my next trip.

8.3.2017



The Wau to Bulolo Road in 2017

Words and photos by Deryck Thompson

In the early days after WW2 a road was constructed from Bulolo to Wau and in later years it was known as the Gorge Road, as it closely followed the Bulolo River gorge from Pine Top bridge just out of Bulolo and it took about 30 minutes to drive from Bulolo to Wau. Later again PNG Forest Products cut another road up through the hills east of the Bulolo River to Wandumi to access its pine plantations. Eventually the wartime bridge over the Bulolo at Wandumi, 5 km east of Wau was replaced and it became possible to drive Bulolo to Wau via Wandumi. The Gorge Road became known as the “Front Road” and the PNG Forests logging road became known as the “Back Road”. Later again, a landslide at the Koranga Gold sluicing mine adjacent to the main Gorge Road revealed the remains of an extinct volcano. The area of the land slide began to heat up and steam loaded with sulphur indicated a possible coming to life of a volcano. Any eruption would have blocked the “Gorge Road” so the “Back Road” also became known as the “Escape Road” as it would have been used if the road to Bulolo was cut off by volcanic activity. Peter Shanahan was working at the Forest Research station at this time and he remembers that all the staff undertook training for the expected emergency which thankfully did not happen as the volcanic activity settled down.

In 2015 the “Front Road” was closed by a series of landslides caused by illegal miners throwing over burden down from the heights above the road so all vehicles had to travel on the “Back Road” and that continues to this day. The distance from Bulolo to Wau on the “Back Road” is about 33 km and it generally takes about 1 hour to drive. Over the course of this year 2017 there have been heavy rains and several sections were washed out although all have now been repaired thanks to the combined efforts of PNG Forests Products and a gold exploration company now based in Wau.





M.V. MAMUTU

By Chris Warrillow

The year 1942 is remembered for many tragic and also heroic events that WWII brought to the (then) Mandated Territory of New Guinea and Australian Territory of Papua. These included the Tol massacre as reported in this Journal earlier this year. The 75th anniversary of the sinking of the Montevideo Maru, with its appalling loss of mainly Australian lives, was remembered at memorial services held in PNG (Rabaul on 22 June) and in Australia (Canberra on 1 July). That ship was sunk by an American submarine in Philippine waters.

Little known is another tragic loss at sea of other Australian lives, mainly civilian, in what were then Australian waters. On Friday 7 August, 1942 the Japanese submarine RO33 sank the M.V Mamutu which was en route from Port Moresby to Daru. There was only one known survivor – William (Billy) Griffin who died in 1993. He was rescued by the survivors of a flying boat which, on 8 August, sank after alighting near a number of Mamutu survivors clinging to an over-turned, partly submerged, life-boat in the hope of saving them all.

In early August, 1942 General Morris ordered the evacuation of the remaining non-combatant European and mixed-race population of Port Moresby. Following repeated Japanese bombing raids most of the female Europeans, local Motu (Hanuabada) people and other Papuans, as well as many of mixed-race, had already left the town. Nearby villages were also abandoned by many of their inhabitants. Some 'went bush' and others to the Galley

Reach area to the north-west, and villages along the south-east coast. The army had commandeered all housing in Hanuabada for its Papuan labourers.

Two loads of evacuees were organised to be sent to Daru where they might find safety – even possible subsequent refuge in Cairns.

The Burns Philp owned 300 tons coastal vessel MV Mamutu had been requisitioned by the Australian military to help

transport supplies to RAN ships and to its scattered forces along the coast. She had been built in Hong Kong in 1938 and was 34 meters in length with a beam of 7.6 meters. She was assigned the task of transporting some of these evacuees, and left Port Moresby on 6 August, 1942.

Up to 122 passengers and crew of the Mamutu perished, including up to thirty mixed-race children and their parents. Official Australian records contain references to the deaths of many of those on the Mamutu as a



(Photo: Burns Philp)

result of being machine-gunned, even whilst in the water.

However, this is possibly war-time propaganda. Others may have been incinerated by the inferno of exploding fuel drums being carried on deck. The rest drowned.

Numbers vary according to sources. The crew of the Mamutu, under Captain J. McEachren, consisted of 8 Europeans; 2 Chinese and 14 Papuans. Reverend Henry Matthews, Anglican Rector of Port Moresby since 1927, accompanied the mixed-race evacuees and ANGAU assigned Private F. Stork to issue rations. Four members of the Papuan Constabulary and six other Papuans were also reported to be on board.

Stuart (1970) states that on board the Mamutu were "... some 75 distressed mixed-race men, women and children along with a number of Papuans ..." and cites the incorrect date of Friday, August 17 (which was in fact a Monday). According to Singe (1979) there were "...some eighty distressed men, women and children on board – only a handful of them Europeans". Aerts (1994) is only able to quote directly from Whiting (1994). Delbos (1985) has a completely erroneous

Catholic slant to his account of the disaster.

The most comprehensive account of the atrocity that I have been able to locate is that of Neil Whiting in his book "Wrecks & Reefs – Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea". Of all the sources cited in my bibliography, other than the AWM interview, I believe that he was the only one to have sat with Billy Griffin and discussed the latter's ordeal.

With only one survivor it is understandable that accounts of the disaster are a little confusing. A tape-recorded interview with that survivor is held by the Australian War Memorial. However, Billy Griffin was interviewed in the company of some crew members of the RAAF Short Sunderland which attempted a rescue mission after sighting survivors in the water. Thus, the interview concentrated on the survival and rescue of the aircraft's crew and the assistance Billy gave them once on shore. One crew member of the Sunderland went down with the aircraft after it sank due to damage sustained when alighting into the rough waters of the Gulf of Papua and possibly striking wreckage of the Mamutu.

Billy Griffin and his rescuers finally got to Kikori from where they travelled by boat to Port Moresby.

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<http://www.ozatwar.com/japsubs/mamutu.htm> (Australia at War, Peter Dunn).
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- Anyone interested in a more informative (longer) version of this article should request an electronic copy from chris_warrillow@hotmail.com



SHORT SUNDERLAND M.R.5

The Sunderland is virtually a military development of the "Empire" flying-boat and the prototype first flew in 1937, production continuing until October, 1945. The Sunderland M.R.5 is powered by four 1,200 h.p. Pratt & Whitney R-1830-90B engines and is otherwise similar to the Sunderland M.R.3, which had Bristol Pegasus 18 engines. Carrying a crew of ten, the Sunderland is employed for air-sea rescue by R.A.F. Coastal Command.

Performance: Max. speed, 242 m.p.h.; cruising, 155 m.p.h.; initial climb rate, 880 ft./min.; service ceiling, 14,000 ft. *Weights:* Empty, 45,500 lb.; loaded, 66,400 lb. *Dimensions:* Span, 112 ft. 9½ in.; length, 88 ft. 6¾ in.; height, 37 ft. 3 in.

CREATIVE ARTS + BOOKS & REVIEWS

Pacific Runway, Australia's most prestigious platform for Pacific Island designers, returned for its 6th year in 2017 – showcasing at Carriageworks, Sydney.

Pacific Runway dazzled fans with a distinctive fusion of Pacific fashion with exotic and talented designs. In 2017, 21 top designers from PNG and around the US, New Zealand, Fiji, Hawaii, and Australia presented their collections. Representing Papua New Guinea were New Zealand-based Dru Douglas with his label 'Lumai' and 'Iyara' by Wantok Clothing.

'Lumai' is a women's ready-to-wear label based in Auckland, New Zealand, by Papua New Guinean, Dru Douglas. Dru completed his Bachelor of Design (Fashion Design) at the Auckland University of Technology which included a six-month student exchange at the Amsterdam Fashion Institute in the Netherlands and has interned for a couple of New Zealand designers. The label offers a cross-cultural aesthetic, intersecting Papua New Guinean inspirations with Western dress codes. The result is a quirky, modern and sophisticated aesthetic with a strong silhouette.

The combination tells a tale of globalisation, empowerment, identity and evolving visions of Papua New Guinea.

WANTOK CLOTHING

Genevieve Igara-Falevai, of 'Wantok Clothing' is an internationally known designer, based in Papua New Guinea. Genevieve was awarded Designer of The Year at the Stella Runway 2016. All Wantok Clothing are 100% hand printed and PNG made, ranging from resort, evening to business wear.

www.facebook.com/homeofpngdesign



'Life is a very strange thing' a film review by Peter Cordukes

PNGAA members, Peter and Irene Cordukes received tickets to the Brisbane Film Festival. This is what they reported...

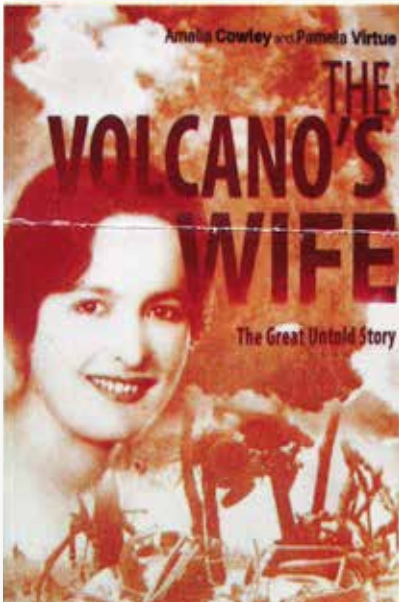
Irene and I went to see this film as part of the Brisbane Film Festival. It was quite amusing with most scenes shot in France. The script was in French with English subtitles and if you don't read quickly you missed the point. The references to PNG dancers/musicians in the highlands were quite interesting but, in my experience, did not reflect the grandeur of big sing-sings like we used to see at the Mt Hagen show. The photos from Angkor Wat were brief but well done.

As the first film for Directors, Les McLaren and Annie Stiven, my comment would be that it was somewhat amateurish. In my opinion, for us the movie was a disjointed kaleidoscope. There were many funny anecdotes and positive references to Australians and flashes of fine photos from many places but in my opinion, no story and a somewhat confusing theme. However, often the focus was on a mis-shaped dog, which *everyone* could love.

Bougainville: Island of Scars. New Zealand Geographic

Journalist, Mark Scott's heart-wrenching account of his experiences in the conflicts between Bougainville and Papua New Guinea in the 1990s. He describes with vivid detail unacceptable atrocities of children being deprived of medicine, women dying in maternity rooms from lack of treatment, church-workers machine-gunned because they attempted to help, torture, unlawful killings, massacres and hijackings. It is an eye-opening personal account by Mark Scott of the Australian and New Zealand governments involvement and impact in the conflict. The story which was repeatedly suppressed comes to light through the journey of this brave and courageous man.

<https://www.nzgeo.com/stories/bougainville-island-of-scars/>



A great read! Buy this fascinating book and help the PNGAA's Helpim Wantok Project!

The Volcano's Wife by Amalia Cowley and Pamela Virtue

ISBN 9781925152951, Inspiring Publishers, Calwell, ACT, Australia, 2015, 208 pages, Paperback, Photographs, maps, index. Category: Memoir/ Biography.
Cost: \$25 plus \$7 p&p within Australia.

Available from Papua New Guinea Association of Australia Inc, PO Box 453, Roseville NSW 2069 E: admin@pngaa.net and www.pngaa.org/site

With thanks to Pamela Virtue, ALL SALES WILL BE PUT TO THE PNGAA PROJECT 'HELPIM WANTOK' – a donation of 700 chairs and 350 tables being shipped from UTS, Sydney, to the University of PNG through its Open College network of campuses and study centres throughout the country.

See <https://pngaa.org/site/blog/2017/08/10/helpim-wantok-project/>

Masked Eden, a History of the Australians in New Guinea

Author, Anne McCosker
Publisher, University of Papua New Guinea Press
2nd Edition, 2016. First published, Matala Press, 1998.
ISBN 978-8890-89-170-9
Pages 354 + 32 Soft back
Bibliography, Notes, b&w photographs, maps
Category, History
Available from Amazon, Fishpond, Author's web-site: www.annemccosker.com
Cost \$A 40 approximately (current Amazon price)

Masked Eden is a story of love and beauty, gallantry, courage and betrayal.

The wonderful pioneering spirit of Australians is seen - often in co-operation with the New Guineans - struggling with the incompetence and ignorance of a small elite in Canberra and Rabaul.

The Fall of Rabaul to the Japanese in 1942 - when over 1000 Australian civilians and soldiers were lost; the greatest purely Australian tragedy in history - is, for the first time, fully examined using original material gathered from the nation's archives and the author's personal collection.

The author is well-suited to write *Masked Eden*. A B.A. History Honours degree from the University of London gave her the discipline and discernment needed to collect and correlate the large amount of available material. This was added to her personal knowledge. Her father first went to New Guinea in 1924. He married Marjorie

Martin in Rabaul in 1929 — then the capital of the Mandated Territory of New Guinea. Later the partnership 'McCosker and King' bought Matala Plantation.

Paper Lady by Judith Hollinshed

Publisher: Austin Macauley Publishers Ltd, 2017

ISBN: 9781786298355 (Paperback) 9781786298362 (Hardcover)

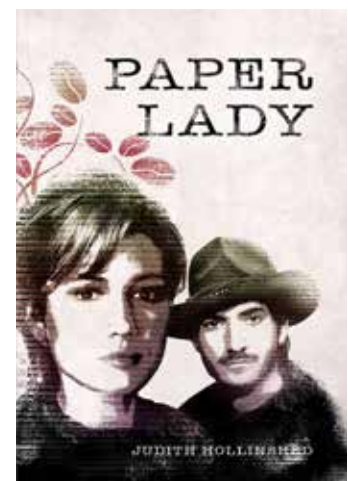
Pages: 404. Soft. Hardback

Category: Thriller/political

Available from: Booktopia, The Book Depository, Amazon.com, Goodreads, Gardners, Austin Macauley

Cost: (incl postage within Aust where appropriate) paperback averages \$30

Description: A novel that shows the implications of PNG independence in the late 70s from different viewpoints. These are represented by a kiap, coffee planters, a clan 'bigman' and his recalcitrant sons, an entrepreneurial politician and an impetuous journalist with firm anti-colonial convictions who, despite that, finds herself attracted to a planter.



Anna: My Life From A Coffee Plantation In Papua New Guinea To The Shores Of Byron Bay by Anna Middleton

Cost: \$29.95 plus \$8 p& p within Australia

Self Published - Available from Anna Middleton - <https://www.annamiddleton.com.au/>

Ph: 0411325471 or email: annacmiddleton2@gmail.com

After a whirlwind romance in Melbourne, Jim Middleton returned to life as a coffee planter in the highlands of Papua New Guinea, while Anna headed to Europe. But distance could not deter them from destiny. On the way home, Anna called in to see Jim. Surprised by what she found, but undeterred, Anna set out to establish a life and home with her new husband.

Living in a native material house, with no electricity, telephone, running water or sanitation, in a place without roads or shops, life was not easy. But it was an extreme adventure. Along with a small band of other young brides, Anna would mix cement, change tyres, treat lepers, give birth and overcome serious illness like malaria, while making her own clothes and all the time trying to look pretty.

THE KUK BOOK

Ten Thousand Years of Cultivation at Kuk Swamp in the Highlands of Papua New Guinea
 ISBN (print): 9781760461157
 ISBN (online): 9781760461164

Edited By Jack Golson, Tim Denham, Philip Hughes, Pamela Swadling And John Muke

A DIDIMAN'S PERSPECTIVE

This voluminous scientific writing reconstructs the environmental history pertaining to key agricultural milestones of cultivation at KUK Swamp in the Western Highlands of Papua New Guinea, in the Wahgi Valley near Mount Hagen.

For anyone associated with indigenous agricultural practice in the New Guinea Highlands it is a fascinating read of the agricultural history at KUK which extended back 10,000 years.

When Philip Hughes, asked me to write a brief review of this scientific treatise of 544 pages I questioned my interest and or my ability as a "layman" to summarise the work. Well, far from it; interesting because of the so many people involved: the principal researchers; contributing scientists; international graduates; horticultural specialists; indigenous staff; benefactors; governments and universities and also the staff at the focal point of research, the KUK Agricultural Research Station. A whole community working together. Many of the names of the people involved in the research will be familiar to those who have worked in the Western Highlands Province since the early days of European exploration up until now.

The observations and scientific findings relevant to the Papua New Guinea highlands are fascinating. "The pollen evidence from the Waghi Valley shows that the temperature regime after some 10,000 years ago was suitable for the major staples of Pacific agriculture (taro, yam and banana)". Taro pollen from Lake Wanum in the Markham Valley was dated 9000 years ago!

The regional pre-history covers in detail the development and production of subsistence crops; wooden cultivation tools; the phases of swamp gardening; village housing development over time and the importance of pigs, integral to the indigenous lifestyle over so many years.

Suffice to say, the importance of this historical site, the dedication of the continuous research work conducted within it, and recognition of the traditional owners of the land, the Kuk Early Agricultural Site was formerly accredited onto the World Heritage List in July 2008.

The book will be available to be reviewed at the PNGAA Christmas luncheon Sunday 3rd of December 2017. You can download a free pdf copy of the book or order a hard copy at: <http://press.anu.edu.au/publication/series/terra-australis/ten-thousand-years-cultivation-kuk-swamp-highlands-papua-new-guinea> or at: <http://dx.doi.org/10.22459/TA46.07.2017>

David Montgomery – Didiman 1956-67

Help Wanted

HELPIM WANTOK PROJECT



The PNGAA needs your help to facilitate the transfer of 350 tables and 700 chairs from University of Technology, Sydney, to the University of PNG through its Open College network of campuses and study centres throughout the Papua New Guinea. This project is scheduled for early 2018.

PLEASE DONATE NOW to the 'Helpim Wantok' project - you can donate directly on the form at the bottom of the page at <https://pngaa.org/site/blog/2017/08/10/helpim-wantok-project/> or transfer directly to the PNGAA bank account. Details are:

Account Name: PNGAA, BSB: 062 009
Account No: 0090 7724

Please use your name as a reference and notify contact details by email to admin@pngaa.net. Please also use the code 'HWP' to help us identify the payment.

Information on John or James Charles Markey

A member of PNG Assn of SA is trying to find information on John or James Charles Markey builder born in Hay NSW in 1875 He was in the Northern Territory in the 1910's 1920s including at Elcho Island. JC Markey did building work for a Methodist Mission station East of Kwato in PNG for up to 5 years. His last known whereabouts was him building a hospital in Milne Bay (Kwato?) for an American Evangelical Society in 1929. Then he

disappears although it seems that he had died by 1946.

It is likely that he remained in PNG so there may be records or reminiscences. How do we go finding out what happened after 1929?

Keith Simpson-Lyttle

Secretary PNG Assn of SA & member of PNGAA
simpsonlyttle@gmail.com

Knowledge of Eric Robson

It would be appreciated if anyone has knowledge to share of Eric Robson, who was in Mumeng, and later a Coast Watcher.

Eric was born on 5 June 1914 and was a Medical Officer for TNG Health from 1939-1942. We understand he became Warrant Officer Eric John Robson, Service no. 64201 with the RAAF possibly as a Clerk General. Eric was mentioned in dispatches 1942-43 as a member of a special intelligence patrol led by Lieutenant KWT Bridge in Morobe and, in 1944-45, he was part of an AIB party operating in enemy occupied territory on the North Coast of New Britain providing medical treatment for the people of New Britain. Eric married Lukele, possibly of Mumeng, and they had several children: Alan (dec'd), Brian, Christine, Lyn, Mavis.

Please contact **Sara Turner** on email: sarog@bigpond.com or Mob: 0401 138 246.

Help raise funds to deliver Primary Health Care in Rural PNG

With the old Royal Adelaide Hospital closing, we have a once in a lifetime opportunity to deliver at least one container full of donation in kind (DIK) unused medical equipment and primary health care supplies to a total of two provincial hospitals, 56 rural health centres, and 158 community aid posts in Hela and Southern Highlands Provinces of PNG. CONTACT DETAILS for more information for those interested in supporting this venture.

Shila Yukuli Paia

M: 0458 553630

E: yukulikolo@gmail.com

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In the spirit of his forebears...

interview with Will Comiskey and his mother, Pip Comiskey (nee Parer)

words by Belinda Macartney

www.facebook.com/willcomiskeymongolderby/photos



Una Voce regularly reports past stories of adventure, of courage and tenacity. This is the story of a young man who has been inspired by his forebears to challenge himself way beyond his comfort zone. Why? Because he can... and he wants to go on a quest of his own.

A sense of adventure runs strongly through Will Comiskey's veins. Inspired by reading stories of his uncle, Ray Parer, the famous aviator (the second man to fly from England to Australia and the first in a single engine aircraft—only two aircraft completed the race), and his grandfather Cyril Parer's brother, Damien Parer, war photographer. Growing up on a cattle property in Central Queensland, Will lived his own daily adventure with his father Frank Comiskey, who had also spent time in New Guinea working with cattle in the Markham Valley in Dumpu for Bruce (RIP) and Barbara Jephcott.

Will first heard about the Mongol Derby from some friends who had done the race.

The race recreates Chiggis Khaan's ancient horse messenger system; over 10 days and 1,000 km, racing from



7am to 8.30pm every day—on semi-wild Mongol horses—riders change their mounts every 40km. Riders must be self-supporting, carrying only 5kg of gear, sleeping alone on the steppes at night or with local Mongol families, who never knew he would be turning up!

So, with all that adventurous blood running through his veins and wanting to let his father (RIP) know that he had learnt the lesson well, Will won the race equal first with two girls in 2016. In 2017, Will was inspired to give the Mongol Derby a second go. He simply couldn't wait to challenge himself again. Will said "it was tough

and incredible fun all at the same time".

Will has claimed the title of the most successful Derbyist to date with a win and fourth place from two starts. But Will is very humble about all this saying that he is glad to have challenged himself and live out the spirit that flows in his family.

Will and his survival skills are a living legacy of the personal challenge and sense of adventure that have been handed down through his family, who lived and worked in PNG.

Una Voce is pleased to bring you this story suggested by PNGAA member, Rob Parer.

Sing Sing - events and reunions

The PNGAA has been pleased to have Philip Selth offer his knowledge and research to our Members and speak at Sydney, Brisbane (Wacol), and Melbourne events. Thank you again Philip.

We had great attendances, especially in Brisbane where 130 Members and friends enjoyed the presentation, morning tea, and the guided tour of the PNGVR Museum. In particular, it was a privilege to have Ingrid Mason, daughter of Coast Watcher Paul Mason, in attendance.

Sydney was a diverse audience ranging from those who knew nothing about the Coast Watchers to those well-versed in this history. Melbourne audiences are also looking forward

to this interesting address. Thanks to Yana, who has dedicated her time to this event.

The aim of such events is to provide the opportunity for States to develop their networks, with events that suit the interests of their group. This development will be gradual, taking time and commitment from those who are willing to be available on the ground. PNGAA will of course support their efforts.

So don't be shy to become involved, as all energies and abilities are welcome. As they say 'from little things, big things grow'. It is always wonderful to receive feed back about our events. Thanks again everyone who has helped in 2017.

Sara



L-R Belinda Macartney, Ken Cheung (saved by Australian Navy), Ralph Seeto, Lily Seeto, Margaret Gar. Photo: Ralph Seeto



Juanita Isabel Oaeko and Patrick Crowdy at the 75th Commemoration Service of Battle for Australia, Sydney Cenotaph, 6 September 2017.



Battle for Australia Service 6 September 2017 - PNG Consul Gen Sumasy Singin, Col Mark Goina DMS OBE, Andrea Williams, President of Sydney Wantok Assn Steven Gagau

PNG Hunters – the 2017 Intrust Super Cup Champions!

By Iava Parapa-Falvey

What a nail-biting and spectacular finish to an exciting match between the Papua New Guinea SP Hunters and the Sunshine Coast Falcons for the Intrust Super Cup Grand Final at the Suncorp Stadium. Our Number One “warriors” had made it—a proud moment for the Hunters who were the minor premiers for the 2017 season, having joined the Intrust Super Cup Competition four years ago.

A beautiful sunny day as spectators, who were in high spirits and proudly displaying PNG national colours of red, gold and black, made their way into the stadium, happily smiling and greeting each other.

The Suncorp Stadium was a buzz mostly with Hunters’ supporters who came from far and wide to witness this momentous historical occasion. The atmosphere was electric. A capacity crowd of 11,260 spectators filled the western side of the Suncorp Stadium proudly displaying banners and PNG paraphernalia, even a large PNG flag at the Southern end.

Once the national anthems were over, the match kicked off. The Hunters had a nervous start and before long, found themselves down by two tries, both scored out wide but only one converted. From that point the game settled down with Hunters gradually establishing sufficient dominance that they chose to kick for the corner or take the tap on several penalties they were awarded within goal kicking distance. But all these attacks were to no avail, and at half time the score was Sunshine Coast Falcons 10 v PNG SP Hunters 0.

The disappointing score did not dampen the supporters’ enthusiasm or spirit. Instead they were determined to shout at the top of their lungs and spur the Hunters on their road to a possible victory.

The second half was more of the same, but now it was the Hunters who did all the scoring. An early converted try brought the crowd to life and the Hunters piled on the pressure. But resolute Falcons’ defence kept the score at 10-6 right up to the



Photo by Greg Pike

last minute of the game. Were the Hunters going to regret not kicking a couple of those first half penalties? Fortunately, no. The last attacking play of the game saw a well-weighted kick through into the Falcons’ goal area which was pounced on by a flying Willie Minogoa in between two Falcon defenders just before the ball went out of bounds. The crowd erupted! The try could not be awarded until confirmed by several video replays, each one of which generated deafening cheers from Hunters’ supporters. This was followed by a successful conversion.

The final score PNG SP Hunters 12 to Sunshine Coast Falcons 10. Congratulations Hunters! It was a gutsy effort and you did your supporters, the country, and the people of Papua New Guinea proud.

PNG Orchids – PNG’s first women’s Rugby League team

September 23, 2017 Port Moresby

In what was the first showdown between the PNG Orchids and the Australian Jillaroos—and the introduction of Papua New Guinea to women’s international rugby league—fans got a taste of what PNG Orchids will bring to the game. The crowd—which was at full capacity by the time the final siren sounded—loved

every moment of it, with a thunderous roar going up as the PNG side took their first hit up. Even while they battled to get on the scoreboard, the fans rode every high and low with them, throwing their full support behind the Orchids. When that moment finally came in the 66th minute and forward Maima Wei barged

through the middle for the team’s first ever try, the sound was deafening.

While the final score read 42-4 to the Jillaroos, families and fans of the Orchids will be following this team with the usual enthusiasm for their ‘national game’.

How the Papua New Guinea flag was designed on Yule Island

By Mary R. Mennis MBE

In 1971, all Papua New Guineans were encouraged to enter designs for a new flag. Various ideas and colours were listed to help stimulate these designs.

On Yule Island, Sister Joseph Mary taught the art class and she encouraged her students to take part in the competition by colouring in their own designs. She saw the various possible designs for the new flag and thought them a bit insipid in green, white and gold. She copied them and gave them to the girls in her art class. Fifteen-year old Susan Karike was one of the girls in her class.

Sister Joseph Mary described what happened next:

We discussed what the girls considered to be Papua New Guinea's national colours and came up with yellow, red and black. And so the girls went to work on the designs they had been given in the three stripes. One of the students was Susan Karike. There were some arguments in the classroom that day because Susan had been allowed to colour her design in texta colours whereas the other students only had coloured pencils.

I said to her. "Susan, I'm tired of seeing stripes, draw a line across it diagonally, from corner to corner, and fill it in."

Susan got her ruler and said "I can't do it from corner to corner as I'll cut part of the stars or the bird off".

I said, 'Well put it along a little bit so it can be exactly diagonal'.

The students coloured their designs and we showed them to the school. They liked Susan's best. I had taught Susan to sign everything she did, so she signed this design of the flag. When the Constitutional Committee came to Yule Island, Susan's design was presented to them. Within a few days it was accepted by the Parliament. Apparently, there was a very hot debate on it. I understand that when the votes were counted, the House was divided with exactly the same number on either side of the House. Sir John Guise had the casting vote and he voted in favour of accepting this design for the flag. Some of the French Sisters on Yule Island pointed out that the diagonal stripe from top left to bottom right was not seen as appropriate as in Europe it is seen as a bit sinister. They wrote to the government with their concerns but Sir John Guise said, "Well we're not in Europe so it doesn't matter!"

During Independence Day celebrations in 1975 when Susan Karike raised the new flag, Sister Joseph Mary proudly looked on. Each morning, when the flag was raised on the flagpole she remembered the other occasion in the art class and the part her Yule Island School took in it. (I interviewed Sister Joseph Mary in about 1981 when I lived in Port Moresby).



Photo by Greg Pike



A family of fans 'n' flags!

Waiting in front of Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane to go to the Grand Final of Intrust Super Cup at Suncorp Stadium. Rob Parer with three daughters wearing PNG T Shirts - Emma, Rebecca (Bec) & Genevieve. Bec's daughter Ana with PNG flag as a dress & also her hair ribbons! Also Bec's son Thomas, Genevieve's son Ben, Emma's husband Patrick, and Nick, Bec's husband all the way from UK.

Photos by Robert Parer



John Barr
See page 52



*John Barr 1954 Queens visit to Australia
onboard HMAS Vengeance*



James Barr & father Clive - London Feb 1918



*John Barr 1967 teaching midshipmen
HMAS Tarangau - Manus Is*



HMAS "Vengeance" Sydney Royal Tour Feb 1954

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 advance 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 send 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, 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 over 33 years at Chirnside Park, Lilydale. She was a tireless worker in the swimming fraternity, the school canteens, the Church where her legendary plants stalls

earned thousands of dollars for the Church and its Charities, plus in many other community activities, Her culinary skills and her hospitality were legendary. Her loving and generous nature earned much love and respect and this 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 four God Children, and her sister Geau Rone in Port Moresby,

Greatly loved and sadly missed by all.

Roy J. Andrews

ANDREWS, Howard Walton died at Dubbo, NSW on Wednesday 6.9.2017 age 87.

After Australian Army service in 2 Royal Australian Regiment Korea (with Peter Walker also in 2 R.A.R. and me with service in 77 Squadron R.A.A.F, the only three Australians in R.P.N.G.C to have served in Korea), he joined Victoria Police Force on 5.6.1959 until 14.7.1961, joining R.P.& N.G.C. on 24.7.1961. His first posting was at Rabaul. In June 1965 he was appointed to the Constabulary Special Branch and served at Wewak with later service at P.H.Q. He was retrenched in accordance

with the Permanent Officers Employment Security Scheme at Rabaul and Kokopo on 3.7.1974 at rank of Inspector 1/c.

After P.N.G. he managed caravan parks for some years then moving around 2002 to Dubbo where he played an important role as an advocate from 2007 in assisting R.S.L. members and surviving widows in securing pensions from the Department of Veterans' Affairs. He was also on the committee investigating army and R.A.A.F personnel missing in action during the war from 26th June 1950 to 27th July 1953.

Over the last many years he suffered from various serious medical conditions and was finally in total care. He is survived by his wife Pat and two adult children.

M.R. Hayes.

O'CONNOR, Kevin passed away on 27 September 2017, aged 88 years.

Kevin was a regular at Una Voce packing days and Sydney lunches and very passionate about his time in PNG.

QUINLIVAN, PAUL

Passed away Monday 9th October, at 3:45pm surrounded by family and lots of love; he fought leaving to the very end.

BARR, John Barney Passed away on the Gold Coast, September 2017

Our father recently passed away on the Gold Coast. He and family had several years in PNG up at Manus where he taught at the Navy base, Tarangau, during the mid-60s. My sisters and I have returned since to Manus to be involved in volunteer work and visits to outlying Horno Islands. We trust these photographs go some way to telling his story (see page 50).

Peter Barr, Sydney

BRUTNALL, Harry Roland Navy No. 22421 B. Leicester, UK 17/01/1920 D. Cairns Hospital 22 September 2017



Image: Martin Kerr. Ravenshoe, Anzac Day 2005.

Harry Brutnall: A man of energy and action

With moving tributes from family and friends, former sailor and shipowner Harry Brutnall, 97, was interred at Ravenshoe Cemetery on Friday, September 29. More than 120 attended the graveside service

with military honours co-ordinated by the RSL sub-branch.

Born in England Harry Brutnall came to Ravenshoe in 1926 and briefly attended Ravenshoe State School. Harry milked cows and at 14 worked as a blacksmith's nipper on the Tully Falls Road enabling him to purchase his first motor cycle. He then went tin mining before joining the navy in 1938. On HMAS Perth he visited New York just before at the outbreak of war. He later served on HMAS Swan and HMAS Adelaide.

In 1942 able seaman Brutnall was selected for diving school. Quartered at HMAS Kuttabul, Harry was in Kings Cross when the vessel was torpedoed. He retrieved bodies without a diving suit. After arriving in Darwin in the middle of a Japanese air raid, Harry and his fellow divers worked all night to remove wire from the propeller of HMAS Vigilant enabling it to withdraw troops from Timor. For intelligence purposes Harry retrieved downed Zeroes in murky and treacherous waters. In 1943 Harry was assigned to build a slipway in Port Moresby. He then installed hydrophones on the Pittwater torpedo testing range. In Fremantle petty officer Brutnall introduced, developed and adapted free diving technology.

After resigning in 1950 Harry hauled in slaughtered whales at Carnarvon and then commenced salvage operations in PNG. He was based in Rabaul. Harry purchased a copra plantation near the equator, acquired a number of coastal vessels and employed three sons. From 1980 Harry was farming part-time on the tablelands.

He then moved to Hervey Bay, returning many times to PNG,

skipping various vessels. Resting his sea legs in Ravenshoe since 2004, Harry generously entertained and cooked for PNG mates, members of the Royal Australian Navy Clearance Divers Association, motor cyclists, family, friends and neighbours. In 2008 he co-authored with Martin Kerr Brutnall's Follies, a brief memoir.

Harry Brutnall is survived by a wife, three sons, six daughters and many grandchildren.

World War Two's last hard hat diver, with strength and mental agility second to none.

Martin Kerr

5 October 2017

COMPSTON, Denis Edmonds 20/11/33 – 12/7/2017



As a member of Una Voce, Denis contributed many humorous plantation experiences that he was involved with in New Guinea.

Denis was born in Sydney and educated at Mosman High School. After his schooling, in 1955 he went on a two-weeks holiday

to Rabaul to visit his cousin – Michael Higgs – and ended up staying eight years. He was firstly employed by Coconut Products Ltd (CPL) as an overseer on Wangaramut Plantation (on the north coast road of New Britain) under Toby Donald, along with Michael Higgs. He was then promoted to manager in 1960 and transferred to Potsdam Plantation near Bogia, north west of Madang. He enjoyed the life here and often spoke of it in glowing terms.

After resigning in late 1963 he returned to Sydney and purchased a beautiful home in the Blue Mountains for his retirement. He then moved further west to his new and final home. Denis always found time to help others and did so helping at a local nursing home where he was loved and adored. Denis leaves behind two lovely sisters – Deanne and Dimity – whom he loved and adored. He will be missed by many who had the privilege of knowing him.

*Chris Donald
(lifetime friend)*

PULSFORD, Frances

Mary OAM

04/6/1928 to 16/9/2017

Mary Upton was born in 1928 in Killara (Sydney) and completed a Bachelor of Science with Honours in Botany from Sydney University. Her first job was as a Research Assistant at the Forest and Timber Bureau in Canberra. Here, aged 23, Mary met Bob Pulsford, a handsome District Agricultural Office who was on leave from New Guinea, at the house of a mutual friend in Canberra. There he charmed her with beautiful colour slides and tales of life in

New Guinea. They were married in 1953 and departed a week later to live in the hot humid tropical climate at Urip Village near Wewak in the Sepik River District. Her first home was a beautiful thatched house built by the Urip villagers for Bob. There was no electricity and contact with the outside world was maintained by two-way radio. On the night of her arrival, following dinner with the only other white couple in the area who lived a short walk away through the rainforest, she was bitten on the ankle during the return walk by a death adder that was lying on the path. Undaunted, after a night of torment and heroic actions of her dashing husband and Urip villagers, she was flown to hospital in the morning and recovered.



In 1954 her first child, Ian, was born at nearby Wewak, and after a posting on Manus Island, daughter Susan was born in 1956. At Lorengau the family lived in a converted World War II corrugated iron Quonset hut.

As Bob was moved to various postings that also included Taliligap Agricultural Station near Rabaul, then Rabaul and finally 10 years in Port Moresby, Mary adapted, raised her family, and was fully involved with whatever was happening in her community.

After 10 years and four moves, the family moved to Port Moresby and Mary returned to paid work. She used her qualifications to teach Science at Port Moresby High School for several years and then as a Senior Tutor in Botany at the newly established University of Papua New Guinea. Following Bob's retirement from PNG in 1973, after 25 years' service, Mary continued teaching Botany at Sydney University.

Throughout her life Mary expressed a gentle but determined feminism and always commanded respect. Her activism was expressed most strongly through her life-long support of other women, particularly young women and her grandchildren.

From her early life in New Guinea she took a great interest in the local women and children. In Manus Island she became a Brown Owl in the Lorengau Brownie Pack. At Taliligap Agriculture Station near Rabaul, she was involved in the local Nunganunga Village Women's Association.

In Port Moresby, Mary became involved in the establishment of activities by the Young Women's Christian Association. Mary helped to run courses aimed to support welfare of local teenage girls with primary and some secondary education to make the transition to the workforce.

On returning to live permanently in Sydney in 1973, Mary continued her involvement with the Sydney YWCA. She was appointed to the Board where she soon became the President. During this period Mary, together with the Director Mary Guthrie and a property expert, negotiated with the Hong Kong Land Company

to sell the run down YWCA hostel in Liverpool St opposite Hyde Park, and replace it by building a modern multistorey hostel just around the corner to run courses and to provide affordable safe accommodation for women and girls who required refuge or during their visits to the city.

On Australia Day 1989, Mary was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the General Division for her service to the community and to the Young Women's Christian Association. She was very modest about this and rarely spoke of this award.

Mary's Christian faith was the constant force throughout her life which enabled her to deal with many challenges. Mary is survived by her son Ian, daughter Susan and four grandchildren – Nick, Jenny, Georgia and Stephanie.

Ian Pulsford

LASSEN, Maxwell David 22 July 1934 – 18 July 2017



Max was born in Whakatane in the Bay of Plenty district of New Zealand. The family (Max had three sisters) later moved to Katikati. His parents were typical of many of

that era, hardworking resourceful people, very involved in their local community. Max excelled at Katikati High School and became a prefect. An active member of the Sea Scouts, he later played Rugby Union (as half back he often ended up much the worse for wear with his light build, but looking forward enthusiastically to his next game). His early formative years shaped him into the determined person he could be when he felt strongly about an issue.

He worked with the New Zealand Public Trust until leaving for Australia in 1959, where he embarked on a working holiday, travelling extensively throughout Australia. He then applied to join the TPNG Administration, and in April 1961 commenced working in the Treasury Department at Konedobu.

In 1962 Max met Caroline Horan, a nurse at Port Moresby Hospital, whose family had lived in Papua pre-war. They married in 1963. Max played hockey with the Vikings team and in 1964 walked the Kokoda Trail.

In 1965 Treasury transferred Max to Goroka as District Finance Officer, and their first child Catherine was born there. After a move to Madang, Helen was born in 1966 and Kerrin in 1968. Back in Moresby, Paul was born in 1969, followed during a term in Lae, by Brian. The Lassens took advantage of the long leave periods enjoyed by Administration employees, touring extensively throughout UK and Europe with their young children. The conversion to decimal currency and the preparation for economic transition to PNG Independence in 1975 took place during his years with Treasury.

Returning to Australia, Max bought and ran a business in Lismore, NSW and later held an administration position at a large nursing home in Casino. After his retirement, he established a beautiful garden, growing an extraordinary variety of tropical plants and fruit trees on their property in the St Helena area of Byron Bay. He was made a Patron and Life Member of the Bangalow District Garden Club for his outstanding service, winning many prizes and opening his garden on numerous occasions.

Max maintained contact with his former Treasury associates and he and Caroline enjoyed attending the biennial reunions held in different states. They also did further overseas travel together. Max was well respected, having an integrity of the highest order, a passion for excellence – anything he did had to be done properly – and he was very much a gentleman.

He died at home after a long illness and will be very much missed by Caroline, his five children and five grandchildren.

Doreen MacGowan

TRIBUTE TO LATE LAVAH TINGDAI WATTS – 24 January 1949 to 4 June 2017

Lavah Watts passed away in Cairns following a freak accident in Freshwater 3 days earlier when a foxtail palm tree fell on her whilst she was standing in front of her daughter's townhouse whilst waiting for a friend and former workmate to pick her up. Lavah was on holidays in Cairns from Darwin where she had lived with husband Graham since 1999.

Lavah Tingdai was born in Rawat Village, Kokopo near Rabaul, East New Britain, and was educated in a Methodist Mission village school in the Kuanua language before moving to Kabagap Primary T School. Lavah completed her education at Malabunga High School in the Bainings ENB.

At high school Lavah showed a talent for sport and with the encouragement of her teacher Stuart Broad and the late Matt Power she attended three South Pacific Games representing PNG in Noumea 1966, Port Moresby 1969 and Tahiti in 1971 where Lavah won a silver medal in shot put for PNG. Lavah was also supported in her athletic sporting career by Jim Dunn and the late Don Barrett.

Lavah joined the PNG Public Service after high school as a Welfare Officer in Rabaul, initially based in the Bainings as a trainee. Lavah met her future husband Graham Watts, a Kiap at the time, at the PNG Administrative College in 1970. After completing her Admin College Course Lavah continued to serve as a Welfare Officer (by now called Community

Development Officers) in the Gulf, Morobe and Bougainville Provinces. After her marriage to Graham in Rabaul in 1973 Lavah continued to work in her chosen career in Rabaul and Kavieng. Whilst in Kavieng, Lavah was selected to attend the International Training Institute (ITI - formerly ASOPA) for a Community Development Course which included a trip to Port Arthur in Tasmania.

Lavah had more than 15 years service to PNG Government and the community before “going finish” in 1984 to Cairns from Kiunga. Lavah worked in social welfare and community development fields including Ruth Women’s Shelter, Lifeline, Yarrabah Health Centre and Trinity Beach Special Education Unit in North Queensland. Moving to Lajamanu Community in the Northern Territory with Graham in 1991 Lavah co-ordinated the amalgamation of several Aboriginal art groups in the Community to form Warnayaka Art Centre for the Lajamanu Community Government Council especially working with the women artists.

In 1994 Lavah and Graham moved to Derby WA where Lavah worked at the Ngamang Bawoona Frail Aged Hostel and continued her interest in dot painting art. In 1995 Lavah was asked to assist the Aboriginal Cultural Foundation on their “Dancers of the Dreaming” tour to the USA, California, Texas and Arizona, as a facilitator for the Warlpiri group from the Desert (photo attached).

Returning to the Northern Territory in 1999 Lavah continued her career and academic pursuit focussing on disability at Sommerville Community Services,

Carpentaria Disability Services and 17 years with HPA (Darwin Accommodation Services) including as short secondment to the NT Government Disability Support Unit. During this period in Darwin Lavah also completed her academic path that started in 1970 at the Admin College, Vunadidir Training Centre and ITI to the NTU, now Charles Darwin University, to graduate with the tertiary qualification of Diploma of Applied Science - Community and Human Services in 2002. Her academic goal was complete!

HPA – Helping People Achieve, has a very interesting link with PNG through one of its divisions, Kokoda Industries, that grew out of the aftermath of Cyclone Tracy (1974) and the subsequent rebuilding of Darwin. The PNG Government assisted Kokoda Industries to replace the destroyed worksop in 1978 with a generous donation made on their behalf by the late Austin Sapias, Consul General to PNG. Austin was a relative of Lavah and was the official photographer at Lavah’s wedding.

And now, over 40 years since PNG’s Independence, the close relationship with PNG and Australia continues through the individual endeavours, goodwill and generosity of people like Austin and Lavah.

Lavah never forgot her Tolai heritage and Kuanua language and continued to return as regularly as possible for family and celebrations.

Many of us have walked in two worlds – Lavah managed to do that with grace and ease, not only in traditional and contemporary PNG, mainstream Australia, plus the third estate in remote Aboriginal North Australia - Qld, NT and WA.



Lavah's legacy will continue with the memories of her achievements done with humility, her smile and inner sunshine.

Lavah is survived by husband Graham, daughters Marcia and Elva, and her brothers, sisters and extended family living in many PNG locations including Port Moresby, Mount Hagen, Rabaul and Kokopo.

Contributed by Graham Watts with assistance from Mike and Michelle Press

FRIEND, Anthony Patrick (Tony) **D. 15 August 2017** **aged 79**

Sadly, on 15th August 2017 Tony Friend, ex-kiap, passed away quietly in Cairns after a short illness. Tributes continue to pour in, and these can be viewed on the ex-kiap website at: <https://exkiap.net/> under the "Last Patrol" section. Almost forty years of Tony's life was devoted to a committed service in Papua New Guinea and this is reflected in these comments.

Although born in England, Tony, after a brief career in London's business world, opted for a peripatetic existence. He adopted an Odysseus like mantle, working on cruise liners as a purser and residing in both Canada and South Africa. During 1966-1968 he was employed as a shipping manager for Burns Philp in Madang and this experience left an indelible mark on his life. Tony made a career-defining change and returned to New Guinea in December 1971 as an Assistant Patrol Officer, after a three-month stint at ASOPA at

Mossman. Posted to the Eastern Highlands, he moved between Henganofi, Goroka and Obura and completed thirty-two patrols before departing for the West Sepik in late 1975. Having developed a preference for isolated postings (manning the Watabung Base Camp for 12 months and Obura for 18 months), his plea for remote outstations was well received by the hierarchy and he was posted to Imonda and then to Oksapmin.

The West Sepik, Telefomin and Oksapmin in particular, were to be his stamping grounds for the next seventeen years, and it was there that in 1979 he met his future wife, Maria Wronska, a Polish anthropologist and museum curator. Maria returned to PNG two years later to organise a collection for the Museum of Mankind in London. Together they went on a challenging walk from Bimin (near Oksapmin) to Baktaman in the Western Province which proved to be a thorough test of their endurance and characters (according to Tony, it was the toughest walk he had ever accomplished in PNG!). Upon their return, they decided they should spend their life together. The marriage took place at Rulna, outside Mt Hagen, on 1 January 1982.

In 1983 Tony returned to Telefomin where for almost ten years he worked as Project Coordinator for the Telefomin District Development Agreement. This was another challenging job, as each year he oversaw the implementation of up to eighty projects (roads construction, footbridges, airstrips, classrooms, water schemes, etc.) and where radio was the only way of connecting Telefomin with the outside world.

In 1992 Maria and Tony departed PNG for Townsville, where Maria took up a position at James Cook University. And then in 2000 they opted for a shift to the wet tropics of Cairns.

In Australia Tony tried several jobs but none of them matched the excitement of working in Papua New Guinea. In 1995 he returned there and was employed as a Community Officer by mineral companies in various parts of the country. His last posting was at Lassul Bay (New Britain) where he worked for six years (until the end of 2013) as a Site Manager for Nautilus Minerals Niugini Ltd.

Tony was an enthusiastic member of Cairns Tropical Writers and penned a dozen stories that documented interesting aspects of his life in PNG. Upon being told that his condition was terminal, Tony asked Maria to write a book about their lives together; his stories will be the core of this book.

For those of us fortunate enough to have known Tony he was always the erudite gentleman, and a calming voice in times of distress.

Oksapmin was his favourite place and to commemorate Tony's memory, some life-long friends have set up a scholarship for students from the Oksapmin High School.

Vale Tony Friend.



WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

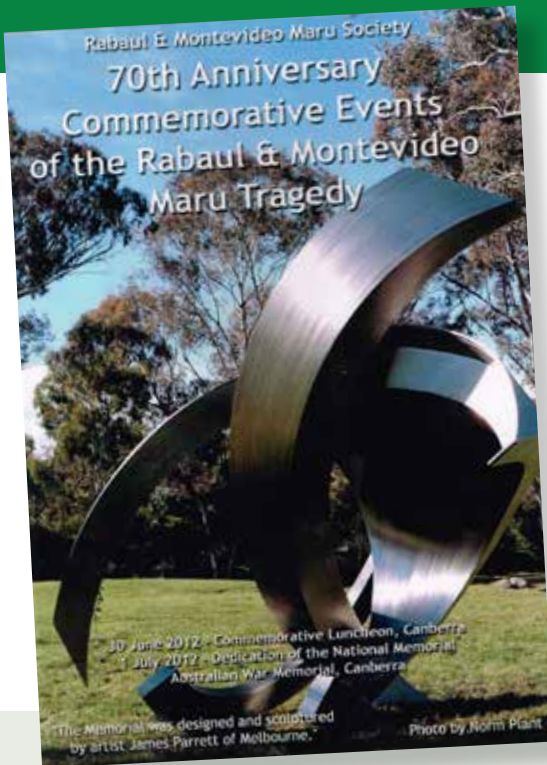
Ms Leanne BARNETT	Unit 704, 26 Pacific Street, NEWCASTLE	NSW	2300
Mr Geoffrey BROWN			
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Mrs Mary LAMBELL			
Mr Harvey MACK			
Mr Robin MACKENZIE-HUNTER	10 Finch Avenue, RYDALMERE	NSW	2116
Mr David OLLEY	PO Box 2108, PORT MORESBY, NCD	PNG	121
Mr John REEVES	46 King Street, TUMBARUMBA	NSW	2653
Mr Patrick SEETO	7 Olga Street, CHATSWOOD	NSW	2067

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Mrs Jean BOND	Unit 24, 32 Bauer Street, SOUTHPORT	QLD	4215
Mr William BRAND	Opal Gracedale, 205 Warrandyte Rd, RINGWOOD NORTH	VIC	3134
Mrs Gay BRUCE	6/2 Manley Street, REDCLIFFE	QLD	4020
Mr Terence COOK	42 Ketch Close, CORLETTE	NSW	2315
Mr Norm ENSOR	2/7 Ashton Close, WARNERS BAY	NSW	2282
Ms Dianne McINNES	10 John Place, NORTH NAROOMA	NSW	2546
Mr John MORRISON	PO Box 909, MADANG	PNG	
Mr Russell WADE	13/9 Nicholson Street, BALMAIN EAST	NSW	2041

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)

70th Anniversary Commemorative Events of the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Tragedy.



Rabaul and Montevideo Maru 70th Anniversary DVD available for \$30 (including postage within Australia) from PNGAA as follows:

By sending a cheque for \$30 to PNGAA, PO Box 453, ROSEVILLE NSW 2069; or Electronically to PNGAA, BSB 062-009; Account 0090-7724. Please notify the deposit to admin@pngaa.net

Rabaul & Montevideo Maru Society
www.memorial.org.au

Remembering those killed in the Japanese invasion of the New Guinea islands, and the 70th Anniversary of Australia's worst maritime tragedy.

On 1 July, 1942 the unmarked Japanese prison ship, Montevideo Maru, was torpedoed by an American suomarine off the Philippines.

All 1,053 servicemen and civilian internees on the ship lost their lives.



Schindler™
ENTERTAINMENT
www.schindler.com.au

Duration:
2 hours 23 minutes

PRO-CAM
Broadcast Hire

TREASURER'S CORNER – December 2017
Payments to – PNGAA, PO Box 453, ROSEVILLE, NSW, 2069

If you would like to:

1. Renew your **Membership** in the PNGAA
2. Attend **2017 Christmas Luncheon in Melbourne or Sydney**
3. Purchase the book *'When the War Came - New Guinea Islands 1942'*
4. Purchase the book *'The Volcano's Wife'*
5. Purchase the *'Kiap – Stories Behind the Medal'* DVD
6. Purchase the *'Walk into Paradise'* DVD
7. Purchase the *'Rabaul and Montevideo Maru 70th Anniversary'* DVD

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

Note that your address label indicates when your membership expires and also provides your membership number.

Membership number (if known) _____

Full name _____

Address _____

_____ Postcode _____

Telephone _____ Mobile _____

E-mail address _____

I would prefer to access a digital Una Voce via the website instead of receiving a hard copy (i.e., Digital Membership)

- * If you have an e-mail address, or have recently changed it, please let us know as it makes communication with members much quicker and more efficient . . . and will facilitate access to the new web site.
- * Members are able convert to "Digital Membership" at a reduced rate and have access to a "digital copy" of the Una Voce instead of receiving a hard copy by post. The "digital" Una Voce will be accessed via our web site via a membership log-on. See membership rates overleaf.

Christmas LUNCHEONS –

I will attend the Sydney / Melbourne (circle relevant one) Luncheon and will have as my guests:

If possible, I would like to be seated with _____

Number of vegetarian meals (if any)

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

RSVP by 11 Nov (Melbourne) / 24 Nov (Sydney)

