



Journal of the  
Papua New Guinea  
Association of  
Australia Inc.

2018, No 1 – March

# Una Voce

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



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The Helpim Wantok Project  
UPDATE



Peter Garrett signs  
copies of book



Kadavar Volcano  
see page 10

# Goroka Convent Class 1959



- |                       |                    |                        |
|-----------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Meg Taylor          | 9 ?                | 17 Dennis Greathead    |
| 2 Vivien Burns        | 10 ?               | 18 Robert Greathead    |
| 3 Daisy Taylor        | 11 Albert Eichorn? | 19 Michael Casey       |
| 4 Joan Mullins (obsc) | 12 Damien Mullins  | 20 Brian Greathead     |
| 5 Danielle Buchanan   | 13 ?               | 21 Lachlan Kent        |
| 6 Pita O'Sullivan     | 14 ?               | 22 ? Donahue           |
| 7 Lita Kent           | 15 ? Donahue       | 23 Stephen Burns       |
| 8 ?                   | 16 ? Buchanan      | 24 Sister Julian (nun) |



Photo supplied by Stephen Burns. If you can fill in the gaps, please send names to [sburns1@outlook.com.au](mailto:sburns1@outlook.com.au)

## 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](http://www.pngaa.net)  
No receipts are sent for subscriptions as it would add to our  
postage costs.

## 2016-2018 PNGAA Office Bearers

### President

Position temporarily vacant

### Secretary

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

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

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

**PNGAA Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/PNGAA/>

If you do not have access to a computer and would like a hard copy  
of anything on the website please contact the Secretary, PNGAA.

## Payments

We encourage members to pay membership fees by direct deposit  
to the PNGAA Account: BSB 062 009 Account No. 0090 7724.  
Please include your membership number.

Please notify Membership Officer by email when you have made  
payment. [membership@pngaa.net](mailto:membership@pngaa.net) Thank you.

## COPY DEADLINE

FRIDAY 13 APRIL for 2018, Issue #2 – June  
All contributions to [editor@pngaa.net](mailto:editor@pngaa.net)

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

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

## Christmas Lunch, Sydney, 2017

As your acting-President, it is my pleasure to welcome all guests and fellow members of the PNG Association of Australia to this 2017 Christmas lunch. Christmas is a time to reflect on the year past before we transition our minds to new year resolutions and how on earth are we going to achieve them. I will reflect in a few moments—there have been many achievements of which we all should be proud.

I feel like a 'penny-farthing in a Harley Davidson used bike shop' (i.e. obsolete) welcoming someone whom everyone in the room knows, at least from a distance. Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare and your companions, you are all most welcome today amongst those of us who have lived and worked in the fascinating country that you fathered and led for so many years. There have been bumps along the road since September '75 and I mention the March

2005 Brisbane airport episode, which led to riots in the streets of Port Moresby. But the nation is stable and continues to grow. Its selection to host APEC in 2018 is a wonderful achievement that will bring media focus on the nation on the macro level and its people on the micro level. I reflect as I can imagine the leader of the free world asking his advisers "Where's this Moresby place we're off to?". Sir Michael it is truly a privilege to have you here with us today—I hope you reconnect with some familiar faces.

Fellow members who don't know me I am Douglas Wood. I have held the role of PNGAA Treasurer for the past three years. **We have a rolling President plan on-going while we search for the elusive next President—please keep looking as our April 2018 AGM is fast approaching!**



My PNG story started in May 1969 when I was selected for the Sydney Grammar rugby tour to Central Province. My wife Sue and I did three appointments with Coopers + Lybrand in Bougainville 75–76 (under the managership of Paul Garrett who is here today) and again in 78–81 as the resident manager. We returned to Lae 85–88. Whilst in Lae I was audit engagement partner for Wau, Bulolo, Madang, and Wewak clients as well as review partner in the Highlands. I did plenty of miles in the audit green four-wheel drive Pajero, and with CoAir and Air Niugini. In 1999 I was privileged to be selected National Olympic Committee Assistant for Papua New Guinea at the Sydney 2000 Games under the direction of Ivan Ravu and I spent an enjoyable month in the Village and at events with the team. So I hope you know me a little more now!

There are many on the Board who invest an incredible amount of their time, energy and computer space on the affairs of the Association. I know it is dangerous to single people out but I am going to do so to acknowledge the commitment they have shown during the year.





Ladies first! Yana Di Pioto, thank you so much for assisting Sara so well in establishing Melbourne-centric social functions. Belinda Macartney, thank you for the production of four excellent *Una Voce* issues annually—not only for the revamped format but also for the excellent content. The transition in the profile of the magazine over the past two years has been incredible and that is a great credit to you. Sara Turner, thank you for your tireless application to functions and events including today, Canberra in July, and the establishment of Melbourne PNGAA. Andrea Williams, thank you for being the glue that continues to hold this Association together and for coordinating the wonderful memorial weekend in Canberra in July.

Moving to the male input there is a chap called Murrough Benson, who has become the cornerstone of the day to day activities of the Association and the Board—his accurate, thorough and diligent approach is a model for all associations and we are fortunate to have him as a member. Paul Munro, notwithstanding his mid-year exit from the Board, I thank him for his continued involvement with

the Headland Park Interpretation Strategy project on the former 10 Terminal Precinct. Our collective aim is to preserve the heritage of the Australian School of Pacific Administration (ASOPA) site. Finally, I would like to thank Roy Ranney for his efficient maintenance of the membership register and the continuing chairmanship of the website sub-committee—a challenging task.

Sadly, I report that the PNGAA President's email was hacked during the year, which resulted in numerous fraudulent email requests for funds transfers, an insurance claim, and much embarrassment to me as Treasurer. I mention this as a warning to all of you to triple check sources before acting on instructions requested in emails—even if they are from someone you know and trust.

As noted earlier I want now to focus on some firsts achieved in 2017. We have helped produce, print, and launch a wonderful memorial in the form of a book *When The War Came*. Only 80 copies remain out of 500 and we are currently costing an extra print run. We are happy to distribute under a commission arrangement a new DVD by Kylie Adams-Collier,

which includes her very moving song *Montevideo Maru 1942*. Thanks to Pamela Virtue we have obtained free of charge 180 copies of an excellent book entitled *The Volcano's Wife — the Great Untold Story*, which recounts her mother Amalia Cowley's experiences in PNG and the tragic 1951 Mount Lamington lateral blast eruption that killed 4,000 Papuans and 30 expats including her husband Cecil and 16 year old son Erl. It is a highly descriptive, moving, and entertaining book, which I recommend.

My other reason for mentioning this book is that it is linked directly to another first for 2017. In association with UTS our Board member Steven Gaugau has secured 150 desks and 300 chairs to be collected, stored, and shipped to UPNG hopefully by end March 2018. We as a Board have committed \$8k to this Helpim Wantok Project (HWP) and have requested specific donations to assist this funding (refer page 45 of Dec 2017 *Una Voce*). We will allocate all the proceeds of the sale of this book, *The Volcano's Wife — the Great Untold Story*, to HWP. I am pleased to report that as off today we have raised approximately \$2,000 including \$200 from Lisa Wilkinson and Peter Fitzsimons.

The remaining firsts I wish to close with are Rugby League-related; an area not influenced by our Association but achievements proudly shared by all our members. I can assure you as a double hip replacement rugby hooker in the 70s, and grade rugby coach in the 90s with Gordon, I was immensely

proud of their achievements as I know of the years of commitment and effort put in by each and every player, their parents, and extended families for them to be on that paddock. There are three teams I want to mention.

1. Firstly, I congratulate the Orchids for their achievement to represent PNG in the Inaugural Women's Rugby League world cup—an historic event indeed.
2. Secondly, as was covered in the December 2017 Una Voce (front cover even), the Hunters came from behind to victory in the Queensland Cup—the league competition that underpins the NRL in Queensland—down 10-0 at half-time. They proved once again that the most useless piece of information in the world is the half-time score!
3. Finally, of course the Kumuls not only for their wonderful three victories over Wales, Ireland, and United States (I hope President Trump gets to watch the YouTube highlights of the 64-0 victory as part of his PNG learning curve in 2018), but also their creditable finals performance against England.

So, to return to our guest of honour, I hope Sir Michael you can take back to every member of the team and coaching staff our congratulations and the sense of the pride that we shared watching them play. The tangible progress of the Kumuls I hope reflects the behind the scenes intangible growth in both a social and economic sense that the whole wonderfully diverse nation is currently achieving.

We are all here today because of our own individual experience, which has resulted in a genuine love of the people of a fascinating ancient community. As the caption read in the 1970s — a land of challenge and opportunity. In a nutshell we all here today accepted the challenge and it gave us the opportunity. I invite you all to be upstanding, raise your glass and join with me to toast the people and nation of Papua New Guinea and at the same time ask God to watch over them all.

To Papua New Guinea. Thank You

## Treasurer's Report

### PAPUA NEW GUINEA ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC. 31 December 2017 Unaudited Concise Financial Report

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
<b>INCOME</b>		
Advertising	520	900
Book/DVD Sales	23,512	2,867
Functions	23,656	8,564
Interest	3,418	4,363
Membership	36,865	38,690
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>87,971</b>	<b>55,384</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Administration	8,926	9,236
Book/DVD costs	18,987	-
Email fraud	6,900	-
Functions	23,902	8,763
Una Voce	37,059	40,750
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>95,774</b>	<b>58,749</b>
(LOSS) for the year	(7,803)	(3,365)
Less: Income tax credit	264	(819)
Operating (loss) for the year	(\$7,539)	(\$4,184)
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	172,689	175,198
Inventories	9,250	9,520
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>181,939</b>	<b>184,718</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Provision for audit/tax	286	1,369
Unearned income - HWP	5,000	-
Subscriptions in advance	32,476	32,593
Trade creditors	1,154	194
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>38,916</b>	<b>34,156</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$143,023</b>	<b>\$150,562</b>
<b>MEMBERS' FUNDS</b>		
General Reserve	27,267	27,267
Historical Preservation Reserve	13,243	13,243
Rabaul & Montevideo Maru Reserve	80,942	79,380
Retained earnings	21,571	30,672
<b>TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS</b>	<b>\$143,023</b>	<b>\$150,562</b>

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 29 APRIL 2018

The 67th Annual General Meeting of the Papua New Guinea Association of Australia, Incorporated, will be held in Sydney on Sunday, 29 April 2018 in the Boronia Room at the Hornsby RSL Club, 4 High Street, Hornsby, NSW commencing at 11:30 am.

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

### AGENDA

1. Members present and apologies.
2. Confirmation of the Minutes of the 66th AGM (included in the September 2017 Una Voce – pages 11 & 12)
3. Business arising from the Minutes
4. President's Report
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Receipt and Adoption of the Audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2017
7. Appointment of Honorary Auditor (Refer Rule 37 of the Constitution). Mr. Phil Williams, offers himself for re-election
8. General discussion

### AGM Luncheon Details

The AGM should not take long and there will be plenty of time for mingling.

Members, their families and friends are all welcome – but please let us know if you wish to come to the luncheon by either:

- completing the booking form and payment details on the yellow 'Treasurer's Corner' insert and returning it by Thursday, 19 April 2018; or
- by direct credit to the PNGAA bank account, including your surname, member number (if known) and the code 'AGM' in the transaction description – and followed up with a confirming email to: [admin@pngaa.net](mailto:admin@pngaa.net) as the full transaction details do not always show up on our bank statement; or
- by credit or debit card via our website [www.pngaa.org](http://www.pngaa.org)

The cost of \$40.00 per person does not include liquor or soft drinks but these will be available from a cash-only bar. Payment needs to be made by Thursday, 19 April 2018 please.

There is free on-site parking available to those driving – entrance via Ashley Street at the rear of the Club. The train station is nearby; public transport information Ph: 13 15 00.

Cancellations advised by Friday, 20 April 2018 will secure a full refund. This is the date we need to inform the Club of final numbers – after this date the Association must pay for those unable to attend.

### The Objects for which the Association is primarily established are:

- a) to strengthen the civil relationship between the peoples of Australia and Papua New Guinea;
  - b) to foster and encourage contact and friendship with Papua New Guineans and promote friendly Association among members;
  - c) to foster and maintain an interest in contemporary and historical events in Papua New Guinea;
  - d) to provide appropriate financial, material or intellectual assistance to projects of benefit to Papua New Guinea as an Association individually or in conjunction with other agencies;
  - e) to publish journals, magazines, newsletters, websites, books and other media to inform and educate people about Papua New Guinea and to provide a means of communication among members of the Association and others;
  - f) to encourage the preservation of documents, historical and cultural material related to Papua New Guinea; including the production and recording of oral and written histories; and
  - g) to safeguard and foster the retirement conditions of superannuated members of the former services in Papua New Guinea.
- In pursuance of these Objects, the Association:
- a) will not be involved in, nor engage in partisan politics; however this does not prohibit the Association from engaging with members of parliament or public servants in pursuit of its objects; and
  - b) may raise funds for its approved projects.

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



## Letters

### Letter from the Editor

A big welcome back to our readers for another year of PNGAA friendships, forums and fundraising!

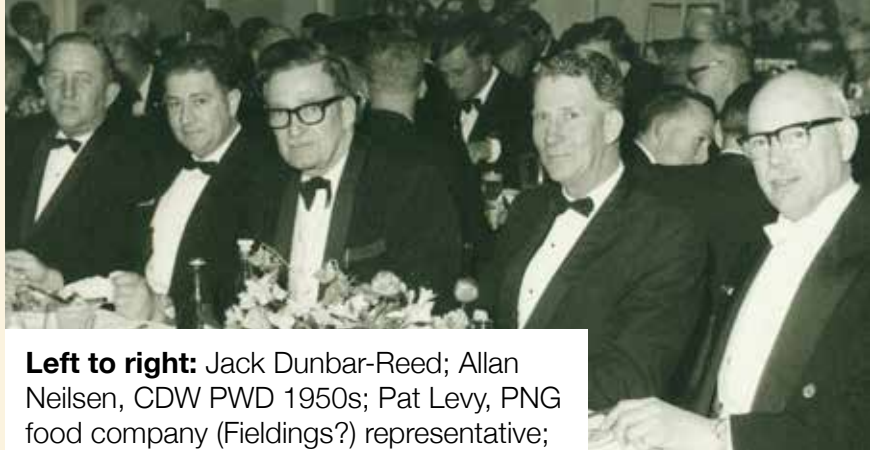
Age-old friendships are reflected in the pages of this issue; some at joy-filled reunions, others warmly recalled *in memoriam*. Forums such as the Presenters' Panel in Sydney and the National History Teachers' Association presentation stand in Canberra will keep the PNG conversation alive with historical and future perspectives, along with representation to the SHFT Headland Park project. The PNGAA / SynWan Helpim Wantok Project—sending chairs and tables to Port Moresby for the university—is well under way with funds still required to get the furniture from the Sydney depot to PNG.

Behind-the-scenes, I am pleased to report that we are in the process of enlisting assistance for the publication of this journal. Thank you to those who have volunteered their skills!

From all members of the PNGAA committee—enjoy this first issue of 2018, be inspired to get involved, and have a safe 2018!

**Belinda Macartney**

### Memories



**Left to right:** Jack Dunbar-Reed; Allan Neilsen, CDW PWD 1950s; Pat Levy, PNG food company (Fieldings?) representative; Jack Read, former coast watcher; Staff Browne, Architect CDW Rabaul 1960s. Photograph from 1974 gathering.

Sister Leonore Ludwig photographed in Lae, 1959. Samurai, Wau, Lae, Sohano. We met and were married in Sydney 11/11/61. Unfortunately, she contracted pancreatic cancer and left us 28/10/2011. Sadly, missed by our two daughters and two grand-children. Photograph Lae, 1959



Photos: Allan Neilsen

*U.V. Thank you for sharing the memories Allan!*

Dear Editor,

Thoroughly enjoying the new style of Una Voce and the quality of the features. I hope I'm not being too pedantic, but I'm confused about the 75th anniversary logo on the front page and the words "75 years since the start of the Pacific War". The entire British Empire (including New Guinea and Papua) went to war on the 1st September, 1939. The USA entered the war on the 7th December, 1941. Neither of the dates are 75 years ago, so I am wondering why 1942 has been selected by Una Voce as the start date of the war. Sorry to be pedantic! Maybe I've missed something?

**Kind regards, Martin**

**U.V.**

*Thank you for your keen interest in, and compliments for Una Voce. The PNGAA focusses on the Australian/PNG relationship and, in January 1942, Rabaul was Australia's front line in the Pacific war. The badging last year also acknowledged the Coral Sea Battle, Milne Bay and Kokoda too – all in 1942 and all significant in repelling Australia's direct enemy at that time.*



**By John McManus**

I was very fortunate to recently receive copies of Una Voce from a friend in Hobart. Whilst browsing through the journals, the memories jumped out of the pages as personalities from time spent in Port Moresby and around Rabaul were featured in particular articles. These are some of my recovered memories!

The item by Pam Miller (UV June 2017) was a great start, as I commenced with the Department of Agriculture in June 1967, where I met her mother Marjorie. Marjorie was a wonderful personality, she gave me my first cooking lesson - how to boil potatoes. I also recall being at the Ela Beach RSL dances on Saturday evenings where Pam and her sister Diane frequented.

I played Aussie Rules for Port Moresby, also cricket, and was fortunate enough to experience for the first time the thrill of scuba diving in a tropical environment. Not much of that in Melbourne. I transferred to Vudal Agricultural College, via Rabaul, during 1969. The Principal at that time was Sid Saville, a great mentor for a young man.

My wife and I were married in Rabaul in June 1970. Prior to the 'big day' we had to attend a session with the then Irish Parish priest, Father Hayes; he recorded that I was from Australia and Dianne was from Tasmania! I have noted that there are currently members of Una Voce who were at our wedding, and also our memorable reception at the Kulau Lodge.

We were very much part of the recollections of the next Principal of Vudal, Gordon Dick, where he recalled the tensions that surfaced during the Mataungan Uprising (UV Sept 2017) It was at the height of the confrontation that Dianne had to get from the College to Rabaul for a dental appointment; this was difficult as the protesters, equipped with bush knives etc. had set up a road block and she was advised that no one was getting through. Obviously not daunted by the situation, and perhaps influenced by the tooth ache, she convinced the leaders to make an exception, which resulted in a senior Mataungan offering a compromise and driving her into Rabaul. Pretty scary for someone not long out of Hobart.

Our social life during those times was wonderful. The Keravat Golf Club was the hub, where local teachers, planters, Ag. Industry officers etc. would gather. Andrea Williams' family, the Cootes, were prominent members of the community. The Coote family were part of a wonderful social life whilst my wife, Dianne, and I worked at Vudal Agricultural College during the late 60s early 70s. I recall going to Dion Coote's plantation, also lots of golf and fishing. He and Pat were great fun. Phillipa also spent some time at Vudal, and was at our wedding in June 1970, followed by a memorable reception at the Kulau Lodge!

Dianne and I left prior to Independence, and my only regret, with regards to those days, is that I did not give enough appreciation to the terrible sacrifices experienced by civilian and military personnel, following the Japanese occupation of Rabaul during January 1942.

John and Dianne McManus now live in Hobart.

**CORRECTION**

2017, No. 4 – December. P37. Correct spelling is KAINANTU.

## ▶ What's on?

NOTE: What's On events are listed here state-by-state for easy reference. Of course, members are welcome to attend any event organised by PNGAA.

### ACT – CANBERRA

The HTAA National Conference will be held in Canberra from Tuesday 2 October to Thursday 4 October 2018. Please encourage your secondary school history teachers to attend and to look out for a PNGAA/Rabaul and Montevideo Maru stand!

Information about the 2018 HTAA National Conference is at [www.historyconference.org.au](http://www.historyconference.org.au)

### NSW – SYDNEY

#### PNGAA AGM

**WHEN:** Sunday 29th April, 2018

**WHERE:** Hornsby RSL, Boronia Room, 4 High Street, HORNSBY 2077

**PUBLIC TRANSPORT:** (across the road from Hornsby Railway Station, which has a lift)

**COST:** \$40pp

(please advise of any dietary requirements when you are booking prior to the event)

**TIME:** Registration 11:00 a.m.

**PARKING:** Plenty of parking behind the main building & there is disabled access

**RSVP:** Thursday, 19 April 2018

**CONTACT:** Sara Turner  
M: 0401 138 246

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

**PAYMENT:** to Bank CBA: BSB 062009; ACCOUNT NO. 00907724 Please notify [admin@pngaa.net](mailto:admin@pngaa.net) When payment is made.

#### PANEL PRESENTATION TALES OF PNG; THE EXPERIENCES OF THREE WOMEN

**PRESENTERS:** Pat Johnson - How WW2 and the release of detainees from Ramale POW camp near Rabaul, impacted on a child of the times. Amanda Warhurst will be interviewed about her life on Newmasawa and Rabaul, by Juli Ross-Allcorn

**WHEN:** Sunday 27th May, 2018

**WHERE:** Roseville RSL Club, Pacific Room, 64 Pacific Hwy, ROSEVILLE.

**TIME:** Registration 11:00 a.m.

**COST:** \$15.00pp

LUNCH IS AVAILABLE WITH MAINS PRICED

FROM \$15-\$25 Approximately (please advise of any dietary requirements when booking prior to the event)

**PARKING:** Plenty of parking behind the main building with disability access

**RSVP:** Tuesday, 22nd May, 2018

**CONTACT:** Sara Turner  
M: 0401 138 246

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

**PAYMENT:** to Bank CBA: BSB 062009; ACCOUNT NO. 00907724 Please notify [admin@pngaa.net](mailto:admin@pngaa.net) when payment is made.

### QLD – CAIRNS

#### EX-KIAPS FAMILIES AND FRIENDS REUNION

**DATE:** Friday 13 July 2018

**TIME:** 2pm to 9pm

**PLACE:** Pool Side Bar at Cairns Colonial Club, Cairns

**COST:** \$10 per person to cover cost of finger food.

**Contact:** Deryck Thompson – 0428 207 558

#### ACCOMMODATION:

Book directly with Cairns Colonial Club and mention Ex-Kiaps Families and Friends Reunion. Book early as July is peak season in Cairns.

**Accom. contact:** Phone (07) 4053 8800 or [info@cairnscolonialclub.com.au](mailto:info@cairnscolonialclub.com.au).

### VIC – MELBOURNE

#### March PNGAA VIC Lunch - meet for lunch & support Helpim Wantok Project

**WHEN:** Saturday 24 March 2018

**VENUE:** Caulfield RSL, 4 St Georges Rd, Elsternwick, VIC

**TIME:** 12 Noon

**Meal:** Attendees to purchase their own meal from menu on the day. Approx. cost meals \$19-\$30. Senior meals available. RSL members can purchase drinks at member's prices. Bar tab available.

**COST:** \$10 to PNGAA - contribution to Bar staff on the day & raffle entry. All other remaining proceeds, excluding

some PNGAA product sales will go towards Helpim Wantok Project.

**Payment:** \$10 to PNGAA - please pay on Saturday 24 March 2018 upon arrival. Cash only.

**BOOKING:** To book for this event please contact Yana - yanadipietro@gmail.com or PH: 0425771359.

RSVP: Friday 16 March 2018.

**TRANSPORT:** Sandringham Line - Elsternwick Station approx 5-10mins walk to RSL. Tram 67 along Glenhuntley Rd. Parking: Parking at rear of RSL - easy access to dining area. Accessibility: Great accessibility to entrance of RSL & dining area as well as parking area.

**CONTACT:** Yana - yanadipietro@gmail.com for

information. PH: 0425771359. Look out for our Tok Save bulletin, Facebook & Website for updates and information on all our events!

### July PNGAA VIC Lunch - meet for lunch & support Helpim Wantok Project.

**WHEN:** 28 July 2018

**VENUE:** Waverley RSL, 161 Coleman Rd, Glen Waverley, VIC

**TME:** 12 Noon

**CONTACT:** Yana - yanadipietro@gmail.com for information. PH: 0425771359. Look out for our Tok Save bulletin, Facebook & Website for updates and information on all our events. Details of event TBA in #2Una Voce 2018

### PNGAA VIC Christmas Lunch - meet for lunch & support Helpim Wantok Project

**WHEN:** Saturday 17 November 2018

**CONTACT:** Yana - yanadipietro@gmail.com PH: 0425771359. Look out for our Tok Save bulletin, Facebook & Website for updates and information on all our events! Details of event TBA in #3 Una Voce for 2018.

Call out to PNGAA VIC Members: If anyone wishes to donate items for our Helpim Wantok Project raffles please contact Yana - yanadipietro@gmail.com OR phone 0425 771359. Help us in the support of this worthy cause in 2018!

## ADFA's first PNG officer graduate Mark Rakatani

### PNG IN THE NEWS

**Source:** The Australian (article by Ian McPhedran, 14 Dec 17)

In December 2017, Mark Rakatani became the first PNG officer graduate of the Australian Defence Force Academy (ADFA) in Canberra. His father, Colonel John Rakatani of the PNG Defence Force watched on at the graduation ceremony.

Mark is a keen sportsman and dedicated Melbourne Storm and Queensland Reds fan. He played rugby league and rugby union for the Academy. He said the thing he missed most about home was the food, especially his favourite dish, "mumu", pig cooked on hot stones under the ground.

He will stay on at Royal Military College at Duntroon to study infantry warfare. "We are the best jungle war fighters, but we need to be more integrated into modern-day warfare," Mark said.

Mark has been inspired by his great grandfather, Sergeant Major Katue MM, whose heroic efforts are memorialised by a portrait by war artist William Dargie, which is held in the Australian War Memorial. As a member of the then Australian Army's Papuan Infantry Battalion (PIB), Katue was already in action against the Japanese before the Australian 39th Battalion arrived at the front.



*Officer Cadet Mark Rakatani with a portrait of his great grandfather Sergeant Major Katue MM at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra. (Photo: by Gary Ramage)*

A volcano on Kadovar island, located close to the mouth of Sepik River, began erupting around noon on January 5, 2018.



While it was believed to be dormant, a possible eruption was witnessed by early explorers in 1700. The volcano was quiet until 1976 when a short period of heightened thermal activity occurred and then, in 2015, there was a burst of “seismic unrest”. In 2018, the dormant volcano spewed lava for the first time in known history and sent an ash cloud 2.1 kilometres above sea level.

There were concerns that Biem Island, just 12kms west of Kadovar Island would also erupt. Seven hundred people were evacuated from Kadovar and three thousand people were evacuated from nearby Biem Island.

The Rabaul Observatory, which is PNG’s national body for monitoring volcanos, sent a team to Kadovar and Ruprup islands for an official seismic observation.

Photo: Rabaul Volcanic Observatory

## Committee Round-up

# Helpim Wantok Project - UPDATE



By: **Steven Gagau**, PNGAA committee member and President SydWan

“Helpim Wantok” is a project undertaken by the Papua New Guinea Association of Australia (PNGAA) and Sydney Wantok Association (SydWan), the Sydney based PNG Community. It’s a tribute to a good working relationship across the PNG community in Australia. Behind the scenes, committee members from both organisations have worked tirelessly in negotiations and fundraising to get to this point.

Early in the morning on 9th of February, volunteers from the PNGAA and SydWan mobilised to collect 320 chairs and 160 tables, which had been donated by the University of technology Sydney (UTS). The SydWan hired a large truck and

provided volunteer labour to assist removalists load furniture for transfer from the UTS Ultimo campus to a container depot in suburban Sydney. There was so much furniture that two trips were required! From safe storage in the depot, furniture will soon be packed into a shipping container bound for Port Moresby where the University of PNG is eagerly awaiting its arrival.

Watch this space for a full report in the June 2018 issue of Una Voce. Support to date has been greatly appreciated and includes: donations, the results of the Christmas lunch Silent Auction/Raffles, proceeds of sale from the book *The Volcano’s Wife: The Great Untold Story* by Amalia

Cowley and Pamela Virtue, and both financial and in kind assistance from the Sydney Wantok Association.

Further support is still needed and your donations are appreciated. Please refer to the Treasurer’s Corner for ways to donate.



# The fallout from Vatican II in PNG

By **David Wetherell**

My stint as a teacher in various PNG government schools ranged over the Central, Western and Northern (Oro) districts, a seven-year experience that coincided with the Second Vatican Council (1962-5) and its aftermath.

Pope John XXIII, who called the Council, wanted to heal divisions within Christianity. He also wanted to renew Catholic spirituality and alter the Roman Church's reactionary attitude to the world. As the Council opened Pope John XXIII declared that a change of terminology would occur towards non-Catholics. At the time of this announcement I was a PNG cadet education officer in my second year at a university in country NSW. My history lecturer, Mr James Dolan, a devout Catholic, entered the classroom and said in his broad Scottish accent, "I see from this morning's paper, Mr Wetherell, that henceforth we are to describe you as 'separated brethren' ". With a wink in my direction he added, "it was much more satisfying to call you Protestants 'bloody heretics' ".

Four years later I was on the way to my first full-time teaching appointment. As elsewhere in the world, the response among Catholics in PNG to the decisions of Vatican II, especially among the clergy, was mixed—varying all the way from 'affirming' through 'accommodating' to 'resisting'. But Vatican II appeared, to an outsider at least, to cause scarcely a ripple among most of the Territory's hard-working clergy.

The best-known advocate of the 'affirming' school of thought in Port Moresby was Fr Patrick Murphy who was often seen on his motorbike at de Boismenu Seminary and the University. For others who resisted around the world it had the effect of an axe splitting a piece of wood. The school of resistance included the ultra-traditional or Latin Mass ultramontane [meaning: advocating supreme papal authority] Catholics headed by French Archbishop Lefebvre, who was later excommunicated.

My first government high school posting in Papua was on Daru in the far west. Here the Bishop was uncompromising and ultramontane. As nearly everyone knows, in 1890 the coastal areas of Papua were divided geographically into church 'spheres of influence'. Daru, a small but quite densely populated island, was within the allotted sphere of the London Missionary Society (LMS, later Papua Ekalesia, and eventually, United Church). The Daru High School students and expatriate staff, notably the three teachers who were Welsh, were associated with the James Chalmers Memorial Church (LMS). This church wasn't my 'cup of tea'. ('Chalmers Memorial' because the Daru-based James Chalmers of the LMS had been killed in 1901.

His remains were believed to lie in a grave not far from the High School.) Roman Catholics were relative newcomers. The Anglicans were unrepresented and unknown: their church had been allotted the distant north Papuan coast about 700 kilometres away.

What to do with a Protestant like me—who wanted to belong somewhere on Daru but couldn't—was a particular problem for the Most Reverend Gerard Deschamps, head of the Montfort Catholic Mission as Bishop of Daru. I had friends on the mission; near my house was the Montfort Catholic convent staffed by half a dozen French Canadian teaching nuns. I applied on compassionate grounds to be considered a Catholic, a concession which was at first denied. However, after delaying for a few months, Bishop Deschamps altered his position and allowed me to join the faithful at Mass.

Teaching alongside the nuns in the Montfort Mission was an Australian layman, the late Mr (later Fr) Timothy N. Brien. A witty controversialist and bon viveur, Tim Brien was strongly on the 'affirming' side of Vatican II like Fr Murphy. This brought him into collision with his Bishop. As the number of mixed marriages increased on Daru,

what determined Deschamps' policy was the pre-World War I *Ne Temere* decree. That is, if a marriage were solemnised in a Catholic church, the non-Catholic partner had to promise to bring up the children as Roman Catholics. It was a hard policy, for if the mixed parents of the children had married in a Protestant chapel, the children were held not to be legitimate in the eyes of the Church. Each held his ground, and an indignant letter from Tim Brien was freely circulated on the island. The Bishop duly issued a document known as *convalidatio* declaring such children to be legitimate after all, which in its turn led to the kind of fiery communication that only an age of controversy could produce.

Following the welcome hospitality given to me at the altar in 1966 the pendulum swung in the opposite direction; it was a case of 'No-Yes-No'. This followed a complaint from a leading conservative lay Catholic in the education department on Daru who took exception to such a wanton departure from tradition. To admit a Protestant to the altar was, in his opinion, an example not to have been thought possible even in those lax post-Vatican II days. So I

remained out of communion until my second posting in 1968 to the High School at Popondetta. As far as I was concerned personally Gerard Deschamps was hospitality itself. I was invited to consider Bishop's House my home while he was on his patrols. His diocese stretched as far inland as Kiunga in the upper Fly River so he was often away. On some week ends I walked from my tiny government-built Single Officer's Quarters (SOQ) to the Catholic compound. The spacious domestic quarters of the mission head could not have belonged to anyone but a bishop, stocked as it was with mitres and other paraphernalia belonging to the episcopal office.

In spite of his intransigence in church matters, Bishop Deschamps wrote cordial letters to me after my departure. One described in detail the splendid pomp and ceremony at the consecration of his new cathedral. Thus the odium theologium between us was politely buried.

I sometimes wonder whether, devoid of such intellectual stimulation, aesthetic richness and, yes, occasional controversy, life in the secular

world outside the churches in Daru (or in Australia for that matter), is arid—lacking pepper and salt. It seems to have little sense of 'the beyond'. In spite of all the surfing, long-distance running, tennis and football, something is missing.

A final anecdote is worth relating. It involved either Deschamps or the French aristocrat Alain de Boismenu, Bishop of Yule Island—I forget which, but it didn't flow directly from Vatican II. One twilight night the Bishop, whichever it was, was hearing confessions. Not realising in the darkening church that the woman on the other side of the screen was in fact a teaching nun rather than one of the mothers on the mission, he asked how many sins she wanted to confess. Said she, 'Only one. I confess, Father, that I lost my temper with the children'. Parrying for a moment, he responded, 'How many children do you have?' 'Thirty-two', she replied. 'Oh, go away, my good woman', he said, 'and come back when you are sober'.

\*Francis West's *Selected Letters of Hubert Murray* (1970) doesn't include the incident and the writer is unable to supply a source.



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# A daughter's tribute

by **Andrea Williams**

## **Margaret McCausland COOTE, nee Hamilton**

(14 March 1925 – 7 January 2018, aged 92 years)

Margaret was born in the family home at Mascot to Edna and Robert (Bob) Hamilton, spending her early years there and also at Haberfield. By the time Margaret was 11 years old, the family moved to what remains the family home in Taylors Bay, Mosman. After completing the Intermediate, Margaret left school and went to secretarial college, eventually joining Burns Philp & Co. where she met Peter Coote. Margaret also joined the Women's Volunteer Naval Reserve where she learned seamanship, and this became useful throughout her life. In May 1942 three Japanese midget submarines entered Sydney Harbour and one of these, M-22, was later found in Taylors Bay. The depth charging of the midget submarine was something Margaret recalled vividly all her life, after watching this action from the verandah at home, approximately 300m away.

In May 1947 and again in February 1948 Margaret featured on the cover of the Australian Women's Weekly with her portrait painted by a neighbour, the British WWI artist, Arthur Boothroyd, who titled the first painting 'The Girl Next Door'. Boothroyd went on to win multiple Walkley Illustration Awards for his work with the Australian Women's Weekly. In 1948, aged 23, Margaret travelled to the UK and Europe where she travelled for 18 months and became proficient in French and Norwegian.

After returning to Sydney Margaret bumped into Peter

Coote who was on leave from Langu Plantation, in the remote Witu Islands, PNG - about 320 kilometres from Rabaul. They married in 1954 and Margaret went to live on Langu Plantation, a copra and cocoa plantation. A generator eventually ran some electricity and food was sourced locally rather than depending on the shipping schedule, which could be months apart. They took 200 Saanen goats out with them to assist the meat supply. A pinnacle, the MV Langu, was purchased enabling visits to nearby plantations in between its work recruiting labour and carrying trade copra. Peter, with assistance from Margaret, had

the responsibility of the welfare of 140 plantation labour as well as local villagers. Margaret's father, an architect, assisted with the building of new homes at both Langu and, later, overlooking Simpson Harbour, Rabaul. The home in Rabaul was one of the few that survived the 1994 volcanic eruption there. Daughters Andrea and Victoria were born during the Langu years and Robert was born after moving to Rabaul.

The Rabaul years provided the family with a wonderful life – an extended family with many good friends and competent and respected



PNG house staff, particularly Jerry (Robe) and Yama, ensured stability and happy memories. Peter founded Elvee Trading Company Pty Ltd, an agricultural supply store, whilst overseeing Langu from Rabaul. Margaret's interest in sewing and fashion contributed to Elvee Trading Pty Ltd becoming the PNG representative of the beautiful Swiss Bernina sewing machines. Margaret enjoyed tennis with friends in the early years and both Margaret and Peter's interest in their garden ensured it was filled with many colourful varieties of hibiscus, ixora, bougainvillea, frangipani, crotons, cannas and orchids, along with a row of candle trees and a green-house filled with violets. A day sailer was purchased from England and named Muntreste, and many weekends were spent sailing on Simpson Harbour. Margaret and Peter eventually 'went finish' from Rabaul in 1985. They moved between Mosman and a small farm at Rosebank in northern NSW which grew limes, avocados, custard apples, macadamias and coffee.

Margaret always had a great sense of adventure. She retained a sharp memory and was astute in many areas. She was genteel, courteous, faced challenges confidently and rose to any occasion. Margaret had a positive, happy outlook and loved her family. Margaret is survived by Andrea, Victoria and Robert and her grandchildren – Katie, Leilani, Chris, Narelle (step-granddaughter) and Rebekah.

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# HISTORY OF *UNA VOCE*

Una voce: LATIN u-na vo-ce adv. With one voice; unanimously.

*Una Voce* is the membership journal of the Papua New Guinea Association of Australia (PNGAA). The PNGAA was previously known as the Retired Officers' Association of Papua New Guinea, being formally constituted in 1951.

The Association owed its genesis to the concerns of retired officers who had served in the Public Service of Papua (then an Australian possession) and New Guinea (then a Mandated Territory under the League of Nations) prior to the outbreak of World War II, in the Provisional Administration of Papua New Guinea immediately after World War II or in the combined Public Service of Papua and New Guinea. Their concerns

related to the maintenance of superannuation entitlements and retirement benefits affecting both themselves and their dependants.

*Una Voce*, a quarterly journal, started from humble beginnings in 1978 as a black and white one-page newsletter. It has evolved over time into a full-colour, 56-page journal—including archival and contemporary photographs—informing and educating people about PNG from an historical and current perspective.

Many members have contributed to the journal over the decades telling their stories of life in PNG. The *Una Voce* Archives hold a rich history of the PNG-Australian connection through stories of WW1 and WWII (incorporating the Rabaul and

Montevideo Maru Society's Memorial News), of expatriates living and working and raising families, of friendships, coffee plantations, exploration through the PNG wilderness, the Kiaps, the Missionaries, Independence and the life-long love of a country and its people that has remained in the hearts of many members.

Today *Una Voce* is also a platform for promoting PNG-Australian collaborations and charitable activities in education, health, and tourism as well as many relevant publications. It can also be read online with links to further stories and associated organisations.

Membership of PNGAA entitles members to four printed publications per year and online access. JOIN NOW at [membership@pngaa.net](mailto:membership@pngaa.net)





## Meet the Emerging Leaders: SEBASTIAN DE BRENNAN

14 June 2017 | By **Harriet Smith**

In a new series, The Aus-PNG Network is profiling past participants of the annual Emerging Leaders Dialogue. Sebastian De Brennan is a Barrister with family ties to Papua New Guinea. He is currently working between Adelaide, Sydney and Darwin.

### **Tell us about yourself and your career.**

After approximately 10 years working as solicitor, I recently qualified as a Barrister. I currently work between Adelaide, Sydney and Darwin. Prior to becoming a barrister I ran a boutique law firm in Sydney specialising in criminal, employment, coronial, human rights and migration law. I have also taught at the University level and have served on the Human Rights Committee and the Criminal Law Committee of the Law Society of NSW.

### **What brought you to connect with Papua New Guinea through the Emerging Leaders Dialogue?**

My grandfather was posted to the Department of Public Health in the Territory of Papua New Guinea (as it then was). During this posting my mother was born in Goroka and lived in PNG until her teenage years when my grandparents returned to Australia.

At my high school, St Gregory's College Campbelltown, a number of my school mates hailed from PNG. They were passionate about sport of any kind but particularly their 'national sport' of rugby league. Rugby league was played with fervour at St Gregory's and

many of the PNG players were the best of the best. Since graduating from high school I have visited PNG, joined the Papua New Guinea Association of Australia, assisted the Kokoda Track Foundation as a volunteer, walked the Kokoda Trail and kept a keen eye on all things PNG.

The opportunity to walk the Kokoda Trail with the Honourable Charlie Lynn OL was a particularly formative experience for me. Charlie taught me much about the Kokoda legacy and the brave deeds of Australian veterans and the 'fuzzy wuzzy angels' during World War II.

### **In your view, why are people-to-people connections important for the Australia – Papua New Guinea relationship?**

PNG is Australia's closest neighbour. We have an important shared history: geographically, militarily and economically. Commentators have spoken about a widening empathetic gap between the two countries. Forums such as the Emerging Leaders Dialogue are critical to reversing that development. People-to-people connections allow you to build relationships, challenge existing ways of doing things, forge common ground, and to think less superficially about the Australia-PNG relationship.

### **What is your advice to young Australians who want to learn more about our nearest neighbour?**

Get over there! The 'Land of the Unknown' needs to become the Land of the Known.

### **Do you think there is awareness and engagement with Papua New Guinea in your field, and do you see this changing?**

My understanding is that there has been a strong history of collaboration between Australia and PNG on important issues relating to law and law reform. I am aware, for example, of the 'Papua New Guinea Australia Law and Justice Partnership' which was a six-year AU\$116 million program funded by the Australian Government to strengthen law and justice agencies in PNG. As with any collaboration I think there were some real successes but also real areas for improvement.

### **What does the future hold for you?**

I am aware of other Australian lawyers that work on cases from time to time in PNG and, if the opportunity arose, would love to do the same. PNG and Australia share a rich relationship and yet the disparities between our two countries – in term of poverty and wealth – could not be more pronounced. I would like to work with fellow Australians and Papua New Guineans on closing that gap for the benefit of both nations.

### **CONTACT US**

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**LOWY INSTITUTE**

# KAIRUKU VILLAGE

By **Graham Hardy**

Chris Warrillow's letter in *Una Voce* (2017, No. 3 – September) regarding Kairuku village in the Upper Purari got me thinking of a series of events that I recalled 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 then to a 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 the 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 down-river. 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 had 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 down-river and arrived at the Pio after a couple of days. There they met a local man who informed them that he was the government ferryman 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 ferryman 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.

## WEBSITE WALKABOUT

### **Q: Are you having trouble accessing Una Voce via the website?**

**A:** I suspect that there are some Digital Members who still think that they will receive UV via e-mail. Digital Members must log in to access their Una Voce via the web site! The website can be troublesome sometimes for members who are not fully computer literate. I have assisted a number of people by setting their passwords for them . . . but there are many members who have still not logged in. Out of about 900 members with an e-mail address, only 310 have logged in to date.

For assistance please email [membership@pngaa.net](mailto:membership@pngaa.net)

Membership Officer

**Roy Ranney**

# CULT

By **Maurice Meth** (submitted by his wife, Mrs Elizabeth Meth)

PNG Trade Winds blew East West East and trade in sea cargo followed the same way in expansion through plantations and their trading stations or ports.

## ECONOMIC HISTORY AND INFRASTRUCTURE

### Preamble

This preamble is provided as a broad overview of the evolving trading patterns; the traders and shipping services, and the Hooligans (and shenanigans) that were the legends of commerce PNG-style.

It is fascinating to see global events being replayed via PNG events, for example, the First World War and its impact on PNG. By 1914 the PNG economy had developed commercial infrastructure of global interest through plantations operated by offshore trading groups like Burns Philp, WR Carpenter and German groups on the North Coast Mainland and Islands. Gold mining had also played a part around the Sepik and Milne Bay followed by the larger discoveries around Bulolo and Wau. All contributed infrastructure with local roads and small shipping routes to connect emerging coastal hubs.

Ports evolved at these hubs to suit available shipping connecting traders and suppliers. We soon had Port Moresby, Samarai, Rabaul, and Lae established as international ports. Samarai fell away as a freshwater port for vessels enroute to Asia as vessels became larger and more independent.

Rabaul, Lae, and Port Moresby however established permanent ports to meet their own demands as government centres. The First World War and the outcomes saw the copra giants expand rapidly through acquisitions and reparations covering countries across the Pacific, particularly the interests of Burns Philp and WR Carpenter through their trading interests and plantations. WRC (would rob Christ) and BP (bloody pirates) competed heavily for shipping space however commercial realities often resulted in shared chartered vessels to meet European delivery schedules.

PNG benefited as global markets needed supply from across the Pacific to make trading in copra viable at that stage. Dominant importers at that stage where England, Germany, West Coast USA and Sydney, Australia. Copra quickly became a global food and fuel source turning global traders into major companies. Both BP and WRC invested heavily in PNG plantations to add to their Pacific volumes, and ability to dominate shipping markets.

Trading stations developed across all these markets including a large healthy Chinese sector complementing and competing with BP and WRC. PNG followed rapidly with the government administration encouraging settlers and PNG nationals to focus on cash crops such as cocoa, coffee, tea and others where the economy could evolve a cash base, including both small and large traders.

It has always been fascinating that the era of self-government, independence and the hugely

important first decade of independent PNG had a rapidly growing private sector with expanding worldwide trades and shipping. The traders and shippers with great commercial discipline and flair created these platforms. It has been more fascinating being involved with the day-to-day operations of the Hooligans (and their shenanigans) through this growth without 'big Government'. What follows are tales—and some lies to protect the innocent or nearly innocent—during this time.

## SHIPPING AND TRADING SHENANIGANS 1974 TO 1984

### Coffee and Ramadan

PNG's largest shipping agency at Lae during this period serviced large volumes of coffee and tea to Europe after loading other cash crops cocoa, copra and copra meal, palm oil and coconut oil via a multi-purpose, monthly loading service covering mainly Kieta, Rabaul and Kimbe en route to Lae. A separate import service from Europe positioned vessels for the loading service. The main carrier was the Bank Line through this phase and they relied heavily on agents to centralise cargo and stevedoring to meet monthly



commodity contracts to avoid penalties.

Ramadan, the Muslim month of fasting rarely intervened through the then Pakistani, Bangladeshi or Hindi crews; however critically a vessel approaching to berth on the last day of the commodity month cannot divert and delay if there is a food problem. We (the agents) were advised late on the day before berthing that all Ramadan supplies of halal meat killed had to be jettisoned on that day after freezer compartment breakdowns.

The 'Brains Trust', 'Master', 'Mate', 'Chief Steward' and 'Local Agent' decided we needed 50 live chickens to be slaughtered Halal-style, enroute from Lae to Singapore, by crew who were amenable after appropriate fees negotiated. Unfortunately Lae at that time only had one small chicken farm operated by one 'Buster', an ex-Ansett employee who had 'inherited' a box of day old chicks to develop his enterprise. The agent's request was met with "no deliveries" and "if you want 50 chickens send your own labour and transport". Without options, we agreed to a very messy task as all chooks were in two closed basketball courts in classic free-range configuration. Local talent within my office was limited however we were able through our stevedores to secure a truck with one x 40ft trailer and two x 20ft ships' containers with doors lashed open and cargo netting across doors.

Earlier that day I had sent my most talented agent 'Henry the

Sepik' with best communication skills to the airport to meet and transport a ships' engineer joining the vessel. There was no sign of either until a hot, cranky engineer arrived at the office having navigated his way via a couple of PMV's to the offices. I quickly transported engineer to an air conditioned hotel nearby and hopefully mollified him with a few ales.

Henry had since returned to the office with no explanation as to the missing engineer and a loud stage whisper... "savvy Boss they all look the same after a while". As an apology was not forthcoming, I had an immediate solution to the transport management problem of 50 chickens to the vessel the next day after berthing; I omitted to mention the labour and tallying problem, however a dawn start was arranged with transport. The next morning was a glorious dry day and the first panic-stricken call from Henry was met with the response from Buster as he wandered off to the RSL... "it does not matter they all look the same only the count of 50 is important".

Finally at 1600hrs the truck and chooks arrived with our normally immaculate Henry covered in bird shit and feathers enroute the wharf to deliver chooks for direct loading to the after-hatch. I could not resist the comment "You have done well Henry...they all look the same!!!"

TO BE CONTINUED

# ACCPN Update

Ms Kerry Smith  
Marketing and Visitor Experience Manager  
Sydney Harbour Federation Trust  
Po Box 607  
Mosman NSW 2088  
E: kerry.smith@harbourtrust.gov.au



15 October 2017

Dear Ms Smith

**RE: SHFT Headland Park, Mosman, Interpretation Strategy, September 2017**

Thank you for the opportunity to study the draft interpretation strategy and provide comments.

We view the draft strategy as a less than thorough treatment of the topic and are frankly astonished that, despite consultative meetings, submissions and assistance provided to the SHFT by the Papua New Guinea Association of Australia Inc (PNGAA) over many years, that the pivotal civilian role of the Australian School of Pacific Administration (ASOPA) in the world wide decolonisation process following world war two appears to have been overlooked or marginalised.

The draft strategy is plainly not a detailed plan of interpretation but if the report becomes regarded as a definitive antecedent source document in its present form then the stakeholder interest of the PNGAA is somewhat diminished. Corrections are required for mistakes and to properly reflect the cultural and historical position of ASOPA, even if ASOPA's contribution is subsequently assessed to be not one of interest or entertainment value to the casual visitor.

The purpose of the interpretation strategy is to guide the SHFT in planning interpretation that conserves and respects the natural and cultural significance of the park. The interpretation of ASOPA's contribution to the park can hardly be given fair consideration when it appears not to be adequately acknowledged in the draft strategy.

We do not consider the proper and full recognition of the cultural and significantly historic role of ASOPA in the park to be inconsistent with the SHFT's mission to bring to life [Australia's] natural and cultural heritage and provide a lasting legacy for all Australians through conservation, remediation and the adaptive reuse of places.

**ASOPA was a civilian tertiary education and training institution**

For the record we advise and emphasise that, from inception to repurposing after 27 years, ASOPA was at no time a military establishment. An antecedent body, the School of Civil Affairs (SCA), did have a military connection and role at Duntroon training ANGAU staff; some demobilised personnel from the SCA became the inaugural civilian staff of ASOPA. Neither they, nor ASOPA nor its successors in tertiary training, decolonisation, regional administration and nationhood development had any links to any part of the military or disciplined services of any kind. During its entire existence ASOPA, ITI, ACPAC had no links to its military neighbours, it being at all times an independent tertiary institution funded entirely by the Commonwealth government.



### **Internationally important work from the Headland and wanpela solwarra pipal**

The Australian decolonisation experience represents a significant achievement in modern Australian foreign policy and the headland presents as an ideal opportunity for the physical celebration of this achievement.

From earlier representations to SHFT you will be aware that PNGAA also supports the view that the park is an ideal location for the celebration of Australia's role in regard to all south west Pacific peoples together with the park's original saltwater people owners. Australia and its government is well regarded in the south west Pacific area and there is an undisputed case for celebration. Indeed it is the commonality of the bond of us all being the saltwater people ("wanpela solwarra pipal") of this area of the world that informs an obvious interpretation theme for the SHFT.

### **Corrections**

The reader of the draft interpretation strategy is presented with ASOPA's omission from the very beginning of the report. We recommend that the consultants be asked to insert the following words before the last sentence on the second paragraph at page 1 in order to present a balanced shape to the heading "Background";

"For more than fifty years following world war two the headland park was home to the Australian School of Pacific Administration (and its successors) being a tertiary studies institution funded by the Commonwealth government. ASOPA trained about two thousand young Australian and Melanesian teachers and administrators to assist in the decolonisation and independence eras of Papua New Guinea and the south west Pacific area generally".

The consultants appear to have relied heavily on the Commonwealth Heritage List (para 2.2 p6) of physical places which is mainly concerned with military sites but rightly acknowledge the certainty of prior Aboriginal occupation together with "the people who trained and worked at the Defence Site".

To make this inclusive of the two thousand civilians of ASOPA and its successors who enabled Australia's foreign policy success in decolonisation and Pacific development, we recommend the consultants be asked to add the words after the words Defence Site (last occurring), the words;

"and other sites including ASOPA and its successors".

We are generally disturbed that the draft strategy seems to assume that ASOPA was part of the military presence on the headland and we request that amendments be made to properly portray ASOPA's civilian status.

In paragraph 2.6.1 p13 "Potential Audiences" for example, the authors attribute "people with associated former uses of the site, such as ASOPA, and other military sites" as a possible audience.

ASOPA should not be included in the interpretive theme "Defence Life on the Headlands" (paragraph 3.2.2 p 21) for the same reason, but see my comments below about this. At page 19 the story theme titled "Defence Life on the Headland" lumps in ASOPA with other military establishments and should be corrected.

# ACCPN Update

The PNGAA requests that an additional relevant 'Interpretive Theme' (refer p16) 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.

## **Interpretive theme: "In the National Interest" to replace "Defence on the Headlands"**

The ASOPA story is an entirely civilian story and a human endeavour success story of the park without equal. We believe that no military story of the headland comes close to the ASOPA story and it is a story that lends itself to easy interpretation even if this is limited to improved and accurate signage.

Following early occupation at Ten Terminal, ASOPA operated from the adjacent timber buildings for most of its existence - now known as the ASOPA precinct - and restored by the Trust some years ago for small scale commercial accommodation. The individual buildings were originally built for military use but in the format of ASOPA were linked by covered walkways and are now used for a similar purpose by SHFT commercial tenants.

The present walkways contain some traditional interpretation material (signage) acknowledging, in a manner, the history of the buildings (albeit with inaccuracies), but offer scope for further interpretation together with audio visual opportunity.

Papua New Guinea and its south west Pacific neighbours are nations of breathtaking beauty, excitement, sound and colour that can easily captivate the most casual of visitors.

The PNGAA has a vast digital and physical collection of materials and intellectual property associated with the ASOPA story and the wider story of Papua New Guinea decolonisation. PNGAA is available to be of assistance in the development of interpretative themes and is of course the unattributed owner, producer and publisher of the documentary KIAP: Stories Behind the Medal noted as a materials source in the draft interpretation strategy at p22.

We note that while ASOPA is wrongly included in the interpretive theme "Defence on the Headlands", PNGAA suggests that an alternative rewording of this interpretive theme to "In the National Interest" or an equivalent enveloping title may be suitable. It was, after all, not so much the defence of the headland but the defence of the entire colony and later nation that justified military investment in the approaches to Sydney Harbour. In addition to the important national interest roles already referred to above, key research and executive staff at ASOPA were also directly involved in the assertion of other Australian foreign policy projects in the post war period such as in the establishment of the South Pacific Commission.

Toward the end of its useful economic life in the late 1990s the ASOPA buildings were used as a resource for Australia's foreign aid program thus concluding a spectacular career for an unremarkable collection of former army huts over more than a half a century.

Mosman now has an opportunity to recognise that spectacular and significant period, preserving that heritage and to create something unique. The PNGAA requests that this incredible history is better acknowledged.

Yours sincerely

**Andrea Williams**  
ACCPN Working Group  
Papua New Guinea Association of Australia Inc  
M: 0409 031 889

# MEMORIAL NEWS

RABAUL AND MONTEVIDEO MARU MEMORIAL NEWS



*Members of the Rabaul Historical Society gather at sunset at the Lark Force/Montevideo Maru Memorial on the Rabaul foreshore to commemorate the 76th anniversary of the Tol and Waitavolo Plantation Massacres. 4 February 2018*

## **Peter Garrett signs Gayle Thwaites' copies of the book 'When the War Came: New Guinea Islands 1942' whilst taking a break from a Midnight Oil Concert at Hanging Rock in Victoria.**

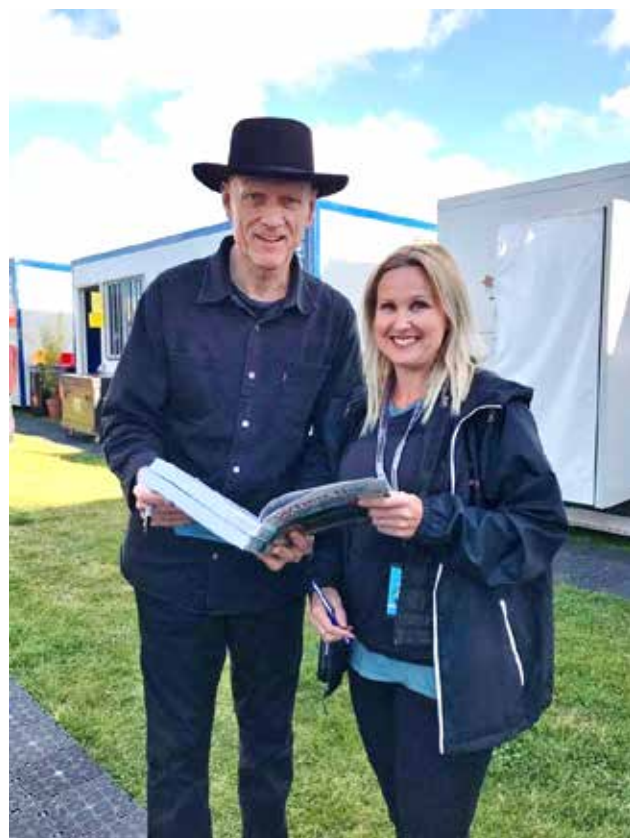
The book was Gayle's inspiration. Gayle did much of the collecting of stories for it over an 18 month period.

It brings together the many complex aspects of the fall of the New Guinea Islands in 1942 at the start of the Pacific War.

Produced by the PNGAA, the book is a wonderful tribute to those in the New Guinea islands at the start of 1942 and is also an excellent read.

**The HTAA National Conference** will be held in Canberra from Tuesday 2 October to Thursday 4 October 2018. Please encourage your secondary school history teachers to attend and to look out for a PNGAA/Rabaul and Montevideo Maru stand!

Information about the 2018 HTAA National Conference is at [www.historyconference.org.au](http://www.historyconference.org.au)



# MEMORIAL NEWS

## RABAU AND MONTEVIDEO MARU MEMORIAL NEWS

**Remember Anzac Day – a great opportunity to share this story!** Mention it to schools, clubs, newspapers, anywhere you can think of!

### Education

The Rabaul and Montevideo Maru group have an outstanding educational package that is perfect for Years 9 and 10 in particular. See: <http://memorial.org.au/Education/index.htm>

Further information is available from Patrick Bourke at E: [education@memorial.org.au](mailto:education@memorial.org.au)

### Across the sea, at night, strapped to the outrigger of an open canoe!

### John Hart - Civil engineer/adventurer 1923 - 1998

Born on July 27, 1923 in Sydney, John Edward Hart gave an early indication of the adventurous and colourful life he was destined to live when in 1941, at 17, he forged the signature of his father, Jack Shelton Hart, a widely respected country magistrate, on a consent for the younger Hart to enlist in the wartime militia force. A year later he landed at Rabaul and was part of the Australia Lark Force retreat across the Baining Mountains. A fall from a cliff left him with a broken leg and shoulder and Hart found himself with a small group of soldiers, all struggling to survive in dense jungle. After Hart's broken leg was treated and crudely splinted by one of his mates, the group spent an amazing seven months in the New Britain jungle, with Hart at this stage also battling malaria.

They survived on meagre supplies of jungle fruits and vegetables, supplied by the local people. Hart and his companions were eventually rescued by an Australian Navy ship.

Undeterred by his experiences, Hart saw action again in 1943 with the 9<sup>th</sup> Division, C Company, in the Battle of Sattelberg on the Huon Peninsula [29 October to 25 November 1943].

Although a proud, loyal and patriotic Australian, especially during his war years, Hart became a committed pacifist in his latter years. He appeared in the ABC TV documentary, *Faces of War*, which commemorated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of WWII

Asked by an interviewer whether he felt bitter about the Japanese, Hart replied: 'It's time to forgive... you can't hold on to vengeance. The future is with our children. Two of my grandchildren live in Tokyo with their Japanese mother and Australian father.'

***Peter Fisher, who also survived Rabaul at the start of the Pacific War, wrote the following tribute to John Hart on 27 November 1998. It is included with permission from Peter Fisher's son, Warwick Fisher.***

### Loyalty – Initiative – Courage!

These were three characteristics which I attributed to 'Jack' Hart.

Firstly, Loyalty:

to his country

To his officers

To his mates

To his job as a gunlayer on No. 1 Gun

John Hart, through his gunsight telescope was very much focused on the enemy (as I was through my binoculars). As the gun barrel moved almost against his ear and as repeatedly the blast flew back over his head, 'Jack' maintained his view of the enemy aircraft.

Secondly, Initiative:

As he helped other young men carry their burdens

As he took advantage of any opportunity to scrounge what little food was available

As he searched the coast, in vain, for any seaworthy canoe which might take him along or away from the coast of New Britain

Thirdly, Courage:

As (after falling and breaking a leg), he, with the help of his mates, sustained himself for some six weeks until news of a 'rescue' became a possibility.

As he lay strapped to the outrigger of a native canoe, and was paddled at night across the open waters of Jacquinot Bay

As, in his determination to survive and to return to Australia

The Anti-aircraft Battery – an ancillary force to the 2/22<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 8<sup>th</sup> Division AIF – consisting of

# LOYALTY – INITIATIVE – COURAGE

54 militiamen (with an average age of 19 years) left Sydney for Rabaul in August 1941 where they were to complete their training as artillerymen.

Only seven (7) returned to their homeland.

Following the attack on Pearl Harbour on 8<sup>th</sup> December 1941, the unit went into action against a reconnaissance plane on 4<sup>th</sup> January, 1942, and on 20<sup>th</sup> January, 1942, claimed its first victim.

In 1998 I spent the 24<sup>th</sup> February in and about the devastated town of Rabaul, visiting Kokopo and Bitapaka Cemetery. Finally, in the late afternoon, I was able to persuade the driver of the mini-bus to take me back to what we had called "Frisbee Ridge".

In late March 1942, after trekking some 300 miles, I was invited to a small repast at the Wunung Mission. The occasion was the arrival of Lieut Hugh McKenzie (Naval) and Lieut Peter Figgis (Intelligence). Also present were Major (Bill) Owen, Major (Ted) Palmer and Father Ted Harris (the three great heroes of my life).

In confidence it was revealed that:

- There was, on the other side of the island, an operative tele-radio
- We should on Wednesdays and Saturdays maintain an O/P (observations post) at Palmalmal Plantation, some few miles away.
- There just might be a 50/50 chance of success.

I and some others (including David Bloomfield of the AA Battery) were detailed to set-up the Observation Post.

On Easter Sunday, under cover of sub-machine guns, I met up with Patrol Officer Allan Timperley and his party, who had, at daylight, just come ashore from the 28 foot launch 'Mascot'.

In his diary, Timperley relates that on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April, 1942:

*'We turned our attention to the plantation residence and walking towards us was a 'man in tattered clothing'. It is hard to say who was the most surprised. I shall never forget the expression Lt Fisher's face had when we acquainted him with the fact that we had crossed to New Britain from Papua'.*

'Mascot' brought with it two signallers, Sgt JH Marsh and Cpl HG Neil and native crew; it also delivered a wireless transmitter, a limited amount of food and an old gramophone with four records which were played incessantly.

Four days later, 'Mascot' steamed out of the bay and at 6am sighted the 'Laurabada'. Timperley and Lieut McKenzie boarded 'Laurabada' and guided her to Palmalmal.

At 4pm on that same day, 150 troops were embarked on 'Laurabada' in just 40 minutes. The ship left in heavy seas and under cover of drenching rain.

In an understatement, Timperley reported:

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

But what of the disabled John Hart?

In an account which, later in 1942, I put together, I had stated:

*'Mention should be made of the remarkable efforts of Gunners Hart, Hanna and (Arch) Taylor...'*

*Upon receiving the good news the 'boys' forced the natives along (to Palmalmal). They made a bush stretcher and set off at 10am on 8<sup>th</sup> April, arriving at Palmalmal by canoe in the pouring rain at midnight. The natives had carried Hart some 30 miles along the rough track, placed him on a canoe and completed another 25 miles across the open bay in fourteen hours.'*

This story has been lodged with the Australian War Memorial, Canberra (Private Records, Incoming Receipt No: 23799, File No: 89/0716; Accession No: PR 89/40).

Across the sea, at night, strapped to the outrigger of an open canoe!

That took COURAGE!

Loyalty – Initiative – Courage!

An archived interview with Archibald Taylor via 'Australians At War Film Archive' produced by University of New South Wales (2003): <http://australiansatwarfilmarchive.unsw.edu.au/archive/113-archibald-taylor>

# MEMORIAL NEWS

## RABAU AND MONTEVIDEO MARU MEMORIAL NEWS

### Vale Sister Berenice Twohill

The PNGAA and the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Group were saddened to hear that Sr Berenice Twohill passed away on 3 November 2017, just a few days short of her 101st birthday. Sr Berenice has been a special friend and a great support to us on our journey to achieve greater recognition of what happened in the New Guinea Islands at the start of the Pacific War. See page 54 for further information.



**Above:** St Josephs School Rabaul where Sr Berenice taught in 1941 – Sr Berenice is 3rd row on right.



**Above:** L-R: John Misto, Lorna Johnston nee Whyte, Rod Miller and Sister Berenice Twohill.

### WWI – WWII LINKS

The links between WWI and WWII in Rabaul are very strong. I have been able to identify 58 of the men who are recorded as dying on the MS Montevideo Maru on 1 July 1942, as having WWI war service.

Did you know this was on display at the Australian War Memorial?

Harry Edwards MC DCM MM, who served during WWI, died on the MS Montevideo Maru as a civilian. Harry has his medals in the Gallantry Exhibit in the WWI Gallery at the AWM. <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/REL/08995.004> and <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/P04694.001> . Another civilian who has been listed as dying on the MS Montevideo Maru is Thomas (Tom) Herket who was a WWI veteran who fought at Fromelles and became a POW. <https://awm.gov.au/collection/ART96812> .

By Patrick Bourke

## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Ms Alison BECKETT	252 Auburn Road, HAWTHORNE	VIC	3122
Mr Richard BLACKBURN	CABOOLTURE	QLD	4510
Mr Robert BRADBURY	PO BOX 328, BUDERIM	QLD	4556
Mr Mike BROWNING	25 Fishery Point Road, MIRRABOOKA	NSW	2264
Mrs Ann McCOSKER BUCKLEY	60 Radipole Lane, WEYMOUTH, DORSET	UK	DT4 9RR
Ms Jo-Anne BULL	28 Thornhill Drive, WILDWOOD, MISSOURI	USA	63025
Mr Malcolm CROCKER	"Crochdantigh", MUCKADILLA	QLD	4461
Mrs Norma DEWICK	134 William Webb Drive, EVATT	ACT	2617
Ms Janice ELDER (nee Todd)	65 Mill Road, BARFORD	VIC	3444
Mrs Elizabeth GENIA	Bank of PNG, Douglas Street, PORT MORESBY	PNG	NCD
Mr Herb William GOLIGHTLY	16 Ross Street, COOCHIEMUDLO ISLAND	QLD	4184
Mr Lawrence GORDON	3 Richard Street, GUILDFORD	NSW	2161
Mr Ormond GRACE	470 Clyde Hill Road, RUSSELS BRIDGE	VIC	3331
Mr Brett GRAHAM	175 Victoria Avenue, CHELMER	QLD	4068
Mr Ian HARRY	PO Box 1130, NARACOORTE	SA	5271
Dr Michael HORWOOD	2 Dora St, HENDRA	QLD	4011
Dr Philip HUGHES	PO Box 97, MORUYA	NSW	2537
Mr Rodney INGERSOLL	44 - 46 Bellmere Lane, REDLYNCH	QLD	4870
Mr Cliff JACKSON	9 Pasadena Street, MONTEREY	NSW	2217
Mr John MCMANUS	15 Woodhurst Road, SEVEN MILE BEACH	TAS	7170
Mr Jan MITTMANN	Burrinja, 351 Glenfern Road, UPEWY	VIC	3158
Mr Laurence MORGAN			
Ms Dianne O'DONNELL	155 West Mt Cotton Road, CORNUBIA	QLD	4130
Ms Deirdre PEARSALL	50 Cronin Street, ANNERLEY	QLD	4103
Mr Mike SMITH	10 Boxwood Avenue, KULUIN	QLD	4558
Mr Max UECHTRITZ	7 Oswald Close, WARRAWEE	NSW	2074
Mr Geoff WHEBELL	8 Young Street, GRACEVILLE	QLD	4075
Ms Karen WILSON	8/2 Fryar Place, HUNTLEYS COVE	NSW	2111

## CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Mr David AYLING	96 Holland Street, WEMBLY	WA	6014
Fr Gregory BOURKE	St Joseph's Nursing Home, 2 Kensington Road KENSINGTON	NSW	2033
Mr Paul BRIGG	5 Tristania Place, WEST PYMBLE	NSW	2073
Mr Geoffrey DUGGAN	Box 73, CURTIN	ACT	2605
Mr John GODLEE	21/20-26 Hume Street, WOLLSTONECRAFT	NSW	2065
Ms Dianne McINNIS	10 John Place, NORTH NAROOMA	NSW	2546
Mr Paul MUNRO	51/43 Musgrave Street, MOSMAN	NSW	2088
Mrs Janet PALFREYMAN	PO Box 183, YASS	NSW	2582
Mrs Patsy WEAVER	Unit 3, 115 Carrington Road WAHROONGA	NSW	2076

**Members will be able to contact other members through the new website and therefore it has been decided not to print the Membership Directory. If you require a hard copy of the Membership Directory, please write to the PNGAA or phone the Membership Officer (see p1)**

# AE1 - Found at Last!

The PNGAA congratulates Rear Admiral Peter Briggs and his team on the Fugro Survey for the successful expedition and huge achievement in locating AE1. Source: [www.news.navy.gov.au](http://www.news.navy.gov.au)

The disappearance of AE1 was the first loss for the Royal Australian Navy and the first Allied submarine loss in World War I; a significant tragedy felt by our nation and our allies.

After 103 years since her loss, it was announced on 21 December 2017 that HMAS AE1 was located in waters off the Duke of York Island group in Papua New Guinea.

The Royal Australian Navy submarine was lost off Rabaul on 14 September 1914 with all 35 personnel aboard.

An expedition to locate the submarine took place in waters off the coast of the Duke of York Island group in Papua New Guinea this week. The search vessel 'Fugro Equator' located an object in over 300 metres of water, later confirming it to be AE1.

The vessel appears to be remarkably well preserved and apparently in one piece.

"The boat and her crew, who've been on eternal patrol since 1914 ... have now been found," Minister for Defence, Marise Payne said.

"I truly trust that this discovery will bring peace of mind to the descendants of the families of the crew who lost their lives on board and perhaps in time it

may also enable us to discover what caused the submarine to sink."

The submarine was the first of its kind for the Australian fleet and was 55 metres long.

"For the Navy, it demonstrates the persistence of a view that fellow mariners always have and that is, we always seek to locate and find where those who sacrificed so much for their country actually laid at rest," Chief of Navy, Vice Admiral Timothy Barrett said.

The previous searches helped to narrow down where the wreck might be and improvements in technology helped discover the final locations.

Former Commander with the Royal Australian Navy, John Foster OAM, spent his retirement researching the fate of the submarine AE1. His passion, commitment and what was learned from his expeditions were inspirational and significant.

Following many years of detailed research and 12 unsuccessful expeditions funded both privately and by government, the Royal Australian Navy teamed up with a range of search groups in this latest expedition, funded by the Commonwealth Government and the Silentworld Foundation, with assistance from the Submarine Institute of Australia, the Australian National Maritime Museum, Fugro Survey and the Papua New Guinea Government.

They commissioned the most comprehensive and technologically capable search ever committed to finding AE1 and the 35 Australian, British and New Zealand men entombed within.

The expedition was embarked on the survey ship Fugro Equator which is equipped with advanced search technology.

The team of maritime surveyors, marine archaeologists and naval historians scoured the







**Photo:** Royal Australian Navy

search area with a multi-beam echo sounder and side-scan technology in an underwater drone flying 40 metres above the sea bed on pre-programmed 20 hour missions.

The data collected was analysed and a three-dimensional rendering of the underwater environment was produced before dropping a camera to confirm the find. Following the

discovery of the submarine, a small commemorative service was held by those on-board the survey vessel to remember those officers and sailors who lost their lives 103 years ago.

This significant, historic, military find, is something for which the descendants of the men on board, as well as all Australians and Papua New Guineans will be very thankful.

The exact location of the wreck will be kept a secret for now, with the Australian Government working with the Papua New Guinea Government to preserve the underwater site and to form a plan for a lasting commemoration.

Underwater imagery of HMAS AE1 site can be seen at: <http://images.navy.gov.au/S20173148>



**From left:** Tanesh Thanapalan (Fugro Survey), Paul Hundley (Silentworld Foundation), Rear Admiral Peter Briggs AO CSC RAN(Rtd) (Find AE1 Ltd), Captain Roger Turner RN Rtd (Find AE1 Ltd), Chandran Karapiah (Fugro Survey), Lieutenant James McPherson RANR (Royal Australian Navy), Gus Mellon (Find AE1 Ltd), Andrej Masloboev (Fugro Survey), Magnus Windle (Fugro Survey), Nigel Erskine (Australian National Maritime Museum), Irini Malliaros (Silentworld Foundation).

**Photo:** Royal Australian Navy

#### Further reading:

<https://pngaa.org/site/blog/article/the-loss-of-submarine-ae1-in-1914/> - article by Peter Richardson

<https://pngaa.org/site/blog/article/new-guinea-in-world-war-i/>

<https://pngaa.org/site/blog/2017/12/22/how-and-when-new-guinea-won-and-the-loss-of-ae1-by-gpo-hh-kemsley/>

# Tribute to Jim Sinclair: Kiap

by Ross Johnson

**Maroochy Surf Club, Maroochydore, Tuesday 17th October 2017**

Thank you to Jan Sinclair for giving me the honour and privilege of being able to say a few words at this Tribute to Jim.

For the benefit of those present, my name is Ross Johnson and I also was a Kiap having joined the Administration as a Cadet Patrol Officer in 1952 – like Jim who joined the service in 1948, I also was only 18 years old. **Jim said in his first book, 'Beyond the**

**Ranges', that books written by Jack Hides, Monckton, Humphries, Champion and others were his motivation to seek 'adventure and to climb mountains'.** My motivation was slightly different as I had been brought up as a child at Edie Creek in the Mandated Territory of New Guinea preWW2, returning after the war with my parents to Wau. 'New Guinea'

was my home and my country and although I probably didn't know it at the time, it was a foregone conclusion that one day I also would end up as a Kiap.

Pat and I have known Jim and Jan for nearly sixty years, having first met when Jim became ADO at Wau in 1959. We were either going on or returning from, recreational leave and were spending a few weeks with my Mother before taking up a posting at Kainantu. My Mother became firm friends with Jim and Jan and this connection lasted all the years of her life both in PNG and later, in Australia. Although Jim and I never served together during our service in PNG, this 'family bond' continued with us becoming, over the intervening years, firm friends.

Jim was one of the post WW2 Kiaps who sought adventure, the opportunity to make a difference and in the process, like most of us, growing to love the work (they even paid us for doing it), the country and its people. Those of us here today are more than familiar with the multiple roles we as young men undertook which for many of us ended with the successful transition of Papua New Guinea to full independence on the 16th September 1975.

Jim wrote an article 'Yes, we brought them shell – the best



shell they ever had' which was published in the October 1975 edition of the Pacific Islands Monthly and reprinted in the September 2016 issue of 'Una Voce', the Journal of the Papua New Guinea Association of Australia. In this article, Jim 'recalls some of his experiences and defends the work of field officers (i.e., Kiaps) in bringing the word of law to great tracts of once uncontrolled Papua New Guinea'. I commend this article as it puts into perspective the hopes, aspirations, experiences and the thoughts of what many of us were feeling at that particular time. I have taken the liberty of making copies of this article, so if you would like a copy, please help yourself!

The post war Kiaps built on the exploits of the pre-war Kiaps and I include here their Papuan equivalents, the ARM's and RM's, some of whom served in World War 2 as members of ANGAU and who formed the nucleus of the Department of District Services and Native Affairs in the Provisional Administration of the Territory of Papua and New Guinea. I well remember with pride that in my terms of service at Henganofi, Kainantu and Kerowagi in what was then the Eastern Highlands District, I was patrolling in the steps of my late father-in-law, Charlie Bates, who with Jim Taylor, John Black, Ian Skinner and several others opened up the Highlands during the 1930's.

All of us have shared experiences that Jim has recounted or referred to in his writings. Jim talks about tribal fighting and refers in his first book 'Beyond the Ranges' to

an incident in 1952 at Tari where 'ADO Carey, PO Neville and CPO Anthony broke up one 'war' involving thousands of warriors, by camping with their police on the battleground between opposing forces and arresting the ringleaders'. This reminds me of an incident at Kerowagi, Xmas Day 1963, when (in the middle of the Xmas lunch) I was told of an outbreak of tribal fighting between two large clans whereupon I, together with Interpreter Uka and a couple of unarmed Police rapidly drove, in the station Landrover, to the site and parked in the middle of the 'no man's land' between the opposing two clans. This effectively broke up the fight and the ringleaders were told to go home and enjoy what was left of Xmas and to report to the Sub-District office next morning to sort matters out – next morning 500 people, representing both clans, turned up, such was the respect the people had for the Kiaps.

Jim talks about the thrill of leading a patrol into new country and contacting primitive bush people for the first time. As a Cadet Patrol Officer in early 1953, I also experienced the privilege of accompanying an exploration and first contact patrol into the Kairong and Simbai Valleys of the Schrader ranges (between the Ramu and Jimi rivers) unfortunately not leading, but at the end of a long carrier line as befits a CPO. We also, had to avoid arrows on several occasions. He mentions and acknowledges members of the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary such as Sgt Siria who accompanied Jim on his

Kukukuku patrol - what a fine body of men they were and I agree wholeheartedly with his comments that old hands (me included) will 'admit their debt to some wise old Police Sergeant or Corporal who gently, but firmly, put their Kiap on the right path and kept him there'.

In this respect I have very fond memories of two senior Police at my first married station, Henganofi – a Sgt Baiyak (Murik Lakes, Sepik), truly one of Nature's gentlemen and a L/Cpl Kombo, who was with PO Gerald Szarka, CPO Geoff Harris, Constables Buritori and Purari when they were killed whilst on patrol at Telefomin in November 1953. Severely wounded by a tomakawk, Kombo none-the-less stood guard over Harris's body and helped fight off attackers until reinforcements arrived. There were, of course, many other Kiaps either killed in the line of duty or by accident, the above is just one example as I knew both the Officers concerned.

I referred earlier to the 'bond' that developed between Jim and myself over the years even though we never served together. On reflection, it was more than 'family' oriented. We were all part of a unique body of men, each with our own version of our own immortality, nothing was impossible and we all basically spoke the same language. Distance and time were completely irrelevant – meeting each other after several years absence was of no account, we would pick up where we left off as if nothing had occurred – the bond between Kiaps is timeless. In

less than a month a lot of us will be attending a bi-annual reunion at Kawana Waters just down the road and it will be just like yesterday except that unfortunately, we will be missing a few faces!

We all owe a large debt to James (Jim) Patrick Sinclair CSM OBE D.Litt – let’s look first at his Post Nominals and the citations, in part, which speak for themselves.

**CSM: Companion of the Order of the Star of Melanesia:** the Citation reads

“For service to the community through contributions in the understanding of Papua New Guinea, its history, culture and heritage, and to district administration in the period leading to Independence”

Awarded as part of the 2007 New Year’s Honours, it was personally presented to Jim on 23rd April 2009 by the

Governor-General, Sir Paulius Matane – time still moves slowly!

**OBE: Order of the British Empire** awarded in 1993 for “services to the state and literature”.

**D.Litt: Honours Degree in Literature** from the Australian National University granted in 1999, for “distinguished creative achievement as a scholar in the field of the study of the people and history of Australia and Papua New Guinea”.

By far the biggest legacy is, however, Jim’s literary contributions which enshrine the history of Papua New Guinea from the days of the first European contact, up to the granting of Independence in 1975 and in some cases beyond. As well as being a gifted historian, Jim was a more than competent photographer, and the photographic illustrations in his books beautifully

complement the written word. Who can forget his Magnum Opus, the recently published book ‘Middle Kingdom: A Colonial History of the Highlands of Papua New Guinea’. We Kiaps can feel justifiably proud of being a significant part of this history and we thank and honour Jim for his tenacity and resoluteness in recording our contributions for posterity. One final volume, ‘The Creek’ is still in the hands of the publisher and will be available during 2018.

If you have the time, may I suggest that, at a later date you browse the Internet, specifically ‘Keith Jackson & Friends: PNG ATTITUDE (Google Jim Sinclair OBE) and the ‘Professional Pilots Rumour Network’ (Google RIP Jim Sinclair) to view the many tributes to him.

The Immediate Past President of the Papua New Guinea Association of Australia, Andrea Williams, has asked me to convey to you, Jan, and your family, sincere condolences on behalf of the Association. Of interest, Jim had been a member of PNGAA since 1977 and has made many contributions to the Association’s Journal, Una Voce.

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In closing, I can only repeat what I said on the Ex-Kiap’s website, ‘Jim’s passing represents the end of an era. Rest in peace, my friend. Bihain bai mi lukim yu’.

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L-R Jim Sinclair, Robert Blake, Ross Johnson, Bill Brown

Photo by Andrea Williams

## When PNG led the world in the delivery of air freight

**Robert L Parer CMG MBE**

Acknowledgment: 14 January 2018. Keith Jackson & Friends: PNG Attitude. [www.auspostalhistory.com](http://www.auspostalhistory.com)  
**Way back in 1931, Papua New Guinea set a world record in the amount of air cargo carried – 2,607 passengers and 3,947 tonnes of freight.**

The discovery of gold in the Bulolo Valley of New Guinea saw a rush of aircraft and pilots to Lae to service the goldfields – equipment and supplies in, gold out and passengers both ways. Supplies, which had previously been carried in by carriers at prohibitive cost, were now transported by aircraft.

In the first 12 months of operations they carried 250,000kg of cargo and hundreds of passengers, but this paled into insignificance when German Junkers transports were purchased by mining companies to transport dredges.

As the Australian Postal History website says, the all-metal Junkers with their corrugated fuselages were unlike anything previously seen in Australia, but they were superb aircraft - tough and powerful with lower maintenance requirements. The

Junkers pointed the way to the future in aircraft design, 60 flights a day landed at Wau airport, such were the number of airline companies and aircraft operating at this time; each Junkers made as many as five flights a day. In 1932, the Junkers transported a 1,100 tonne gold dredge to Bulolo, broken down into its component parts. By 1933, Guinea Airways had carried some 7,000 tonnes of cargo, including drilling machinery, hydroelectric plant and additional dredges.

This airline was carrying quantities of freight far in excess of anything that would be seen until the major airlifts of World War II.

In the 12 months from February 1931, Guinea Airways carried 3,947 tonnes of freight and 2,607 passengers. This is an astonishing figure when put in



*A photo of a German Junkers aircraft that serviced the Lae-Bulolo route in the 1930s*

perspective of comparison that the combined airline services of the UK, France and the USA were recorded as only carrying 2,670 tons of freight in the same period. Seven more dredges were flown in up to 1939, all by air, bit by bit.

By 1942, when the Japanese invasion of New Guinea put an end to civil flying, Guinea Airways had carried some 73,480 tonnes of machinery, trucks and equipment.

## Membership

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

**To become a member follow the link: [www.pngaa.org](http://www.pngaa.org)  
 Annual membership is \$40**



# *IN EXTREMIS* SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS, 1935.

By **Ralph Sawyer.**

We are staring at starvation. Yesterday the carriers finished their last bag of rice. One of them is now wearing the bag for warmth. At last we have crossed that murderous limestone country. The sharp outcrops have torn even the leather feet of the carriers and the police. The big danger is infection from cuts. Even now I can hear the water coursing beneath us in underground limestone fissures and caves but the surface has softened to soil and low bush.

I estimate that we are at 7,000 ft and without rations our weakened party will start breaking down with bronchitis and infected skin unless our position improves. Hides' 2 I.C., Jim O'Malley's boots are wrapped up with his puttees and I have thrown my torn boots away. I have decided to go east down into the lower country in the hope of finding a tributary of the Kikori. We might be able to raft our way down into lower country. I'm feeling guilty about the situation. Even now they trust me to get them out of this fix. The faith of the police in me is frightening but the carriers are not so sure I know what I'm doing. I was confident that we could buy kau kau from the locals but they want no contact with us. For two weeks we saw no one across the limestone

Yesterday we came across a new people. They yodeled to one another from hill to hill. A small party came down the track and told us quite clearly to go back. We tried to trade for food but they dismissed us. We even demonstrated the use of some axes but they were not impressed. They must regard us as white spirits because they are panic-stricken at the prospect of us camping in their area. They try to hustle us along. They must see the abject state of our carriers but pity is not in their hearts. As the day wore on, their fear of us turned to contempt and ridicule. Some of them mimicked our poor carriers by limping and staggering beside them while others crowded around us laughing and pointing. To see the fear of death in the Orokolo's eyes was pitiful but they

kept shuffling along with the police escorting them.

Sergeant Orai as usual had the men organised. Dekada the faithful Orakaiva brought up the rear while the ever watchful Simotoi from Rigo patrolled up and down the line. The other seven police sprinkled themselves among the carriers, quietly encouraging them.

Today they're still following us but are becoming even bolder. A group of 'characters' would timidly approach our struggling column feigning hesitancy and fear. Suddenly one of them would shriek out in fright and the whole group would scatter in laughter. They would collapse in hilarious amusement then repeat the whole charade. The trouble with this sort of caper is that there is a fine line between play-acting and the real thing. I tried again this morning to trade for food but they refused all my efforts. There were gardens along the track and we could have taken food by force but I decided against it. They were mischievous types who were looking for an excuse to attack us. They did not understand the power of twelve rifles so any explosion would mean slaughter on both sides. I would be confident of the outcome but in our desperate physical shape we can't afford an attack. We're not strong enough to carry casualties and some hard decisions would have to be made. Any wounded would have to be abandoned or shot, both choices unthinkable. Jim suggested a demonstration of our firepower by shooting a piece of bark or even one of their dogs but I refused. Better they didn't know our real strength; they may even interpret our firepower as inconsequential or of no account. Better not to show our full hand.

The next bridge was the key to ridding us of our dangerous escorts. We sat down on a grassy patch beside the gorge. Our opponents squatted down on the other side of the track. We cooked bunches of native spinach and the last of our tea and sugar. A young man, (perhaps aged 16), approached us with a skinny bunch of potatoes.

He laid them on the ground and indicated to me to match it with some trade. I put down a knife and cocked my eye at him for a response. All the while he smirked confidently at me and kept looking back at his elders as if to say, "Watch me do this mob." He took away half the potatoes and looked at me quizzically. I took back the knife and placed a necklace of trade beads on the ground. The young scoundrel picked up the beads and threw them into my face. He looked back again for approval and a front row of smiles and nods encouraged him even further. The boy put his hands on his hips and nodded to me as if to say, "That's what I think of your deal!" I held my temper and his stare and spoke in Motu to my orderly Emesi who was at my elbow. "Emesi, kick this dog back home. Show him who's boss but don't be too hard." Emesi realised the theatrical situation and was up to it. He marched around in front of me and snapped a smart salute. He then swung around and flattened the boy with an open hand. As the shocked youth stumbled to his feet I could hear the rifle bolts clicking behind me. Emesi let him have it in raw police Motu which went completely over his head but the meaning was quite clear. "What bitch dog gave birth to you? Crawl back into your mother. Do you know who this Taubada is? One of Judge Murray's men. You like to die slow or quick? When Guvman comes I will see you. I know you. Calaboose for you." He then descended into police invective and proceeded to kick the boy back across the path, not a bad effort in bare feet.

Amazingly the elders in the front row seemed to agree with our response. Maybe these strangers were not such soft touches after all. Some of the back-stall audience were now on their feet and strung their bows. "My eye is on them," hissed Sergeant Orai behind me.

I insolently turned my back on them and walked slowly back to my party. Our opponents didn't clap but they almost did.

Now for the bridge. One of the police demonstrated how the bridge could be navigated. We arranged a loop pulley to carry our few miserable possessions across. One by one the carriers made a supreme effort to balance their way across. They were coastal people with no experience in this mountain skill but fear overcame



Sergeant Orai

their clumsiness and it was a long drop to the creek bed. I quietly instructed Sergeant Orai that he should shoot to kill if there were any moves to interfere with crossing. We were at our most vulnerable with a split party on each bank. As each constable reached the other side they propped themselves up to advantage and trained their rifles on the mob. One of their fight leaders kept haranguing them into action but they weren't having any of it. They looked down at the ground and jabbed their bows into the dust. At last faithful Orai was the last to cross, edging his way across the vine with the others steadily levelling their rifles in support.

Safe at last. Dusk was fast approaching. Without looking back, we shook their dust from our feet and disappeared into the gloomy forest. (Jack Hides 1908–1937)

## BACKGROUND TO IN EXTREMIS

Two families were most influential in the early development of Papua—the Champion and Hides families.

Herbert Champion was, for many years, Hubert Murray's Government Secretary. His three sons Alan, Ivan and Claude were variously treasurer, explorer, magistrate and other roles great and small. For instance, Ivan Champion, on his own initiative, navigated the Laurabada from Moresby to Mal Mal Mission in 1942 and evacuated one hundred and twenty survivors from the Rabaul battalion (2/22ND) all under the noses of the Japanese occupation forces. Father and sons, the Champion family contributed one hundred and thirty years of valuable service to the Territory.

Jack Hides and his brother had similar backgrounds to the Champion boys. They were all born in Moresby, spoke Motu, could think and track like a native constable. Jack Hides was effective and confident in handling first-contact natives and looked after his carriers. He was supported and trusted implicitly by his hand-picked police. It was said that sergeant Orai and orderly constable Emesi could read Jack Hides' mind and anticipated his orders, so attune were they to their officer's intentions. Hides was a protégé of Sir Hubert Murray. By the age of twenty-five, Hides had achieved the reputation of a Canadian Mountie who always got his man. In 1935 he was given the task of following the Fly River to its source and then to strike eastward to explore the landscape and populations of Papuan uplands. In a six-month epic journey Hides did just that and opened up the potential of the southern highlands. IN EXTREMIS outlines one episode of this grueling expedition.

## PRINCIPAL SOURCE FOR IN EXTREMIS

The author has drawn upon several sources to dramatise the story. Many years ago, he was inspired by Jack Hides' book *Papuan Wonderland*, first published by Blackie and Sons Ltd. Glasgow in 1936. Parts of this book were based on Hides' patrol journal which he daily recorded in spite of serious dysentery attacks and the ravages of water damage.

Twenty-five years after the Patrol, the author lived at Ihu station on the Vailala river. This was two miles from Auma village whence twenty-seven Orokolo men were recruited by Hides. A few of these carriers were still alive in the 1960s. In 1935 Stanley Dewdney was the L.M.S. missionary at Orokolo and was still there in the early 1960s. In the 1980s, anthropologists retraced the patrol's route and confirmed the opinion that the Injigale people were hostile to the patrol because they suspected that Hides and Jim O'Malley were pale ghosts of ancestors. They were to be rejected and eliminated if they insisted on penetrating their area or attempted to trade food with the inhabitants.

Soon after the expedition, Jack Hides resigned to work for Placer Development, a gold mining company. After another prospecting expedition, Hides went South in a much-debilitated condition. One night he missed the last tram from North Sydney to Naremburn and walked home in the rain. Two weeks later he died of pneumonia. He is buried in Northern Suburbs cemetery, not far from prime minister Billy Hughes who admired Jack Hides as 'an ornament of the tradition of the patrol officers that inspired him'. Jim O'Malley, Hides' 2 I.C. went on in the service to a distinguished career. He later became District Commissioner of the Delta Division which was in the area of the 1935 expedition.

*Help  
Wanted*

### Time Traveller

Contributions are sought by Air Niugini's Paradise magazine. If you have a photograph that would be suitable for the 'Time Traveller' section of this publication (published 6 times a year), please email [paradise@businessadvantageinternational.com](mailto:paradise@businessadvantageinternational.com)





# AN EXHIBITION

## Shan Turner-Carroll: Relics

In November 2017, Grace Cossington Smith Gallery and Abbotsleigh were pleased to partner with The Australian Centre for Photography (ACP) to present the captivating and skillfully constructed works of photographer and multidisciplinary artist Shan Turner-Carroll. In this exhibition, the first solo presentation of Turner-Carroll's work in Sydney, the artist probes personal and archetypal psyches on a pilgrimage through inner worlds and geographic terrain. Relics loosely traces the evolution of Turner-Carroll's artistic practice, showcasing his proficiency as a craftsman and the multi-functional role of the camera.

### ABOUT THE ARTIST

Shan Turner-Carroll b. 1987, Australia. Shan Turner-Carroll is an Australian artist of Burmese descent whose practice responds to both site and situation specificity, and integrates mediums including photography, sculpture, performance and film. From graduating in 2011 with a Bachelor of Fine Art (Distinction) from the University of Newcastle, Shan Turner-Carroll has exhibited throughout Australia, as well as in New York, New Zealand, Hong Kong and Myanmar. His work is in both public and private collections. Shan lives and works in the NSW Hunter region, Australia

### ARTIST'S NOTE

*Living regionally, and also overseas on and off for the past few years, it has been hard to connect with the larger Australian art community. I thought when applying for the NSW Visual Arts Emerging Fellowship, that selection would allow me to participate in an exhibition with other emerging Australian artists and widen the circle of my art*

### HELP OFFERED

I have been in contact with the Commonwealth War Graves Committee (CWGC) re photos. A number of my relatives fought and died during WWI and WWII. I have been informed that during 2018 the CWGC will be putting the photos of servicemen and women who died during WWI and WWII on their website. The contact for this project is Andrew Fetherston, the CWGC Archivist. His email address is: andrew.fetherston@cwgc.org. All the best for 2018.

**Patrick Bourke**

*community. It is tough having an art practice with limited opportunities to make and show work. Having the opportunity to exhibit at Art Space, a top Australian gallery, was incredible. There are a lot of ebbs and flows being an artist—most of us have a second job. So, it's important to be dynamic with how you make a living and navigate a sustainable practice. Art prizes, scholarships and fellowships are one way of doing this. With nine participants and only one fellowship there will always be a bit of disappointment but you don't necessarily go in to win, it's just nice to be a part of the conversation. I was able to exhibit in Sydney, work with curators, and make new friends. It was a good experience all round.*

**U.V. is pleased to support the work of young and emerging arts practitioners and acknowledges that Shan Turner-Carroll is the son of PNGAA Events Co-ordinator Sara Turner.**



Shan Turner-Carroll The Traveller 2015

Courtesy and © the artist

## CREATIVE ARTS + BOOKS & REVIEWS

### South Pacific Air War, volume 1, the Fall of Rabaul December 1941 – March 1942

South Pacific Air War, Volume 1, The Fall of Rabaul, December 1941- March 1942 by Michael Claringbould and Peter Ingram; published 2017 through Avonmore Books, Kent Town, South Australia; ISBN:978-0-9945889-4-4; softback; 250 pages, full colour with numerous fully captioned photographs and appendices; available \$39.95.



This book which covers the critical early months of the Pacific War is the first of three chronicling aerial warfare in the South Pacific. It focuses on land based aviation of the Japanese and Allies which greatly influenced the strategies of opposing sides leading into the May 1942 Battle of the Coral Sea.

Air operations by both sides became a daily occurrence. As Imperial Japanese Navy flying boats and land-based bombers penetrated over vast distances, a few under-strength squadrons of the Royal Australian Air Force put up a spirited fight. However it was the supreme power of aircraft carriers that had the biggest impact. Four Japanese fleet carriers facilitated the capture of Rabaul over a devastating four-day period in January 1942. The following month, the USS Lexington's fighter squadron VF-3 scored one of the most one-sided victories of the entire Pacific War. By March 1942 the Japanese had landed on mainland New Guinea, and the scene was set for a race to control Port Moresby. This is the full story of both sides of an air war that could have been won by either incumbent, but for timing, crucial decisions and luck. The book is logically structured and easy to read assisted by its maps, photographs and appendices. It provides fascinating insights into this early period of the war when Australians felt a sense of hopeless inferiority in numbers and equipment. The author's smooth blending of material from Japanese and Allied records gives its story balance and completeness. The surprise was the detail, particularly of land operations, which the reviewer had not previously

read, although the lack of referencing was an issue to the reviewer.

Much new material is presented, for example in the chapter covering the feint of the US carrier, Lexington towards Rabaul from the east on 20 February 1942. Although the result went badly for the Japanese it could have just as easily gone the other way, which would have disastrously removed the Lexington from the May Coral Sea Battle.

This is a wonderful read for those interested in aerial warfare and a must read for anyone interested in this period and sector of the Pacific War. The volume covers much more than the air war. The appendices showing aircraft losses and aircraft profiles and characteristics assist the reader to understand the conclusions reached by the authors. The authors are congratulated on the readability and clarity of this publication and the reviewer is eagerly waiting for the publication of the following volumes of this trilogy.

Michael Claringbould, author and illustrator, was raised in Port Moresby in the 1960s, and became fascinated by the many Pacific War aircraft wrecks in PNG. He has helped with finding and recovery of aircraft in PNG and has assisted both US and Japanese Governments in identifying missing aircraft and crew. Michael has served widely overseas, including South Pacific countries, as an Australian diplomat. He is contributing editor to Flightpath magazine and has written books, more recently a widely acclaimed history of the Tainan Naval Air Group in PNG, Eagles of the Southern Sky. He is a member of Pacific Air War History Associates, holds Australian pilot's and PG4 paraglider licences and is a skilled digital 3D aviation artist.

Peter Ingram is an aviation historian and author specialising in the early stages of the Pacific War. Two of his books Zero Hour in Broome and Carrier Attack Darwin 1942 have been favourably accepted.

A former business man Peter has travelled widely throughout northern Australia and the South Pacific. He is Chairman of the South Australian Aviation Museum History Group.

**Phil Ainsworth**, President, NGVR & PNGVR Association, December 2017

## Guarding the Periphery The Australian Army in Papua New Guinea, 1951-75

**Author:** Tristan Moss

**Publisher:** Cambridge University Press, 2017

**ISBN:** 978-1-107-19596-7 Hardback

**Pages:** 266

**Category:** Military History

**Available from:** Dymocks, Abbeys, Book Depository, Booktopia, National Library of Australia, Boffins Books

**Cost:** RRP \$59.95

**Description:** As part of the Australian Army History Series, *Guarding the Periphery* is the published research by Dr Tristan Moss into the Australian Army's involvement in the development of the defence capability in the Territory of Papua and New Guinea, with focus on the Pacific Islands Regiment, from 1951 until Papua New Guinea's Independence in 1975.

### Reviewer comments:

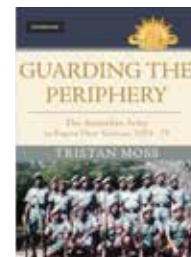
Dr Tristan Moss has undertaken an impressive and detailed research into the engagement by the Australian Army in the development of a unique defence capability in the Territory of Papua and New Guinea (TPNG). The force structure accorded with the Army's northern defence postures during the post-World War II, Vietnam War and pre-Independence eras of Australia's relationship with the Territory from 1951 to 1975. It has been a missing chapter in our military history.

Moss acknowledges that there were other Australian Navy, Army and Air Force deployments in TPNG during this period, which in turn contributed to PNG's defence capability prior to 1975. He contends that it was the Pacific Islands Regiment (PIR), which more clearly reflected the Army's mission to develop a land defence capability that met both the priorities for Australia's national interests and the anticipated national interests of the emergent Papua New Guinean nation.

*Guarding the Periphery* records that the soldiers of the PIR and other Australian Army units in PNG were employed by the Australian Army, initially under Northern Command (Queensland and TPNG), until the formation of a specific PNG Command in 1966. They represented ten percent of the Australian Regular Army by 1972, at a time when Vietnam had been a priority for frontline troops.

Moss has, through his access to Army records and files, been able to virtually put the reader in the room with the decision makers of the time. This adds to

the understanding of how decisions were made about the development of the PIR force structure and the importance of improving the calibre of Australian Army officers and NCOs posted to the PIR's 1st and 2nd Battalions.



Through personal interviews with many former national service teachers/instructors, Moss has recorded their significant contribution to the education of the PIR soldier. There were some forty Chalkies deployed annually across the major bases in Port Moresby (Taurama, Goldie River, Murray Barracks), Lae and Wewak from 1966 to 1973. By generating an enthusiasm for education, the Army was able to activate advanced training and promotion within the PIR, which in turn, paid dividends in preparing the force structure for localisation.

Of particular note is the author's devotion of an entire chapter to the "Black Handers". The true origin of this term, formerly known as "blackhanders", was that if you served in PNG (and could therefore speak fluent Tok Pisin), you were figuratively "marked with the black hand", which meant your personal file was so endorsed as a likely candidate for a second posting to PNG. The term fell out of use by postings officers as the numbers of candidates diminished over time. Some thought the term to be politically incorrect but such terms of self-identification and distinctiveness are replete in military history and should never be obscured.

The Black Watch is a term used to identify the 3rd Battalion of the Royal Regiment of Scotland. The Black Hats was a term used to identify the Union Army's Iron Brigade in the American Civil War, due to their wearing of the distinctive black hard hat. The Patrons of the PNGAA and the PIB-PIR Association are both Black Handers and the term stimulates fond and humorous memories of Army service in PNG.

With the publication of *Guarding the Periphery*, Tristan Moss has accomplished the essential military context for the Australian Army's involvement in Papua New Guinea in the lead up to Independence in 1975. The remainder of the pre-Independence and post-Independence military history is not widely known so this book adds significantly to the history knowledge of military staff in both Australia and Papua New Guinea.

### Russell Wade

PNGAA Committee

Ex 1st Battalion, Pacific Islands Regiment 1971-73 and HQ PNGDF 1983-84.

Lynette Arden, is a volunteer powerhouse behind the PNGAA website. Recently, she has turned her talents to a different genre...

### Lynette Arden / Travelling Through the Unexpected

'Lynette Arden lets us sit in the window seat while *Travelling Through the Unexpected*, as she distils crisp moments into memorable free-verse snapshots, stunning villanelles, haiku or tanka. So sit back and enjoy this poetic journey...'

– **Jude Aquilina**

'*Travelling Through the Unexpected* is a book of kind, astute, intelligent poems, and it feels patiently fabricated, waited for, a river that's reached its sea.'

– **Mark Tredinnick**

'*Travelling Through the Unexpected* inscribes the arc of a life's journey with poignant glimpses along the way. This is Lynette Arden's first full collection. The wait has been worth it.'

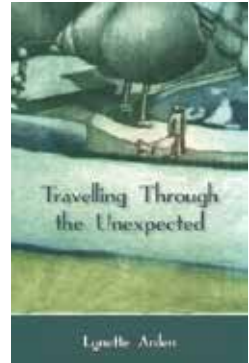
– **Rob Walker**

'Lynette Arden's competence and understanding of Japanese poetic genres is expertly but unobtrusively sequenced in a way that invites the reader to keep turning pages: explore something new.'

– **Beverley George**

Available through Ginninderra Press: <https://www.ginninderrapress.com.au>

Also available through on line bookstores such as Booktopia, Book Depository, Fishpond, and Amazon in hard copy and eBook versions.



### Brisbane Houses with Gardens by Beth Wilson

Review By Robert Parer

Brisbane Houses with Gardens by Beth Wilson published in 2017 is about historically interesting houses in Brisbane. I purchased a copy as our family home (59 Heath St East, Brisbane) KITAWAH or WEWAK was featured.

Then on going through it I found an article about a block of apartments '**Cliffside**', which had been built in 1936 for the remarkable PNG identity Mrs Doris Regina Booth OBE. As a young boy, I admired her building and beside it the Lamb Family mansion at Kangaroo Point overlooking the Brisbane River towards the Botanic Gardens. I knew a little about her famous gold mining history around the Wau gold fields and it intrigued me as to how she had found the time to build such an early trendsetter and how she recognised the potential of the river for upmarket accommodation. Now of course apartment buildings now line every reach of the River.

The book offers a meticulous, illustrated look at Brisbane houses.



## A book bonanza

... calling all published authors and budding writers who might be interested in this idea of book displays and talks.

- To be held later this year depending upon interest
- To be held in Sydney (at this stage)
- Fee entrance
- Responsible for your own stall
- Opportunity to sell books about PNG
- Have a timetable for the authors to present a synopsis of their work

E.g. "Line of Fire" - Ian Townsend;  
"Rediscovering PNG aboard Pacific Asia" - Barbara Short;

"Abandoned & Sacrificed; the Tragedy of the Montevideo Maru" - Kathryn Spurling and others.

- members may want to align with the Writers' Festival for writing assistance
- to take the opportunity to begin their memoirs, or
- workshops could be organised.

**Contact Sara to express your interest in participating in this event.**

**0401 138 246 OR [events@pngaa.net](mailto:events@pngaa.net)**

- 1 We are looking for a copy of the PMARFC story "Long Taim Bilong Port Moresby Australian Rules Football Club 1955-1975", for our PNGAA collection please. Refer Henry Bodman's VALE in this issue.

Contact PNGAA Collection

**Steve Burns [sburns1@outlook.com.au](mailto:sburns1@outlook.com.au) or phone (02) 9489 0824**

- 2 I am researching my husband's Aunt, Sister Mary Philomena Bryant who in 1952-3 was a founder for St Martin's School in Rabaul. I have information that two little local boys approached Sister one day saying that they would like to go to school. As there was already a school for non-locals, Sister set about with help from the priests to build a room on a cement slab left over from the bombings. St Martin's was named after St Martin De Porres, a Dominican lay brother from Peru. Sister Philomena was a prisoner of war in Ramale for about three years during the war.

I would be very grateful for any information or if you are able to put me in contact with someone who may have information.

**Thank you. Judy Bryant [Kevinbryant8@bigpond.com](mailto:Kevinbryant8@bigpond.com)**

- 3 Seeking Information about Gladys Baker of Misima Island and also Langu Plantation. I am researching the very interesting life of Gladys, which includes receiving an MBE for services during WW2, and I would appreciate talking with anyone who may know something about Gladys. Does anyone have photos or information about Gladys Baker of Langu Plantation? She lived there from around 1928. She passed away in 1946 - so they would be old photos!

Contact Ally Martell

**Please feel free to email [allymartell@bigpond.com](mailto:allymartell@bigpond.com) or phone 0428 731 844**

*Help  
Wanted*



## Sing Sing – events and reunions



Happy New Year and may 2018 be a wonderfully productive year for us all. Personally, my year started with a shock as the Lovedale fires were basically at our back door. This has always been my worst fear and I didn't handle it well being alone in the house at the time. Thank goodness for 'Fire-ies', family, neighbours and friends.

As PNGAA Events coordinator, I believe that 2017 was an eventful year.

### MELBOURNE: PHILIP SELTH COAST WATCHERS

How fortunate we all were that Philip was so generous with his time and effort and we look forward to his book launch in 2019. The venue, Hampton RSL, was suitable and the staff was very obliging. People travelled from near and far; some I had met in Canberra during the Rabaul and Montevideo service and dinner. It was an opportune time for Judith Hollinshed to launch her book, *Paper Lady*. We had a few impromptu speakers and the questions were very thoughtful.

### MELBOURNE CHRISTMAS

**LUNCH** was a successful get-together with those who were able to attend a few weeks later. Congratulations & thanks to Yana & Chris for their hard work and support.

### SYDNEY CHRISTMAS

**LUNCH** was a large gathering with our a/President, Doug Wood welcoming Sir Michael Somare as our very special guest. Several people travelled from afar to meet Sir Michael and I, too, was very pleased to have the opportunity to meet the Father of the PNG Nation. The silent auction was a great success due to the generosity of members. This money will assist our project Helpim Wantok. Kylie Adams-Collier sold her CD on which her song, MONTEVIDEO MARU 1942, is featured. Her album 'Little Stone', is dedicated to the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru tragedy and 50c of every sale is donated to PNGAA. Available from [www.krosskutrecords.com.au](http://www.krosskutrecords.com.au) or [www.kylieadams-collier.com](http://www.kylieadams-collier.com)

### BRISBANE EVENTS

that were promoted to members. In reflection, 2016-17 Brisbane events included: Lowy Institute Young Entrepreneurs conference QAGOMA | Members lunch reunion, Ship Inn | Kiaps film screening plus panel discussion, State Library | Brisbane International Film Festival screening plus complimentary passes, Palace Cinemas | No. One Neighbour Exhibition plus 2 x guided tours by curator, QAGOMA | Australian History Teachers Ass'n National Conference,

Stuartholme plus free tour of WACOL Museum | Coast Watchers presentation by Philip Selth, WACOL Museum | music concert by TELEK at Redlands Bay.

### There were also happy PNGAA events held in Adelaide, Cairns, Gold Coast, and Perth!

In 2018, the intention is to work on a few events in a few different places and gauge what interests the members and friends. These get-togethers will be facilitated by the local groups with support from me. So, if you have an idea for something, I'd love to hear it!

On another personal note, I am thrilled to inform you all that I was contacted by Fred Cook from Lae about my enquiry as to the whereabouts of Eric Robson's family in Mumeng. The connection has been made with Eric's niece in Cessnock. An added bonus is that I learned that Fred was a friend of my parents-in-law and my brother-in-law. Thank you Una Voce!

Look forward to meeting you at an event in 2018!

*Sara*

### Post Script

Members wanting to arrange an event can do so with the assistance of our Sydney-based Events Coordinator!

## 2017 Kiap Reunion Queensland Sunshine Coast

Report by **Chris Warrillow**

It was a billion-dollar view from the poop deck of the Kawana Waters Hotel across the forest of masts in the adjoining marina, on Sunday 12 November when kiaps gathered for their 2017 reunion. This nautical vista must have reminded Hugh Richardson of the time when he was Commodore of the Royal Papua Yacht Club, and for the rest of us it brought back happy memories of when we used to sit at the Yacht Club in the gloaming, looking out across Port Moresby harbour with gin and tonic in hand, watching the sun setting on the old Empire.

This occasion at Kawana Waters on Queensland's Sunshine Coast was tinged with sadness by the recent passing of Jim Sinclair who had died on 9 October. The last of the Australian District Commissioners, Jim left behind a mountain of memories for all of us, in the thirty-seven books he had written of one of the most significant eras of Pacific history – the Australian Administration of Papua New Guinea. Jim's last tome "Middle Kingdom" is a superb finale to his historic tribute to PNG, and as the British Raj in India is remembered as "Kipling's India." so a hundred

years from now the Australian Raj of Papua New Guinea will be remembered as "Sinclair's PNG."

To celebrate our shared memories of PNG, kiaps came from everywhere. Total attendance was 306 including wives and others. Roger and Judy Fairhall came from their home in Hong Kong. And Tom Steen's wife Bessie came all the way from the United Kingdom to be with Tom's old friends, and apart from the Queensland resident kiaps, we were honoured by those who came from further away; some from NSW, others from Victoria and also some from Canberra.

An endearing feature of these reunions is the humbling attendance of wives of departed kiaps. Here we were privileged to welcome Noelene Allan, Lois Parker, Bessie Steen, Robyn Stitt, Margaret Tierney, Barbara Wadsworth, Jan Sinclair, and Joan Colman whose kiap husband John Colman is seen in the attached photo, front row, third from the right. We were also honoured by attending family members like David and Michael Sinclair who came with their mum Jan, and Michael Cochrane who accompanied his dad John,

who is also in the attached photo, second row from the front, third from the right.

Though most of us are now withered and old, some of us are remarkably well preserved. Ross Johnston looks a bit weather beaten, but he is still slim and trim. Also slim and trim is Bill Brown who hasn't changed except for his white hair, and Jack Battersby, believe it or not, looks almost the same as when he first went to PNG in 1953. He has hardly aged at all. Jack Bullock still tall and serene is easily recognised. Frank Howard looks the same, and John Balderson is still as handsome as ever. But most of us, now portly and white haired, would not have recognised each other except for the name tags we were wearing. But it was a fun gathering, nevertheless, of the oldest of very old friends.

And the reunion continued the next day for breakfast at Moolooaba whence one by one we all drifted away again until the next reunion. The last to leave right on the stroke of noon, were Frank Howard, Jack Battersby, Otto Alder and Vin Smith who was still cracking jokes like he always did back there in PNG, eons and eons ago.

Various kiaps took photos of others at the gathering, and these photos remain in the memories of their respective smart phones, or are published on their individual web sites. But Mike Slough was kind enough to publish his photos for all of us to see. Just go to the ex-kiap website, and on the Forum page down the bottom in the Photographs section, and the entry for 20 Nov. 2017, click on the little box next to Mike's name and you can see all our ugly faces on display.

Not on the ex-kiap website, but nevertheless of some significance is this photo of the 1953 Cadet Patrol Officer intake. Most of those depicted here have long since gone to the big Patrol Post in the sky, but a few stalwarts made it to the 2017 kiap reunion. Look closely at the second row from the front, from right to left, Bill McGrath, David Hook, then John Cochrane. Next to John is John Harris (not at the reunion), but over his right shoulder is Chips Mackellar, and partly obscured in the row behind Chips is Bob Cleland. Also lurking in the rear row and out of sight is Jack Battersby. Except for John Harris, all those named here in this photo made it to the 2017 reunion. Not a bad effort since this photo was taken in 1953, would you believe, sixty-five years ago. See how smart and pukka we all were then in our starched whites, and colourful neck ties, the epitome of the well-dressed colonial administrators.

The reunion was honoured by the attendance of Keith Jackson, former PNG chalkie, former President of the Papua New Guinea Association of Australia, and now the publisher of the on-line magazine PNG ATTITUDE. In this endeavour he is ably assisted by kiaps Phil Fitzpatrick and Bob Cleland. This august journal aims to assist PNG writers to publish their works in what is an otherwise barren PNG literature landscape. PNG writers are encouraged by regular articles on PNG contributed by various kiaps like Phil Fitzpatrick, Paul Oates

and Chris Overland. This well-presented journal is easily accessed on the internet if you Google "Keith Jackson & Friends: PNG ATTITUDE." It provides good up-to-date information on PNG and is interesting reading for all us old kiaps.

Our thanks go to the staff of the Kawana Waters Hotel who gave us this superb venue. We also thank Peter Salmon and his ex-kiap website for keeping us all informed, and of course our thanks go to the organisers Heather and Bob Fayle and Helen and Denys Faithful. Denys is now 87 years old, bless him.

And finally, one feature of these Sunshine Coast reunions which has made them famous among kiaps is that there are no formalities; no official starting time, no official finishing time, no guests of honour, and definitely no speeches. But on this occasion, it was the end of an era—the passing of our last Australian District Commissioner. Bob Fayle called upon all those present to drink a farewell toast to Jim Sinclair. And we did.

**So for Jim, and also for all those other kiaps who did not make it to this reunion and who are too many to mention here, and to all those among us who will not make it to our next reunion, let us remember them all this way:**

*There's a Patrol Post up there in the sky,  
above the sea near Lae,*

*Nor'nor West of Samarai, South-East of  
Hansa Bay.*

*It has palm trees waving in the moon, where  
mosquitoes sting at night,*

*And canoes out on the blue lagoon, awaiting  
fish to bite.*

*It smells of kunai in the rain, and smoke from  
the valley floor,*

*And you'll hear the pounding surf again, on  
the reef beyond the shore.*



## Cairns Lunch, 2017

*It's the place where all the kiaps go, when  
their life on earth is through,*

*And they talk with all the friends they know,  
of the things they used to do.*

*They talk of all the times now past, and of  
places far away,*

*And of all the memories that last, of  
Independence Day.*

*They talk of sights and sounds and smells,  
and people they all knew,*

*Of bugle calls and mission bells, of  
garamut and kundu,*

*Of days gone by in Samarai, and  
windswept coral cays,*

*Of tribal fights and freezing nights, and  
misty Highland days,*

*Of black-palm floors and tidal bores, and  
life on the River Fly,*

*Of the Kavieng Club and the bottom pub,  
with a thirst you couldn't buy,*

*Of carrier loads and Highland roads, at the  
time when we were there,*

*Of bailer-shell pearls and Trobriand girls,  
with flowers in their hair.*

*And when we say goodbye to you, don't  
mourn us when we go,*

*For the Big D.C. will call us too, and this of  
course we know.*

*That last patrol will take us all, along that  
well-worn track.*

*But the difference for this final call, is that  
we won't be coming back.*

*But our passing should not cause you  
pain. It's not sad for us to die,*

*For we shall all soon meet again, in that  
Patrol Post in the Sky.*

By Chips Mackellar



Photos supplied by **Chris Warrillow**

## *Sing Sing* - events and reunions



### **Lunch at The Curry Vault in Bank Place, Melbourne CBD followed by drinks at the nearby Mitre Tavern. 6 December 2017.**

#### **PHOTO Left to Right**

RICK WILKINSON, geologist, turned journalist now author, residing at Port Arlington;

ANDY GRAINGE former BP and Oil Search geologist, Moresby, now Melbourne;

JENNY MEEHAN, formerly Madang, Wewak and Moresby (now Geelong);

SHIRLEE REID, formerly Laiagam, Kerema and Moresby (now Broadbeach);

JENNI LEAN, formerly Moresby, now Wellington NZ;

JOHN REID, former kiap, as per Shirlee but now FIFO Wau/Broadbeach;

CHRIS WARRILLOW, former kiap (1959-77), thence various PNG government departments before retiring to Melbourne in 2005. Current PNGAA committee member.

JOHN MEEHAN, civil engineer, (details as per Jenny Meehan) and

DAVE HENTON, formerly Gulf Province as a kiap, thence community affairs various oil companies, now Clifton Springs.

# Vale

## **BODMAN, Henry (14 August 2016)**

Henry was a prominent member of the 1962 ASOPA intake.

His first year in PNG was spent teaching at Tavui Primary T School and this was the start of a distinguished career in PNG education. Henry spent three years as Headmaster at Kabagap near Kokopo, and five years as Headmaster Hohola Demonstration School Pt Moresby. During this period Henry was also a member of the curriculum development committee, Chairman of Pt Moresby Primary Schools Sports Association and a Charter Member of the national executive of PNG Teachers Federation.

During 1973-75 he was Assistant Director in the Department of Posts and Telegraphs.

Henry was much involved in the Port Moresby Australian Rules Football Club (PMARFC) and its subsequent reunions. The 50<sup>th</sup> reunion in 2010 was a highlight for all but especially Henry who was awarded a Moresby Past Players 'Association Life Membership' – the first issued in 35 years.

At this function all in attendance were issued with a copy of the PMARFC story 'Long Taim Bilong Port Moresby Australian Rules Football Club 1955-1975', a 60-page glossy publication.

## **BURFOOT, Geoffrey Robert (8 January 2018, aged 94 years)**

Late of Tyalgum, formerly of Roseville, and New Guinea. Passed away unexpectedly. Geoff first joined the Provisional Administration of New Guinea as a Patrol Officer on 13 May 1946. He had brief service at Pt Moresby, Lae, Kaiapit, and Higturu before going to Tufi for 17 months then to Iona as OIC. Following leave he served a term as Patrol Officer at Chimbu. He was recalled from his next leave to the Mt Lamington disaster and was associated with that calamity for nine months before being transferred as a/ADO Abau and some four months later to Port Moresby. Before going to ASOPA he served at Kikori then as ADO and DO (District Officer) at Wewak, Aitape, Goroka and Chimbu.

Loved Brother of Joyce (dec'd). Good friend to the people of the Tyalgum community, especially the congregation of St John's Anglican Church.

## **BUTLER, Leo Matthew**

(Born Korumburra, Victoria, 24 July 1928; died Echuca, Victoria, 6 August 2017, aged 89 years)

Leo worked as Auditor/Accountant/Marketing Manager with Mobil Oil in Lae, Port Moresby, Goroka and Mt Hagen from 1952 to 1964 and travelled extensively throughout the country in those roles.

He wrote fondly of his PNG memories in a number of articles that were published in *Una Voce* over recent few years.

Leo leaves behind a brother Patrick, children Lachlan and Jane, their spouses Jennie and Tony, and grandchildren Maddie, Sophie, Ollie, Harry, Ella and Duncan.

## **FLETCHER, Lekei (7 October 1915 - 21 July 2017, aged 101 years)**

Originally of Gabutu Port Moresby PNG and late of Marsden. Loved and devoted wife of the late John Harry Fletcher for 76 years. Loved mother of 11 children – Jessie, Tom (dec'd), Alice, Margaret, Yvonne, Helen, Lister (dec'd), Norris, Lily, John and Judith (dec'd). Much loved by 36 grandchildren, two adopted grandchildren, 80 great-grandchildren and 13 great-great grandchildren.

## **GIBSON, Warren Leslie (D. September 2017)**

Tributes to come next issue.

## **JOHNSON, David (4 May 1926 – 21 September 2017)**

David Arthur Johnston was born on the 4<sup>th</sup> May 1926 died 21 September 2017. He was born in Tenterfield NSW and died in Perth Western Australia. He is survived by four children:

Rosemary, Ian, Philip and Anne. David was one of the early pioneer missionaries who entered into the Southern Highlands with the Methodist Overseas Mission.

He was brought up a dairy farm in Tenterfield. After training at Hawksbury Agricultural College and then George Brown Methodist Missionary College, he was invited to work as an Agriculturalist at Mendi in the Southern Highlands. He along with his wife Beryl were working with MOM from 1952- 1960. When they arrived with a small baby, David had to build his own house from local materials and find a way of sourcing water effectively.

In Mendi, David developed an Agricultural lease and planted a variety of vegetables and fruit to supplement the staple diet of the local people which was primarily sweet potato. He also grew plots for selected people which entailed teaching them how to manage and prune as well as introducing shade crops. The plan was to introduce higher protein crops and later livestock. He introduced cabbage, a stronger variety of beans, peanuts, and bananas. He also introduced bees and fowls to the valley. He flew in calves and a bull from Goroka to establish a small herd. Today it is fairly common for Mendis to own cattle which they prize highly.

To make contact with and communicate about agriculture, David had to learn the Mendi Language (Angal) The best way to do this was to sit in the gardens with the people because there was little pidgin English and no English spoken at that time.

This entailed hours of patient listening, recording and clarifying language: the outcome was that David developed a good grasp of daily language over nine years. He enjoyed his linguistic work and saw it as strategic in understanding the culture and daily life of the locals.

On Sundays David would frequently walk up and down the Mendi valley; call people together in the gardens and conduct a short church service, using the teachings of Jesus about gardens, crops, food, returns and faithfulness as his themes. He became close to a young man 'Wasun Koka', who helped him with daily translation of parts of the bible over two years. This first draft became the basis for more accurate translation later on. After David left Mendi, Wasun became the first Christian convert amongst his people and was trained in Raronga College in Rabaul and then a bible college in Brisbane. He then returned to PNG as the first ordained pastor in Mendi then later Bishop of the church there. David kept in regular contact with Wasun and family until his death.

David was invited to take part in a number of patrols of other parts of the highlands including North Mendi Valley: Kandep, Mab and Dimipa and he explored Mt Giluwe with a government patrol. After he returned to Australia in 1960, he moved with his family to Orange and worked at Wolaroi Boy's College as a teacher of Agriculture, then Deputy Headmaster and Acting Headmaster. He and Beryl were very active in the Methodist Church in Orange.

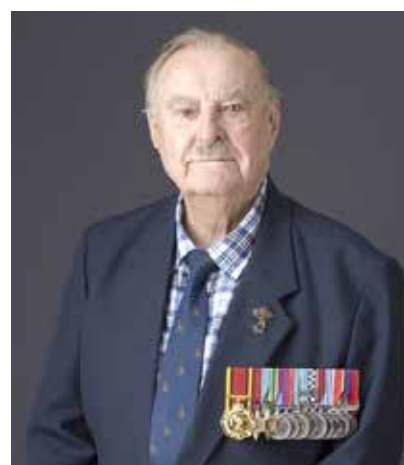
In 1969, the family moved to Perth, as David was offered a position at Scotch College as a Science teacher, then Dean of Science and later Master-in-charge of St Andrews House - a pastoral division of the students. Finally, he became Head of Scotch Junior School, which he felt was one of the happiest appointments of his time at Scotch.

David and Beryl were involved in Scarborough Methodist - Uniting Church, their local church. He was trained as a lay preacher in Tenterfield and continued that role in the Uniting Church for over 50 years.

He was a gregarious, warm-hearted man who had many friends and kept contact with a wide circle of colleagues. David enjoyed learning about new ideas and continued to study formally and informally all his life. He loved his family and was proud of them. He will be sorely missed.

Author: *Rosemary Snibson* (Nee Johnston)

## **MARTIN, (John) Des** **(1 February 2018 aged 92)**



Nature's gentleman, Des Martin passed away on the 1st of February

2018 aged 92. It's fair to say that when advised he had only days to go, Des approached his death in the same way he always exhibited in life—with his thoughts of others and strong, personal courage.

Des was a soldier in World War 2 and ended the war as an Army Sergeant serving in New Guinea. The sights Des saw as the Japanese retreated along the Northern New Guinea coast stayed with him all his life. He swore he'd never go back. When he returned to Australia he was transferred to an Army Militia Unit the 30th Bn in North Sydney. Amazingly, some 20 years later, I was to enlist in the same Unit whose regimental history and affiliation was with the British 42nd Regiment of Foot known world-wide as the (Scottish) Black Watch. After a few years away from New Guinea however, Des applied and was accepted as a Kiap (Patrol Officer) in the then Territory of Papua New Guinea. He ended up as the star in a documentary film 'Along the Sepik' where he was stationed at the time at Ambunti as the Assistant District Officer (or ADC).

Many times, Des and I would compare notes about what it was like to confront hostile situations as a Kiap in the 1950s. In his final days, Des remembered one confrontation where his patrol was under attack and 'the arrows fell like rain'. He ordered his police not to fire as he and his NCO ran forward. Des fired his pistol into the ground and disarmed the startled fight leader who was about to shoot his arrow at Des. This action eventually led to peaceful negotiations. If



*Des Martin awarded the PNG Order of Logohu by consul-general Magdalene Moi-He*

Des had been a member of an Australian uniformed service at the time, there is no doubt in my mind that this action would have been officially recognised as meritorious. Yet the Australian government and people virtually knew nothing about the actions of TPNG Kiaps like Des, such were the conditions of service that Kiaps operated under. Former Kiaps were only officially recognised a few years ago with the Police Overseas Service Medal.

Des and a fellow Patrol Officer were responsible for the initial response when Mount Lamington erupted in 1951 and wiped out the Northern District (now the Oro Province) government station of Higataru and the thousands of people then living in the surrounding area. The mopping up operations were something no one could possibly imagine with the remains of hundreds of decaying bodies to be hurriedly buried. Afterwards, Des was just expected to recommence his duty as a field officer. It was for his actions at Higataru that he was honoured by the PNG

government with the award a few years ago of the Order of Logohu.

Returning from TPNG with his beloved wife Pam in the mid-60s, Des worked with the Australian government until his retirement. Des conducted an energetic retirement however that in later years involved letters to *The Australian* newspaper, a publication he read from cover to cover every day. He also made numerous thoughtful and informative posts on various internet sites. He was awarded a prize for one of the articles he wrote about his time in TPNG that was published in the International Police Association journal, *Police Down Under*. He also wrote about his father's exploits as a New South Wales policeman and serviceman in World War 1.

Des and his beloved wife Pam retired to Buderim on the Queensland Sunshine Coast and Pam passed on a few years ago so now they are united. Des is survived by his son and daughter and his grandchildren. A true mate that will be sadly missed by all his family and friends.

*Paul Oates*

### **McLAY, Alan John (16 January 1945 - 3 January 2018, aged 72 years)**

Alan, who was President of the Lae Chamber of Commerce and Industry died at Angau Memorial Hospital after a two month illness. The Lae Business Community has lost an icon, a man who was passionate about business in Morobe and vocal about issues that would affect

the business community. Alan first went to Papua New Guinea as a Cadet Patrol Officer in 1964, under the Australian government, and was posted to Pomio in East New Britain.

Between the early 1960s and late 1970s he worked as a *kiap* in Wakunai in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, Kerowagi, Sinasina (Chimbu) and Madang. He was presiding officer in the 1968 elections in the Bainings Mountains when Sir Jerry Nalau was the first native returning officer. Alan remained in PNG after independence and became Deputy Commissioner of Morobe Province from 1981-85 under Commissioner Sir Jerry Nalau, with whom he formed a close friendship. After leaving government affairs, Alan ventured into the private sector, working as an administration manager for Sullivan's Wholesale before setting up his own consultancy where he worked on fixing work permits for expatriates and assisting local companies in registering their businesses. In 1995 he took over the role of former Lae Chamber of Commerce President Phil Franklin and held the post until his death.

His wife, Nellie, said Alan became ill on the last week of October but she decided not to take him overseas for treatment. "I made the decision for him to seek medication here because he could not walk properly and was not strong enough to go abroad," she said.

Sir Jerry said McLay was his brother for more than 40 years. "We have been working together and I used to call him my white brother," he said.

Australian High Commissioner to PNG Bruce Davis said McLay had

made a tremendous contribution to the Australia-PNG bilateral relationship, over many years. The High Commissioner said that McLay served as the Australian Honorary Consul in Lae from 2013 to 2017, and subsequently as a Consular Warden, provided outstanding service as a representative of the Australian government, assisting Australians in need and strengthening the connections and friendships between Australia and Papua New Guinea.

"As president of the Lae Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mr McLay made a significant contribution to the expansion of economic, trade and investment ties between the two countries."

"During the annual Australia Week program of activities, Mr McLay played a central role through organising highly successful events in Lae," the High Commissioner said.

Alan is survived by his wife Nellie his son Alistair and daughter Kathryn.

*Nellie McLay*

### **MIDDLETON, Sir John Kt, OBE (19 July 1930 – 1 December 2017, aged 87 years)**

John spent his early childhood on Karkar Island. He returned to Australia with his mother Alice prior to the outbreak of World War Two. He attended primary school in Sydney at Mosman Public before going on to SCEGS (Shore School in North Sydney) from 1941-1946. After graduating from Shore he had a short career with CSR (Commonwealth Sugar Refinery).

In 1948 he returned to New Guinea on *MV Montoro* and assisted his father Max with rehabilitating the badly run down copra plantations after WW11. John left Karkar in 1949 and spent a year learning accounting with Charles M Harvey accountants. In 1950 he was back on Karkar assisting his father.

In 1962 Sir Hugh Foote led a delegation from the UN to report on the Trust Territory of Papua and New Guinea which led to the setting up of the House of Assembly in 1964. At the government's urging John stood for election in the Madang / Sepik electorate and lost to Frank Martin. In 1968 he stood again for the Sumkar Open electorate and won. He was re-elected in 1972 and was very involved with the ushering in of Independence in 1975. Independence saw the start of political parties. John remained an Independent.

Under the then opposition leader Tai Abel, John became the shadow Minister for Finance. Tai was not an English speaker so depended on John for the budget reply. In 1977, then Prime Minister Julius Chan asked him to be chairman of the Fiscal Commission. He also served on the Constitution Committee. It was at this time that he was awarded an OBE for services to Government.

John was elected Deputy Chairman of the Cocoa Board in 1980 and, in 1982, became one of the founding Directors of Ramu Sugar, a post he held until 1990 when Ramu was purchased by New Britain Oil Palm. John was also Chairman of the Planters Association later to be known as the Growers Association. He also served on the Board of the

Copra Marketing Board which was later known as Kokonas Industri Koporesen, for which he was also elected chairman briefly.

In 2000 he purchased his brother, Roger's shares in the family company, Kulili Estates, and Roger retired to Australia. After this John retired from public life.

In 2003 he was awarded a knighthood for his service to politics and agriculture. A number of medical operations on his spine and ankle limited his travels. He spent nearly all his time at the family home on Karkar Island eventually resigning from active participation in the family business leaving it to his two sons. He died at home on Karkar Island, which was his wish, and is buried with his mother and father beside the sea near the family home at Kulili.

The people of Karkar honoured him and his service with a moving and beautiful burial ceremony. Sir John loved PNG, in particular the Island and people of Karkar, whose interests he served to the end. John is survived by his wife Anna and two sons Brett and Derek.

*Derek Middleton*

### **NOBBS, Ken (20 October 2017, aged 79 years)**

After graduating from College in Auckland NZ with an Accountancy Degree, Ken was offered employment in Papua New Guinea. He became the Post Master in Mt Hagen and later at Madang. Ken's two children were born in PNG.

Later, after moving to Norfolk Island Ken remained in close contact with many of the friends he made in PNG and, over the years,

many PNG ex-pats visited Norfolk Island on holiday and were made welcome by Ken and his family.

Ken could trace his ancestry back to Pitcairn Island and the Mutineers from the Mutiny on the Bounty. Ken was a major identity in the business community of Norfolk Island right up until his untimely passing at home. He was the owner of Cameralines camera store on Norfolk Island for a period of 49 years until he retired and closed the business in 2016.

*Barbara Elliott*

### **PFUND, Kurt (8 June 1935 – 11 December 2017)**

Swiss artist and former resident of Port Moresby passed away in Switzerland after a short illness. Members will remember him living out at Laloki in the 1960s & 70s where he painted and drew cartoons for the South Pacific Post and Black & White magazine.

### **SHELLY, Terry (28 December 2018 aged 77 years)**

Terry's early career was as a cooperatives officer based in Kundiawa. He worked with the farmers of Chimbu to grow and market coffee as a cash crop, later joining his wife, daughter and sons as he established Nowek Ltd in Goroka. Nowek became a major local company concentrating initially on coffee processing and later diversifying into a thriving winery (strawberries and other local fruits providing the raw material) and a host of spin-offs in the manner of the true entrepreneur.

He drove his employees hard, paid them well and looked after them grandly and always showed huge benevolence to the ordinary people of the Chimbu and Eastern Highlands whom he loved.

Terry, Murray Bladwell and others collaborated on a number of projects carting books and medical equipment from Australia to PNG – much of it paid for by *PNG Attitude* readers with Terry always the most benevolent.

Just before Christmas last year, for example, over 100 Simbu schools and rural health centres were showered with boxes of books gifted by the Toowong Rotary Club in Brisbane. Murray and Terry worked together to deliver the *Books for Simbu* project, resulting in a huge shipping container of 11,000 books and health items. Terry's companies Nowek and Winestar kicked in the K25,000 required to buy and ship the container from Brisbane to Goroka and Kundiawa.

Although based in Goroka and making his business there over many years, Terry was always regarded as one of the great *waitsikin man blo Simbu*.

He fell in love with one of Simbu's beautiful mountain orchids, Lyn from the Kamaneku tribe, and they married. Lyn became Terry's lifetime partner and they had beautiful children: Louis (deceased), Trevor, Sarah, Ben, Terry Jnr, Joe and Jasmin.

Ben and Joe now run the family businesses in Goroka (including coffee, wine, construction, aggregates and bricks and cement). After many years in Winestar, Sarah recently made the transition

to public service and the Ministry of Police. Terry Jr is in Brisbane and Trev is in Perth.

With thanks to Keith Jackson and PNG Attitude – read more at: [http://asopa.typepad.com/asopa\\_people/2017/12/terry-shelley-dies-at-77-tough-generous-a-true-man-of-png.html#more](http://asopa.typepad.com/asopa_people/2017/12/terry-shelley-dies-at-77-tough-generous-a-true-man-of-png.html#more)

## TWOHILL, Sister Berenice (Dympna Mary Twohill - 3 November 2018, aged 100 years)

Sister Berenice passed away just a few days short of turning 101. The daughter of Alexander and Eliza Twohill, Sister Berenice was born in Murwillumbah in 1916, one of 11 children. The family later moved to a farm at Tumbulgum. After completing secondary school Sr Berenice joined the order of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart in Sydney. She taught music at Mascot, and after taking final vows at Bowral, was posted to Bowraville. This gave her a taste for missionary work and after three years she volunteered to be sent to Rabaul, then capital in the Australian-mandated Territory of New Guinea. Her order had two schools in Rabaul, one for Chinese children, the other for mixed race children (including Japanese youngsters) and the children lined the wharf in welcome.

One year later and 47 days after the bombing of Pearl Harbour on December 7, 1941, Rabaul fell. There was no contact from the outside world: no newspapers, books or letters. No one in Australia heard from Sister Berenice until late in 1945. Eliza Twohill died in early

1944 and never saw her daughter again.

Sr Berenice later said: *‘For months following our internment, we slept together in a small locked room without undressing. Firstly we feared the Japanese soldiers and secondly, it would have been too dangerous for air raids could be expected at any hour and we would have to run to the trenches which at that time were little slit holes round our houses. Looking back now, they would have been useless had any bombs fallen. At last came Stage 3. All our huts having been bombed, we were confined entirely to our mountain home – trenches running in under the hills. The men folk worked night and day going further and further under the hills; it was well they did so. We had no shelters at all now and one had to choose between the scorching sun or the underground.*

*In our trenches we prayed for hours on end as one wave after another of bombers dropped their cargo above, or near us. Each moment we expect to be our last and Father kept giving Absolution as he heard another plane approaching.’*

On September 16 1945 Sister Berenice and the other surviving missionaries were in a jungle camp of makeshift shelters and tunnels about 20 kilometres outside town at Ramale.

Sr Berenice later said about Ramale: *‘Ramale, an extremely deep gorge with its virgin forest was to replace poor fire-blasted Vunapope. I was in the advance party to leave Vunapope, and what a sight meet the eye, when after a few hours walk, we came to the top of Ramale Gorge. “Descend!” came the order - well we began - slipping, falling and struggling up again, as the descent was down the*

*almost perpendicular side of the mountain. Down we went into the depths, only to ascend again fifteen months later when the war was over. Again, the work of digging trenches began and the building of tunnels. The Fathers and Brothers did the excavating and we carried away the earth.*

*In these tunnels we slept at night - and they were dark, damp and unhealthy.’*

Eventually Japanese planes had stopped flying overhead and there had been sporadic machine gun fire going on for days when the nuns heard a “Cooee” echoing down the valley.

A report in the *Herald* the next day listed Sister Berenice’s name among 10 Australian Sacred Heart nuns found in a POW camp outside Rabaul. Sister Berenice’s malaria meant she could not return to the tropics. She worked for years among the disadvantaged in Kings Cross.

At 75, she returned to Rabaul for the 50th anniversary of the sinking of the *Montevideo Maru*. She said she believed God had given her such a long life so she could get the real story of the Rabaul POWs into the history books.



Lorna Johnston nee Whyte (left) with Sr Berenice Twohill 2009  
Photo: Andrea Williams



In 2010 the ABC telemovie 'Sisters of War' (available on DVD) told the story of Sr Berenice and her friend, Australian Army Nurse Lorna Whyte.

Sr Berenice was a passionate supporter of the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Society, now integrated into the PNGAA, and delighted when a national memorial, the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Memorial, was dedicated at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra in 2012, the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary since WWII came to Rabaul and the New Guinea Islands.

*"We are all born with animal instincts in all of us. War brings it out in so many. In war it makes some men, men, but others it just makes them animals,"* she told the University of Canberra's Australians at War Film Archive in 2003. *"I saw life at its best and its worst. I saw what human beings could do to each other, what hatred could do and yet what faith could do and what kindness could do. That's what we are here for, to help one another. I saw how useless all this is, when people go on hating one another and killing one another."*

Sister Berenice leaves behind a legacy of courage and compassion. Sr Berenice was a much loved member of the Australian Province of the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Kensington, and a mass was held in The Chapel of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Convent in Kensington.

<https://au.news.yahoo.com/video/watch/37747820/extraordinary-life-of-sydney-nun-remembered/?cmp=st>

#### Endnotes

<?> Sr Berenice Twohill Recollections December 1983

<?> Sr Berenice Twohill Recollections December 1983

<?> Rod Miller's unpublished manuscript 'Lost Women of Rabaul' formed the basis of the ABC telemovie 'Sisters of War'

## VERATUA, Henry T. (8th November 2017)

Henry came from Saroa village, Rigo sub district, and was stationed at Ambunti as a trainee Patrol Officer when I [Laurie



Bragge] took over from John Corrigan there as ADC in 1970. Henry prided himself on being a kiap and I had no problem at the end of his traineeship in signing-off on his training and commending him as an exceptional officer who would go far. It came as no surprise to me, therefore, that Henry was soon posted to Angoram as ADC, then to Maprik as DDC and to Wewak as DC of the East Sepik District; and thereby my trainee became my boss. In 2015, in a letter Henry credited his traineeship at Ambunti with his sequential kiap role models, John Corrigan, Murray Tomlinson and myself, as the key foundation to his successful career. And what a career it was!

After serving as District Commissioner, then Provincial Commissioner of the East Sepik Province, Henry was requested by Sir Michael Somare, to stay on as Provincial Secretary in order to give direction and management to the newly-established East Sepik Provincial Government. From 1981 to 1986 Henry served as PNG Chief Electoral Officer and then until 1993 he was the PNG Public Service Commissioner. He also, in this period, served as Head of the Department of Defence. In 1994 he was posted to the Western Province as Provincial Administrator and

Departmental Secretary, and then from 1995 to 1997 to the Western Highlands as Administrator and Departmental Secretary.

From 1998 to 2000 Henry served sequentially as PNG Departmental Head of Department of Transport, Works, Civil Aviation and Tourism. In this period, he was also Chairman of the National Supply and Tenders Board.

From 2003 to 2005 Henry was consultant and special advisor to the Minister for Inter-Government Relations, Sir Peter Barter on the Southern Highlands Provincial Government restoration. Then for the next four years he was seconded on special duties to the Department of the Prime Minister and NEC as Deputy Chairman of the Special Emergencies Task Force – Southern Highlands, and later as Chairman of Special Police Operations in the Southern Highlands and other Highland provinces before, during and after the 2007 elections.

In 2010, in a continuation of his kiap-style troubleshooting role, he was the consultant on the Bulolo/Sepik ethnic clashes, restoring peace and repatriating some recently arrived Sepiks.

Henry, claiming to be my spiritual brother, provided a truck load of bananas as Bride Price for my marriage to Mai Raka of Vabukori village, Port Moresby in 2007. Mai, who had been a class mate of Henry's at the Administrative College, visited Henry, his wife Suia and daughters Sheila, Viola and Michelle in his home village of Saroa during October of 2016. Henry, without doubt was a great man who will be sadly missed by family, colleagues and friends.

*Submitted by Laurie Bragge*

## 2019 ICC Cricket World Cup qualifiers

<http://cricketpng.suoncreative.com>

9 Feb 2018

Under the watchful eye of National Team head coach, Joe Dawes, the Hebou PNG Barramundis are travelling to Brisbane in February as they prepared for the 2019 ICC Cricket World Cup Qualifiers in Zimbabwe, that begin a little later this month.



“Make sure you aren’t hit out of the park”. Probably what Joe is saying there!

The prestigious Cricket World Cup is held every 4 years and 2019 will see the World Cup being played in England & Wales for the fifth time in its history. Trying to make it to the World Cup for the first time in their history, the Hebou PNG Barramundis are taking giant strides toward qualification. This after finishing 4th with 16 points in the ICC World Cricket League Championships.

## The Sharks Wantok

Thursday 7 December 2017 was an historic day for sports and international relations. The Cronulla Sharks and the Sydney Wantok Association signed a Memorandum Of Understanding to create a new working relationship: The Sharks Wantok.



A component of the MOU was the appointment of The Hon. PNG Consulate General in Sydney, Sumasy Singin and Sydney Wantok President, Steven Gagau as ambassadors, working closely with Sharks Head of Strategy and Growth, Jonathan Prosser. Keep an eye out for a special membership package available in 2018.

Please contact me for possible projects or initiatives for mutual benefits to our communities.

### Steven Gagau

SydWan President and PNGAA Committee  
CONTACT: [steven.gagau@gmail.com](mailto:steven.gagau@gmail.com)



### L-R

**Jonathan Prosser** - Sharks GM Growth & Strategy  
**Paul Eriksson** - Interim CEO Sharks  
**Sumasy Singin** - Former PNG Consul General, Sydney  
**Steven Gagau** - President Sydney Wantok Assoc.

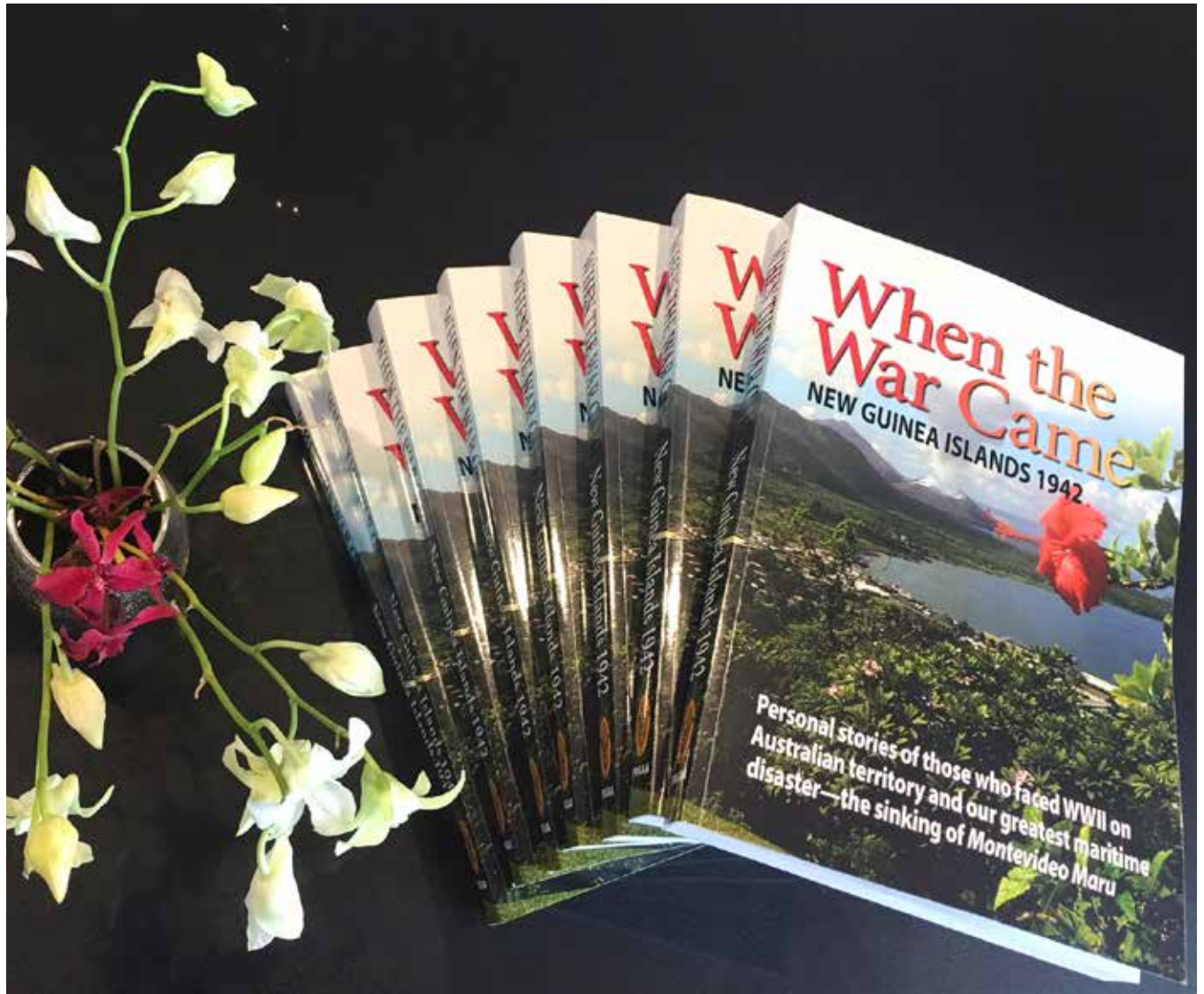
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**Paul Eriksson** - Interim CEO Sharks

# Christmas Lunch, Sydney, 2017



Photos: Alastair Whear



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