

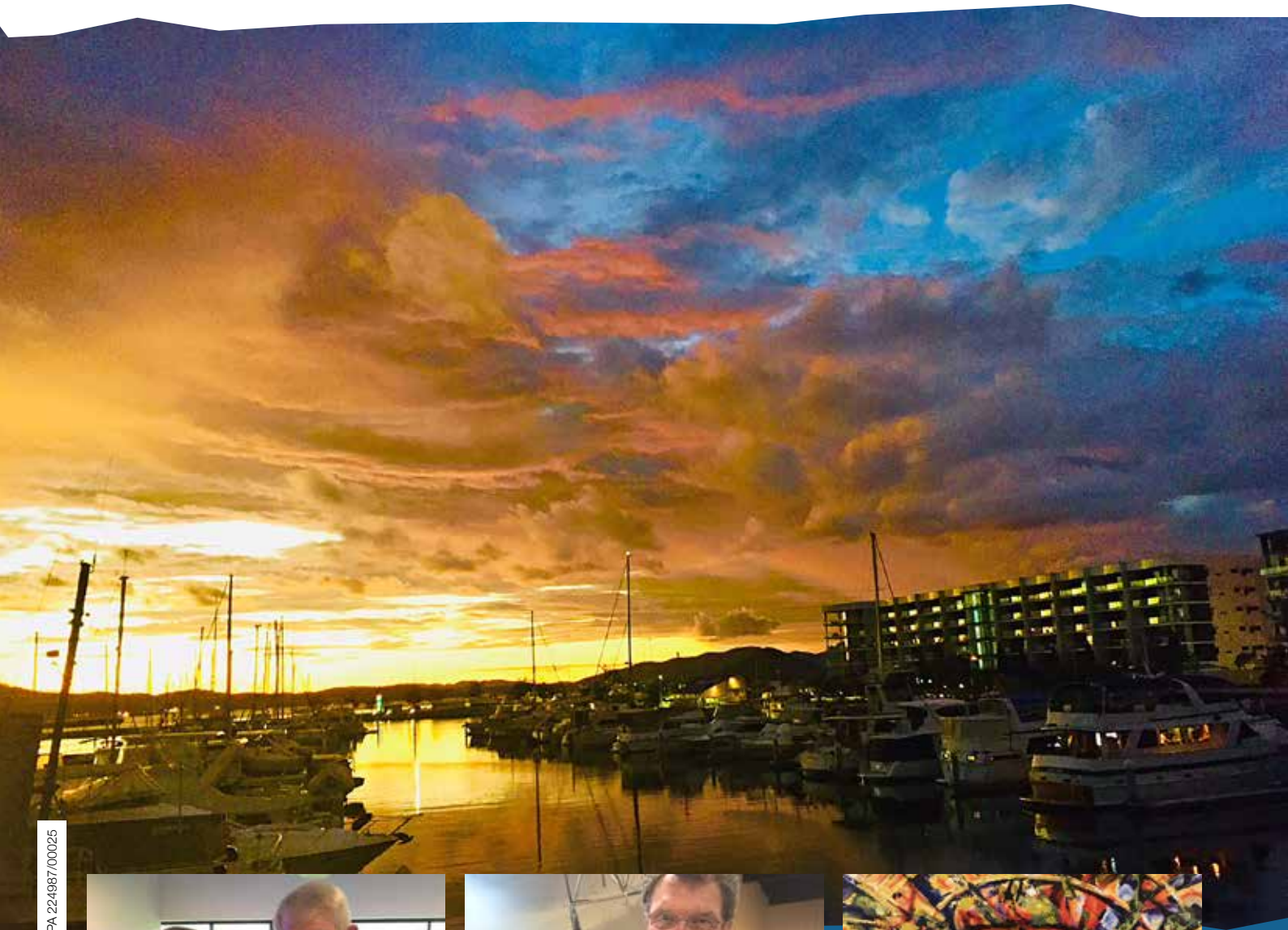


Journal of the
Papua New Guinea
Association of
Australia Inc.

Una Voce

2018, No 2 – June

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



ISSN: 1442-6161, PPA 224987/00025



Tribute dinner p18



Hinkler Museum p27



Nuigini Brushstrokes p43

PNGAA Victoria: March 2018 lunch at Caulfield RSL (See p9)



*Hibiscus display by Joan Stobo
for 2108 AGM.
Photo: by Andrea Williams*



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.org
No receipts are sent for subscriptions as it would add to our postage costs.

2016-2018 PNGAA Office Bearers

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Position temporarily vacant

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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.org Thank you.

COPY DEADLINE

FRIDAY 6 JULY for 2018, Issue #3 – September
All contributions to 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.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA, Inc. 67th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 29 APRIL 2018

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by **Steven Gagau – Acting President**



As your Acting President, it is my pleasure to welcome all guests and fellow members of PNG Association of Australia to the 2018 Annual General Meeting. A special welcome to Co-Patron Fred Kaad and we appreciate your ongoing support.

Since the retirement of Andrea Williams as PNGAA President in 2017, the position of President still remains open and ongoing efforts for a new President continue in 2018. It would be appreciated if all members could consider this important role which is urgently needed for our Association. If anyone is at all interested, or knows someone who might be, please talk to any one of the Committee.

Due to this casual vacancy of the President position to be filled, members will be pleased to know that our Committee undertook the role on a rotation basis as follows:

- From April to June 2017: Andrea Williams (from 2017 AGM)
- From July to September 2017: Sara Turner
- From October 2017 to January 2018: Doug Wood
- From February to April 2018: Steven Gagau (to 2018 AGM)

I would like to acknowledge Andrea Williams as immediate Past President for the continuity and stability in the Committee with the ongoing advice, guidance, direction,

background and experience in managing PNGAA. To my fellow Committee members, we must also be satisfied and give ourselves a “tap on the back” for the hard work and commitment in serving our members in our respective roles till this AGM 2018.

I will also acknowledge Paul Munro, retired senior Committee member in 2017, a respected and valued member of PNGAA for his vast contributions in various consultations, representations, project initiatives and who was also Public Officer, a role now taken up by Doug Wood.

As your Acting President, I am privileged to serve in this caretaking role and will give some highlights and reflections of our PNGAA activities since the last AGM 2017. We have had four editions (June, September, December 2017 and March 2018) of our Una Voce magazines distributed to members so you would also have had some insights and awareness of PNGAA news, articles, notices and reports - thanks to the contributors and our Editor Belinda Macartney.

I am confident to say that PNGAA has had an eventful and successful year 2017-2018 in our administration, activities, engagements and collaborations and members will be pleased to know what we have collectively

achieved a lot both Australia-wide and PNG. I will cover only some snapshot highlights.

Our membership drive continues with a base around 1,300 with new members joining but at the same time ensuring unpaid subscriptions of existing members are collected. The efforts of our Membership Officer, Roy Ranney supported by Secretary Murrough Benson, Events Coordinator, Sara Turner, Yana Di Pietro and Chris Warrillow for corporate opportunities to grow membership is acknowledged.

Our online information resources for members are ongoing through Roy Ranney, and Andrea Williams with the PNGAA Website and social media platforms in Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn through Kieran Nelson and Yana Di Pietro.

Our financial position as appropriately to be presented and explained by Treasurer Doug Wood has a positive outlook.

Our main social events and activities covered Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne, Perth and Adelaide. This included Panel Presentations, Christmas luncheons and Members' Lunch with presentations, with mention of the following:

- Tales of PNG – Women's Talks in Sydney (May 2017)
- The Coastwatchers by Philip Selth in Sydney (July 2017), Brisbane (September

2017, PNGAA/PNGVR) and Melbourne (October 2017)

- Sydney Christmas Lunch with special guest, Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare, PNG's founding father (December 2017)
- Melbourne Christmas Lunch (November 2017)
- Perth Christmas Lunch (November 2017)
- Victoria Members Luncheon (March 2018)
- Adelaide Luncheon (October 2017)

Our commemorative events were successful in collaboration with partners and associates. Andrea, Sara, Murrough, along with myself and other members involved in organising and participating in these events are acknowledged:

- Rabaul & Montevideo Maru 75th Anniversary in Rabaul, PNG (June 2017) and Canberra, ACT (July 2017)
- Battle of Australia Service in Sydney (September 2017)

Our continuing publications, support and sale of books and DVDs is a work in progress with titles involved acknowledged such as:

- Rabaul & Montevideo Maru: 70th Anniversary
- When the War Came: New Guinea Islands 1942 (75th Anniversary RMvM)
- The Volcano's Wife (donated by Pamela Virtue)
- Walk into Paradise
- Kiap: Stories behind the Medal
- Some Came Home

We have just collected a second print run of 'When the War Came' and our grateful thanks go to Murrough and also Trish Kilkeary for their assistance with distribution.

Our Collections with various types of materials are maintained in a Register and as more collections are being received, more storage is required. The efforts of Steve Burns in this area are appreciated and acknowledged.

Our quarterly Journal, Una Voce is a high quality publication that members and readers in the public at large appreciate as a PNGAA brand of print media. Thanks to the role of Editor by Belinda Macartney for the invaluable work she does for our benefit and ease of reading and information dissemination.

Our main History and Culture event has been through our collaboration with PNGVR Ex members Association in association with the History Teachers Association Australia National Conference in Brisbane during September 2017. PNGAA made presentations on Rabaul & Montevideo Maru's educational package, Project 150, for Australian high schools. Workshops and a visit to the PNGVR Museum by the conference attendees was also facilitated. It was a successful event courtesy of Phil Ainsworth, Andrea Williams, Patrick Bourke and Karen McPherson.

Our main projects involved two initiatives that are in progress having different challenges at different levels; one relates more to operational and logistical work whilst the other more strategic and politically involved.

- Helpim Wantok Project (HWP) Update – This project involves the donation of good quality used student furniture of 320 chairs and

160 tables from University of Technology, Sydney (UTS) where PNGAA was to collect, pack for shipment and deliver to the beneficiary recipient, University of PNG Open College (UPNGOC). The project has been done in collaboration with the Sydney Wantok Association who handled the physical collection and transport of this large amount of furniture at the Sydney end. The project budget set by PNGAA was \$8,000 and fundraising efforts were needed to meet the costs, mainly the logistics from Sydney to Port Moresby. The Committee is pleased to report that given the logistical and funding arrangements with the funds raised, the shipment from Sydney to Port Moresby departed on 19 April on the Highland Chief and arrived in Pt Moresby on 26 April 2018. Full details on actual delivery to site at UPNG campus, Waigani will be advised in May upon completing all consignment requirements. The tireless efforts and the work of the project team in Roy Ranney, Murrough Benson supported by Committee members, the Sydney Wantok Association and various corporates are acknowledged.

- Australian Community Centre for Pacific Nations Project (ACCPN) Update – This project involves the proposal for re-use of the old ASOPA site at Middle Head (Headland Park), Mosman. The site and facilities are managed by the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust (SHFT) and the PNGAA Working Group

has made representation as the facilitator with its Australia-PNG special relations together with the historic and educational ties of the ASOPA site. The key driver to the success of the project involves influencers in political and bureaucratic circles at local, state and federal government levels. A number of correspondences and representations have been made to members of Parliament and as well as Government Ministers to date. Ongoing dialogue is continuing to progress this project proposal further. The working group's efforts through Andrea Williams, Paul Munro before he retired from the Committee, Russell Wade and Phil van der Eyk and Committee members are acknowledged. Networking with other Pacific Island countries also continues.

My report has not been as detailed as a full-term President would present however the snapshot highlights give an overview to you, our fellow members, for what we have undertaken and achieved during 2017-2018.

Finally just an encouragement to interested and aspiring members to seriously consider nominations for the President of PNGAA and look forward for a successful 2018-2019 year.

On behalf of the Committee, we remain committed to serving and supporting our valued members of this outstanding and great Association for our collective benefits.

29 April 2018

PAPUA NEW GUINEA ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA, Inc.
67th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 29 APRIL 2018

TREASURER'S REPORT

By Doug Wood – Treasurer

As flagged in my 2016 report, the 2017 year was highlighted by activities associated with the 75th anniversary of the Japanese invasion and the implications arising. We are enormously proud of the wonderful book *When the War Came – New Guinea Islands 1942* released and almost sold out during the year (only 46 copies left unsold at year end). We have proceeded to a second print of another 200 copies.

In raw numbers the year was highly successful except for one major problem which I flagged at the Christmas lunch: an email scam in July when our ex-President's identity was stolen and two payments were electronically made to a Westpac and a CBA account. As expensed on page 3 and outlined in detail in Note 11 to the financials, the net cost was \$6,900 after extensive efforts were unsuccessfully made to recover the funds via the CBA and claim the loss under the Fraudulent Activities section of our Officers Liability insurance. If we add back this expense the Association had a small loss of \$639 for the year. This is what I would call a break even result.

The major change which can be seen on page 3 is the \$22,517 of WWC book sales and the cost of production of \$ 17,953 – a net surplus



of \$4,564. This represents a profit of \$10 per book sold or donated. You will also note the increase in function revenue and expense resulting from the well-attended 75th anniversary of the sinking of the *Montevideo Maru* ceremony and dinner in Canberra on July 1. I wish to highlight the effort of Sara Turner in coordinating this highly successful event. It is natural to see the decline in the sale of DVD sales in the year as membership needs have now been satisfied re Kiap and Walk into Paradise. I highlight Note 9 to the financials that we are holding 1327 copies of the four DVDs. Any assistance members can provide to dispose of these holdings would be appreciated – we need to convert this \$7,640 of inventory into cash over the next couple of years.

Looking at the Balance Sheet on page 4 our capital corpus is retained with a decline in the cash funds of only \$2,509 in the year. All excess funds

are maintained in two CBA term deposits (refer Note 8) which both mature in June 2018. These two deposits represent 85% of our cash funds and earn the average grand return of 2.3% – enough to cover CPI for the year. The other balance sheet matter I wish to highlight is the Unearned Income of the Association relating to donations received, silent auction / raffle proceeds and The Volcano's Wife (donated by Pamela Virtue) book sale proceeds in relation to the Helpim Wantok Project. This project has proceeded thanks to the efforts of Murrough, Roy and Steven. They can update the meeting as to the current position.

I would like to take this opportunity to formally thank Murrough for his day by day, month by month diligence in analysing the constant inflow of revenue into our bank account (I just spend the money – sadly sometimes without documentation – never again) and thanks to Roy for keeping the membership records up to date and everything else he does behind the scenes, including his not insignificant dealings with CBA in relation to the fraud. Andrea also continues to invest a considerable part of her waking hours into the activities of the Association, including dealing with the Police re the fraud. I wish to congratulate her on her excellent address on July

1 in Canberra at the MvM ceremony. On the social side Sara and Yana have done and continue to do a fantastic job on the vital social interaction role of the Association. To deliver The Chief as our Christmas lunch speaker was a real coup. Belinda Macartney continues to produce a most excellent and informative quarterly Una Voce which earned recent praise from the PNG Branch of DFAT as "... the always excellent Una Voce. I hope all your publications receive an ever-widening audience."

This sadly may be hard to achieve as the Association faces the realities of an ageing membership base – our membership numbers declined by 138 (11%) between July 16 and June 17. The financial impact in the financials is a 5% decline (\$1,825) in our membership income. We all share an equal responsibility to attract PNG work or social colleagues to the Association as new members.

In closing I move the motion that the Audited Financial Statements tabled here today be adopted as a true record of the financial transactions of the year ended 31 December 2017 and the Treasurer be instructed to prepare and lodge the 2018 Annual return to the Department of Fair Trading.

29 April 2018



Letters

This June we've put together another Una Voce for your reading pleasure. The glorious colours of our cover photograph by Max Uechtritz will brighten up any gloomy winter days that might be on their way...so when you've finished reading, leave it lying around!

It was my great privilege to meet up with committee colleagues again at the 2018 AGM in April and it's always inspiring to talk face-to-face with members about PNGAA matters, in particular to hear thoughts about our journal. In publishing this well-read publication, I've learnt two things that you could do to help the team when contributing your stories: one, place the author's name directly underneath the title to avoid any confusion with the member who submits the story, and two, caption photographs, acknowledging the photographer if possible. References to photos in the text should be avoided (e.g. The photo below shows XXX) as the photo might need to be placed elsewhere on the page.

One of my favourite moments at the AGM was meeting two young members who attended with their families. The future of PNGAA is in good hands with their enthusiastic interest in tales of past adventures. I'd like to see something for the kids in the next What's On.

So let's see what we can do to promote PNGAA to the next generation!

Belinda Macartney



Letters

Dear Editor,

Firstly let me congratulate you on UNA VOCE – a wonderful Journal. Also, those workers who keep our organisation going and moving forward. In the April issue, there were several well-deserved tributes to Jim Sinclair. However, I do not agree with reference to Jim Sinclair “But on this occasion, it was the end of an era – the passing of our last Australian District Commissioner” (pg 46).

I am a returned WW2 soldier and will be 95 in May 2018. When searchlights became redundant I had the opportunity to attend a Patrol Officers course at Duntroon during 1945 – the war finished mid-year. I was not only the youngest but the lowliest – our most distinguished student was Ft Lieut Eisenhower DFC and Bar! The course was for patrol officers in PNG. I was surprised to get a commission but I did get to PNG as a patrol Officer in ANGAU December 1945.

After 3 months service at Manus Island, I was offered a position with the new civil administration so took my military discharge at Lae March 1946 and served in the government until I retired to Australia 1980. My last task as a District Commissioner was to establish the new West Britain district, which was a great challenge and extremely difficult from 1966 to 1969 when, before I could move into the new residency I was transferred to Port Moresby as First Assistant Secretary of the department until after self-government.

Although I enjoyed HQ, certain political aspects did not sit well with me so I let it be known I would like to return to a District as DC. When one politician requested I be posted to his district this did not suit me so I had a career change and among other things handled mining and major projects, which I did until I retired 30th June 1980. I have received the ISO for service to government. I also value the Queens Silver Jubilee medal for services to the community and after I retired, at a function arranged by the Ipswich mayor at a scouting jamboree, 1980, the chief scout from PNG presented me with the “Golden Kumul” for service to Scouting in PNG.

Finally a few words about my retirement. The “Redlands” is a great area and I have been privileged to see it grow over the last 37 years. Involvements include Rotary, Probus (37 years and life member) (also established 4 other clubs) Meals on Wheels (26 years), set up Area Association and Neighbourhood Watch, set up new Lawn Bowls Club (Hon Member), tennis Club (life member), fund raising Blue Care and Lifeline, an extensive career in Freemasonry, JP voluntary service at the shopping centre, RSL, and so on!

I have written my memoirs but mainly for my children who, going to secondary school in Australia as teenagers, have no idea of my job. Colleagues, friends and acquaintances are all dying and I am but a feather duster now. If anyone can claim to be the last Australian kiap still standing... maybe it might be me!

Best wishes. Sincerely.

Keith Dyer

10.03.2018

Correction

UV correction: 2018, No1 – March p 34. Spelling in caption to read Robert Blaikie



LHQ SCHOOL OF CIVIL AFFAIRS DUNTROON CANBERRA 1945

Photo of Students and Staff on this Unique Course for Patrol Officers in Papua New Guinea

Back Row (Left to Right)

LT Ralph; FLTLT Eisenhower; LT Gare; FLTLT Brooks; LT Don Grove; FLGOFF Bavin; LT Corlass; WO1 Jim Humphries; WO2 Finnie; FLGOFF. Hicks; LT John Wakeford; FLGOFF Latter; SGT John K Dowling; WO1 W. Lewer

Fifth Row

SGT Buscombe; CPL Hayes; SGT Allen; WO2 Roddick; SGT H. Manning; CPL Kimmorley; SGT Busing; SGT Dallas; SSGT Harris; L. CPL O'Shea; Gnr Ryan; CFN Hill

Fourth Row

CPL Blight; LAC Lamb; SSGT C. Storer; SGT Hawthorne; CPL Wischaeusen; LCPL Carmody; Pte Maloney; BRIG Helmond; PTE Keith Dyer; SGT Fowler; CPL Barrett; CPL J. White; GNR D. McAlpine; CPL R. Richards; SGT Desailly; WO2 Hill

Third Row

LAC Stephens; CPL Millar; Unknown; Unknown: SGT Riggs; WO2 Stead; LT Ryan; LT Strelhow; LT Grant; LT James McAuley; SGT Daly; SGT Harris; SGT Millar; SGT Cameron(?); Unknown; CPL Kitchin

Second Row

CAPT Jones; CAPT McKenna; Major Grainger (Agriculture); Major Andrews (Geography); Major Jim Taylor (field administration); Dr Lucy Mair (Colonial Administration); Colonel J.K. Murray; LTCOL Piddington (Anthropology); LTCOL Croll (Tropical Health); LTCOL Hogbin (Anthropology); CAPT Parkinson; LT Legge; LT Hockey; Mr. Gasking

Front Row

SGT Lewis; SGT Briggs; LCPL Don Prouse; SGT Neville; CFN Rofe; SGT Denning; SGT White; CPL Maiden(?); SGT Holmes; SGT Britcher; SGT Croxford; LAC Jolly; SGT Firmstone(?); CPL Wightman

Cannot guarantee correct spelling of all names. Original handwriting not clear.

The course included all services, air force, navy and army and ranks from Airforce Ft. LT DFC & Bar to an army Private! Me! I was also the youngest on course. From memory, I think there were 50 on course of which about 30 graduated with commissions.

Some notable names in the group: Colonel J.K. Murray became the first post war Administrator in PNG. CAPT Parkinson was registrar at ASOPA and later mayor of Balmoral.

James McAuley was lecturer on Colonial Administration at ASOPA. A poet, after conversion to Catholicism; wrote a number of hymns and finished career as Professor of English in Tasmania I think.

Humphries, Grove and Dyer were also on the 1st Long Course for Patrol Officers at ASOPA in 1947.

In the 5th row those not lecturers were tutors.

The students were in Sydney to attend the law courts the day that the Pacific War ended – we did not get to the courts but I had a great day celebrating in the City!!

The students also had the privilege of attending Parliament the day the Bill relating to the administrative union of New Guinea and Papua was debated and passed.

WO Stead (staff) conducted the parades, considered the air force were rather slack which prompted students to swap uniforms for one morning parade – at Duntroon!!! Humorous, exciting, serious for disciplinary reasons – but was well handled by Principal J.K. Murray.

Keith Dyer 23.04.08



Letters

Dear Members

It is a pleasure becoming involved in the PNGAA and to find out about my family history. I'm so grateful that I attended the AGM in 2017. I have learned so much in such a short time and have met some wonderful people. I feel closer to my family and its history. It's overwhelming. There is so much to learn about my grandfather Harry Adams. I've only just touched the surface. Thanks to Yana, Andrea and Belinda and members of PNGAA for your support of my journey!

Since joining PNGAA, I have travelled to PNG and paid my respects to the Montevideo Maru memorial, my family, and the people of Rabaul and descendants of the men lost. Our Tour Guide Albert Koni is selling my album in Rabaul and Suzie McGrade of the Rabaul Hotel is also sharing the story of the Montevideo Maru to guests.



Following the release of my album 'Little Stone' on Kross Kut records, which features my song 'Montevideo Maru 1942', I have travelled to festivals in Tamworth, Glen Innes, Adelaide, Griffith and Tasmania. I will be travelling to more festivals throughout 2018. And I'm donating 50 cents from each album to the PNGAA. Since 2017, I have had 24 radio interviews, and am about to release my song on radio in June to coincide with the anniversary of the maritime disaster.

If there are any members who could help in any way regarding media, please let me know via email.

kylie.adams.collier@gmail.com

With sincere appreciation

Kylie Adams-Collier

The Editor,

"King of the Airways" (Una Voce Dec. 2017). How inspiring is the career pathway of Captain Granger Narara, his brother Tim and those who followed? More stories from Digicel Men of Honour Awards, in Una Voce, would present a positive picture of Papua New Guinea, the people and their families. Thank you for this story.

David Montgomery 1956-65

PNGAA VIC March Lunch 2018

Report by **Yana Di Pietro**, PNGAA event coordinator. Melbourne.

PNGAA VIC had their very first get together and fundraiser for the 'Helpim Wantok' Project on Saturday 24 March at the Caulfield RSL in Melbourne. A lovely convivial gathering of 20 members, friends and supporters of PNGAA and the 'Helpim Wantok' Project. Old friends caught up and new friends were made. We shared our PNG stories whilst enjoying the company and conversation over lunch at the historical Caulfield RSL.

The building was constructed in 1896 and was then known as the 'Elsternwick Club'. It was purchased by the RSL in 1920, remodelled and reopened in 1938 by former WW1 Prime Minister William (Billy) Hughes. The facade and most of the interior of the building is in the original 1938 decor. The original members of the RSL were made up of men who had served at Gallipoli. Many of the wounded were patients at the Caulfield Military Hospital on Kooyong Rd. In it's time the Hospital treated over 20,000 men from Australia & NZ. The Caulfield RSL is committed to supporting former service members, their families and descendants.

We thank the Caulfield RSL for their generous hospitality on the day and for making us feel welcome. A most enjoyable lunch!

A highlight of the day was our Speaker and Committee Member, Chris Warrillow. Chris gave us a most informative and educational overview of the recent earthquake disaster in PNG and its potential long-term consequences and effects for PNG and Australia. Chris is a former Kiap and served in Tari from 1962-64 and then as Assistant District Commissioner from 1970-72. We were also fortunate to benefit from the expertise of Andy Grainge, a Geologist who talked us through recent images of the disaster. There was a lively discussion after the talk and we thank Chris for his presentation on the day.

And of course a PNGAA Lunch is not complete without a raffle! We had three winners on the day...

1st Prize: David Torrance - Basket

2nd Prize: Marj Walker - Bilum

3rd Prize: Irene Neall - Book



Some comments on the day:

Thanks so much for your welcome and lunch at the Caulfield RSL. I am grateful for your good fuss-free organisation for the event. We were fortunate to go home with more than we arrived – the splendid PNG artefact and work of art. We loved sitting around such interesting folk and look forward to news of another event. Liz Evans

Thank you for an amazing day. It was most informative and I met a few more people, who have had the privilege of being part of PNG, The Land of the Unexpected. Lukim yu behain, Geraldine

See you all at our next lunch!!

Cheers

PNGAA VIC Team.

Tok Save Newsletter

The Tok Save Newsletter is intended to keep our members up to date with the latest news, events and any important information the Committee wishes to convey to our members in a timely manner across Australia and overseas. Tok Save is delivered via email and we use the current email supplied to us by our members. We are asking our members to please check their inbox email settings to ensure that Tok Save is delivered safely to your inbox and not end up in Junk Email. **Yana Di Pietro** - PNGAA event coordinator

▶ What's on?

QUEENSLAND

BRISBANE NGVR/PNGVR Ex members Association – Montevideo Maru Commemorative service

DATE: 1 July 2018

TIME: 9.45am for 10am, Ann St entrance of the Brisbane Cenotaph. This year the keynote speaker will be Major-General John Pearn AO RFD (Rtd).

Refreshments will follow at Adina Hotel. All welcome.

RSVP by 20 June to Colin Gould, MBE Mob: 0424 562 030 Email: pngvr@optusnet.com.au

CAIRNS X 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 - or dandy51@bigpond.net.au

ACCOM details - direct to Cairns Colonial Club and mention X Kiaps Families and Friends Reunion. Book early as July is peak season in Cairns.

Contact: Phone (07) 4053 8800 or info@cairnscolonialclub.com.au.

Bring your favourite PNG photo or item of memorabilia for display on the day.

BRISBANE Brisbane Luncheon @ The Ship Inn

Where: The Ship Inn, Cnr Stanley & Sidon Streets, Southbank Parklands, Brisbane

(Alfresco area out the front-under cover)

DATE: Sunday, 29th July, 2018

Time: 11am-3pm

Luncheon:

1. Orders to be made prior to the date with Sara after viewing the Ship's Inn Website

2. Individual Payment at venue for Lunch and drinks

3. Please inform of dietary requirements at the time of ordering

Disability access is available

COVER CHARGE OF \$10 pp on the day will be put to the "Helpim Wantok Project"

RSVP: 29th June, 2018

Contact: Sara Turner 0401 138 246 Email: events@pngaa.net

MOOLOOLABA - SAMARAI MILNE BAY REUNION

DATE 7-9 September 2018

Friday 7th September 2018 5:00 PM – 9: 00 PM

Mantra Mooloolaba Beach, 7 Venning Street, Mooloolabah

Meet n Greet under the stars at the outdoor Podium overlooking the ocean

Saturday 8th September 2018 6pm – midnight

Mantra Mooloolaba Beach, 7 Venning Street, Mooloolabah

Buffet dinner, live band, lucky door prize

COST for the events on two nights is \$175 pp

Bookings and further details at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/pngmilne-baysamarai-reunion-tickets-45800435335>

Mantra Mooloolaba Beach has given participants a special rate. When booking please mention you are part of the Samarai Reunion.

FOR ALL ENQUIRIES

E: kathyfabila@gmail.com OR M: 0432611810 / 045249683

VICTORIA**MELBOURNE PNGAA VIC Lunch**

DATE Saturday 28 July 2018

Event: July PNGAA VIC Lunch - meet for lunch & support "Helpim Wantok" Project

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 28 July 2018 upon arrival. Cash only.

Booking: To book for this event please contact Yana - coordinator@pngaa.net or PH: 0425771359. RSVP: Friday 20 July 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 - coordinator@pngaa.net for information. PH: 0425 771 359.

Look out for our Una Voce Journal, Tok Save bulletin, Facebook & Website for updates and information on all our events!

NEW SOUTH WALES**SYDNEY Christmas lunch DATE CLAIMER**

DATE 2 December, 2018.

The Killara Golf Club. Just so that you can pop this date in your diaries and ensure that you are able to join us to celebrate Christmas together. It will be here before we know it!

WESTERN AUSTRALIA**PERTH PNGAA Christmas Lunch DATE CLAIMER**

DATE Friday 30 November 2018

11.30 for 12 noon lunch

RAAF Club, Bull Creek

More details to follow!

**NEW ALBUM AVAILABLE TO ORDER**

Featuring Kylie's song
"Montevideo Maru 1942"

50 cents from each album sale is donated to the PNGAA to raise awareness of the prisoners of war who died 1st July 1942 including Kylie's grandfather Harry Adams.

www.kylieadams-collier.com
kylie.adams.collier@gmail.com • 0423 956 758

PNG IN THE NEWS

Earthquakes in PNG

Comment by Charles Betteridge Emailed Tuesday, 27 February 2018 11:08 AM

In the past twelve hours PNG has been hit with 12 more quakes measuring from 4.9 to 6.1 magnitude and most centering around the Mendi area. A report came in to say that three adults and seven children were killed in the Mendi area so far, and to make things worse, the majority of these quakes are happening during the night. The magnitude 6.1 quake hit around 1 am PNG time early this morning and there are no signs of these quakes abating yet. There have been some landslide reports and buildings destroyed in Mendi town but a lot of the

quakes are in more remote areas. The thing I have noticed is that the quakes hit from just a few minutes to around 10 to 20 minutes apart.

A new report just came in at 10.20am that two quakes have struck 103 km and 110 km West-South West and South West of Porgera measuring 4.8 and 4.7 on the Richter scale.

If you are all wondering as to how I get this information, it is from two Geo Satellites from an Interactive Map of Active Volcanoes and recent earthquakes world-wide and

they are precise on the data the satellites send down including given the U.T.C. (Universal Time Clock) time anywhere in the world. I have a small 24 hour "dial" with a movable 24 hour "ring" that I can adjust to show what the time is in nearly all the major cities in the world compared to where I live in northern New South Wales using Sydney as the "base".

UV: Charles is using the following website <https://earthquakes.volcanodiscovery.com>



Inaugural cocoa show rewards excellence in Papua New Guinea cocoa production

Posted 8 Jun 2017 by Annette Sete (an extract)

Cocoa is Papua New Guinea's third-largest agricultural export. The inaugural Air Nuigini PNG Cocoa Warwagira show held in Kokopo focused on improving the quality of cocoa production to better meet the requirements of international markets.

The purpose of the show was to find the best beans to represent PNG in the International Cocoa of Excellence show in Paris, France, at the end of the year. Papua New Guinea has previously won a number of awards for the fine flavour with its plantation samples. The show identified and rewarded cocoa farmers in various categories such as best cocoa quality, best fermentary

facility and best managed block.

New cocoa farmer Grace Klembasa from West Sepik won gold when her cocoa was judged the best amongst the 36 finalists. It was selected from more than 158 samples submitted from farmers around PNG.

Klembasa is a smallholder with 2000 trees. It was her first harvest that won her gold. Kulkul Plantation on Karkar Island, Madang, got silver. The bronze went to John Yalabing, a small

holder in lower Watut in Morobe. Ramandu Plantation in East New Britain and Madang's Kulili Plantation were also commended for the quality of their samples.

Sourced from Business Advantage website May 11, 2018

UV member's note:
Congratulations to our former Office Administrator Grace Klembasa of Aitape West Sepik on being awarded a Gold Medal for her Cocoa. Rob Parer.



Infrastructure • Innovation • Sustainability
6 & 7 August 2018 • Sofitel Brisbane Central

Committee Round-up

MINUTES OF THE 67th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE PNGAA

HELD AT THE HORNSBY RSL CLUB, SYDNEY on 29 April 2018

Meeting opened at 11.47 am

The Secretary, Murrough Benson, presided
Acting President Steven Gagau welcomed members and advised that he would like the Secretary, Murrough Benson, to preside as chairperson. In accordance with PNGAA Rule 29, the following Motion was presented:

MOTION: *That Murrough Benson be appointed to the Chair.*

Moved Steven Gagau, seconded Doug Wood.
CARRIED

The Events Coordinator, Sara Turner, presented a Welcome to Country after which she led singing of the National Anthems of both Papua New Guinea and Australia.

1. Members Present and Apologies

Members present as per Attendance Book noted to constitute quorum: Kylie Adams-Collier, Quentin Anthony, Peter Barr, Murrough Benson, Steve Burns, Anne Collins, Murray Fletcher, Steven Gagau, Pat Johnson, Ross Johnson, Fred Kaad, Trish Kilkeary, Belinda Macartney, Paul Munro, Allan Neilsen, John O'Dea, John Stevenson, Joan Stobo, Sara Turner, Max Uechtritz, Russell Wade, Andrea Williams, Doug Wood

Apologies: Phil Ainsworth, Yana Di Pietro, Diedre Johnson, Roy Ranney, Rita Uechtritz, Chris Warrillow

2. Confirmation of Minutes of 66th AGM (included in the September 2017 Una Voce, pages 11-12)

MOTION: *That these Minutes be confirmed.*

Moved Ross Johnson, seconded Paul Munro.
CARRIED

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the Minutes of the 66th AGM on 30 April 2017.

4. President's Report

Acting President, Steven Gagau, spoke to his written report, a copy of which was handed to members present prior to the meeting. Key activities undertaken during the year were outlined and members were encouraged to

give further consideration to the nomination of a candidate for the position of President which has remained vacant since the mandatory retirement of Andrea Williams at last years' AGM. The report was received with acclamation.

MOTION: *That the report be accepted.* *Moved Russell Wade, seconded Belinda Macartney.*
CARRIED

5. Treasurer's Report and adoption of Audited Financial Statements

Treasurer Doug Wood presented the financial report for the year ended 31 December 2017, a copy of which was handed to members present prior to the meeting. This report included statements covering Income & Expenditure, Assets & Liabilities and the Auditor's Report. Doug then spoke to a written summary, a copy of which was also handed to members present prior to the meeting.

Any member requiring a copy of the Audited Financial Statements should contact the Secretary on 0448 216 049 or by email: admin@pngaa.net.

MOTION: *That the Treasurer's report be received and adopted and that the Audited Financial Statements be adopted as a true reflection of the state of affairs for the year ended 31 December 2017; and that the Treasurer be instructed to complete and lodge the Annual return (Form A12) with NSW Fair Trading.*

Moved Doug Wood, seconded Russell Wade.
CARRIED

6. Election of Honorary Auditor

Mr Phil Williams of Carbonara Business Advisers, Chatswood has performed the duties of Honorary Auditor for the past year and offered himself for re-election.

MOTION: *That Phil Williams of Carbonara Business Advisers, Chatswood be re-appointed as Honorary Auditor under Rule 37 of the PNGAA Rules.*

Moved Murrough Benson, seconded Paul Munro.
CARRIED

8. General Discussion

(a) *Una Voce* Update

Editor, Belinda Macartney, presented a short report on the current state of *Una Voce*. She paid tribute to the many people who have assisted her in the production and distribution of the magazine since she took on the role of Editor in early 2016. In that time Belinda has derived great satisfaction from gradually introducing a regular format for the magazine, in line with best practice in journal design but also to make the job of publishing four 56-page issues annually more time-effective for the volunteer team.

During three visits to hospital in 2017 she was mindful that magazine copy was languishing on her laptop at home so a call was sent out seeking volunteers from amongst the membership to expand the editorial team. The response from around the world was overwhelming, raising the question of how to use these willing people to the best advantage, a process that is still underway.

Belinda would like to step back from the role of Editor after the next Management Committee election at the 2019 AGM. She will manage the production of the remaining three issues of *Una Voce* in 2018, after which she will be available to assist her successor with the first two issues of 2019. A set of guidelines is being developed to assist in this transition.

(b) Membership Directory

Quentin Anthony raised the issue of an updated Membership Directory no longer being sent to all members with the June issue of *Una Voce* each year. He felt that it was an important tool to help members keep in touch with each other and to keep track of friends and former colleagues, whether they may have passed on or moved. Pat Johnson also felt very strongly about the Directory not being sent out automatically each year, considering it a very retrograde step.

Murrough Benson acknowledged that other members had previously expressed similar views and explained that increasing postage costs was a key reason for discontinuing the mail out of the Directory to all members. It is, however, still available on request from the Secretary, as pointed out in a note at the foot of the listing of new members and changes of member addresses that appears in each issue of *Una Voce*. It was

felt that this note required greater prominence and Belinda Macartney said she could move it to the top of the listing.

Andrea Williams pointed out that another reason for discontinuing the automatic membership-wide distribution of the Directory was that members are now able to contact each other through the new website. To do so, however, requires members to register on the website and to date only about a quarter of the membership has done so. It is acknowledged, too, that this form of communication does not suit everyone.

Privacy is another factor that had arisen in relation to the Membership Directory. There have been a couple of instances of the contact details being used for marketing purposes and these have upset a number of members. Paul Munro undertook to research a form of words to include in the Directory to dissuade people from inappropriate use of the contact details.

Ross Johnson suggested that availability of the Directory could be advertised in the Order Form on the reverse side of the yellow 'Treasurer's Corner' form that is included with each issue of *Una Voce*. Anyone requiring a copy could then order one (for a small charge). Murrough Benson will action this suggestion.

- (c) CD Featuring the Song 'Montevideo Maru 1942'
As advertised in recent issues of *Una Voce*, Kylie Adams-Collier has released a CD featuring her song 'Montevideo Maru 1942'. 50 cents from each album sale is being donated to PNGAA to raise awareness of the prisoners of war who died on 1 July 1942, including Kylie's grandfather Harry Adams.

Kylie expressed her appreciation to PNGAA, and in particular Andrea Williams and Belinda Macartney, for introducing her to so many people connected with PNG since she joined PNGAA last year and enabling her to fill in so many gaps in her own family history. She especially enjoyed travelling to PNG in June with the group to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the sinking of the 'Montevideo Maru'.

Kylie has performed widely in Australia and is using her song to promote awareness of the 'Montevideo Maru' tragedy. A large number of radio interviews have helped to spread the word.

- (d) Is it time to change the name of *Una Voce*?

Andrea Williams floated the idea of changing the name of the journal. Introducing the topic, Andrea

highlighted Kylie Adams-Collier's comments about how her life journey had changed since attending last year's AGM – how she is now in connection with her family history much more; and that the Treasurer's Report mentioned the ongoing need for new members to sustain the Association into the future.

Noting that it was 15 years since the official change of name of the association from ROAPNG to PNGAA, the Association had recognised then that it had to adapt with a more contemporary name. It has been 11 years since this topic was last discussed in 2007 and whilst the name *Una Voce* had served the Association well, and contained valuable history as to the formation of the PNGAA, Latin is often considered by contemporary generations as passé. A change of name is often commented on by members of the Association.

It was highlighted that the PNGAA now has several communication tools with members – the hardcopy print journal, website, Facebook, Tok Save, Instagram and Linked In – and that there needed to be some brand consistency and link between these tools. In order to attract future generations along with the valuable sponsorship dollar, perhaps it is time to reconsider the name of the Association's journal.

Andrea commented that organisations need to adapt to remain appealing and there was no reason why every Australian and Papua New Guinean could not be a member. It was possible that other associations might be integrated and that broadening the membership base involved branding that was encompassing and inclusive.

It might be as simple as a direct translation – 'One Voice: Journal of the Papua New Guinea Association of Australia' – accompanied by a suitable translation into the other official languages of PNG - Tok Pisin and Hiri Motu, keeping the Latin *Una Voce* as an historical reference too, or it could be an alternative suggestion.

Andrea passed around drafts of a number of suggested new front cover designs for the journal, with thanks to Chris Warillow and Melissa Ramsbottom, including layout that could include these suggestions. The PNGAA Management Committee to discuss further.

(e) Filling the Role of President

In closing the meeting Murrough Benson reiterated earlier calls for all members to give urgent consideration to coming up with suggestions of suitable candidate(s) to take on the role of President. Rotating the role through other Committee members, as has been done for the past 12 months, is less than satisfactory as it puts an additional load on already busy people and lack of continuity makes it more difficult to manage key projects and Association representation. Appointment of someone to the role does not have to await the next election (at the 2019 AGM); they can take on the role in an acting capacity at any time and this can then be formally ratified at election time.

The meeting closed at 12.55 pm.



L-R Gaynor and Fred Kaad OBE



Peter and Jeanne Barr



L-R Russell Wade and Murray Fletcher



L-R Belinda Macartney, Bella Uechtritz, Andrea Williams, Max Uechtritz

ACCPN Update

Letters of encouragement were sent to our Patron and those elected members who receive copies of Una Voce, by virtue of their political office or former political office.

The letters are addressed (in abbreviated title) to:

Major General Jeffery as Patron

Foreign Minister Julie Bishop MP

Minister for International Development and the Pacific, Senator Concetta Fierravanti-Wells

Shadow Defence Minister, Richard Marles MP (formerly Shadow Minister for International Development and the Pacific)

The Honourable Julie Bishop MP,
Minister for Foreign Affairs,
PO Box 6022
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600



12 March 2018

Dear Minister,

I wish to present the latest edition of the Association's Journal Una Voce and to ask for your assistance in regard to an urgent need for an Australian/PNG/Pacific Community Centre which the PNGAA has been spearheading.

You will read in Una Voce (page 22) about PNGAA's strong representation to the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust (SHFT), regarding the SHFT Interpretation Strategy dated September 2017, for the former Defence property on the Mosman Headland. Please do read this important letter.

PNGAA previously submitted the enclosed concept proposal to the Trust for an Australian Community Centre for Pacific Nations (ACCPN), to be located in the former 10 Terminal area. This was where the Australian School of Pacific Administration (ASOPA) was located from 1947 to 1952 and its successor organisations including the AusAID Centre for Pacific Development until 1998.

As mentioned in the letter on page 22 of Una Voce 'the cultural and significantly historic role of ASOPA in the park [is consistent] 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.'

The pivotal civilian role of the Australian School of Pacific Administration (ASOPA) in the world-wide decolonisation process following world war two deserves better and significant recognition in Australian history.

Australia took a nation, Papua New Guinea, to a relatively peaceful Independence – quite a feat! – yet, we are greatly concerned that this history will disappear as that generation are disappearing unless there is urgent and substantial action resulting in significant recognition. We question how many school children learn about this history? The proposed centre would be an excellent educational facility about Australia's nearest neighbours and Australian history with those neighbours.

Additionally, the PNGAA is being overwhelmed with the quantity of artefacts and documents that tell Australia's history in PNG – and they need a home that respects them. These come from a generation of

Australians that engaged with taking Papua New Guinea to Independence – and these people are dying. If a home is not found fast, they will be tossed out as junk and that would be disastrous. It is also not right that a donor's documents and artefacts are separated because various institutions only take one or the other.

The question is – does Australia really care? The view of the PNGAA Management Committee and related groups from the Pacific is that they could form a valuable base for a focus centre, educational, cultural and resource, about PNG and the Pacific. Having a central 'home' that facilitates networking in the Pacific, and bring people together, would engender a stronger sense of respect for the relationship between Australia and its close neighbours. It is likely to help the region to grow overall.

With APEC being held in Port Moresby later this year, this would be an opportune time to announce such a facility to Australia's Asia/Pacific counterparts!

There is an inexorable link between the Mosman Headland site and Australia's contribution to PNG and Pacific development that is worthy of recognition in concert with the history of Defence and other users of the headland area. Consultation with all of the stakeholders will be complex and the PNGAA would appreciate your influence in the outcomes of the Mosman Headland site's final strategy, where appropriate.

The PNGAA is happy to coordinate fundraising for an Australian Community Centre for Pacific Nations amongst itself and Pacific Island groups however this is a major concept for Australia and will need some millions of dollars to ensure a sustainable home for it. If a small portion from each aid budget could be allocated, it would ensure an outcome in a more reasonable time frame. The PNGAA envisages a public-private partnership - there are volunteers who could assist and who could coordinate activities for the centre. As previously mentioned, APEC would be an excellent opportunity to announce support for this.

We would appreciate having a meeting about this issue - please contact me on M: 0409 031 889 Email: andrea@kingco.com.au.

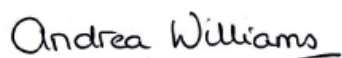
The PNGAA is proud that the quality of Una Voce continues to improve, as does the diversity of articles that reflect the objects of the PNGAA, as listed on page 5.

The PNGAA continues to engage in activities that strengthen relationships with PNG in education, social programs, sport, and the preservation of historical records and artefacts. Of note on page 11, is the "Helpim Wantok" joint project with Sydney Wantok (the Sydney-based PNG community), to move 160 tables and 320 chairs donated by UTS Sydney Campus to the University of PNG.

There are tributes to Sister Berenice Twohill on page 28 and to Jim Sinclair on page 32, who both passed away in 2017; in addition to the Vales to former members commencing from page 49.

If you need any further information or have any questions regarding the Association's activities, please contact me. I have also written to your colleague, Senator Concetta Fierravanti-Wells in her capacity as Minister for International Development and the Pacific, seeking her support for the ACCPN proposal.

Yours sincerely



Andrea Williams
Chair – ACCPN Project

- Enclosed:
1. Una Voce Edition 1 – March 2018
 2. PNGAA Ten Terminal Concept for an Australian Community Centre for Pacific Nations (ACCPN)

The Sean Dorney Tribute

By Robert Parer

PHOTOS by PATRICK HAMILTON (published with permission)

I was privileged to attend The Sean Dorney Tribute dinner at the Wests Football Club in Toowong, Brisbane... and what a privilege to be witness to such a massive out pouring of respect from the media world. They came from all over Australia, PNG and beyond - friends and colleagues came to honour him following his Motor Neurone Disease diagnosis.

Brilliantly organised by Sue Ahearn, Kevin McQuillan and Peter Lewis. Gold Walkley Award Mary-Louise O'Callaghan was MC. A fantastic evening and everyone left on a high when the doors were closed at 11.30pm. I am sure it could have gone on for many more hours. Sean and Pauline were in sparkling form. The cream of Australian journalists spoke of their admiration of Sean. His brilliant sense of humour was obvious too and Pauline matched him!

Legendary Rohan Callick said he had come out from UK and, after observing Sean and his off-hand Aussie ways, decided to make his home here. Former ABC colleague Graeme Dobell

praised Dorney, "The bloke and the work and... the joy he brings to the craft. Lawrence of Arabia, Dorney of the South Pacific," Dobell told the crowd of 150 people at the Western Districts Rugby Football Club.

For more than four decades Dorney was Australia's voice in PNG and the Pacific. But in PNG he was more than just a foreign reporter. He reported on the country's major historic events; the Bougainville crisis, The Aitape Tsunami and the eruption of the Rabaul volcano. He captained the national rugby league side, the Kumuls. In 1984 he was kicked out of the country. Six years later the government welcomed him back and gave him an MBE. And Bob Lawrence gave him a toast followed by many, many others. Ones I noticed in attendance - Max Uechtritz, Chris Pash Autojoin Miasmal Byrnes of Herald Sydney, Sue Hurrell Spargo, Andrea Williams President of PNG Ass'n of Australia, Bob Cleland, Phil Ainsworth President PNGVR, The Former PNG Australian High Commissioner



& wife, Stefan Ambuster, Shane McLeod, Dominique Schwartz, John Cameron, Mark Willacy, Peter Cave, Peter Ryan, Craig Berkman, Quentin Dempster, Kerry Lonergan, Ben Hawk and Richard Dinnen. Don Hook, Martin Hadlow, John Highfield and David Ransom. Not to forget Helen Fraser who spoke of her scary time in New Caledonia with Sean. Yes his name says it all, Sean Dorney - The Doyen of South Pacific Journalists.

A memorable moment was when EMTV producer Tanya Nugent leapt to her feet, pointed to Sean and said it was due to him that she and all other PNG journalists had a path to follow. Then she demanded all the PNG journalists to stand up as they were his pikininis. It was a 'wow' moment to remember!



The Townsville Amateur Radio Club Inc.

Submitted by **Eldon (Don) R J Bryant**
JP (Qual.) QJA Life Member
Townsville

AM [Amplitude modulation] and CW [Morse Code] mode on ANZAC Day, 25th April 2018

The traditional AM & CW event organised by Michael "Banjo" Patterson VK4MIK [Ex-RAN] and the Tablelands Radio Group of Far North Queensland, took to the air for the 8th year. This event honours those modes used by service personnel in earlier wars. The event idea came from a telephone conversation between Michael Patterson VK4MIK and World War II Coastwatcher in Papua New Guinea, Lionel Veale who set up his ATR4A HF radio and orientated the antenna from behind enemy lines. Lionel was one of those brave Coastwatchers who sent back vital information. The concept developed by the Tableland Radio Group in Far North Queensland basically asks amateur radio operators to consider changing their transceiver modes on ANZAC Day, as an honour and Amateur Radio salute to those who served or are serving. Many Amateurs joined our defence forces and took their skills into their service lives in a wide range of activities such as Coastwatchers, Air Force Radio operators, Radar operators and repair, Navy radio operators, and varied Army Signals Corps.

...

"Radio has played a major part of the history of Papua and New Guinea. Initially it was getting the message through from the front



to the rear for more troops, ammo, food and most important medical stuff. At the time, code breaking was commencing to ramp up to know what the Japanese were planning on land and sea; they used QRP for troop concentrations to make it hard to copy. Hence the Eavesdroppers had to move closer to the battlefield. This coupled with the Coastwatchers (who were the eyes), and M forces (who did hit and runs), and Z forces (getting intel and doing damage). The code breakers were 24/7 in copying the radio messages and breaking them, which gave the initiative at Midway, the attempt to take Port Moresby by sea, and the killing of Yamamoto over Bougainville. How they kept up the ammo for the artillery beggars belief."

Mike Patterson

LEST WE FORGET

STOP PRESS!!

Helpim Wantok Project

The container ARRIVED 26 April on the Highland Chief from Sydney and has been delivered to the UPNG. Congratulations to Roy, Steven and Murrough for all the effort in getting the chairs and tables to Port Moresby. A full account of the project will be in the next edition.

Members' generous contributions have facilitated the project to this point. Funds are still required to complete this important assistance for PNG tertiary students.

John HOLLAND

(8 March 1939 – 10 April 2018)

John was born in Atherton, Qld, to Frank and Mabel Holland who were living in New Guinea at the time so John went there shortly after his birth.

Frank had migrated to Australia in 1924 under the Empire Settlement Scheme. After working for a while at Wide Bay, Frank eventually became a timber getter at Pondo Plantation (owned by WR Carpenter) on the north coast of New Britain. At Pondo there was a large dessicated coconut factory with its own timber mill, workshops, shipbuilding facilities and electric generators and a freezer. Ice was delivered every day to the houses.

After an evacuation order in December 1941, John was evacuated from New Guinea with his mother and younger sister, Ann, who was born in Rabaul earlier that year. The MV Ambon, a coastal vessel, took them from Pondo Plantation to Rabaul on 24 December 1941. 72 other expatriate women and children were also evacuated. An Australian National Airways DC3 then flew them via Port Moresby to Cairns. The family stayed at Mount Garnett, on the Atherton Tablelands, with Mabel's parents during the war, while John's father Frank, assisted in the evacuation of Australian soldiers and civilians from New Britain after the debacle of the Japanese invasion of Rabaul. He later wrote the book 'El

Tigre' about his experiences. Frank then joined Z Special Force and served in Timor and Borneo. Life for the family in Mt Garnett (Atherton Tablelands) during the war years was tough. After living at Pondo with an abundant supply of fruit and vegetables they were issued with ration books and had coupons for basic supplies. The extended family lived in a tin shed with dirt floors, no running water, internal walls made from corn sacks, and with an outback toilet. John's job was to light the stove early every morning and make a cup of tea for his granny.

After the war the family returned to New Guinea on Christmas Day 1946 on a Qantas Empire Airways DC3. John would recall the war devastation everywhere – trucks, jeeps and piles of Japanese rifles. There were still about 10,000 Japanese troops in Rabaul and they were cleaning up the war mess supervised by Papua New Guinean police carrying Owen guns.

In 1947 John and Ann went to boarding school in Australia at Charters Towers, only coming home during the long school holiday. They travelled by flying boat from Rabaul to Townsville and then went by train to Charters Towers. It was a long way from home for the eight year old John and six year old Ann. In 1953 John went to Southport School on

the Gold Coast to complete his education.

On leaving school John worked for JL Chipper and Co, a business in which his father was a Director. Jack Chipper had been in Z Special Unit during WWII with Frank Holland. John was hauling timber and constructing roads and bridges in the Warangoi Valley, an area unique to Kamarere trees. John eventually worked for Commonwealth Department of Works in the Gazelle Peninsula and his work in reconstructing Mango Avenue was always a source of pride. John was a plant operator and, on many occasions, unearthed unexploded bombs around the Gazelle Peninsula. Another highlight was being one of two soldiers, with Gerry McGrade, to first officially stand on the cenotaph at Rabaul. Gerry had built the cenotaph and John had completed the road works around it.

John joined PNGVR in 1959 in Rabaul and was issued with Regimental Number 8/59739. He attained the rank of Corporal.

In July 1959 John moved to an orchard at Howard, in Queensland. Each Tuesday and Thursday one thousand cases of Emperor Mandarins, Valencia and Joppa oranges were railed to the Roma Street Markets in Brisbane. At that time a bushel case (56lbs) of

citrus was fetching two and a half pounds a case, which was very good money. Each case had to be made by hand from timber purchased from sawmills in the area. One night, at a dance, he met Avril Ross and they eventually married in 1965. John had decided to move to Brisbane and work as a plant operator again. After he married Avril, John became a sales representative with Sear and Gunn where he worked for 38 years before retirement. Avril passed away in March 2002.

As an early member of the PNGVR John became heavily involved in the NGVR/PNGVR Ex –Members Association when it was formed in Brisbane. The association was offered a building at the former army camp at Wacol to set up

a museum. John had had experience with military displays for Anzac Days and as he held an extensive collection of WWII artefacts and PNG memorabilia, he became the Curator of the PNGVR Museum. By this stage John had met Jessica Harrington, who became his partner for 13 years and who greatly supported his passion for the Museum.

The Museum was opened on 12 Feb 2006 by Bruce Bilson MP, Minister for Veterans Affairs, and Paul Nerau LLB, then PNG Consul General for Queensland. Since then John worked tirelessly at the Museum and it is through his hard work, together with the assistance of Jessica, and other Association Members, that the Museum is the great success that it is today.

Along with visits by school, Probus and garden groups, a number of special events have been held at the Museum. One in particular was ‘Bitapaka Day’ to commemorate the centenary of the landing of Australians on New Britain in 1914 to capture the German Radio Station. Another was the centenary of Rabaul which was attended by scores of ex Rabaul and PNG residents. John also commenced the regular barbeques at Bunnings which are now a vital part of Museum fundraising. The museum became so successful that a large extension was made in 2016.

John was cared for by Jessica during this last year. He is survived by his daughters, Amanda and Jody, and four grandchildren.

With thanks to the NGVR/ PNGVR Ex members Association’s newsletter, Harim Tok Tok.

Note: John contributed his story ‘Evacuation from Rabaul, December 1941’ for the 75th Anniversary book published by the PNGAA ‘When the War Came: New Guinea Islands 1942. Refer page 338-343



Mary Louise UECHTRITZ

D. 29 April 2018

by **Max Uechtritz**

Mary Louise Uechtritz passed away on Holy Thursday at Brigidine House, Randwick in Sydney. She was surrounded by children and grandchildren, her room festooned with PNG memorabilia, flag and flowers. Frangipani flowers.

It was at the Frangipani Ball in 1951 that the romance between Mary Lou Harris and her future husband Alfred Max Parkinson Uechtritz blossomed. The frangipani had been introduced to PNG by Alf's anthropologist/botanist grandfather Richard Parkinson in the 1880s. It became a symbol of resilience for the town after poking stubbornly through the volcanic ash and re-flowering after the historic double eruption devastation of 1937.

The other great symbols of Rabaul are The Beehives or Dawapia Rocks, two rocky volcanic outcrops in one of the world's most spectacular harbours. Mum (Mary Lou) and Dad (Alf) occasionally picnicked and plotted their life together on the Beehives and one such visit produced the accompanying photo of the bride-to-be; an emblematic image of their romance and 56 years of wedded bliss.

They were married in Rabaul's St Francis Xavier cathedral in April 1952.

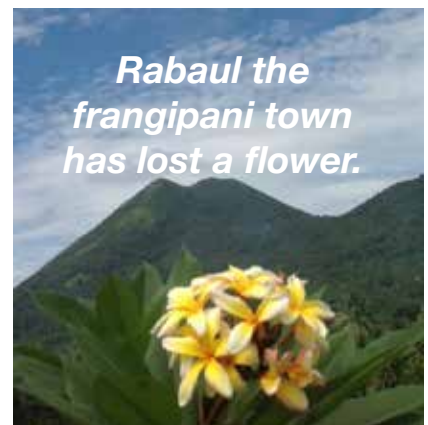
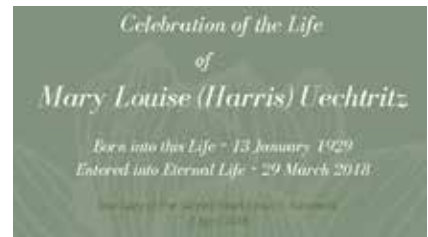
After the reception the couple was taken by great family friend Jack Thurston on his boat to Sum Sum plantation on the

south coast of New Britain. Sum Sum was gifted by Alf's grandmother Phebe Parkinson to his mother Dolly Parkinson Uechtritz. It holds a special place in the collective family soul to this day.

The first six of their 10 children were born in the shadow of the volcano at Namanula hospital and – after a suitable time in Rabaul known once as the “Pearl of the Pacific” – were taken back to idyllic Sum Sum.

English-born Mary Lou - with a blend of Swedish/Irish/Scottish - had come to New Guinea aged only 10 months in 1929. Her parents Gordon and Ursula Harris owned Biwa plantation on Djaul Island in New Ireland. She went off to boarding schools in Wales and England then graduated from City University, London. Her first job was teaching English to Czech blue bloods at the British Council in Prague but in 1951 she returned to Rabaul with her mother. She was a teacher at the Chinese school in Rabaul – one of the most rewarding roles in her career – and was head of the local girl guides. To her delight, the guides formed a guard of honour at her wedding (photo).

The guides movement would become a vocation for Mary Lou. On return to PNG in 1968 – after eight years farming in Queensland – the family moved to DASF Erap in the Markham Valley outside Lae. Mary Lou re-



joined the guides and became provincial commissioner then the PNG Girl Guides Association Deputy Commissioner. As the association's International Commissioner, Mary Lou travelled to Kenya to represent PNG at the World Conference in 1987.

At Government House in Port Moresby in 1988, Mary Lou was awarded the Bird of Paradise, the highest award for national and international service to the GGA.

In the Markham Valley, Mary Lou also continued her teaching. She was the principal at Zifasing and then later at Adzera near Leron Plains. As in New Britain, she and Alf became immersed in the Markham Valley and Lae

communities. They also had house at Salamaua. Moving to Australia in 1990, they started a rare fruits orchard and cattle property near Innisfail – named Kuradui in memory of the Parkinson plantation near Kokopo. Mary Lou continued her community service with Innisfail's St Vincent's de Paul Society.

The pair continued their relationship with their beloved PNG, returning many times to Rabaul and Kokopo in particular. The Phebe Parkinson Study Centre at Kuradui (run by Darusila Watangia) is special to the family and the adjacent Parkinson family matmat (cemetery) is sacred soil.

It was there in 2004 that Alf and Mary Lou presided over the reburial of granny Phebe Parkinson whose remains were finally discovered in a jungle grave on New Ireland 60 years after her death in a WW2 Japanese prison camp.

Mary Lou is survived by 10 children, 32 grandchildren and 22 great grandchildren She

also received the Independence Medal along with the Bird of Paradise medal.

Mary Lou and Alf (1929-2008) requested that when they both went to the afterlife their ashes would be taken by their children back to New Britain. At the funeral service for Mary Louise Harris at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church at Randwick, the Tolai and ENB communities of Sydney, Brisbane and Canberra generously provided a church choir for the service.



Being sworn in



Picnic on The Beehives



Engagement photo



Family of 10



Markham Ball

Wau Cemetery 2018

By Deryck Thompson

For the last year I have been based in Wau and in recent months I have been paying locals to clear away 2-metre high kunai in the old section of the Wau cemetery to enable me to photograph pre-Independence headstones. There are of course the graves of many hundreds of Wau locals, including famous identities like Lady Grace Pokana. However, time does not permit me to record all these graves and perhaps someone else will do so at some time in the future.

My interest in this cemetery was prompted by a chance meeting with Peter Shanahan at an ex PNG luncheon in Cairns. Peter was born in Wau and was evacuated out as a child in 1941. His family returned after the War and later he worked in forestry in the Wau area. Peter told me that his father was buried in Wau and gave me a photo of his headstone, so I went looking for it in the very overgrown cemetery. I have not been able to find the grave of Peter's father and it is likely that his brass plaque, along with many others, has been removed and sold as scrap metal.

So far, I have only been able to find 21 graves with readable headstones, or with plaques still attached, and many of these were damaged or knocked over. I was touched when I read the wording on these remaining identifiable headstones which range from an 8 day old baby to a Trooper who was in the 3rd Light Horse which was involved in the battle for Beersheba in 1917.

A couple of the pre-War granite headstones weigh 20 plus kilos and as there was no road into Wau until after the War these headstones would have been flown in at huge expense. Some inscriptions mention country of origin - Australia, Austria, Canada and France - and are indicative of the expatriate population of Wau who were from all over the world.

One particularly tragic death was that of a young pilot Ronald Doyle (see page 26) who crashed in 1940 when attempting a "go-around" (missed-approach) of Wau airstrip. A DCA report later stated - W.R.Carpenter Airlines flies a DH.86 mail

service from Sydney to Salamaua to Rabaul. When these aircraft arrive at Salamaua, the First Officers are often taken off the service and given captaincy of the Mandated Airlines DH84 Dragon, to gain experience in New Guinea conditions. On this occasion, the pilot was inexperienced in PNG conditions and not endorsed on DH84 and probably did not anticipate the poor performance of the lower-powered DH84. On short final Wau, he thought he would have to overshoot, so he opened up the throttles but pulled the turn too tight, stalled and crashed and died with two passengers (see page 26).

Inexplicably the brass plaque for WW1 veteran Joseph Wharram Hill (1958) was found detached and lying in the undergrowth – perhaps the grave robbers had been disturbed and dropped their booty. There is no way of knowing where Joseph's grave is located as local records were destroyed when Wau District Office was burned down many years ago. I am trying to trace relatives of Joseph, so that they can decide what to do with his brass plaque.



In January 1943, the Japanese fought their way to within 500 metres of Wau airstrip, and at that time a lot of things like food, ammunition and valuables were buried. One enduring result of this is that there are still persistent rumours today that gold bars buried during the War years are



*To my dog Sheba,
gone but never forgotten.
Faithful companion for 13 years.
Layed to rest 6th August 1988.
Thanks for the memories old girl.*

**Dick Cooper
Edie Creek.
D.H.O.G.**

Grave site for Dick Cooper's beloved dog Sheba at Wau

still lying undiscovered. One hefty grave slab was found upended – apparently rolled over by diggers searching for gold bars – according to local legend two of these grave robbers died soon after their fruitless search.

There are several web sites which accept photos of old graves but the digital age has by-passed the Wau Cemetery and it is not listed on any of these sites. I will be loading photos and GPS co-ordinates of the following –

BLANDEN, Oswald Percy; 10.4.1954;
BLANDON, Graeme Stuart, 23.03.1954;
BOREHAM, Audrey, 26.04.1941;
BUDGEN, Elizabeth, 11.09.1948;
DELANEY, Felix, 09.04.1960;
DALTON, unknown first name, 24.05.1935;
DICKSON, Alexander Ferrier, 31.10.1941;
DOYLE, Ronald, 30.01.1940;
GARRICK, Jim, 28.02.1972;
HILL, Joseph Wharram, 06.12.1958;
HURET, Pierre Gabriel, 06.03.1963;
JACKUS, Vera, 1871 – 1952;
JOHNSON, Edward, 17.12.1958;
KADLETZ, Oskar, 30.11.1969;
KUHL, Edwin, 06.05.1950;
LEAHY, Patrick Joseph, 28.04.1963;
MURPHY, Mrs, 01.01.1967;

NOLAN, Harry, 05.10.1934;
ROACHE, Edward John, 22.11.1935;
SEETO Poh Jun, 1938;
WATSON, John, 02.05.1951;
WRIGHT, Margaret, 25.06.1954.

However, there is one grave that has been carefully tended over the years and it is located in what was previously the New Guinea Gold Company (NGG) Compound at the top of the Wau airstrip. Fortunately, all the old Queenslander style houses and the grounds of this compound have been maintained over the years by a succession of mining companies. I was allocated one of these houses and it was very comfortable after having previously lived in a tent in a bush camp one hour, by helicopter, west of Hagen. This special grave I mentioned is located in one corner of this compound, overlooking the very scenic upper Wau valley and the inscription reads –

*“To my dog Sheba, gone but never forgotten.
Faithful companion for 13 years. Layed to rest 6th
August 1988. Thanks for the memories old girl.
Dick Cooper Edie Creek. D.H.O.G.”.*

So, if you are out there Dick, rest easy that Sheba has not been forgotten and is being tended carefully, ironically more so than many of her human contemporaries.

The epitaph on the young pilot's granite headstone reads -



DOYLE, Ronald

Sacred to the Memory of
Pilot Officer Ronald E. DOYLE
3rd Son of Bertram R and Margaret Pearl DOYLE
Of Mertoun, Mungindi, NSW, Australia
Died 30th Jan. 1940 aged 28 years.

Here lies one who took his chances
In the busy world of men,
Battled luck and circumstances,
Fought and fell, and fought again.

Kept his spirits undiminished,
Never false to any friend,
Played the game until it finished,
Lived a sportsman to the end.

30.1.40 Crashed at Wau. Flew into hills during an attempted go-around during landing on a freight flight from Salamaua to Wau. The aircraft was unable to outclimb the uphill slope of the aerodrome. Barely cleared the Hotel Bulolo on the side of the strip and the Wau Theatre before stalling into the deep gully of the Little Wau Creek. Pilot Ron E. Doyle and two native passengers were killed.'

Written off, wrecked aircraft in the hands of the insurance company.

DCA inquiry into the accident found that the pilot usually flew as First officer on the W.R.Carpenter Airlines DH.86 service from Sydney to Salamaua-Rabaul. He was inexperienced and not endorsed on DH.84. He probably did not anticipate the poor performance of the lower-powered DH.84.

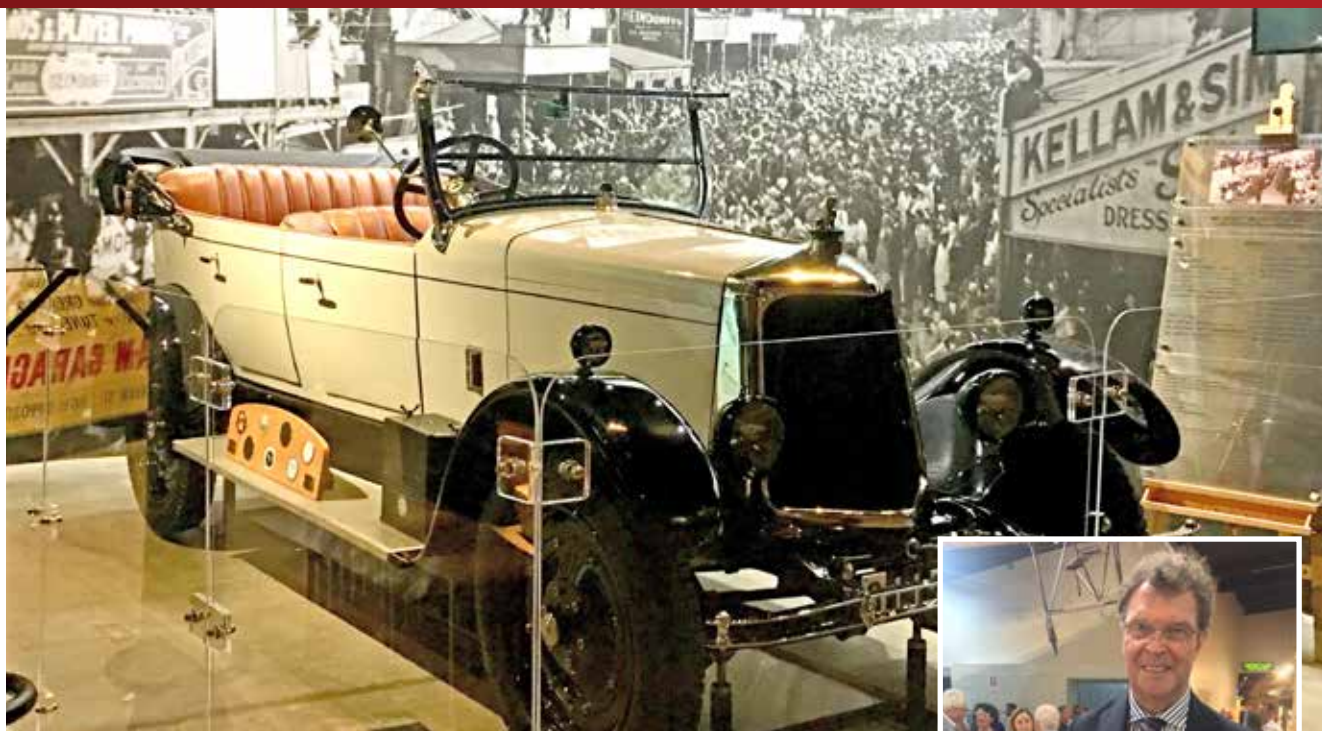
Eric Noble, a ground engineer for Stephens Aviation at Wau prewar, explained that after W. R. Carpenter started their DH.86 mail service from Sydney to Rabaul, the second pilots were taken off the service at Salamaua and given a few local trips in the Mandated Airlines Fox Moths to gain experience in New Guinea conditions.

"One day Mandated put one of these copilots from the DH.86 service into a Dragon to do some local trips. Shortly after lunch this pilot was returning to Wau on completion of his second trip. On the approach, he thought he would have to overshoot so he opened up the throttles. As he came above our hangar, he caught the radio aerials, lifted a bit, tried to turn but pulled the turn too tight, stalled and in he went. We raced up to the wreck but the pilot was dead. he had been carrying cases of soap but as there was no way of tying them down in those days, the load had moved forward and crushed him on impact.

If anyone knows the history of any of the names mentioned in this article I would be interested to hear from you, or if you would like photos of headstones please email me at dandy51@bigpond.net.au

MEMORIAL NEWS

RABAUL AND MONTEVIDEO MARU MEMORIAL NEWS



Why a bottle of scotch whisky connected the first action in Rabaul in WWII with Hinkler and recently inspired a trip to Bundaberg, Queensland!

Hinkler's first solo flight in the record time of 16 days from England to Australia in February 1928, 90 years ago, was a landmark in aviation history for Australia. The 1926 Armstrong Siddeley 40760 that was used as the official car in HJL (Bert) Hinkler's State of Queensland's welcome home procession in Brisbane on 6 March 1928, after his record breaking solo flight from Britain to Australia in February 1928, has recently been refurbished and an unveiling took place on 3 March 2018 in Bundaberg. Warwick and Megan Fisher, Andrea Williams, on behalf of the PNGAA, and Phil Ainsworth, on behalf of the NGVR/PNGVR Ex members Association, all attended.

The Hinkler Museum in Bundaberg is now home to the vehicle along with various Avro - the Avian Hinkler flew to Australia in - and other Hinkler memorabilia, including the bottle of Dewar's Scotch Whisky which provided the initial reason for the visit to Bundaberg. The sample, one of now only two in Australia, travelled with Hinkler on this first solo flight to Australia. It was sent from Lord Dewar to HV Jaques, who presented it to the first Anti-Aircraft Brigade Officer who first shot down an enemy plane in Australian territory during WWII.

It was won by Lt Peter W Fisher at Rabaul in January 1942. Peter Fisher's son, Warwick, has donated it on permanent loan to the Hinkler Museum.

Following the unveiling of the car there was a parade of vintage vehicles through Bundaberg. One had driven all the way from Sydney.



Warwick Fisher

Whilst the rebuilt vehicle and museum are the result of generous sponsorship, they're also the result of extraordinary drive and community spirit. A spirit that also builds community. And it was good to understand more about the determination and resilience that led Bert Hinkler to this wonderful feat. You could imagine the long flights through lonely nights. In bad weather it couldn't have been much enjoyed but, in fine weather, what a view he would have had of the stars! A visit to the Hinkler Museum in Bundaberg is highly recommended.

MEMORIAL NEWS

RABAU AND MONTEVIDEO MARU MEMORIAL NEWS



Hot off the press

'When the War Came: New Guinea Islands 1942'
A second print run has just been collected of this book. Tell your friends and libraries...let your local paper know that your story is included and they may do an article! Available via the enclosed Treasurer's Corner or at: <https://pngaa.org/site/blog/2017/06/14/pngaarmvm-book-when-the-war-came-new-guinea-islands-1942-available-from-1-july-2017/>

What's on

30 June 2018 - Last Post Ceremony, Australian War Memorial, Canberra, commemorates 76th anniversary and features Chief Yeoman of Signals Stephen Lamont

1 July 2018 – the NGVR/PNGVR Ex members Association annual Montevideo Maru service in Brisbane.

29 July 2018 – Trawool gathering.

2 August 2018 – Last Post Ceremony, Australian War Memorial, Canberra, features Sergeant Arthur Gullidge in conjunction with the 50th anniversary of the Australian Army Band Corp

30 June 2018 4.50pm

76th anniversary – Last Post Ceremony, Australian War Memorial, Canberra

All welcome to attend. This year the Vice Chief of Defence Force, Vice Admiral Ray Griggs will be reading the story at the Last Post Ceremony on 30 June in remembrance of the 76th anniversary. The story to be told that evening is that of Chief Yeoman of Signals Stephen Lamont, who was one of the victims on board the MS Montevideo Maru. Vice Admiral Ray Griggs was recently involved with the identification of AE1 in the waters off East New Britain. The AWM will be commemorating this significant anniversary at the Last Post Ceremony on an annual basis.

Due to the increasing popularity of this event, an early arrival is advised.

If you would like to attend and/or lay a wreath can you please contact Andrea Williams at admin@memorial.org.au or M: 0409 031 889.

The Last Post Ceremony is broadcast live daily on the Australian War Memorial's dedicated Last Post Ceremony YouTube Channel and Facebook, from approximately 4.55 pm AEST. It is also supported by the RSL and Service Clubs Association.

NGVR/PNGVR Ex members Association – 1 July 2018 Montevideo Maru Commemorative service – 9.45am for 10am, Ann St entrance of the Brisbane Cenotaph. Private wreaths welcome. This year the keynote speak will be Major-General John Pearn AO RFD (Rtd). Refreshments will follow at Adina Hotel. All welcome. RSVP by 20 June to Colin Gould, MBE Mob: 0424 562 030 Email: pngvr@optusnet.com.au

29 July 2018 – 2/22nd Battalion/Lark Force Association Trawool gathering. Contact Marg Curtis for further information - Marg.Curtis@hsv.com.au



2 August 2018 – Last Post Ceremony, Australian War Memorial, Canberra

On 2 August Sergeant Gullidge is being commemorated in conjunction with the 50th anniversary of the Australian Army Band Corp. Everyone is welcome to attend. Please contact admin@memorial.org.au

Interviews and Media

Ally Martell spoke on ABC RN on 25 February 2018 telling the story around Gladys Baker– see: <http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/sundayextra/2018-02-25/9471914>



Ian Townsend conducted an interview aired on 11 November 2017 with a lead up on 6 November: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-11-10/how-did-australia-forget-wwii-catastrophe-in-rabaul/9106728>

Country singer Kylie Adams-Collier continues to discuss this Australian WWII history on radio – so far she has mentioned it in 24 interviews! Don't forget that her CD "Little Stone" is out now on Kross Kut Records. 50 cents from every album sale will be donated to the Papua New Guinea Association of Australia to help raise awareness of the Montevideo Maru.

<http://www.kylieadams-collier.com/apps/webstore/products/show/7575455>

At the Copmanhurst Dawn Service on Anzac Day, in northern NSW, Robert Page spoke about Harold Page. An article by Caitlin Charles was featured in The Daily Examiner of 25 April 2018. <https://www.dailyexaminer.com.au/news/page-family-s-world-war-ii-tragedy/3396371/>

On 23 April 2018 the Weekend Australian featured an article written by Ian McPhedran 'Anzac Day: for Jack Hart, battle within was more ferocious than hand-to-hand combat in war': <https://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/defence/anzac-day-for-jack-hart-battle-within-was-more-ferocious-than-hand-to-hand-combat-in-war/news-story/a1064bb86218fbb362db278f418ba54f>

Readers might be interested to know that Jack Hart's story was featured in the March 2018 Memorial News.

CONGRATULATIONS to Lisa Cooper who recently received her PhD with a thesis titled 'Remembering Lark Force'.

PROJECT 150

Education is now a primary focus of the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Group to ensure that what happened after the New Guinea Islands were invaded and occupied at the start of WWII takes its rightful place in Australian history. A history

supplement, Project 150, has been developed by Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Group teachers to complement the Australian History curriculum. We aim to ensure it is easy to encourage students in this largely unknown but powerful and poignant Australia story—and to encourage them to be more curious about it.

"Project 150" is about giving secondary students the opportunity to learn an Australian perspective of the Pacific in WW2.

We are currently looking for teachers to use this outstanding resource, which includes lesson plans, background notes, worksheets, resources and easy access to an electronic 15-minute version of Some Came Home in which POWs and civilians are interviewed, all to be used in conjunction or separately. This program can be taught in one or two lessons. The text of this supplement can be found at: <http://memorial.org.au/Education/Rabaul.pdf>

Please share with any history teachers that you think may be interested in teaching this unknown but significant Australian history, which involves Australia's greatest maritime tragedy, massacres, the execution of an 11-year-old Australian boy as a spy, and extraordinary and heroic escapes from what was Japanese occupied former Australian territory.

The PNGAA/Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Group would like to acknowledge John Schindler's assistance in providing the short, 15 minutes, version of the DVD Some Came Home for online educational use. Click on the link available on the website via <http://www.memorial.org.au/Education/index.htm>.

Once the worksheets are downloaded the educational DVD can be used as an accompanying resource: <http://memorial.org.au/Education/SomeCameHomePromo.mp4>

John Schindler has produced a number of DVDs for sale on the New Guinea Islands during WWII. Further information is available from the menu tab on the website at: http://schindler.com.au/dvd_sales.

MEMORIAL NEWS

RABAU AND MONTEVIDEO MARU MEMORIAL NEWS

Sheer Outrage...Abandoned

The following letter was sent from JM (John) Lerew of Vacluse to the Editor of Wings magazine in January 1986. Lerew felt he needed to clarify that the Gladiator's farewell, sent from Rabaul in January 1942, was sent by him. Lerew, who was so incensed by the situation they were in, felt it deserved one last act before destroying the transmitting station. With thanks to Bob Piper who has kept a copy of the letter and thought it would be of interest to our readers.



John Lerew

Dear Sir

In the December 85 issue of WINGS you published a letter from J Anderson concerning who was the author/originator of the 'gladiator' message from Rabaul. I feel compelled to refute most of the points he made. To put the matter straight I will recount the events which lead up to and sparked the idea.

On 20 January 1942 the Japs (as they were called at that time) made their last and most devastating raid and were about to land at Rabaul. We had only one Hudson left and had been informed by Air Board that there were no more aircraft to send us.

After consultation with and the urging of the CO of the Army, Col. Scanlon, I decided to try to evacuate the Squadron. The men were too valuable to the Air Force to be lost and too untrained in ground fighting to be of value to the Army. No sooner had I made this decision I received two signals in quick succession from Hqrs addressed to me personally:

1. I was to hand over command to S/Ldr Brookes who was to place the Squadron at the disposal of the Army
2. I was to fly out the last Hudson

In response I send F/Lt Sharpe off south with the plane full of badly injured aircrew. I couldn't possibly takeoff and leave my gallant, highly trained and proven men behind. My reaction was one of sheer outrage. It was tantamount to throwing them to the lions. It was at that moment that I thought of the gladiator's farewell. I had learned this from my beloved 'Bumpy' Ingram, at Scotch College Melbourne, where he had taught me Latin up to Leaving Standard. Perhaps 'Bumpy' could claim from Heaven that he was the inspiration for the message!!

Up to this time I had spoken to no-one and had decided to disobey orders and to go ahead with the evacuation of the Squadron.

Before destroying the transmitting station I wanted to send one last message to Air Board, not to alert them to the seriousness of the situation (which they well knew) but for these reasons:

1. To try to let them know and more particularly the politicians to know what a barbaric act they were committing simply to be able to tell the Australian Public that we would defend Rabaul to the last man.
2. To create a 'smoke screen' so that they would not know that we were trying to escape and thus would not put further barriers in our way.

I decided to send the Gladiators farewell 'We who are about to die salute you', and to send it in Latin. My version was 'Mourituri Vos Salutamus' and this was how it was received in code at Hqrs. I have a copy of the signal.

Our escape from Rabaul and the saving of all but four of 24 Squadron is another story but as proof of Air Boards/Politicians intentions to throw us to the lions, Charles Pearce showed me an order he had received from Hqrs not to attempt to pick us up. This he had promptly disobeyed.

Regarding the reaction of Air Board, neither Charles Pearce nor I ever received the slightest admonition and we were in fact congratulated by many senior officers of the three services. I was honoured by being given immediate command of three Hudson flights at Port Moresby (later to become 32 Squadron).

I trust that this will clear up any doubts as to who was the author/originator of the signal, its intent and the reactions of Air Board. When I sent it I had no idea of how famous the message would become nor that others might claim authorship. Perhaps I should have obtained copyright!

Yours sincerely

Group Captain JM Lerew DFC

History Teachers Association of Australia Annual Conference

Tuesday 2 October 2018
– Thursday 4 October 2018

Information about the conference is at:
<http://www.historyconference.org.au>

For general enquiries regarding the conference please contact Ann Parry, President ACTHTA/Conference Convenor, aparry49@gmail.com.

Vale John Holland (10 April 2018)

PNGVR Military Museum Curator, NGVR/PNGVR Ex members Association life-member and friend, John Holland, passed away after a long illness. The exploits of John's father, Frank, after the fall of Rabaul are now legend. Frank received the MBE for the work he did in assisting many of the Australians escape New Britain. His story is told in his book 'El Tigre'. John worked hard to ensure that this unique history lives on and the PNGVR Museum at Wacol, with support from the PNGVR Association, is an outstanding testament to his work. Our thoughts are with Jessica Harrington, John's daughters Amanda and Jodie, and his friends in the NGVR/PNGVR Ex members Association. See page 20.

A Didiman's Diary #9

by **David Montgomery** (1956-65)

**Continued from 2017, No. 4 –
December issue pp 14-16**

July 1960. Another posting,
another piece of paradise.

Prior to going on three months
leave in March I advised head
office of plans to be married
and would like a permanent
location after six years of roving
responsibilities. This was agreed
to and I was appointed District
Agricultural Officer, Talasea, West
New Britain.

The administrative area covered
the sub-districts of Talasea,
Cape Hoskins, Kandrian and
the delightful Witu Island
group. The whole of the east
coast of West New Britain was
actively volcanic. Pure sulphur
lay in the beds of crystal clear
watercourses. The coastline was
constantly "breathing" sulphurous
fumes. Close to Volupai
plantation at the southern end
of the Willaumez Peninsula, a
lava vent, several feet below the
land surface, was a mass of red
hot bubbling lava. A fascinating
and frightening phenomenon.
Earthquakes were frequent,
never of a magnitude to cause
structural damage or too much
alarm.

During 1958 a three bedroom
married quarters had been
constructed on a rise west
of the Administration area. A
picture perfect location looking
northwest to the Willaumez
Peninsula framing Kimbe Bay

with Garua Island a couple of
miles off shore from the town
and Cape Hoskins on the
eastern coastline. There was
very little road development.
An airstrip with DC3 capability
was under construction close
to Volupai Plantation. It wasn't
though to be Talasea's first
airstrip! Another had been
operational pre-war, above and
west of the town. I have my
Uncle's log books, "Jos" Crisp,
a Carpenters Airline pilot, who
recorded visits to Talasea in
a de-Havilland Dragon (VH-
URW). The flying time from
Rabaul was one hour thirty
five minutes! The development
of the (new) Talasea airstrip
was an interesting experience.
Chris Normoyle (Jnr.) was the
Assistant District Officer at the
time and supervised the airstrip's
construction. He had arranged
for nearby villagers to collect and
deliver daily bilums of a couch
like grass. I had the task of
supervising the planting. Lines
four hundred feet across the
prepared surface were marked
out at three foot intervals and the
grass runners were hand planted
along the lines! The airstrip and
its subsequent demise has been
well documented.

Agricultural extension work was
centered on the development
and management of already
significant and expanding village
cocoa projects; increased
plantings of coconuts on
resettlement blocks and

improving copra quality, building
hot air dryers, utilizing discarded
wartime 44 gallon drums, steel
mesh and corrugated iron.
Coconut shells were used for
fuel. Coffee, in a limited way,
had also been introduced into a
few of the elevated inland areas
below the Whiteman Range.
Associated with the foregoing
was the introduction of the Rural
Progress Societies (RPS) to co-
operatively and more profitably
market local produce. These
organisations were invariably
linked, by membership, to the
recently formed Native Local
Government Councils by the
grouping of village census
divisions. These paved the way
for more structured political and
economic change. Native re-
settlement was in the formative
stage, the forerunner to extensive
coconut planting and palm oil
development. The significance
of these developments will be
recorded in later Una Voce
editions.

As mentioned in earlier Didiman
stories, regular patrolling
was the principle of effective
agricultural extension work. In
contrast to some of my previous
postings water transport was
essential to access the extensive
coastline and the Witu islands.
A government trawler the MV
Aimara and a workboat MV
Garnet were available for this
work crewed by competent
local lads. The Aimara was
skippered by Maus, an extremely

knowledgeable seaman. Maus's ability to navigate the coral reefs was uncanny – day or night.

The four years spent at Talasea had many happy highlights. The work was interesting and particularly satisfying being at the cusp of major agricultural developments. Some of the highlights were family; some social and some hilariously official. These will be recorded in some sort of chronological order.

September 1961. Special leave was granted and Gillian (Marks) and I were married in Sydney and after a honeymoon in Tasmania we returned to Talasea. Gillian wrote detailed and interesting letters to her family in which she best describes her introduction to Territory life. Edited extracts of her letters follow after our arrival in Rabaul and Talasea.

7 October. "We left Rabaul about a quarter to ten on Saturday morning for Talasea and had only one stop at Jacquinot Bay. We only stopped there for ten or fifteen minutes. I didn't even get out of the plane. You just set down on a strip in the middle of no-where, give the mail and supplies to one or two waiting people and go again. There were quite a few to meet the plane at Cape Hoskins. We had about three quarters of an hour unloading the plane onto a trailer pulled by a tractor, taking that to the beach and transporting it all out to the 38ft workboat, "Garnet" by a native double canoe. We had a terrific amount of stuff and there were also station supplies, mail, and other people's orders. We were eventually all aboard at 1pm and

set off across the bay to Talasea. The local Father was on board. He had gone to meet a Nun off our plane and saved our lives by producing tea and sandwiches. The plane was a couple of hours late leaving Rabaul and they don't supply lunch. You normally hang out till you reach Talasea about 2pm. but we didn't get here until about 20 to 5. We met a few people, loaded up the Landrover, collected the mail from the office, got the house keys and came home. What a relief to get here. Gosh it is a nice house. One of the first pieces of news that we heard was that the power plant was broken down so Monty went searching for Tilley lamps. We had an early tea and fell into bed exhausted"

12 October. Prior to departing on leave I had planned an extensive patrol to the Central Nakanai as a lot needed to be done at and near the villages of UASILAU and SILANGA involving the mapping, harvesting, processing and marketing of the cocoa projects. So after a very brief orientation of the station for Gillian, this is her story.

"We left at 10.30 this morning on a beaut little boat called the "Aimara" for Uasilau. We were later than we expected to be leaving and will now only be away for about a fortnight. I am armed with writing paper and books and we seem to have enough food to last an army a month. We will have to sleep on the boat tonight and will go to Uasilau in the morning. We will then have about a two hour walk inland to the village and the boat will be calling to collect us again on 28th. We are just crossing Kimbe Bay to Cape Hoskins and

there is quite a pleasant swell. At Cape Hoskins we collected Monty's only English speaking field worker called Moses! I suppose there would have been nine or ten of us on board. Monty and Moses and me and the captain and five or six other crew members, all native of course. We got some terrific hauls of fish on the way. Had four trawling lines on the back of the boat and every now and then there would be cries to slow the boat or, once, to stop the boat all together while tuna, mackerel or something else, I have forgotten what – huge big fish, hauled on board.

The captain decided we couldn't get all the way so at 6pm. we anchored off a coastal village called TAROBI. No sooner had we stopped than a native canoe and a very sober looking gentleman came slowly paddling out to us. He drew alongside, gravely shook Monty by the hand and stated he was the village Luluai (head man). Monty said who he was and asked if we could come to his village for a wash. We were invited to sleep the night too but decided it would be too much trouble to get beds and mattresses unloaded and ashore so said we would sleep on the boat. We collected our soap (one of two cakes), and our only tin of Johnson's Baby powder, clean clothes and our shower bucket and we were paddled ashore. They had quite a decent little rest house so we dumped our things and while willing hands went off to get buckets of water and heat them we walked around the village and along a little one man track a bit further inland to

another village. I have no idea how many hands we shook or how many little black heads we patted but the time we got back to the rest house it was quite dark and we followed behind the leader, who carried a lantern, I was tripping up and down and over things and trying to keep up with Monty and various of our new pals in Pisin English. Unbeknown to us, while we had showers the local teacher was gathering together all his children outside our hut and when we were nearly ready to go he said could they sing. Monty said we would love them to and I sat myself down on the step to listen and there in the dark were all these little black children lined up with big white looking eyes in the lantern light and very serious faces. Their singing was absolutely beautiful. The teacher had been trained at the Catholic mission school in Rabaul and he had those children practically perfect. Their harmonizing was like nothing I had heard before. We expected there to be three or four songs but they sang on and on while we sat on the steps of the rest house in raptures and wishing we owned a tape recorder. At last Monty said we would have to go and did they know a farewell song. They sang "Wish me luck as you wave me Goodbye" and "Now is the Hour". Honestly, I've never heard anything like it. It was one of the most moving things I've ever experienced. When you think the Vienna Boys Choir is paid thousands to tour the world and here were these little children – as good or better, considering their training, singing to us for pure pleasure in the middle of no-where. They

followed us back to the beach and just as the canoe left, they sang "Goodbye" from White Horse Inn. It lasted until we were to the boat and they called out "Good night Master" and "Good night Missus, God bless You". We didn't get back on board until after eight (minus the soap and powder which we had left in the rest house) and we lit the primus, heated a mug of mince for tea, put two mattresses on the floor of the cabin and went to sleep."

"They started the engine right under our heads at 5.15 the next morning and nearly frightened ten years good growth out of me. An hour later we were at WALO, our destination in BANGULA BAY. We had breakfast while the boys got all our patrol boxes, our beds our mattresses, a stove for the rest house and other odds and ends rowed ashore. Monty sent a man to UASILAU to tell SOA UBIA the village Luluai we had arrived and we would need carriers to collect our things."

"About 2pm Soa and a mob of boys arrived. Soa was all dressed up in a nice embroidered lap lap and was all smiles. This was the bloke Monty had promised would be the first to have his new wife stay in his village. Then the men and the boys began picking up the boxes, the beds, the mattresses, the chairs and the buckets and I picked up my hat and myself and off we all went. We left at 3.30 and walked and walked and walked till 6 when we arrived here. Actually we did have one stop by a swiftly flowing river with COOL water and had a drink there. The whole journey was

only about 5 miles but, heck, it felt like fifty by the time we got here. I thought my knees were going to buckle under me. I bet it is the first time in my life I have ever just got up and walked 5 miles. If you thought about the scenery instead of your knees and your thirst it was a lovely walk really. Huge trees and vines I had never seen before and, in spots, formed an arch over our head. I appreciated it and asked intelligent questions for the first mile!!! The village was so tidy, the houses are all separated and the people keep the grass between them cut and looking very nice. Our rest house, at the top of the village square, is quite a palatial joint"

Gillian's continuing description of life on patrol, and she joined me on several, make interesting reading. Our Editor's guidelines require a conclusion for this issue however, I would like to continue for the next edition. There is the need to explain mattresses, stove, refrigerator etc as patrol necessities and to record a kaleidoscope of events over the four years. The birth of our two sons at the Namanula Hospital; a seafaring mishap on patrol, visits by the "Warship" Paluma, the HMAS Anzac, Lord De L'Isle and his daughter, the Hon. Catherine Sidney and a pilgrimage by members of the 2/22nd Lark Force. The investigations into the establishment of the town of Kimbe and the early establishment of the palm oil industry were historical highlights.

KIMBE FLAG JUMP

by **Patrick Dunne**

Team Organiser/Cameraman

Team National Skydive Displays flew into Kimbe on 16 November 2017, just in time for the Opening Ceremony of the 2017 PNG National Games. We were there to participate in that ceremony, skydiving out of a PNG Defence Force CASA aircraft with a 2500sqft PNG flag attached to our organiser, Cameron Cooper.

We were first invited to PNG by Lamana Hotel in 2015 to put on a skydive display for the 40th year anniversary of independence celebrations. The skydive display was a huge success and was met by a very excited and surprised crowd.

When Lamana Hotel invited us again, for the PNG Games opening ceremony, we were very pleased to take part.

Our team consisted of 3 members, Cameron Cooper (Flag Jumper), Melanie Warrillow (Team Organiser) and me (the author). After a relaxed evening in the Lamana Hotel, Port Moresby we made our way to Jackson's Airport the next morning to meet with our pilots at the PNG Air Transport Wing hanger for an early take-off for Hoskins, near Kimbe.

After landing at Hoskins airport we made our way, by road, to San Remo Stadium in Kimbe to inspect the venue for the opening ceremony. There we assessed the weather conditions and landing site. All was well and we were ready to put on a show.

Leading up to the jump we were very impressed by the opening



Kimbe Flag Jump team - L to R: Patrick Dunne, Melanie Warrillow and Cameron Cooper

ceremony and the many teams that travelled all across PNG to represent their respective Provinces. The pride and joy of every team members' face was amazing to see. I was personally impressed by the cultural drum and dance of the different provinces, all wearing traditional dress.

As sunset approached, the PNGDF flew over the stadium with Cameron jumping out the back of the aircraft. The PNG flag opened and flew above a loud and excited crowd before safely touching down into the stadium. The atmosphere was amazing and seeing the smiles and joy on everyone's face brought us great joy too.

After taking some photos with a very excited crowd, we made our way back to our accommodation to celebrate another successful skydive display in PNG and watched the amazing fireworks display put on by Lamana Fireworks.

It was an honour to be invited to put on a show for the people of Kimbe, West New Britain and Papua New Guinea. We were very impressed by the hospitality and warmth of the local people and the pride displayed by each team as they were introduced to the crowd.

We would like to thank Lamana Hotel and Lamana Fireworks for inviting us to be a part of their display shows. A big thanks to the PNGDF Air Transport Wing and the pilots and crew who looked after us. Finally, a big warm thanks to Melanie Warrillow who organised our team, educated us on PNG customs and traditions, and truly looked after us the entire time.

A short video of our experience of the PNG Games Opening Ceremony can be found at the link below:-

<https://vimeo.com/244420292>

Anzac Day - Lest we forget

By Robert Parer

The first person killed by the Japanese Imperial Force in New Guinea was Pilot Kevin Parer at Salamaua on 21 Jan 1942. He had done dozens of flights across the Owen Stanley Ranges from Wau/Salamaua to Port Moresby taking wives and children to catch the Mine Sweeper MV Katoomba to be evacuated to Australia. Included in the 22 Parer kids were his own children Warwick, Kevin & Mary-Pat. All sleeping on the decks. The children had to wear life jackets in case the ship hit a mine. I (Rob Parer) remember we had Christmas on the ship and we all got a bottle of soft drink. I had never seen one before. We left Moresby on 17th Dec and took a long time getting to Brisbane as being a mine sweeper it was looking for mines floating in the sea.

Anzac Day: Lest we forget.

Kevin Parer (cousin of Damien Parer) and his plane was shot up and he was killed on the 21st January 1942 on the runway in his DH84 VH-AEA plane during take-off by a Zero fighter as part of force of 30 "Betty" bombers and 60 Zero fighters that took off from a Japanese carrier fleet and attacked Kavieng on New Ireland and Lae, Salamaua, Bulolo, and Madang on the New Guinea.

Ernie Clarke was to fly the Fox Moth VH-AAX with Kevin at the time had the plane started and ticking over. Ernie said, "My plane was ticking over

and Kevin was having difficulty getting his to start. He was in the plane and sang out to me to give him a kick over. I came over to his plane and got hold of the propeller. On looking up saw the Japanese plane about 50 ft overhead. A burst of machine-gun fire from another sprayed around us. I dropped under the shelter of the engine. Another burst ripped right along the plane. I got up and saw Kevin get out of his seat and dash to the back of the cabin where he fell. The Japs were still coming. I covered Kevin with a blanket and made for a shelter. When the Japs were clear I ran out to the plane, which was now on fire. I tried to get Kevin out, but couldn't manage it. A couple of bullets ripped across my legs above the knees, but they were nothing, only flesh wounds." After Pearl Harbour on the 7th December 1941, Kevin with his three plane fleet of Parer's Air Transport and other pilots began air lifting the women and children to Port Moresby as part of the evacuation to Australia. This included Kevin's pregnant wife Nance and children Warwick (5), Keven(4) and Mary-Pat (1). They were evacuated on the HMAS Katoomba on 17 December 1941. An emotional, public embrace between Kevin and Nance and they were away. They arrived in Brisbane on Boxing day. Kevin remained, with sustained efforts in trying flying conditions, evacuating the remote men of New Guinea

and flying in the military and supplies.

Nance received notice of Kevin's death from a letter from Father John Glover written the day after, but not received until the 30 January. Fr Glover said, "Your husband was regarded as one of the finest and most lovable characters ever to live in the Territory. There are those who would gladly have died so that he might live. He had the sympathies of a little child." Father Glover further said that he hoped to get down to Salamaua the following day to bless the grave. Australian Fr John Glover a pilot like many joined ANGAU until the end of the War. A book about his War effort was published by SIL Mission - Angel of Mercy - Tragically he died when his plane crashed near Kaintantu in 1949. He was only 40 years of age.

Damien's parents John Arthur and Theresa Parer, his siblings



Damien Peter Parer

Damien and Alan Anderson next to the War Photographer van outside the house in Maleny where his parents were staying after the New Guinea evacuation on their way from Sydney to Townsville, and stopping at Warwick to see Kevin's wife Nance on the way. March 1942

Phonse, Doreen, Ben, Cyril and Fr (Ferdy OFM) Adrian and cousins Ray, Bob, Mary, Bernard, Josephine and Kevin were all or had recently been in the New Guinea Mandated territories on the northern shores. Damien was an experienced veteran of the war having worked through the Palestinian, Syrian, Lybian and Greek campaigns. When Australia's troops were recalled to defend Australia, he knew exactly what was at stake for the nation. His cousin Kevin's death made the war all the more personal and on his return to Sydney Australia and on his way to Townsville with Alan Anderson he made a point of stopping into to see Nance at Warwick on the 8th of March. Nance was at the Hospital having just given birth

to Helen. A sister placed the baby in Damien's arms and said, "here is your daughter Mr Parer". He replied, "I wish it was, but I am afraid it is not".

Damien made his impassioned talk at the start of Kokoda Front Line and said, "There seems to be an air of unreality as though the war was a million miles away. It's not. It's just outside our door now. I've seen the war and I know what your husbands, sweethearts and brothers are going through. If only everybody in Australia could realise this country is in peril."

When he said that he knew both sides of the war, the front line and the impact on the family back home.

Kevin Parer - Lest we forget.



At the back Kevin, with in front, from left to right Warwick, Kevin Jnr and Nance Parer in a family portrait 1938.

WEBSITE WALKABOUT

Question 1

Just wondering if I could have the details to log into the website please.

Answer

The website address is www.pngaa.org/site

Your user name is your e-mail address OR your name. You can use either one.

If you forgot your password, select the option "Forgot password" . . . and a new password will be sent to your e-mail address. It will be a complex computer-generated password but you can overwrite it to something more meaning for you.

If you do not receive the password e-mail, check your SPAM bucket. If you are still having trouble, let me know and I will reset your password.

Question 2

Is there a list of members addresses on the website?

Answer

There is not a comprehensive list of members on the website. The website contains member details only of the members who have logged on and have used the system and have input their contact details . . . and so far only just over 300 of our 1,200 members have registered on our website.

However we put together a Membership Directory at mid-year 2017. We used to send it out with the Una Voce, but Postage costs became too great. So now a soft copy is available to anyone who requests it. A hard copy is also available on request (cost of \$10).

Roy Ranney
Membership Officer membership@pngaa.net

CULT

(continued from the previous issue)

By **Maurice Meth.** (Submitted by Maurice's 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.

SHIPPING AND TRADING SHENANIGANS 1974 TO 1984

Chapter Two

Shipping Services direct to PNG were quite sophisticated by 1974 with costs reflected in largely one-way trades with volumes setting rates. The main trading partner was Australia through traditional supply of consumables and building materials directly to Australian PNG Highlands and coastal trades, replacing the mail substitute.

The Swire Group strategy of securing the bulk of the food-consumable rice directly to Rice Growers Australia dominated this trade and capacity to directly service outposts on lesser frequency, i.e. Madang, Rabaul, Kieta and others in containers proved a real disincentive for other than Swire Partners at that point. The added "reefer" capacity for the supermarket trades strengthened these, with NZ Services complemented by the subsidised Pacific Forum Line complemented by the fledgling

Sofrana Unilines Auckland service.

The second major food group canned fish from Japan was well serviced by two vessels monthly calling from Japan and Korea monthly, on behalf of NYK and Mitsu carrying canned fish in breakbulk cartons to numerous small and large customers, replicating the rice trade complementing the "warehousing at sea" trade. Both cash crops interestingly evolved from the early supply of rations to Plantations.

The balance of liner trades were from South East Asia with Swire once again dominating with their service. Volume wise after Australia/NZ the European import trades complementing monthly exports. This shipping matrix allowed the main Trading Groups Breckwoldt, Svensons, BNG trading and others to supply both agricultural imports like fertilizers and food and building consumables from a world wide supply base. The supporting Banking structure in all Ports supplied by the regulars ANZ, Westpac, Commonwealth

and NAB provided a healthy trading base covering all manner of Commercial Drafts/ Letters of Credit between all types of Bankers.

Breakbulk Shipping and the Europe, Japan and South East Asia trades.

Sadly, the Europe, Japan and SE Asia trades remained breakbulk, creating an utter shambles with wharf deliveries. Shipping claims were rife from incorrect deliveries, however the healthy trades from these misdeliveries between wharf staff and trading companies or buyers, reduced actual claims to a trickle.

I recall Henry from Chapter One entering this industry through a job as the first Delivery Clerk delivering fertilizers from Lae and as the first PNG Clerk in such an exalted role. This group led by one Pete the Deke, JC, JM and TP briefly supervising Henry. The immaculate documentation between deliveries recorded by PNG Customs and that shambles between Receivers and Delivery staff was managed

and juggled with great expertise by all concerned.

As the first fully employed claims clerk appointed to verify claims, I quickly adopted the view the net final claims were to be with the majority as a net result of the “trading shenanigans” clearing a dreadful mess. Only “Bailey Bridging” was seriously followed up to ensure new bridges had some chance of delivery and completion at the right site in the right year. Continuous offsets were the norm where the “quick and the dead” philosophy applied to all cargoes reflected in the Warehouses and Shelves of respective traders.

Chapter Three

By contrast we were presented with our own domestic “Air Niugini” - our domestic national airline early after independence. This was a quick amalgamation of a domestic fleet of aircraft with the very capable Fokker Friendship F27 Aircraft fleet left behind by the Qantas and Ansett fleets. Whilst the Aircraft and physical aircraft remained, there appeared to be no planning for a linked infrastructure of systems and staff to operate this aircraft system, hence instant chaos.

Mourning Mud and Air Niugini.

As a shipping clerk and observer, I had the good fortune to experience this chaos of modern technology at first hand. I needed to travel to Port Moresby from Lae at short notice and clutching a waitlisted single return ticket, proceeded to wait at the “Lae Town Airport” for the next two days.

On the morning of day one, there was a series of F27’s transiting Lae Airport enroute Rabaul, Kimbe or Madang. From the beginning at the airport were three PMV trucks fully loaded with a large group of PNG Nationals all fully decorated in “Mourning Mud” and appropriate “arse grass”, awaiting the return of a wantok’s recently deceased body located in Kimbe.

Our newly-minted “Air Niugini” staff repeatedly ignored requests from the Mourning Group as to when they could expect their deceased relative as aircraft transiting were prioritising movement of Engineers to repair aircraft in outlying ports to re-position repaired aircraft and no effort was being made to return the “decomposing” body to Lae intransit.

After day two, it was increasingly obvious a number of arms were appearing in the hands of the mourners. When advised late on day two, no other aircraft were transiting, the armed group promptly charged Terminal staff who wisely fled the premises to secure.

The remaining “long suffering group of potential passengers happily cheered the Mourners from a distance. The first aircraft the next morning arrived with the body and business returned to some normalcy, where the “beer currency” and contacts were the only guarantee of a booked seat!!

I wonder whether leaving the original separate systems in place would have left a “functioning system”, as we

had with our chaotic shipping system crafted over hundreds of years, with cargo owners at “arms lengths” through the trading systems protecting all parties.

Airlines and their systems could not provide volumes and systems available to International Sea Transport to provide integrity of both small liner shipping and volume project shipping. The original fleets and multi purpose stowage offered by a 100 years experience of the key Trading Companies WRC, Burns Philp (BP) and consequently Steamships, guaranteed the appearance of world-wide trading groups and manufacturers they represented, prepared to supply at volumes to “meet the market”.

PNG joined and operated in a sophisticated trading system not generally available to near neighbours, supported by legal shipping and trading systems policed by our original cartels. Their strengths were recognising and implementing virtually the whole transport chain with sophisticated multi-modal trading from supplier to door with inevitable financing generally covering both capital and consumables. The alternatives we have seen developing since the eighties have not served the economy well.

TO BE CONTINUED

BATTLE OF WAU – 75TH ANNIVERSARY

75th Anniversary of the Battle of Wau – dawn 30 January 2018

By Deryck Thompson

For those of us not familiar with all parts of PNG, Wau town sits in the headwaters of the Bulolo River in Morobe Province. It was the site of a gold rush during the 1920s and 1930s. Initially gold prospectors had to walk for 8 days from Salamaua on the coast and struggle inland along the precipitous and jungle clad Black Cat Track.

In 1927, an airstrip was completed at Wau and the first landing was made by Ernest Mustard in his De Havilland DH.37 on 19 April of that year. It was a rough grass airstrip at about 1100 metres above sea level and 950 metres in length with a 10 per cent slope. Aircraft approach from the north east only, landing uphill and taking off downhill. The 2,000 metre high Mount Kaindi at the top end of the runway prevents second attempts at landing and precludes extension of the strip. This airstrip became the focus for one of the pivotal battles of World War 2 in Papua New Guinea and is one which so little is known about today by mainstream Australia.

As the Pacific War gained momentum a major Japanese force sailed from Rabaul and despite Allied air attacks, successfully reached their base in Lae, where they disembarked. As a precursor, Wau was first bombed on 23 January 1942 and this continued for almost a year until Allied forces gained air superiority. Japanese troops moved down the coast and captured Salamaua and consolidated their forces.

In early January 1943, they began to advance overland to Wau, which had been turned into an Australian base that threatened the Japanese positions at Salamaua and Lae. A race developed between the Japanese moving overland, hampered by the terrain, and the Australians, moving by air from Port Moresby, hampered by the weather. By the time the Japanese reached the Wau area after the trek over the mountains, the Australian defenders had been greatly reinforced by air. In the battle that followed, despite achieving tactical surprise by cutting their own tracks through the jungle, the Japanese attackers were unable to capture Wau.

The pivotal battle took place from 29 January to 1 February 1943 and Japanese forces got to within 400 metres of the Wau airstrip. In the end, the fighting was so close that one soldier got off his DC3 and received a bullet wound, even before he had left the airstrip, and was put straight back on the aircraft he had arrived on, for evacuation to Moresby.

It was also recorded that a 25-pounder field gun was brought in by air one morning. Gunners of the 2/14 Field Regiment assembled the gun and began firing it that afternoon from the airstrip.

By 4 February, Japanese troops started to withdraw, drained by casualties, and lack of supplies and ammunition which had to be carried from Salamaua. About 350 Australians lost their lives and many times more Japanese died between Salamaua and Wau. There is no record of how many Papua New Guineans died as a direct or indirect result of the foreigners fighting on their lands.

And so, at dawn on Tuesday 30 January 2018, a low-key service was held at the Battle of Wau memorial adjacent to the Wau airstrip. The occasion was organised by Paul Murphy, the Australian Consul General in Lae. Paul drove up to



A 25-pounder is unloaded from a Dakota on the airfield at Wau.

Photo sourced from Wikipedia web article:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Wau

Wau with representatives of the Australian Federal Police, the Australian Defence Force and serving members of the PNG Police and Defence Forces. The Member for Menyamya, the Honourable Thomas Pelika stood in for the local Member Sam Basil, who was unable to attend. About 250 locals stood with the visitors in the darkness of pre-dawn as it turned into a dull cloudy day,

to listen to several short speeches. By the end of the service the numbers had swelled to 500 most of whom were not even born when the fighting took place. The highlight was Francesca Tulungenaram, who sang the PNG and Australian national anthems, unaccompanied and with no electronic support - her stunning voice a fitting end to a moving memorial.



Paul Murphy and Thomas Pelika



Service personnel



Local kids after the formalities

CREATIVE ARTS + BOOKS & REVIEWS

Peter Porteous - from PIR to painting

By Russell Wade

I first met Peter Porteous in October 1971, when he was an Education Officer at Taurama Barracks, embedded with the 1st Battalion of the Pacific Islands Regiment (PIR). Peter was one of some 40 Education Corps teachers stationed around Port Moresby, Lae and Wewak, who delivered the education courses to Papua New Guinean soldiers, as part of the successful strategy to prepare the Defence Force for Independence.

Most of these teachers were National Servicemen. Their influence extended beyond the classroom, as many were deployed on PIR operational and civic action patrols, giving them unique insights into the provincial characteristics of Papua New Guinea.

Peter later became President of the PIR Association of Australia. To this day, the re-formed PIB-NGIB-HQ-PIR Association is backboned by Peter's colleagues, who, like PNGAA members, are committed to preserving the history of Australia's military involvement in PNG. Peter still organizes the Association's march in Sydney on Anzac Day.



Artist Peter Porteous



A section of Flowering Gums by Peter Porteous (full size work 88 x 88cm)

In recent years, I reconnected with Peter through the PIB-NGIB-HQ-PIR Association and found amongst his other activities, such as writing and academic work, he is an accomplished painter. Peter attended Meadowbank TAFE, graduating with a major in painting and drawing. His teachers were Jocelyn Maughan, Robin Norling and Michael Kempson.

His work includes figure studies in pencil, landscapes and figurative work in oils and acrylics. Peter has drawn from his extensive travels and varied life experiences to shape his work. He has held exhibitions in Sydney and Byron Bay. He exhibits regularly in major community art exhibitions in Sydney. His work is in collections in Australia, Europe and the United States.

Peter's use of negative space and the dissonance of his line work draws the viewer into his conversation about the Australian landscape. He deconstructs those uniquely Australian forms in an attempt to develop a deeper understanding of the mystical and spiritual objects found in the bush. His use of colour complements the elemental shapes found on his canvases and places him in the great tradition of Australian abstract expressionists.

Peter is currently exhibiting in Sydney and has a group exhibition scheduled to commence at the GalleryOne88 in Katoomba on the 18th August.

He has also just entered for The Wynne Prize, so we wish him well. Peter can be contacted via email pporteous@optusnet.com.au



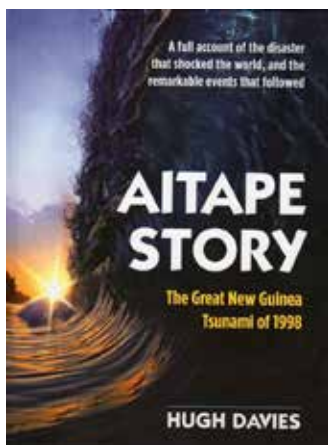
Niugini Brushstrokes – exhibition of contemporary PNG art by Port Moresby's street-artists.

Held 26 February to 11 March 2018
at the

Royal Queensland Art Society, 162
Petrie Terrace, Brisbane, QLD 4000.
Curated by Don Wotton



Artist Laben Sakale John



Aitape Story: the Great New Guinea Tsunami of 1998

ISBN-13: 9781925043273
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 Author: Davies, Hugh
 Price: AUD 39.95
 Format: Hardback
 (255mm X 190mm) 200
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World-wide reports of terrible 'natural disasters' are provided so promptly by the global media these days, that the lists of tragedies seem to grow faster than ever and appear unending. We can also fall into the trap of remembering only the most recently reported disasters. We recall the Japanese (Honshu) earthquake related tsunami of 2011, the more than 15,000 people who perished, and the radioactive leakages from the damaged nuclear-energy plant at Fukushima. Or else, closer to home, there was the great Indian Ocean, or 'Boxing Day' tsunami of 2004, and the approximately quarter-of-a-million people who died, mainly in Banda Aceh in western Indonesia.

How many of us, however, can recall clearly the details of the

tsunami and disaster in the Aitape District, suffered in 1998 by our closest neighbour, Papua New Guinea, even though these events were reported widely at the time? Now, Halstead Press in Sydney has provided a valuable service by publishing a well-designed book on the disaster. 'Aitape Story' concentrates on the remarkable relief-and-recovery efforts that involved a huge range of emergency, medical, media, and disaster-management agencies, both Papua New Guinean and international, both government and NGO (Red Cross, World Vision, the Salvation Army and so on) — all far too numerous to list here. These response groups included the Australian Government through its aid program, the Australian Defence Force (ADF), and smaller organisations such as the Monash Orthopaedic Surgical Team, Melbourne. We can read this book with bewilderment and wonder in trying to understand how the day-to-day work of so many well-meaning groups, as well as the requirements of generous donors, the critical management of finances and stores, and the needs of visiting politicians and every other visitor, could possibly have been coordinated and integrated successfully for the benefit of the survivors and their families.

The Aitape tsunami struck the north coast of New Guinea island in West Sepik Province a few minutes after dusk at about 7.05 p.m. on Friday 17 July 1998, after a series of earthquakes and aftershocks that began at 6.49 p.m. below the seafloor only a few kilometres off-shore. The

tsunami hit most severely along a 45 km-long stretch of coast between Aitape town in the southeast and the mouth of the Bliri River in the northwest, but particularly along a quite localised, central, 14 km-long sector bordering Sissano Lagoon. People in the villages of Arop and Warapu living in front of the lagoon — and isolated on sand spits at the ocean's edge — were swept into the lagoon by a 10-15-metre high tsunami wave. Damage was also extensive at the mission, district office, and villages at Sissano, including Nimas. Smaller waves extended across the lagoon as far as Aroporo. The waves' lagoonal flood eventually drained out towards the sea, including through the opening at Otow.

Sissano Lagoon from the northwest and the stretch of coast most affected by the tsunami of 17 July 1998. See LH photo page 45.

The exact total of deaths is unknown but likely was more than 1600. Injuries caused by people being tumbled helplessly and violently in the destructive wave which was laden with debris (mainly logs and sand) were extreme. The injuries included fractured bones, deep lacerations, severe bruising and abrasions, impalement on mangrove roots, seawater-ingestion and, later, gas gangrene as wounds became infected. The still-living villagers, and those who were still dying, spent a horrific night abandoned, traumatised, and trying to cope as best they could, until a Sister at the nearby Malol Catholic Mission managed to contact the outside world by HF-radio at 7.30 the



next morning. Early helicopter support for evacuation of survivors was provided by the Frieda River exploration camp, followed by strong support from other aviation companies. The relief phase then began in earnest, extending over the following days and weeks. Rescuing and treating the injured and burying the dead in this tropical climate — where injuries become infected and bodies deteriorate quickly — were priorities.

The author of 'Aitape Story' is Professor Hugh Davies, an Australian, and a long-time resident of Port Moresby. His almost entire professional career as both an academic (at the University of Papua New Guinea) and as a government geologist, has been spent in Papua New Guinea. Davies has also developed over his career, a strong commitment to the study of geological hazards, and to related disaster-management issues including a focus on geologically at-risk communities. This compassionate commitment to the people of Papua New Guinea emerges clearly from the pages of Davies' book.

Eastward view of the spit where formerly villagers of Arop had lived. The tsunami approached from the ocean on the left and washed the villages into Sissano Lagoon on the right. Coconut trees and some small concrete ground structures remain in place. See RH photo.

'Aitape Story' is published almost 19 years after the tsunami. This apparent delay is the result of an unhurried, systematic, and careful collection and analysis of information about the disaster by Davies who has produced, finally, at his own pace, an engaging and definitive account. It has been written in an accessible style designed for a non-specialist audience. This is the kind of book that could readily be overdramatised, but Davies' style is objective, clinical, calm, and respectful. Human failures as well as successes are described openly, and Davies is by-and-large non-judgmental. The reported facts speak for themselves, and Davies soon moves on in his humanitarian narrative from any temptation to expand on potential controversies and failures.

All aspects of the disaster and its management are set

out in 12 chapters, each well organised and fully illustrated with colour photographs, maps, and even portrait photographs of many of the people involved in the disaster and in the response. Books have been published before on geological disasters, but I don't know of any that have 'drilled down' so deeply to portray so effectively the personal stories of survivors, volunteers, church people, missionaries, trauma counsellors, and the medics who worked heroically in hospitals in nearby Wewak and Aitape (Raihu), and at Vaimo Hospital where an ADF field hospital was also established. Local volunteer rescuers were especially effective in the first days after the tsunami struck.

Davies has reproduced in his book several comprehensive contributions by writers other than himself. Just one example is Sister Mary Martin Joseph FRCS. She is a nun of the Passionist order and a surgeon trained in Britain and was returning home to the Aitape area from overseas when the tsunami struck. She 'hitched a lift' from Port Moresby on a Hercules (C130) relief aircraft and arrived at Wewak to begin

work on casualties at the hospital there: 'I went straight to the wards and found chaos ...', she writes. Sister Joseph is clearly a no-nonsense person who, together with other leaders of similar character at the disaster scene, must have had a major hand in creating order out of the chaos. Read the rest of this chapter on 'Treating the injured' and, like me, find out what tsunami-disaster medical assistance under extreme conditions is all about from those who dealt with it at Aitape.

Davies was involved in smoothing the way for international tsunami scientists visiting the disaster area in late July and August 1998 in order to assess the cause and impact of the Aitape tsunami. These International Tsunami Survey Teams (ITST), and other inquisitive scientists, brought in marine geophysical equipment including a remotely operated submersible, seismographs, and drilling gear for on-land investigation of coastal sediments in a search for old, sub-surface, tsunami deposits. One scientific hypothesis was

that the 1998 tsunami had been caused by a submarine landslide triggered by one of the precursory, local earthquakes, rather than by one of the earthquakes themselves, but such a young landslide could not be identified unequivocally.

The scientific teams later reported their findings in the international scientific literature, yet did not forget the affected, stoic communities back in the Aitape area, many of whom had soon relocated to new settlements inland, well away from the threats at the coast. The ITST scientists, to their credit, returned to the Aitape area in September 1999. They presented their results at well-attended community gatherings, and later at a special conference (proposed by Davies) that was held in Madang and which was attended by a wide range of participants, including local villagers and survivors. This is not to suggest that all of the villagers at these meetings believed the explanations being offered by the scientific 'experts'. There are, as Davies explains, people in Melanesian society who still believe in

sorcery, and '... the question people ask is not what caused the disaster but who caused it' (his emphases). Was the disaster, for example, caused by the wrath of the Christian God? Some had seen Satan in the waves. Others thought the tsunami was caused by a bomb.

Davies finishes with these words: '... ultimately the onus to recover was on the individuals, each of whom had suffered some degree of loss, who pulled their families together, rebuilt their houses, carved new canoes, planted new gardens, and made the villages. I admired them greatly. It was a privilege to be there and see it happen'. Any reader of these words could hardly rebut Davies' sentiments.

Humanitarianism and strongly recovering communities are still to be found in our world today, as revealed by this insightful book.

Reviewer: **R. Wally Johnson**
Volcanologist, College of Asia
and the Pacific Australian
National University Canberra

Budding Writers

So, you would love to have your name in this section of the Una Voce would you?

Well that requires you to become an author. How exhilarating it would be to have your story /poem read by others. So far a number of members have expressed interest in a PNGAA writing workshop and we are looking for more to make it viable.

Whether it be about your time in PNG, or an interview with your parents or Grandparents to tell their life stories. Want to chat about opportunities? Call me!

Sara Turner 0401 138 246 or events@pngaa.net

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

by James Sinclair, published by Crawford House Publishing Australia, 34 Kingdom Pl, Goolwa SA 5214, 0439 808 364. ISBN 978 1 86333 2 45, 2017, \$89.95, hard cover, 214x198mm, 622pp (XXIV–486+116 photo pages), over 500 b&w photographs, 11 maps, Appendix, Bibliography, Index.

It is the biggest single-author book ever published about anywhere in the Pacific; “a huge beast of a book” Jim called it. Its 240,000 words came from boxes of original records Jim collected, from dozens of his interviews with Highlanders and people they met, from research on the Highlands listed in a 25-page bibliography, and from Jim’s lifetime experience as kiap, author and photographer. Inspired by the beauty and diversity of the Highlands, united by a meticulous and wide-ranging narrative, Middle Kingdom is a colossal achievement; rich in 100s of archival photographs, many are full page never before published.

The book has 41 chapters spread over 6 Parts. Part 1, its longest section, fifteen chapters, is a vivid survey of the European discovery and opening of the Highlands from the first Lutheran advances in the 1920s to the outbreak of the Pacific War in 1941. Rich in new detail, this is the book’s most powerful section. With other accounts, including Jim’s first book Behind

the Ranges (1966), it is the most comprehensive record of first contact anywhere in the world.

The next two sections, on the Pacific War, and the years following when Jim Taylor was the last emperor of the Middle Kingdom, have valuable new information taken from Jim’s interviews and collections, and again outrange anything previously written. Then from the 1950s Jim deals impressively with growing diversity as more and more whites in more and more jobs come into the Highlands. Lists of names become more common, but Jim’s command of his subject doesn’t falter. Simply keeping the chronology clear must have been a slog. No-one will attempt to repeat it.

He writes of kiaps breaking bush, establishing stations, introducing local government. He writes of government initiatives in contact and administration, agriculture, health, education and transport, of prospectors and miners, of missions, of storekeepers and business people, of crops especially coffee. He writes of emerging Highlanders – fight leaders become luluais, war veterans become businessmen, bush children become university graduates, enterprising clansmen become politicians with a voice in the future of the Highlands. It is a story of progress more than of what Highlanders lost, but it does not avoid the increasing violence of the immediate pre-independence years.

It is fortunate that Jim dared to take on so huge a task and did

it so well. The colonial Highlands were extraordinary. Highlanders who saw the first outsiders pass below their mountain ridges also saw, not always happily, the end of Australian rule. They reacted swiftly and creatively to momentous change. As often remarked, the kiaps they met had more powers in their districts than the King of England had in his, but as Jim wrote in 1964, “it is the task of the field officer” to prepare the people for eventual independence. “It is an honourable task”, he added.

It is a valuable work for all those with an interest in the history of PNG and should be placed in all PNG school libraries besides those overseas.

Reviewer: **Bill Gammage**

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75th Anniversary Book

‘When the War Came: New Guinea Islands 1942’

Visit www.pngaa.org or
see ordering details
in the enclosed
Treasurer’s Corner.

UV: The Patrol Post up in the Sky by Malcolm 'Chips' Mackellar is an ode dedicated to the memory of all kiaps. As *The Patrol Post up in the Sky* was published in the book *SIVARAI*, we publish a review of this book by Keith Jackson, a former president of PNGAA. It sets the context in which this poem was written.

SIVARAI

Author: Chips Mackellar

Paperback 302 pages.

ISBN: 09871321180,

ISBN: -13:978-0-9871321-8-5

Pukupuk Publishing 2013.

Available from Amazon.

27 evocative short stories about the way PNG once was

It turns out – and when the truth dawned some years ago, this caught me by surprise – that the great storytellers about Papua New Guinea in colonial times have been the kiaps.

Of course as patrol officers they had much fecund material to work with, but I always reckoned the school teachers, being formally educated in how to instruct others in the English language and its grammar and vocabulary, as well as having plenty of time to themselves in those remote bush schools, might have gravitated to the role of tribal chroniclers.

Well, with some notable exceptions such as Trevor Shearston (Something in the blood) Eric Johns and his most useful histories, and a small number of others, it didn't happen that way.

Instead we got the rich, evocative and so readable offerings of authors like Jack Hides (writing in the 1930s) Ian Downs, James Sinclair, Phil Fitzpatrick, Bob Cleland, John Fowke, Michael O'Connor, Laurie Meintjes and many more.

And now, thanks to Phil Fitzpatrick's assiduous cultivation of the writing of and about Papua New Guinea, indigenous and expatriate, we have a wonderful collection of 27 of Dr Mackellar's short stories, a couple of which, by way of appetiser, have been published in PNG Attitude – Cabbage and Honour Among Thieves.

The book *Sivarai* (which in Motu simply means 'story') is adorned with a cover photograph of a pair of buxom young Trobriand Islands women – which tells us a little about the author without a single word being consumed. Appropriately, although it seems a little unfair to single out one of these beautifully crafted stories for special attention, the one that strikes me as demonstrating both fine writing and authorial honesty is *The Mile High Club*. Without giving too much away, Mackellar discloses how – in the course of a short plane flight – he simultaneously breached the Native Womens' Protection Ordinance, the kiaps' no fraternisation rule, and the Police chain of command all in one blissful act.

Malcolm (Chips) Mackellar went to Papua New Guinea as a cadet patrol officer in 1953, serving in five districts and rising to the rank of Assistant District Commissioner before transferring to the bench as a magistrate in

Wabag and Port Moresby. He left PNG in 1981 after nearly 30 years' service during which he saw the former colony transition into and beyond independence.

Sivarai sparkles with anecdote and finely-drawn reminiscence. Mackellar is a great observer of incident, humanity and nuance. The characters – and PNG was replete with them – come bouncing off the page and the stories are related with a freshness that makes you feel you are in the story and not just reading it. If you served in colonial PNG, *Sivarai* will help you recall why you loved it so much; and if you didn't, it'll make you wish you were there.

Mackellar writes in the Epilogue – 'It is a long time since we patrolled the jungles and the islands of Papua New Guinea but we will take our memories, like those recorded in this book, with us when we prepare for our last patrol, which will take us on that long, long journey to that big Patrol Post in the Sky'. And, if Mackellar is representative, those kiaps will go with a chuckle and a sense of a job that was both well done and with a streak of larrikinism.

Chips Mackellar has done PNG's past a great favour by compiling this collection and Phil Fitzpatrick has done a wonderful job in publishing such a well-designed and thoughtfully-edited book.

Reviewer: **Keith Jackson**
27 January 2014

Sing Sing - events and reunions

We had a great day Sunday 29 April at Hornsby RSL for our AGM. As always, it was good to see some new faces amongst the regulars. It was so great that Murray Fletcher from Lae dropped in to see us and just delightful to meet Bella Uechtritz who brought her youthful energy to our meeting. Joan Stobo brought her beautiful Buka tray of hibiscus, which added to the whole day. Healthy discussion followed business presented for the Members to consider (see AGM minutes page 13).

Thank you to all who attended.

Sara



PNGAA 2017 ADELAIDE REUNION

Submitted by **Graham Taylor** and **Jan Kleinig**

In 2017 over forty PNGAA members and their friends attended the 17th annual PNGAA Adelaide reunion lunch at the Public Schools Club Adelaide on Sunday 29 October.

Graham Taylor speaking on behalf of fellow members of the organizing committee -Robin Radford, Peter Thomas and Jan Kleinig- extended a warm welcome to all our members and their guests present.

There was special mention and welcome to the two committee members of

'PNG Association of SA Inc.' (PNGASA) attending the lunch for the very first time: Keith Simpson-Lyttle, Secretary and Rowena Hotata, Vice President. Graham then welcomed our Guest Speaker, Diane Bayne.

Our guest speaker at the 2017 reunion was Diane Bayne speaking on: 'A life well lived and well travelled'.

"From a 1950s childhood spent in country South Australia, Diane became a teacher. When she met and married Eric, a pilot, her world opened up into a life

of varied and unexpected experiences.

As a young wife and a new mother, the Education Department did not allow her to continue teaching.

Instead, she supported and followed her husband's aviation career living in Papua New Guinea, England (while Eric flew in Nigeria), Sri Lanka, Bahrain and New Zealand. They headed for Port Moresby in 1974.

Having never been out of South Australia, Diane experienced culture shock when first arriving in PNG.

However, with her interest and fascination in this new country, she discovered a welcomed personal challenge in living there as a mother and wife.

Later they lived in Lae, in a compound with noisy, single, partying pilots obsessed with flying.

They were then transferred to Daru Island, living in a hangar at the airport. Diane became the Talair agent, managing flights to and from places like Ok Tedi and Lake Murray. She wrote tickets, organised manifests and used the two way radio.

She met many diverse personalities in what was a very male centred aviation world.

After the last flight, she would push her daughter's pram along the long 5,000 ft Daru runway and marvel at the sunsets. She once met cannibals Eric flew in from Nomad River who were headed for the Daru jail. She directed inward flights from Thursday Island to customs and once to the jail where the customs men were recovering from a hangover.

She and Eric organised a flight to Thursday Island to collect polio vaccine when there was an outbreak in the Western Province. They also experienced PNG Independence Day on Daru.

She met many diverse personalities in what was a very male centred aviation world.

The handful of other expats on Daru found life pretty dull but living and working from a hangar at the airport, Diane found life unpredictable and very interesting.

Later, they were posted to Kabwum in the Morobe District at a time when there were no other expatriates living there and for Diane it was an isolated experience. They lived in an old house on a hill next to a stream. Eric made their electricity with a water wheel. During the day she cooked, made her own bread and organised painting and craft for her 2 year old daughter. Sometimes they would go on flights with Eric. She recalls 'falling off' the end of the strip at Satwag on one flight.

In 1979 they left PNG and headed for the UK and from there to many other expatriate experiences.

Margaret Henderson and Scott Henderson introduced Diane. Margaret was born on New Hanover during the war when her father, a Methodist Missionary, was stationed there. Diane and

Margaret met when they taught together in Adelaide and remain longstanding and very good friends. Jane Morrison gave the vote-of-thanks. Jane's husband Rod was ADC Daru when Diane and Eric, a pilot for Macair, arrived in Daru. Diane and Jane met there as members of a small community with young children.

In 2017 there was a less formal programme. There was more opportunity for everyone to mingle freely and catch up with former colleagues and friends. This was well received and appreciated. Robin Radford did her usual sterling job organising the 'PNG books for sale' table with a display of books by South Australian authors. Jane Morrison and Shan Morbey ran a very successful raffle. Again our members were amazingly generous. This year also we were able to source a selection of Nathalie Le Riche Artwork, Kimbe in West New Britain Province as raffle items. Not surprisingly there was a great response to Nathalie's printed & hand made cards, gift bags, placemat & coaster set.

Please note: 18th PNGAA Adelaide reunion lunch will be held at the Public Schools Club on the last Sunday in October 2018.

Vale

BELLIS Gerald (Gerry) Joseph

Died 13.4.2018 at 3am after a long illness which he bravely fought for some years.

Born in Cobram, Victoria, he joined Victoria Police as a cadet in August 1957 resigning in December 1959 to be inducted into the Australian Army under the National Service Regulations and served three months followed by annual monthly camps. He then worked for a short time in the Victoria Department of Public works. He re-joined the Victoria Police on 19 February 1960. He served in several suburban stations, country stations, and the Mobile Traffic Section. He resigned on 31 October 1965 when in company with Leo Newport and Geoff Brazier he joined the RP&NGC.

He was appointed to RP&NGC on 31.10.1965, with rank of Sub Inspector, file nr p435. He served at Port Moresby, Mt. Hagen and Goroka, In 1965 he was appointed an Inspector 3/c in the newly formed police Special Branch then serving at Pt. Moresby, Kieta and Rabaul. In 1967 he was attached to the Police Association. He resigned on 9.6.1972. Gerry was generally regarded as a "bloody good bloke". Following this he worked in the security division of the aviation industry, became an insurance investigator in the course of which he made many return visits to PNG. He also had interests in the taxi industry. He leaves a widow, Yuko, and two children.

His funeral was held at 2pm Thursday at St Mathews Anglican Church, Grovely. 35 Church Rd, Mitchelton. The end of an innings well played.

M.R.HAYES and G. BRAZIER

COLE, Robert (Bob)

D. 25 March 2018

Valerie Thornton posted this on 16 April 2018 in the Facebook group 'In Memory of TPNG and PNG kids we grew up with'.

DEITZ, Thomas Antony



D. aged 95, a former PNG teacher and chief interpreter of the Papua New Guinea House of Assembly 13.12.1923 - 06.03.2018

Funeral Service City United Church, Canberra 15.03.2018

Tom Dietz was born in Sydney and educated at Scotch College, Melbourne. The day after leaving school in 1942 he enlisted in the Australia Army. Tom spent most of his military career in the Signal Corps. In September 1943 he was posted to Papua New Guinea where he served in the Kokoda campaign, in fighting around Lae and Finschhafen. Tom was in the 19th Australian Line Section, which provided telephone lines for advancing infantry. It was a hazardous task maintaining telephone lines linking the forward troops with their headquarters. The Japanese often cut the lines and ambushed Australian troops sent to repair them.

After the war he took up a scholarship with the Victorian Forestry Commission which had

been offered to him before he enlisted. However, like many ex-servicemen he found it hard to settle down and he tried several jobs before opting in 1942 for a career as a school teacher in PNG. When he arrived in Port Moresby, the schools catered only for Australian and other expatriate children. There was little opportunity for local children. However, Tom, after a day's work, began teaching a small group of Papuan youngsters. They in turn helped Tom in learning the local Motu language and, over the years, he became an authority on the language and its culture.

It was said he loved to teach. And he loved to learn. He was passionate about the importance of education and literacy. Tom is survived by his wife Hane, daughter Susan-Dietz Henderson and son Tommy.

Submitted by Don Hook. Scotch 1947-51

Eulogy written by Mr Dietz's children, Susan and Thomas

THOMAS ANTONY DIETZ

Former Chief Interpreter of the PNG House of Assembly, school teacher and headmaster in local PNG schools (Kila Kila, Hagara, and Logea Island), Thomas Dietz passed away in Canberra on 6 March 2018.

As a young World War II soldier, Mr Dietz served in the Australian Armed Forces in the then Territory of Papua and New Guinea. After the conclusion of the war, he returned to devote decades to the service of Papua New Guinea, helping to shape the curricula of PNG's school system and educating many high level decision-makers in PNG today.

He loved to teach. And he loved to learn. He was passionate about the importance of education and literacy,

and devoted his life to it. He believed it was fundamental in opening up opportunity and providing independence for the individual, principles he deeply believed in. His deep commitment to PNG was clearly felt inside and outside the school environment. His connection to the Motu culture was profound, marrying into the Hila Lahui family of Gunina clan. He understood the importance of perpetuating traditional Motu culture in modern society - this was the inspiration behind his son's creation of the Gida project of Motu cultural preservation.

Mr Dietz's love and respect for his wife was profound. To him, the greatest tribute to her was not a poem, nor any monument, but building in her honour, the lives and minds of their three children; Nancy and Susan, and Thomas. He nurtured in them an indelible love and respect for their mother, her culture, her language, and her people. In doing so, he also enriched their lives, and multiplied their very identity – completely Australian and completely and truly Motuan. These are gifts that have no parallel.

He loved his wife Hane's singing. He spent many years sitting in his wife's family's house in the village, quietly listening as they sang their peroveta. He would happily listen for hours. And even when he was in the deepest entrapment of Alzheimer's, Hane's singing would still bring a smile to his face. They spent 59 years of devoted marriage together.

Mr Dietz did not care for high office or a high profile. But his influence on many people has been profound, not just because of specific events or achievements, although there were a few, but in the way he lived his life. He taught his children to look beyond the superficial; to look into people's hearts. To treat people with kindness and respect. To be true to yourself. He was principled, humble, and honourable. A man of dignity and

integrity. He trod his own path, not caring about convention but about what was right and good.

He was an articulate, deep thinking man, but in recent years he had been held to ransom by Alzheimers. His children are fiercely proud of their father - a good, fair, honest, gentle man. He is, and always will be, dearly loved. Thomas Antony Dietz, the door to paradise has opened for you. Go, and rest in peace.

HONISETT, William Charles

D. aged 90 on 24.3.2018

HONISETT William Charles died peacefully at Yarra Junction, Victoria aged 90 on 24.3.2018. Born in Narrogin W.A. aged 18, he joined the Royal Australian Air Force (s/n 89577) on 3.8.1945 in the closing months of WW2 and trained as an air gunner by which time, the war being over, he was discharged on 28.5.1946. On 19.5.1950, he joined the Western Australia. Police (s/n 2410) and served until 28.2.1957.

A few weeks later he was sworn into the Royal Papua & New Guinea Constabulary (s/n p157) at rank of Sub Inspector on 9.3.1957. He served at Bougainville, Kainantu, Kavieng, Lae, Madang, Moresby and Rabaul and was retrenched on 4.7.1974 at the rank of Superintendent from Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary under the provisions of the Permanent Officers Employment Security Scheme as Papua New Guinea moved to Independence. He was awarded the Police Long Service and Good Conduct Medal in September 1973 and was subsequently awarded the RP&NGC 1988 Centenary Medal.

Contemporaneously with RP&NGC he served with Papua New Guinea Volunteer Rifles when at Madang in "C" Coy (s/n 860064) from 1959 and was discharged at Lae in 1962 at the rank of Sgt. While at

Lae he co-founded the Lae Game Fishing Club. He was also a keen photographer.

After PNG he returned with his family to W.A. where he owned child care centres, moved into manufacturing (during which time he invented a type of lawn sprinkler) followed by owning several taxi cabs. With his health failing he moved a couple of years ago to stay with his daughter Christina in NE Victoria. His wife, Christina and his son William predeceased him.

He is survived by daughter Christina, and her family.

M.R. HAYES (1959-1974)

LAMBDEN, Colleen

D. 27.11.2017

Notice in Gold Coast Bulletin 2.12.2017

SMITH, Leonard "Frank"

D. 26th April 2018 (aged 96 years)

Frank was a soldier in World War 2 and ended the War as a Staff Sergeant being discharged in March 1946. In 1947 Frank went to PNG working with Sunshine Gold Development as a motor mechanic and welder. At the end of 1950 he went back to Sydney and started to learn to fly at Kingsford Smith Aviation Service and at the end of 1951 gained his Private Flying License. In 1954 he returned to Madang working for Modilon Motors but returned to Sydney to gain his Commercial Pilot's Licence. Returning again to PNG in 1955 Frank commenced flying for Madang Air Services, then Madang airlines and Ansett M.A.L.

In 1962 Frank married Betty Curtain, a Registered Nurse at Madang Hospital, who were married for 55 years and had one son Michael. In 1963 Frank and Betty moved to Wewak where in 1968 Frank was promoted to Senior Pilot. 1968 saw Frank and his family return to Sydney

where Frank worked for Rex Aviation until his retirement.

Submitted by Betty Smith

Post Script: Frank was on the Management Committee of the PNGAA. Frank, with Pat Hopper, were the “Caring Committee” and Frank would regularly visit people in hospital or at home over many, many years – an absolutely warm, kind, caring and exceptionally humble gentleman – loved as a pilot too. Andrea Williams

WALTERS, Noel Henry

D. 26 October, 2017

Noel was born at Coffs Harbour, NSW on 31 October, 1939. He died at Narrabeen, NSW just five days short of his 78th birthday.

Recruited as a Cadet Patrol Officer, Noel was amongst the 2nd February, 1959 intake to serve in the then Department of Native Affairs. Rising to the rank of Patrol Officer after two years and then Assistant District Officer (ADO), he served on various lowlands outstations. In 1967, he was posted to Wutung in the West Sepik District (now Sandaun Province). The responsibilities of being in charge of that small remote Patrol Post were considerable, to say the least, as it was a border station which administered an area into which many OPM rebels often sought refuge with the Indonesian military in hot pursuit. Thus, Noel was made an acting District Officer (a/DO) for the duration of his time there.

As was often the case in those days, a transfer to another District was the norm after a couple of terms, often from the coast to the Highlands or vice versa. Thus, it was that Noel spent time in Chimbu (now Simbu Province) as an ADO. By 1972, Noel was in Mount Hagen as the Regional Training Officer for the Highlands. In this role, he trained and mentored junior kiaps and Lands Officers until

the regional system was abandoned circa 1980 and his position was abolished, along with that of the Regional Local Government Officers.

Holding his substantive title of District Officer, Noel played an important role, in the background, as adviser to the newly promoted District Commissioners after rapid localisation was introduced. Lucas Waka and Charlie Ali were among those to benefit.

As the old system changed, along with the times, the position of District Commissioner was abolished and a new office of Secretary was created. There was some initial confusion between the roles of Provincial Secretary (political appointees) and Administrative Secretary (Head of the public service for the newly created Departments of the Provinces).

Noel was made acting Secretary for the Western Highlands Department for a few years and made many friends amongst both the expatriate and PNG communities during that time. People who spoke highly of him were the late Suzie Bonnell (Provincial Planner), late George Bailey (District Court Magistrate), Ron and Pattie Hiatt (Ron a former Deputy District Commissioner and later Placer Community Affairs Management), Provincial Engineer (and also Placer later) Peter Dorflinger and his wife Colleen, late John Coleman and wife Joan and many others, too numerous to add.

During those years Nambuga Mara was Premier for a time and was followed by Paias Wingti. The latter became PNG's third Prime Minister (1985-88 and again 1992-94).

As Secretary of WHP, Noel played a big role in planning for, and sometimes accommodating, the many VIP visitors to Mount Hagen. Queen Elizabeth and Prince Phillip visited in 1983, and later Pope Paul spent some time there during the first-ever papal visit to PNG.

Among Noel's personal effects were some carved Sepik lounge chairs and a couple of Carver Chairs that he had purchased over the years. He used his two Carver Chairs for Her Majesty and Prince Phillip to sit upon in the podium constructed for the visit. Similarly, the two chairs were also used during the visit of the Pope. Noel had them placed on the red carpeted podium constructed for that occasion. The carpet was relocated to the residency along with his chairs after the event. All became a talking point when Noel hosted various visiting dignitaries, and others, to Mount Hagen.

After some 25 years of government service, Noel resigned and was subsequently engaged by Placer at Porgera, where he served for a number of years as Land and Community Relations Manager. The successful development of the mine owes a lot to Noel's magnificent work in that role.

Noel retired to the Gold Coast and became something of a recluse. He suffered from dementia and moved into the RSL Life Care Centre at Narrabeen in 2011. It was there that he died in the presence of his beloved sister, Delma Kelso.

Close friend Alan Stevens describes Noel as a wonderful person to work for and remembers “his deep and insightful knowledge of the local people and community structures who consequently gave valuable direction and advice”. Alan claims that Noel was very protective of his staff and that he had a healthy disregard for authority and the courage to fight against policy or direction that he thought could be improved upon.

We second Alan's sentiments. Vale Noel – your sense of humour and story-telling will be remembered by your many friends, until we too fall off our perches.

Warren Bartlett and Chris Warrillow.

The 2017 Kiap Reunion on the Queensland Sunshine Coast

By **Chips Mackellar**

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. One of 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.

Though most of us are now withered and old, some of us are remarkably well preserved. Ross Johnson 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 Mooloolaba 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. So 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:

The Patrol Post up in the Sky

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.

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.

Chips Mackellar

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Annual membership is \$40

From Country Victoria to PNG

by **Jason Gwilt**

Having recently joined the PNGAA and read some of the interesting articles from various contributors, I thought I would recount some of my time in PNG. I arrived in PNG in October 1974 after transferring from the Bank of NSW (now Westpac) in country Victoria up to the Bank's head office branch in Port Moresby. In 1975 I met my wife Nasain who was an air hostess with Air Niugini. We resettled in Melbourne in October 1978 and have one son, James Gwilt, who played 152 AFL matches for St Kilda & Essendon between 2005-2016.

Whilst in POM I played cricket for the Boroko Colts CC which had top cricketers such as PNG reps Kila Alewa, Pala Ura & Charlie Harrison (Charlie actually took 4 wickets and scored 34 runs against the mighty West Indies

in 1976) and Don Fox playing for them. I also played & coached footy with Port Moresby ARFC also at the Colts club from 1975-78 and was involved in finals throughout that time. In 1977 we played off in the GF against Koboni at Sir Hubert Murray Stadium in front of a 6000 crowd; whilst myself and my good mate Alan Caire (ex-Bank of PNG) were the only expat players, there were a number of expat officials and umpires.

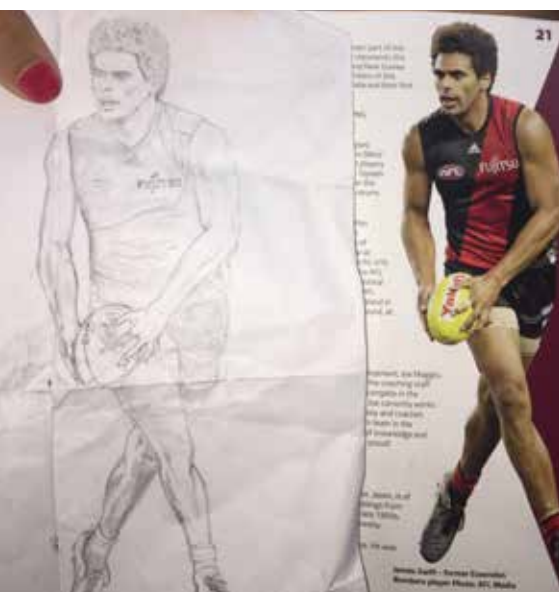
One of the boundary umpires was a guy I knew, Peter Michael, a Victorian who was married to a local POM girl Alice. In June that year they had a son and called him Malcolm. He grew up in Brisbane to become Mal Michael – a very tough Brisbane Lions defender during their great premiership years of 2001-02-03. He also had stints

at Collingwood and Essendon during his 238 games.

In 2004 James was drafted from the Noble Park FC to St Kilda. In 2005 James played his debut game for the Saints in R22 at Docklands against the Brisbane Lions. Starting on the bench he came on up forward and was it coincidence that he was immediately opposed to Mal Michael for a time? We had actually talked about how this may happen before the game so it sort of added a sense of *déjà vu* for me.

To my knowledge it was the first time in AFL history that two AFL players of Papua New Guinea heritage had played in the same AFL game and had actually been opposed to one another.

Jason and Nasain now live in Cobden Victoria.



Hand drawing: by U16 PNGAFL Binatangs player during their carnival in Australia.



1977 PMARFC Grand Final team vs Koboni at the Sir Hubert Murray Stadium. Jason Gwilt back row.

CONGRATULATIONS to PNG's heavy lifters!

PNG Brings home gold and silver medals from the 2018 Commonwealth Games!!

In 2018 Para table tennis athlete Vero Nime was the country's flag bearer during the opening ceremony, proudly leading a team of 56 athletes. Nime, 24-years-old is from the Kamanuku clan in Sambaka village of Chimbu province.



Three medals were claimed by the team!



Steven KARI* won the Gold Medal in
the Weightlifting Men's 94kg final.



Silver **Dika Toua** Weightlifting
Women's -53 kg



Silver **Morea Baru** Weightlifting
Men's -62 kg

TREASURER'S CORNER – June 2018

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"When the War Came – New Guinea Islands 1942"

This book is a collection of personal stories, memories and reflections that enhance the history of civilians and soldiers living in Rabaul, Kavieng and the New Guinea Islands at the outbreak of World War II. The stories also cover the largest maritime disaster in Australia's history, where 1,053 prisoners of war and residents were loaded onto a Japanese merchant vessel, *Montevideo Maru*.

Published to commemorate the 75th anniversary of this period in the New Guinea Islands, the stories bring into focus the actions and characters of young men, nurses, missionaries and other civilians who were caught up in this tragedy. Alongside are incredulous stories of escape and survival in an environment that threw countless obstacles in their path.

Cost: \$60 – plus postage and handling [cheapest available per copy: Australia \$20; New Zealand \$36 (air); Asia Pacific \$60 (air); Americas \$41 (sea) or \$60 (air); Europe \$45 (sea) or \$63 (air)]

