



# Una Voce

JUNE 2019

Papua New Guinea Association of Australia Inc.  
[www.pngaa.org/site](http://www.pngaa.org/site)



# Our National Myopia: A History Forgotten

The first attack on an Australian town during World War II was in Rabaul, the capital of the Territory of New Guinea— a heinous massacre of 160 Australians who'd surrendered to the Japanese, and the internment of another thousand who would all die in one night in the biggest single loss of Australian lives in one incident in WWII.

On 23 January 1942 the Japanese invaded and occupied Rabaul with a massive fleet fresh from Pearl Harbor. They made it a Pacific fortress from which they launched the Kokoda and Buna campaigns among many others, and the Battles of Midway and Coral Sea. Up to 300,000 Japanese were garrisoned there from 1942–45, and five airfields hosted 300 bombers and fighters.

But why has Australia forgotten Rabaul? Why is it that most Australians have never heard of our biggest maritime disaster, when 1,053 Australians from Rabaul—soldiers and civilians, boys and granddads—perished in the sinking of the prison ship, *Montevideo Maru*?

Maybe it was too easy to ignore, and too hard to talk about, in a postwar period when so many had suffered in so many theatres.

But there's no excuse today not to right the wrongs of the past. The war is long gone but the pain and anger of descendants of victims will not fade away.

The anger part could be eased—by giving the events of Rabaul 1942 and the loss of *Montevideo Maru* due respect and recognition.\*

**The 77th Anniversary of the sinking of *Montevideo Maru* will be acknowledged at the Last Post Ceremony, 1 July 2019, Australian War Memorial, Canberra. Please turn to Memorial News, on page 59, for more information.**

\* Based on an edited extract from Max Uechtritz's introductory article in *When the War Came: New Guinea Islands 1942*, PNGAA, 2017



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

**2019–2020 PNGAA Office Bearers**

**PRESIDENT:** Max Uechtritz

Email: [president@pngaa.net](mailto:president@pngaa.net)

**SECRETARY:** Chris Pearsall

Mob: 0410 530 502—Email: [admin@pngaa.net](mailto:admin@pngaa.net)

**TREASURER:** Murrough Benson

Mob: 0448 216 049—Email: [treasurer@pngaa.net](mailto:treasurer@pngaa.net)

**MEMBERSHIP OFFICER:** Roy Ranney

Email: [membership@pngaa.net](mailto:membership@pngaa.net)

**UNA VOCE EDITOR:** Vicki Long

Mob: 0401 118 301—Email: [editor@pngaa.net](mailto:editor@pngaa.net)

**EVENTS CO-ORDINATOR:** Sara Turner

Mob: 0401 138 246—Email: [events@pngaa.net](mailto:events@pngaa.net)

**RABAUL & MONTEVIDEO MARU MEMORIAL:**

Andrea Williams—Email: [admin@memorial.org.au](mailto:admin@memorial.org.au)

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

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**All contributions to: [editor@pngaa.net](mailto:editor@pngaa.net)**

Contribution guidelines are available on the website  
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**Front Cover**

**MAIN:** The Mudmen  
of the PNG Highlands  
(© Trevor Cole)

New PNG High Commissioner  
to Australia, p.34

Julianne Ross Allcorn's  
winning artwork, p.45

Michael Somare and Bob  
Hawke, p.39

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**2019 PNGAA  
Annual General  
Meeting**





# Minutes of the 68th Annual General Meeting of the PNGAA Held at the Hornsby RSL Club, Sydney on 28 April 2019

Meeting opened at 11.40 am • Acting President Andrea Williams presided and chaired the meeting  
Events Co-ordinator Sara Turner welcomed members

## 1. Members Present and Apologies

**Members present** as per Attendance Book noted to constitute quorum: Kylie Adams-Collier, Phil Ainsworth, Quentin Anthony, Murrough Benson, Greg Corner, John Cruikshank, Steven Gagau, Frank Haviland, Robin Hodgson, Pat Johnson, Ross Johnson, Fred Kaad, Vicki Long, Belinda Macartney, Cheryl Marvell, Paul Munro, Allan Neilsen, Oscar Oberholzer, Chris Pearsall, John Stevenson, Joan Stobo, Liz Thurston, Sara Turner, Max Uechtritz, Rita Uechtritz, Andrea Williams, Doug Wood

**Apologies:** Steve Burns, Yana Di Pietro, Jason Gwilt, Bev Melrose, John Mills, Kieran Nelson, Edna Oakes, George Oakes, Roy Ranney, Russell Wade, Chris Warrillow

## 2. Confirmation of Minutes of 67th AGM

(included in the June 2018 *Una Voce*, pages 13–15)

**MOTION:** That these Minutes be confirmed.

Moved Ross Johnson, seconded Quentin Anthony.

CARRIED

## 3. Business Arising from the Minutes

a) Membership Directory: After updating the Directory as at 1 July 2018, a hard copy was made available to members at a cost of \$10 (including postage within Australia) and its availability has been advertised in the 'Treasurer's Corner' order form included with *Una Voce*. To date 35 copies have been sent to members requesting it.

b) Changing the name of *Una Voce*: In the absence of a permanent president for the past year and a number of other projects stretching the Committee's resources, this matter has not been pursued. It is, however, scheduled for discussion at the first meeting of the new Committee shortly after the AGM.

## 4. President's Report

Acting President, Andrea Williams, spoke to her written report. Key activities undertaken during the year were outlined. Andrea complimented the work of all those who supported the PNGAA through the year; she especially thanked Belinda Macartney, Doug Wood, Russell Wood and Steve Burns who are completing terms on the Management Committee this year. The report was received with acclamation and is reprinted at the end of these Minutes.

**MOTION:** That the report be accepted.

Moved Andrea Williams, seconded Doug Wood.

CARRIED

## 5. Special Resolution

### 5(a) Receipt of Proxies

Secretary Murrough Benson, reported that a total of 37 proxy votes had been received on the Proxy Form sent to

all members on 14 March 2019 with the March 2019 issue of *Una Voce*, as required under Rule 27(2) of the PNGAA Rules. All proxy votes supported the Special Resolution.

### 5(b) Consideration of the Special Resolution

Secretary Murrough Benson outlined that the Special Resolution sought amendment to a number of Rules of the PNGAA to reflect changes in the operating environment since the Rules were first drawn up. In particular, the Rules as they existed until now assigned to the Treasurer responsibility for a number of key functions of the Association that have for some time been undertaken by the Membership Officer, a role that did not exist at the time the Rules were drawn up. The Rule changes now proposed sought to establish formally the role of Membership Officer and reassign to that member of the Management Committee those functions that are rightfully their responsibility.

The other changes proposed related largely to making provision for the Association to use electronic communications and video technology and the like for ballots and meetings, in conformity with the model set under the relevant legislation.

Background to the Special Resolution had been provided to all members on the Proxy Form and Explanatory Memorandum distributed on 14 March 2019 with the March 2019 issue of *Una Voce*.

Andrea Williams called for those in support of the Special Resolution and those against. Support was unanimous.

### MOTION:

**Section A:** That the Rules of the PNGAA be amended as outlined in the explanatory material provided to all members with the March 2019 issue of *Una Voce*.

**Section B:** That upon carriage by Special Resolution of the alterations to Rules set out in Section A of this Special Resolution, the Public Officer of the Association shall cause the alteration to be engrossed and consolidated with the Rules as in force after the adoption by the Special Resolution of 28 April 2019 and submit the consolidated copy of the Association's Rules as now amended for registration by the Director General under the Associations Incorporation Act 2009.

Moved Murrough Benson, seconded Paul Munro.

CARRIED

## 6. Treasurer's Report and adoption of Audited Financial Statements

Treasurer Doug Wood presented the financial report for the year ended 31 December 2018, a copy of which was provided to members present prior to the meeting. This report included statements covering Income & ▶

Expenditure, Assets & Liabilities and the Auditor's Report. Doug spoke to a written summary which is reprinted at the end of these Minutes.

Any member requiring a copy of the Audited Financial Statements should contact the Treasurer on 0448 216 049 or by email: treasurer@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 2018; and that the Treasurer be instructed to complete and lodge the Annual return (Form A12) with NSW Fair Trading.*

*Moved Doug Wood, seconded Phil Ainsworth.*

CARRIED

Andrea Williams thanked Doug for his valuable contribution as Treasurer over the past five and a half years. The support of Doug's firm, Vistra Foster Raffan (until May 2017, Foster Raffan), in preparation of the accounts as well as making their board room available for PNGAA Committee meetings was also gratefully acknowledged.

#### 7. Election of Honorary Auditor

Mr Phil Williams of Carbonara Business Advisers, Chatswood has performed the duties of Honorary Auditor for the past two years 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 Andrea Williams, seconded Doug Wood.*

CARRIED

#### 8. Election of Management Committee for 2019–20

With the number of nominations received falling one short of the 12 vacancies to be filled, in accordance with Rule 16(2) of the PNGAA Rules the meeting noted the election (unopposed) of the following members of the Management Committee for 2019–20:

- Phil Ainsworth • Murrough Benson (Treasurer)
  - Yana Di Pietro • Steven Gagau
- Vicki Long (Editor) • Chris Pearsall (Secretary)
  - Roy Ranney (Membership Officer)
  - Sara Turner (Events Co-ordinator)
    - Max Uechtritz (President)
- Chris Warrillow • Andrea Williams

Under Rule 16(2) of the PNGAA Rules, the remaining position on the Committee is taken to be a casual vacancy. This vacancy needs to be filled by someone who is in a position to take on responsibility for management of the PNGAA Collection and in this regard discussions are continuing with member Cheryl Marvell who has expressed interest in the role. Andrea Williams thanked all those members who had nominated to serve on the Committee for the next two years.

#### 9. General Discussion

##### (a) Donation of Papers from Sue Benner

**MOTION:** *This meeting notes with appreciation the donation of Sue Benner, widow of Robert Rolfe, of a*

*valuable set of papers compiled by the late Norman Rolfe ISO, an erstwhile distinguished officer of the PNG Public Service Commission. The papers include an important resource: detailed statements of officers of each of the Public Services of Papua and New Guinea as at 12 February 1942 showing name, position occupied, date of appointment and salary, together with a corresponding statement of officers of the combined Public Service of Papua-New Guinea as at 31 January 1949.*

*Moved Paul Munro, seconded Ross Johnston.*

CARRIED ON THE VOICES

In speaking to the motion Paul Munro stated that the gift to the PNGAA Collection was especially valuable because it was an authoritative source of data retrieved from lost records about the personnel and structures of the prewar services of New Guinea and Papua and the immediate post-war amalgamated staffing of the Administration in 1949. Among other matters of importance were notable names such as Tom Ellis as a Medical Assistant as at 1942, Ian Skinner, Tom Aitchison, the different forms of field administration in Papua where 'kiaps' held office as Assistant Resident Magistrates, not Patrol Officers as in New Guinea; and the relative size of 375 permanent service positions for New Guinea as against 171 positions for Papua. Paul undertook to do what he could to digitise the statement lists and make them available for posting on the PNGAA website. He would sort and summarise other valuable aspects of the resource discussing the foundation of the current national and provincial public services of PNG, and convey the meeting's appreciation to Sue Benner.

##### (b) Editor

Outgoing Editor, Belinda Macartney, thanked Committee and members for their support over the past three years and provided a warm welcome to her incoming replacement, Vicki Long.

##### (c) Incoming President

Assuming chairmanship of the meeting, incoming President, Max Uechtritz, made a brief address that is reproduced at the end of these minutes.

##### (d) A reminder about the effects of dementia and isolation

John Stevenson provided a timely reminder that many in our communities suffer from dementia and isolation and that supporting them, and their carers, can make a big difference.

##### (e) Broadening the Market for DVDs and Books

Kylie Adams-Collier offered to sell PNGAA books and DVDs on behalf of PNGAA while travelling with her music. Her offer of support was greatly appreciated and was taken up after the meeting.

##### (f) Disconnect with Younger People

Guest Ballina Gee noted an apparent disconnect between PNGAA and younger members that she believes needs to be addressed. It was agreed that it was an issue that needs to be discussed further with Ballina.

The meeting closed at 12.50 pm. ♦

## Treasurer's Report

**DOUG WOOD**



IN RAW NUMBERS the 2018 year was challenging and resulted in a loss of \$16,035 due largely to the \$10,523 expended for the upgrading of the website which has been a work in progress for the past two years. This is largely the reason for the increase in administration expenses of \$15,047 (refer to note 5 on page 8 for the details). Storage and bookkeeping costs are also up \$1,000 each. I am pleased to report there is no fraud expense this year but I can advise that there have been several attempts again. Fortunately the 'urgent payment' requests were identified and deleted immediately.

The major change which can be seen on page 3 is the \$17,967 decline in sales of *When the War Came* books. The 2018 net contribution of \$1,060 compares to the margin earned in 2017 of \$4,564. The decline in the sale of DVDs continued as membership needs have now been satisfied. We run a real risk of holding dead stock (refer note 9) of DVDs as at year end we held Kiap 236 at \$10 each and 1243 others at \$5 each (*Walk Into Paradise* 259, *Rabaul & Montevideo Maru 70th Anniversary* 537 and *Some Came Home* 447). Any assistance members can provide to dispose of these holdings would be appreciated—we need to convert this \$8,575 of inventory into cash over the next couple of years and

at the same time sell the *When the War Came* book and the tote bags.

Looking at the Balance Sheet on page 4 our capital corpus has declined by \$18,420 in the year. Subscriptions increased 4% in the year after the 14% (\$5) increase in the annual membership rate. The point to be made here is that membership income of \$38,394 barely covers the cost of the production and delivery of the *Una Voce* quarterly magazine of \$37,347 (page 3). All excess funds are maintained in two CBA term deposits (refer note 8) which both mature in June 2019. These two deposits represent 85% of our cash funds and earn the average grand return of 2.3%—just enough to cover CPI for the year.

The other balance sheet matter I wish to highlight is the amount related to surplus donations received following the Gideon Kakabin appeal as disclosed in note 8(a) on page 9. There has been no charge against these funds by the Association for the significant and time consuming task of administering the receipts and payment of the costs associated with his repatriation to PNG. The 2017 liability related to the Helpim Wantok Project which was successfully completed thanks to the efforts of Murrough, Roy and Steven.

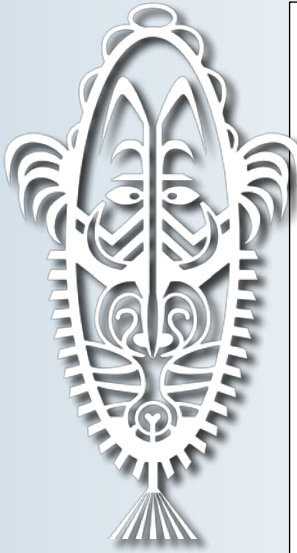
I would like to take this opportunity to formally thank Murrough for his day by day, month by month diligence in analysing the constant inflow of revenue into our bank account. This year he will progress to spending the money as well

once he transfers to Treasurer. Thanks also to Roy for keeping the membership records up to date and everything else he does behind the scenes. Andrea also continues to invest a considerable part of her waking hours into the activities of the Association. 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. Belinda Macartney continued to produce a most excellent and informative quarterly *Una Voce* and I congratulate her on the improvements she has initiated during her time as Editor.

This sadly is my last Treasurer's report as I need to focus in the period to December 2020 on the transition of my external audit clients to the two RCAs who have agreed to take on my major clients—approximately \$300k in fees. These include organisations such as Under Armour, Moelis, Havianas, Transplant Australia, Subway and the Security and advertising industry associations. I am grateful that Murrough has stepped forward to take over the financial reporting responsibilities—I know he will do a thorough and conscientious job.

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 2018 and the Treasurer be instructed to prepare and lodge the 2019 Annual return to the Department of Fair Trading.

Do I have a seconder? ♦



PAPUA NEW GUINEA ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA, Inc.  
31 DECEMBER 2018

## Audited Concise Financial Report

	2018	2017
	\$	\$
<b>INCOME</b>		
Advertising	254	520
Book / DVD sales	5,401	23,512
Donations—Gideon Kakabin Repatriation Fund	43,262	-
Functions	10,812	23,656
Interest	3,866	3,418
Membership	38,394	36,865
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>101,989</b>	<b>87,971</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Administration	23,973	8,926
Book / DVD costs	3,490	18,987
Expenses—Gideon Kakabin Repatriation Fund	43,262	-
Email fraud	-	6,900
Functions	9,952	23,902
<i>Una Voce</i>	37,347	37,059
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>118,024</b>	<b>95,774</b>
(Loss) for the year	-16,035	-7,803
Less: Income tax credit	939	264
<b>OPERATING (LOSS) FOR THE YEAR</b>	<b>15,096</b>	<b>-7,539</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	154,269	172,689
Inventories	15,635	9,250
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>169,904</b>	<b>181,939</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Provision for income tax	-939	-264
Subscriptions in advance	28,661	32,476
Trade creditors	1,650	1,704
Other creditors	12,605	5,000
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>41,977</b>	<b>38,916</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>127,927</b>	<b>143,023</b>
<b>MEMBERS' FUNDS</b>		
General Reserve	27,267	27,267
Historical Preservation Reserve	13,243	13,243
Rabaul & Montevideo Maru Reserve	81,010	80,942
Retained Earnings	6,407	21,571
<b>TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS</b>	<b>127,927</b>	<b>143,023</b>





## President's Report

**ANDREA WILLIAMS**

THE PNGAA FILLS an important role for Australians and Papua New Guineans, whose life has been significantly touched by PNG. Our network of volunteers and the social support it offers are unique and, at this 68th Annual General Meeting, I feel very privileged that we have been part of keeping our Australian/PNG history alive.

Taking you back to December 2017 and early 2018, the exhilaration of finding Australia's first submarine, *AEI*, near the Duke of York Islands, announced on 21 December 2017, was followed with the grim news that a seemingly dormant volcano on Kadover Island near the mouth of the Sepik River, erupted in early January with the loss of many lives. Seven weeks later a series of violent earthquakes began, predominantly in the Hela Province, which sadly killed hundreds of people and created enormous devastation. And then, late in 2018, PNG was on show when it hosted the **Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum**.

In early 2018 the PNGAA was in the midst of negotiations and fundraising for the '**Helpim Wantok**' project. This project, a collaboration between PNGAA, the Sydney Wantok Association and UTS Sydney, resulted in 320 chairs and 160 tables—a full container

load—being shipped to the University of PNG. Our members pitched in with donations, which were aided by the Sydney and Melbourne lunches, silent auction and raffles, as well as sales from a very generous donation to PNGAA of 187 copies of the book, *The Volcano's Wife: The Great Untold Story*, by Amalia Cowley and Pamela Virtue.

On 27 May 2018 visitors to Roseville RSL greatly enjoyed the panel talk 'Tales of PNG: the Experiences of Two Women'. A full house heard **Barbara Jennings** and **Pat Johnson**, supported by **Ross Johnson**, did a presentation on 'How WWII and the release of detainees from Ramale POW camp near Rabaul impacted on a child of the times'. The talks were fascinating and members enjoyed a friendly, casual lunch afterwards. **Sara Turner-Carroll** has hit on a successful theme with these annual events!

The **Rabaul & Montevideo Maru Group** had the annual commemoration in Canberra at the Australian War Memorial's Last Post Ceremony on 30 June 2018, followed by a dinner, and I thank **John Reeves** and **Ian Sayers, OAM, ED**, for their assistance with these. The PNGAA/RMvM book, *When the War Came: New Guinea Islands 1942*, continues to attract sales and we are grateful to **Trish Kilkeary** for her role in sending them out.

The complete education program, including **John Schindler's** fifteen-minute short version of the DVD, *Some Came Home*, is available for

teachers online on the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Memorial website. It is truly an outstanding resource with lesson plans, background notes, worksheets and resources available—and I ask members to speak to their local secondary schools and encourage its use for Years 9 & 10. With thanks to **Patrick Bourke** for his commitment to this program and organising participation at the National History Teachers' Association Annual Conference in Canberra in October 2018, where the PNGAA/Rabaul & Montevideo Maru Group took an exhibitor's stand and **Karen McPherson** presented. **Kylie Adams-Collier** was regularly interviewed and frequented music festivals through the year, spreading the story. Sales of her CD, *Little Stone*, contributed much-appreciated funds to the PNGAA.

The pages of *Una Voce* come alive with stories, cameos on some of our members, book reviews, gatherings, committee round ups, news and sport reports and vales. **Belinda Macartney** highlighted in the December *Una Voce* that PNGAA has many roles—including networking across the states. Belinda's naturally creative flair has thoughtfully considered content, structure and presentation with each *Una Voce* and, together with an editorial team developed by Belinda, has ensured a feast for the senses. After three years as editor, Belinda is stepping down and we thank her, deeply and sincerely, for the tremendous effort that has gone into each issue. We are fortunate that **Vicki Long** from Melbourne is taking on the role of editor; Vicki ▶

is here today so please introduce yourselves.

Our Brisbane members enjoyed a casual gathering at the Ship Inn, in Brisbane, in July 2018 coordinated by **Kieran Nelson** and **Belinda Macartney**. Inspired by those attending, Belinda suggested that a 'Young PNGAA' group be formed. If you know anyone who would like to join other young people in Brisbane for a casual gathering, please contact Belinda. A gathering was also had in Cairns in July, with thanks to **Chris Warrillow** for his endeavours there.

**Linda Cavanaugh Manning**, **Robyne Petricevic** and **Murray Day** arranged for two wonderful luncheons in Perth in April and November 2018. **Daryl Binning** spoke on 'Kokoda: Track or Trail'—a talk that was thoroughly enjoyed by those attending.

PNGAA Victorian Events Co-ordinator, **Yana di Pietro**, assisted by **Chris Warrillow**, networks with the PNG Victorian group, as well as organising three lunches each year. At the Christmas lunch, PNGAA member, **John Quinn**, gave an update to Victorian members on 'The fast growing influence of China in PNG—is Australia aware and, more importantly, does Australia care?' The lunch also highlighted the work of two artists.

The PNGAA South Australian lunch, usually held in October, was deferred to April, today!

The two annual luncheons in Sydney were friendly gatherings and, like all our lunch gatherings, wonderfully successful. Early last year **Jane Turner**, of Canberra Broomsticks & Bobbins Quilters' Group, organised for a quilt to be donated to PNGAA to help with fundraising at the Christmas lunch—a generous gesture and hugely appreciated. If you are 'out of town' and thinking of a visit to one of the cities, why not plan to

attend a lunch? The *Una Voce* label and packing days are also very enjoyable casual gatherings and I thank **Murrough and Joy Benson** for co-ordinating these, including the delicious morning tea.

On 14 August 2018, **Gima Kilamanu-Naime** from PNG's Central Province, in Adelaide on a post-graduate Australian Award Scholarship, represented the PNGAA at the prestigious Prince Alfred College. The college wanted to engage their junior school boys in a different culture, extending the interest of their students. **Jan Kleinig** assisted in finding Gima who spoke generally about PNG, and also discussed culture, language, food and offered some Q&A time. It was a hugely successful day. It also highlighted an area where PNGAA members could contribute further.

In August 2018 many in the PNG/Australian community were deeply shocked by the sudden death of **Gideon Kakabin**, following a four-week residency at the Australian War Memorial. Known for his passion for PNG culture, history and education, his historical knowledge was unsurpassed and he was an inspiration to generations of both PNGs and Australians, as he interviewed, recorded, documented and shared it all. One of the PNGAA's goals is to 'strengthen the civil relationship between the peoples of Australia and PNG' so the Management Committee was proud to get behind the fundraising needed for the medical and repatriation expenses which, due to Gideon's high esteem, was achieved in eight days with support from both PNGAA and Facebook members.

**Steven Gagau** travelled to Canberra and spent two weeks assisting Gideon's family liaison with the hospital, the AWM and the PNG High Commission to

ensure Gideon travelled home as quickly as possible. Steven showed strong leadership at a challenging and sensitive time for the PNG and Australian community. The dignity and strength of Gideon's family and the East New Britain community at this very sad time reflected enormous humility.

The **9th Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art (APT9)** at QAGOMA commenced on 24 November 2018, highlighting two PNG displays—the Bougainville Women's Wealth Project and a magnificent display of East New Britain shell money. Gideon Kakabin had led the eight PNG artists who created the special display of Tutana, large shell money wheels used as banks, which greet all visitors at the GOMA entrance. Due to the assistance in facilitating the late Gideon Kakabin's final voyage home and to his resting place, PNGAA was greatly privileged to be recognised in the special Minamai ceremony, which was a highlight of the launch (see December *Una Voce*).

**The Book Expo** on 7 October 2018 in Sydney was a phenomenal event, sadly unsupported on a blustery and rainy day, but thoroughly enjoyed by those who attended. **Sara Turner-Carroll** was supported by **Trish Kilkeary** and their creativity, ideas and initiatives—striving for activities to entice our members and prospective members—were thoughtful and impressive. The format included book stalls and speakers, ensuring ongoing interest and activity throughout the day. PNGAA member **Mark Lynch** gave a fascinating insight into his journey with a local writers' group in his area, **Judith Hollinshed** travelled from Victoria, **Bob Shaw** from the Blue Mountains and **Alan Pierce** generously donated gift vouchers to encourage young writers in both the adolescent

section and the children's section. The PNGAA greatly appreciated those authors who supported the PNGAA with this event and were willing to chat with attendees about their writing journeys. With thanks, too, for background support from **Murrough Benson, Roger Carroll** and **Lisa Turner**. The PNGAA tote bags were launched at the Book Expo. They are a strong, structured, hessian bag, useful to carry so much, and great value at just \$15.

PNGAA members continue to 'do their bit' to assist the people-to-people relationship between the two countries. Sydney Wantok Association President and PNGAA Committee members organised many successful events including a fashion show and 43rd Independence celebrations.

**Pat and Laurie Le Fevre** have donated their remaining books, *Cloudlands Memoirs*, to the PNGAA to assist with fundraising and to present to appropriate libraries/schools.

**Dick McCarthy** has a project recording the efforts of Australian foresters in PNG between 1922 and 1975.

**Len Mitchell** initiated a 50th anniversary gathering for the 1968 ASOPA cohort who started their new careers in PNG that year.

Community collaboration is what will build our network. There is a real need for presence, engagement and participation from all members.

Individual members make many events possible. If you are involved in an activity connecting with PNG or know of someone doing something 'good', please let PNGAA know so we can acknowledge achievements of members and offer support where possible.

PNGAA was approached in mid-December 2018 by the **Country Womens' Association**, NSW, explaining that their

'country of focus' for 2019 is Papua New Guinea. A full-day seminar and dinner in Dubbo was planned for early February 2019 and they were keen to have support in both planning the speakers and events on the day, and to produce a booklet which would tell their members about Papua New Guinea.

Having just completed the Sydney Christmas lunch, and despite Christmas approaching, Sara and I swung into gear contacting PNGAA members in Dubbo, using our network to contact the **Sydney Wantok Association** and the **PNG Womens' Association NSW** to assist with cultural input and speakers for the day, as well as members and friends who could assist in collating appropriate information for a booklet. This was an enormous task in a short period and over a holiday period however both Sara and I were so proud of our PNGAA Committee, our members and friends for jumping in, giving formidable presentations, and ensuring that Papua New Guinea was well represented and, we think, the CWA NSW's most engaging country.

Guests were welcomed with kundu and singing, fascinatingly honest and amusing speeches led to serious comments about PNG's challenges, and the day was enjoyed by all. This connection continues as PNGAA co-ordinates speakers in different NSW regions for CWA throughout this year. We are greatly appreciative of the support and cooperation of our members in this.

PNGAA is increasingly the 'go to' organisation for both Australians and Papua New Guineans who want to know something about PNG. This takes up valuable administration time of our committee for many who are not members.

**The PNGAA Management**

**Committee** has not had an official president these past two years, however, the role has been capably shared amongst the following committee members: **Sara Turner-Carroll, Doug Wood, Steven Gagau** and **Steve Burns**. Every member of the committee and extended committee deserves enormous thanks for their ongoing hard work. Committee members need to be able to work autonomously and as part of a team. It has been a privilege to work with this wonderful group of people.

**Murrough Benson, Doug Wood** and **Roy Ranney** are an ace executive team endlessly working for the Association. Doug Wood, PNGAA Treasurer, and his firm Foster Raffan, has given great support to the PNGAA for five years; this has been hugely appreciated. Four committee members are stepping back from the committee—**Belinda Macartney, Doug Wood, Russell Wade** and **Steve Burns**. We wish to express our tremendous thanks for supporting PNGAA so well, continuing to build this valuable association as it negotiates its path to the future. The PNGAA Collection continues to grow. As mentioned earlier, PNGAA events in several states are strongly supported—showing the strong thread that binds us all. **Sara Turner-Carroll** thoughtfully plans several events a year and is very ably supported by Victorian Events Co-ordinator, **Yana di Pietro**, who also does a great job on PNGAA social media. **Chris Warrillow** is an inspiring, active and knowledgeable committee member who exemplifies that all members can contribute to this association by what they do within their own networks. **Phil Ainsworth** and **Steven Gagau** provide links with affiliated associations that strengthen all our associations as well as energetically ▶

supporting everyday activities. The Management Committee continues to draw on members to actively assist. **Bev Melrose** took on the much appreciated role of writing to our new members. Others who assist are **Trish Kilkeary, Kieran Nelson, Ross Johnson, Paul Munro, Nick Booth, Lyn Arden** and **Nigel Wong**. The PNGAA needs dedicated assistance with the website and if you can assist please contact **Roy Ranney**.

We warmly welcome the incoming team with **Max Uechtritz** as president, **Vicki Long**—editor, **Chris Pearsall**—secretary, **Murrough Benson** moving into the treasurer’s role and committee members **Roy Ranney, Sara Turner, Yana di Pietro, Phil Ainsworth, Chris Warrillow, Steven Gagau** and **Andrea Williams**.

General business at the last

AGM discussed the possible change of name of the journal, highlighting the many changes in communication since this was discussed in 2007. With various projects happening, there was unfinalised discussion and this will be pursued this year.

I often remind myself: *If this association hadn’t existed, the work of so many Australians in PNG, in taking PNG to Independence and beyond, aside from their involvement in the two world wars, would not be recognised.* The PNGAA and its members deserve to be proud.

But where does Australia recognise taking PNG to a peaceful Independence? Shouldn’t Australians be proud of all those men and women who contributed to developing PNG? Most countries would be proud of this achievement, ensuring its rightful place in the education of

all Australians ... and ensuring that Australia and PNG remain priorities to each other. Despite the Australian Government being the largest aid donor to PNG, and numerous Australian businesses working closely with PNG, Australia has nowhere that publicly recognises this enormous part of its history and, as younger generations grow without understanding PNG’s history in our society, the lives and work of many Australians who called PNG home will vanish.

PNGAA’s concept of an Australian Community Centre for Pacific Nations, an educational, cultural and tourism hub, is urgently needed. To achieve this PNGAA needs a groundswell of support from members and considerable fundraising. Please let the committee know what you can do to help. ♦



## PNGAA 68th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING—28 April 2019

# Address by Incoming President

### MAX UECHTRITZ

IT’S A PRIVILEGE to be part of this association, part of this executive team (committee and sub-committees)—and to be entrusted with this role. I’m in awe of the personal blood, sweat and tears that so many people have put into PNGAA for so long—many in this room. It’s been (and is) the bond, the glue (the bridge) between the two countries we love. Something of a beacon—of respect and continuity in the relationship with PNG—where our governments and media have failed. It’s been the guardian of history where many of our historians and institutions have failed.

It’s been a brave and persistent agitator. The *Montevideo Maru* campaign is a great example;

PNGAA has helped provide comfort and closure to generations of families—an enormous effort, by so many, for so long.

PNGAA has been an educator, story teller and an archive, through *Una Voce* and its collection.

Some of Australia’s greatest human triumphs and tragedies have happened in the country where you can walk or wade to at low tide. And those stories and experiences have been shared with Papua New Guineans. Shared, too, with the Chinese, the wonderful rainbow of nationalities that chose to make PNG their home from as far back as the mid-1800s.

So, PNGAA’s role is as critical as ever. We’ve got to keep telling the stories, keep unearthing new ones,

keep recording them, archiving them, digitising them, making them accessible—for posterity. We’ve got to keep fostering and nurturing the relationship with PNG.

We need to keep agitating—keep networking—keep at governments and institutions. No-one else will. Despite everything, the rise of China, massive PNG population growth, the Australian media hasn’t lifted its gaze and game.

And I’m not telling you anything new when I say we need more members.

So, personally, there is a lot for me to absorb and learn from all of you. I look forward (very much) to continuing the great legacy of PNGAA—and have fun doing so. ♦

**As well as PNGAA events, members of the Management Committee continue to network on your behalf, attending a wide range of events and activities, and encouraging new members and possible partnerships to keep our association vital and viable —featured here are reports and updates from the committee, other news of interest and a welcome to new members**

## **Introducing Our New Committee Members**

A special welcome to **MAX UECHTRITZ**, the new PNGAA President.

Like his father, grandmother and five of his nine siblings, Max Uechtritz was born in New Britain, and the family has an unbroken connection to PNG over six generations and 130 years.

He had been an international executive, program maker and foreign correspondent during a thirty-year career in broadcasting prior to setting up his documentary company, Kundu Productions.

Max was Executive Director of News and Current Affairs at ABC Australia (2000–2004) and was on the advisory board of the ABC's international satellite service, Australia Network. He was Network News Director at Channel 9 (2004–2005), then Editor-in-Chief of Ninemsn (2006–2008) and Director of Programs—responsible for all current affairs and documentaries—at the global network, Al Jazeera English (2009–2010).

Various roles at Channel 7 (2011–2015) included Network Investigations & Features Editor and ANZAC Centenary Executive Producer, as well as producing special historical reports for the *Sunday Night* program.

Before his management career, Max was an ABC foreign correspondent, reporting from

more than thirty countries on five continents, covering first hand some of recent history's major events. These include the Tiananmen Square massacre, first Gulf War, Soviet coup attempt, Russian White House siege, Bosnian war and Slovenian, Croatian and Kosovo conflicts, German reunification, Nelson Mandela's election, Bill Clinton's re-election, demise of Margaret Thatcher, the breakup of Czechoslovakia and the Barcelona and Atlanta Olympics.

Max has twice won Australia's most prestigious journalism prize, the Walkley Award, been commended twice and a finalist four times. He has also won Television Penguin and Gold Thorn awards and the Bicentennial Pater Award for Investigative Reporting.

As a recipient of the Centenary Medal, awarded by the Governor-General and Prime Minister to mark one hundred years since Federation, Max was recognised for services to news and current affairs in Australia.

He was a founding member of the editorial advisory board of A24, the pan-African multimedia news and documentary company, and was on the founding advisory board of the Brussels-based International News Safety Institute (INSI).

Max sat on the advisory board for the CEW Bean Foundation, which promotes the work of Australian war historians and correspondents, and was



a founding member of the Montevideo Maru Committee, formed to bring recognition to Australia's greatest maritime disaster.

Max founded documentary production company, Kundu Productions Pty Ltd, in 2016. He directed and produced a landmark documentary on the Menin Gate Lions, which aired on Seven Network Australia and is scheduled for The History Channel. The film was narrated by the legendary actor, Jack Thompson. Max also produced ▶



Max Uechtritz



**PNGAA**  
**Round-Up**  
*editor@pngaa.net*

two other films on Australia's Special Forces for the Australian War Memorial, another marking the seventy-fifth anniversary of the AWM, and has just completed a film on the Hall of Memory.

And, introducing **VICKI LONG**, the new *Una Voce* Editor—her organisational skills, her broad experience in communications, and her passion for PNG, will be much appreciated by the UV readership.

Vicki spent her early childhood years in Papua New Guinea with her family, where her father, Geoffrey Miller, had bought salvaging rights to scrap metal left after WWII on Bougainville and New Britain. The family also owned a copra plantation outside Kokopo. Her father's ill health resulted in their return to Melbourne where he passed away in 1958.

Vicki's early career was as a



Vicki Long

secondary school English teacher in Melbourne, where she and her husband later ran a wholesale/retail toy business. She also conducted management training and communication skills courses at TAFE.

Following the family's move to Darwin, Vicki taught in TAFE and a private organisation where she conducted courses in management, and undertook workplace interventions in conflict resolution, team building and organisational development.

In 1994 she joined the NT Public Service where she held positions heading up corporate services, responsible for areas such as strategic planning, HR, finance, IT, records management, marketing and communication, and ministerial liaison.

Vicki's final position before retiring to the Mornington Peninsula in 2015 was in the NT Department of the Legislative Assembly, where she was responsible for corporate services, as well as managing the entitlements for members of parliament, including the running of their electorate offices.

She holds a Bachelor of Arts majoring in English and History, a Bachelor of Education, an MBA and a Graduate Diploma in Parliamentary Law.

Vicki has always felt Papua New Guinea is in her blood, and a visit to New Britain in 2015 for a 2/22 Battalion reunion confirmed that feeling. She is very excited about taking on the role of editor for *Una Voce*, and joining a team of people committed to the ongoing work of the PNGAA.

We also welcome **CHRIS PEARSALL**, who takes over from Murrough Benson (now Treasurer) as the PNGAA Secretary.



### **Una Voce Cover**

This issue's front cover features the Mudmen of the Asaro Valley, near Goroka, in the Eastern Highlands of Papua New Guinea. For centuries, the Mudmen have adorned themselves with mud, clay masks and bamboo finger extensions to look like evil spirits. While the masks have different origin stories, it is believed that in the 1800s, tribesmen would raid other villages—for their women or pigs—while intimidating their enemies with large masks and bamboo spears.

The masks have evolved over the years and have become thick, heavy headdresses that can be worn for only a few minutes. Each mask, known as a holosa, is made from coils of white clay sourced from rich local deposits. ▶



Chris Pearsall



Members receive four issues of *Una Voce* per year, have access to all parts of the website, and are encouraged to explore and become actively involved with all aspects of the Papua New Guinea Association of Australia Inc.

For more details, please turn to the **Treasurer's Corner Membership & Order Form** at the end of this issue of *Una Voce* or follow the link: <https://pngaa.org/site/members/become-a-member>

## Welcome to New Members

### Dr Harley CAREY

9 Smith Street, Gladstone QLD 4680

### Mr Jesse Mark CHEE

22 Pasture Place, Mount Nathan QLD 4211

### Ms Stella CONROY

11/50 Leahy Close, Narrabundah ACT 2604

### Commodore Brett DOWSING, RAN

Unit 1, 20 Stone Street, South Perth, WA 6151

### Dr Marguerite FOXON

PO Box 417, Mortdale NSW 2223

### Mrs Nasain GWILT

28 Tarrant Street, Cobden VIC 3266

### Mr James HARDY

10/158 Como Parade West, Parkdale VIC 3198

### Ms Suellen HOLLAND

9 Bayswater Road, Rathmines NSW 2283

### Ms Elaine INWOOD

Unit 1/3 Side Street, Gladstone QLD 4680

### Mr David KELSO

11 Highland Place, Buderim QLD 4556

### Mr Lewis KENAH

106 Auckland Road, Greenmeadows, Hawke's Bay, Napier NZ 4112

### Dr Geoffrey John LAWFORD

455 Swinglers Road, Invermay VIC 3352

### Mr Jamie LOVEDAY

5 Nichols Street, Gumdale QLD 4154

### Mr Brian McMULLEN

1/10 Chifley Drive, Dubbo NSW 2830

### Mrs Alli MOORE

40 Barnham Street, Wynnum QLD 4178

### Mr Julius A VOLARIS

PO Box 261, Alotau PNG 211

## Change of Address

### Mr Peter CORDUKES

131 Noosa Springs Drive, Noosa Heads QLD 4567

### Rev. Austen CRAPP

Star of the Sea Friary, 45 Victoria Street, Waverley NSW 2024

### Mr Geoffrey DRAKE

2/66 Winchelsea Street, Pialba QLD 4655

### Mr Michael GARNER

Apt G16, Ashbrook Apartments, 2-8 Some Street, Ashford SA 5035

### Mr John HARRIS

Villa 1, Villaggio Sant' Antonio, 35 Burkitt Street, Page ACT 2614

### Mr John KELLY

1001/50 Longland Street, Newstead QLD 4006

### Mr Philip LATZ

51 Coral Fern Circuit, Murwillumbah NSW 2484

### Mr Bill McGRATH

8 Evergreen Drive, Elanora QLD 4221

### Prof. Ken McKinnon

703 Links Seaside, 1 Ross Street, Wollongong NSW 2500

### Mr Christopher MURPHY

PO Box 1286, Coolum Beach QLD 4573

### Ms Deirdre PEARSALL

204 Hope Street, Geelong West VIC 3218

### Mr Geoff PEMBERTON

11 Eastern Road, Booker Bay NSW 2257

### Ms Rhonwen SEARLE

PO Box 3192, Hendra QLD 4011

### Mr Kevin SHANAHAN

c/- 43 Russell Ave, Wahroonga NSW 2076

### Ms Ruth SHIRER

Rm 115, The Vue, 15 Reserve Rd, Grovedale VIC 3216

### Mrs Jean THOMSON

PO Box 2050, Kambah Village ACT 2902

### Mrs Elizabeth THURSTON

'Binnowee', 358 Seymour Armitages Road, WIRRINYA NSW 2871

## Treasurer's Corner

If you wish to renew your membership, have a friend or family member who wishes to join, order one of the publications and DVDs available, or book for a PNGAA function, then use the **Treasurer's Corner Membership & Order Form**, printed at the back of *Una Voce*.

**Payments:** Members are able to make payments for services and products from the PNGAA by sending a cheque (although these require a lot of manual processing), using a credit card (with the extra costs involved) or making a direct debit (EFT). Make sure you fill in all the details on the Order Form, and send a confirmation email to [treasurer@pngaa.net](mailto:treasurer@pngaa.net).

**Membership Details:** Please help by keeping us up to date with your details, especially your email address, as this will facilitate access to the new website: [www.pngaa.org/site](http://www.pngaa.org/site), and ensure all our communications are delivered and not wasted. Our database is kept secure and confidential and your details will never be revealed or traded.





◀ Just two senior men sculpt the intricate faces, using their hands and some wooden tools in a process that can take up to a day before the mask is left to air dry.

Now the masks are only used for cultural performances, like the Mount Hagen and Goroka Shows, and the Mudmen are otherwise rarely seen outside their villages.

The shows were originally about promoting peace between warring tribes, today, they are an opportunity to experience first-hand the customs of about eighty tribes in one of the most culturally intact places in the world.

### **PNG Students Studying in South Australia**

Twenty-four people from PNG are studying Human Resource Management at the University of South Australia in 2019. They are in Australia under a scheme



Scott and Margaret Henderson, with Ishmael Ereman and Lawrence Purtang

known as ‘Australian Awards in PNG’—sponsored and paid for by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade as part of Austudy.

Applicants are assessed in PNG on the basis of the personal and national benefits expected to arise from participation in the program. The scholarship covers tuition fees, travel and accommodation.

Competition for the program is fierce and the twenty-four successful applicants came from a very large number of hopefuls. Applicants were required to submit their CV and write a short essay on why they should be chosen. Their employer in PNG must approve of their application. The successful applicants included men and women and people from the private and public sectors and non-government organisations (NGOs).

The course of study is a Graduate Certificate in Human Resource Management. The certificate is usually a six-month course, but in this case it is concentrated and completed in three months.

Two of the participants are Lawrence Purtang and Ishmael Ereman. Lawrence (43) was born in the Tanga Islands in New Ireland Province. He has a degree in teaching from the University of Goroka. He was awarded an

### **Anzac March, Sydney**

Long-term PNGAA and committee members, Ross Johnson, Fred Kaad, OBE and Gaynor Kaad, attended the march in Sydney on Anzac Day.



AusAid Scholarship to spend three high-school years at the Marist Brothers College in Brisbane. He has left his wife and five children in Port Moresby while he studies in Adelaide.

Ishmael (31) has a degree in Human Resource Management from the University of PNG. His wife in Port Moresby is expecting their first child in a few months. Both men are employed in the private sector and are finding the course of study stimulating and challenging. They are enjoying Australia and have taken every opportunity to see as much as possible.

We were happy to meet them and entertain them at our favourite local restaurant and at our home. They were very respectful and could not understand why Australian men had to stay behind in PNG while women and children were evacuated. We explained that they were hostages to fortune.

**MARGARET L HENDERSON**



# Tisa: A Teacher's Experience in PNG 1962–75

**ROY KIRKBY  
(Part One)**

**Like so many expatriates, I was attracted to Papua New Guinea long before I arrived there. My interest began in England as a high school student in the late 1940s through a world map, which showed the mainland as partly unexplored; this stimulated in me a desire to visit. Later, that fascination was expanded with a desire not only to go there but to stay and work. In 1960, when I embarked on an around-the-world experience, the Arctic Circle and New Guinea were on the top of my list. It took until 1962 on my travels via Canada and Australia to get there.**

I GOT TO NEW GUINEA by being accepted on the 3rd E Course in Rabaul. As for all who were recruited, it was in an idyllic setting. The six-month course itself was most interesting. It combined the basic requirements of a NSW Teacher's Certificate with the practicalities of teaching in rural areas of the country, and with an emphasis on teaching English as a second language (TESL). Even more interesting was the mix of lecturers, some with little or no experience of the country and others—the Territorians—who had lived and worked with the people in a range of settings for many years. What I remembered and found useful I got from the Territorians, in particular from Bert Jones, the principal of the college. The most memorable piece of advice was 'When you are out alone in a bush school, don't drink or go with local women and work seven days a week.' That advice was to be most helpful in my first years.

Particularly enjoyable were the practice teaching activities at village schools around Rabaul, where we found the children to be enthusiastic and keen to learn.

## **Kompam 1962–63**

At the conclusion of the E Course, I got my wish for a posting to the Western Highlands District, where there was still potentially unexplored territory, or at least areas that had had little or no contact with expatriates.

On arrival in the weekly single-engine Otter flight, I was greeted by kiap, Bill Biscoe, his wife Roseanne, medical assistant Geoff Bentley and his wife, Eve. So initially I was not alone and for a few short months I very much enjoyed their company and their initiation of me into life on an outstation, and most importantly the way of life of the local Enga people.

I was, of course, very keen to settle in to my nice new E Course donga, a little embarrassingly standing out against the local materials' classrooms and local teacher's house.

The school had been run by Misikarem, a Tolai teacher who had done a terrific job. For two years he had been alone, away from his fellow islands' people in a possible alien culture, where he could be the subject of a payback if a highlander had been assaulted on the coast. He had very few resources in the school, but managed to run it as a one-teacher school, with half the students as boarders so with the added responsibility of ▶



Kompam School—equipped with one old blackboard and some very rudimentary desks



FROM TOP: During the E Course at Malaguna; Tolai children at a Raburua practice teaching school; Kompiam Primary School nestling on the edge of the spur above the Sau River; the E course single-person donga—luxury accommodation at the time; a new garden for peanuts was planted and a good harvest resulted.

their wellbeing. In a way, I was a reward for his efforts and I didn't want to let him down.

We tried to move fast. I managed, through District Inspector Tas Hammersley, to get some unassembled desks flown in, and a fellow teacher at Wabag cut one of his blackboards in half so I could have one to start a new preparatory class.

Through Geoff Bentley, the opportunity to raise some money arose, since we had no cash and all purchases of food for boarders was done with salt—the currency of exchange along with tobacco. It came in the form of growing peanuts to sell to the Wabag hospital to use as a supplement for sick pregnant women for which there was some cash available.

For the peanut project, every student in the school was involved, which wasn't hard since lessons were only from 8 am to 12.30 pm, and after lunch it was gardening and cleaning around the school until 3 pm. After that, students who might live an hour or more's walk away would have time to walk home, while boarders could engage in some more gardening for extra food if they wished.

Boarders were an interesting challenge. On the one hand, we had to have gardens for them to grow food that was supplemented by a salt ration, so we could purchase *kau kau* (sweet potatoes) from local people. Additionally, from the government, they received one tin of meat or fish per student per week. On the other hand, part of my brief was to get more students into the school from the outlying areas of the sub-district. These would be some hours, even days, walk away. Some present boarders were from these areas, having been gathered by a kiap on patrol previously. He had brought in a few boys with one or two destined for enrolment at the school, and the others for training on the patrol post for such jobs as interpreters. I collected some new ones on a couple of patrols with the kiap, but I then had an additional job at term holidays to walk some home and then collect them for the next term. The reason for that was the danger of them being killed while going through traditional enemy territory, but they would be left alone if with a European. So that was sometimes my term holiday!

It was in these exciting early months that the need for a meaningful goal became more pressing. I had come to PNG as a missionary, not a religious one, but one with a strong belief in Western education and ways of life. I believed the most worthwhile content should be the 3Rs in English and learning about the capitalist way of economic life. I had fuzzy ideas about democracy, self-reliance and personal ambition. I believed we should strive towards valuing the individual as much if not more than the group. I was strong in my belief and about valuing both genders equally, about being not physically aggressive and valuing reason over physical might.

As noted earlier, I recognised the need to combine the traditional way of life in making schoolwork only in the morning, and outdoor work including gardening for self-reliance. We also took on cultural studies such as weaving, building, weapons making, dance and storytelling.

However, my Western approach did not always work as expected. An early example was when local clan groups were supposed to come and clean around the school, mainly cutting grass, once a week. It started well

but they got very slack. I tried to reason and got nowhere. One day, as they sat under a tree when they should have been working, I went towards them with a big stick pretending I would hit someone if they did not get to work. I accidentally hit an old man too weak to get up and away, to great laughter from the rest of the group. I was mortified but quickly warned by my local servant not to help the poor old man. From that point on, I gained a reputation as a good but hard man who could not be physically challenged—a reputation I did not want.

Making spears and bows and arrows added excitement to the potential riot I had to break up when I introduced the idea of games in the form of korfbal—a mixed non-contact ball-handling sport a little like netball, as being competition without direct physical aggression.

Cultural activities became a particularly successful part of school learning, when at the end of the school year the students arranged to have a *sing-sing*. A pig was presented by the kiap so they could have a *mumu* and follow with singing and dancing.

At a broader community level, a huge *sing-sing* was arranged at Kompiam for clans from around the district at New Year. It was a great success with no disputes or fighting.

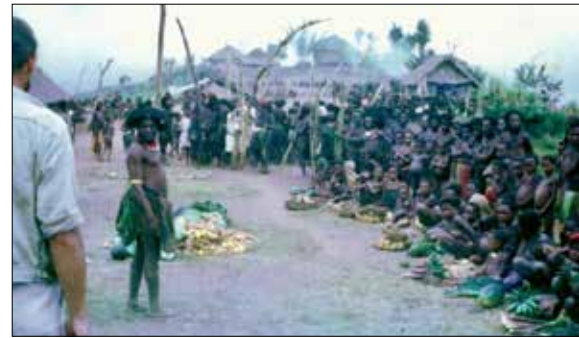
With the new year, my interests and involvement were forced to expand. Within weeks, both the kiap and the medical assistant were posted to other centres and I, as was the custom with the government at the time when there was only one expatriate there, was left in charge of everything. I was not only the teacher in charge of the school, but also in charge of the station and hospital. I had become *masta bilong al*. This was all in theory if not in practice, for I had to keep in daily contact with the powers that be in Wabag. But, as was the practice, since there were no problems, I was left alone for some months.

Naturally, I ran the Kompiam part of the sub-district from my classroom, utilising the excellent Enga communication system—there were regular news messages sent from hill to hill by voice, and I could get immediate interpretation from the boys in my class. For anything else, a daily visit to the station office and hospital sufficed. Naturally, the school benefited from the extra help around the school provided by the *kalabus* (prisoners).

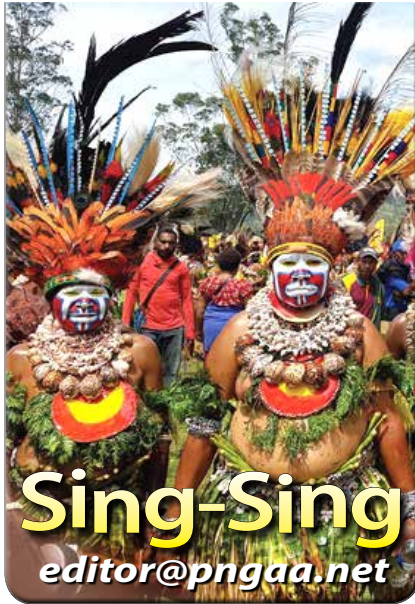
However, in effect the person who ran the station and kept everyone on track was Sergeant Wengi. He was a quiet, reserved giant of a man in the sense of the respect he had from everyone. He ‘saved my bacon’ on many occasions, and I am sure he did the same for many other expatriates, including the kiaps under whom he served his country. I had two of his children in my class; they were bright little buttons, strong in character like their father and their mother.

One of my most privileged memories was of my departure from Kompiam on being posted to Jimi River. The Otter aircraft was there to take me and my gear to Tabibuga. Everyone was there to say goodbye and Wengi, who always quietly stood in the background, came forward. He shook my hand and thanked me for my time there and wished me well for the Jimi, in Pidgin of course. I had never seen him make such a gesture. ◆

**Part Two, featuring Roy’s time at Jimi River and Keltiga Schools, will be published in the next issue of *Una Voce***



FROM TOP: Meeting a student’s family; purchasing food for the patrol carriers, police and teachers; clansmen gather to hear the merits of letting some boys attend the station and school; the live pig is collected from the station with loud chanting on the way to the school; at the Kompiam New Year’s Day Sing-Sing, 1963.



**Featuring reviews of events, festivals and reunions held throughout Australia and Papua New Guinea, and attended by PNGAA members, as well as a listing of upcoming functions in 'What's On?'**

specifically Marilyn Havini, artist and co-ordinator for the Women's Wealth Project, commissioned for APT9 and Ruth McDougall, curator of Pacific Art for Queensland Art Gallery and the Gallery of Modern Art (QAGOMA). Marilyn featured as a personal profile in *Una Voce's* December 2018 issue.

The subject of mangrove conservation might have appeared only interesting for a niche audience, however, the presenters, Barbara Masike-Liri and Robyn James gave a broader perspective on the importance of this work.

Papua New Guinea is frequently featured within the Australian media as a country of corruption, violence and exotic spectacle. A focus on stories such as government representatives spending taxpayers' money on buying expensive cars, often overshadows the work of community groups and NGOs focused on creating culturally

appropriate and sustainable models of development.

Despite an historical and cultural predominance of men in roles of leadership, women are playing a key role in the fight against the large-scale land and coastal clearing that threaten their local ecosystems and livelihoods. One particular concern is still largely intact mangrove forests that protect the shorelines of Papua New Guinea's island and coastal provinces.

Barbara Masike-Liri is a strong Bougainvillean woman who began her career as a journalist covering issues in Bougainville. She has been with The Nature Conservancy for over fifteen years supporting community conservation in Papua New Guinea.

Robyn James has been with the Nature Conservancy (TNC) in Melanesia since 2010 and leads conservation work as well as addressing issues with mining and extractives. She also leads women's empowerment work across the organisation.

**BELINDA MACARTNEY**

Read more: <http://events.griffith.edu.au/events/>

**2019 Emerging Leaders Dialogue**

In December 2018, the Lowy Institute hosted the sixth annual Australia-Papua New Guinea Emerging Leaders Dialogue from 4 to 6 December 2018 in Cairns, Australia. On Monday, 25 March 2019, a follow-up lecture was held in Sydney, and members Steven Gagau and Andrea Williams went along.

**Mangoro Market Meri (MMM) Project**

It's sometimes commented that PNGAA events are Sydney-centric and members in other states miss out. Not so—as well as the 9th Asia Pacific Triennial in Brisbane, 'Griffith University Perspectives: Asia Lecture: Mangoro market meri: Women guardians of the mangroves in PNG' was a stimulating night for those who attended. Jim and Joan Burton (Gold Coast), Christine Leonard (Coochiemudlo Island), Belinda Macartney (Brisbane) and Andrea Williams (Sydney) attended the lecture.

Our group also caught up with visiting Bougainville artists



Group at the Mangoro Market Meri lecture (PHOTO: Andrea Williams)



Guests and presenters at the Lowy Institute lecture (PHOTO: Andrea Williams)

Six women leaders from PNG were the guests of the Lowy Institute for the Aus-PNG Network's Sydney social event. **Vani Nades, Susil Nelson-Kongoi, Fiona Hukula, Jacqui Joseph, Megan Gangloff** and **Angelyn Amos** were visiting Australia as part of a program hosted by the Australian High Commission to build networks and connections with community, corporate and government figures in Australia.

**Susil Nelson-Kongoi**—Public Policy & Issues Manager, ExxonMobil PNG  
Susil works as a senior executive with ExxonMobil PNG as Public Policy & Issues Manager responsible for external relations. She has over fifteen years' experience in the development and professional services sector. Her experience covers a wide range of roles, including financial auditing and advisory services, strategic business planning, project management, monitoring and evaluation and public policy advocacy.

**Vani Nades**—Entrepreneur  
Vani Nades is an emerging female leader already making a significant contribution in the business community and PNG as a nation. In 2014 Vani started her own business called Emstret Holdings Limited with a great team made up of innovative young talented Papua New Guineans of whom 80% are female. Emstret is a

licensed Internet Service Provider in Papua New Guinea and is focusing on bringing access to rural schools and communities.

**Megan Gangloff**—President, Young Port Moresby Chamber of Commerce and National Health Educator & Professional Relations Co-ordinator at Colgate Palmolive (PNG)  
Megan is currently the National Health Educator & Professional Relations Coordinator at Colgate Palmolive (PNG) Ltd based in Port Moresby. She is the 2018/2019 President of the Young Port Moresby Chamber of Commerce & Industry. (YPomCCI). She hopes to create a better community through the health education programs she manages.

**Dr Fiona Hukula**—Senior Research Fellow, Papua New Guinea National Research Institute (PNGNRI)  
Dr Fiona Hukula is a Senior Research Fellow and Building Safer Communities Program Leader at the Papua New Guinea National Research Institute (PNGNRI). She received a PhD in Social Anthropology from the University of St Andrews, Scotland. Fiona also holds a Masters in International Criminology from the University of Sheffield and a BA in Anthropology from Victoria University of Wellington.

**Jacqui Joseph**—CEO and Co-Founder, Equal Playing Field  
Swimming on the northern end of the Pacific Ocean in Costa Rica to boat rides up the River Nile are amongst

many adventurers that Jacqui Joseph, as the CEO of a thriving local Papua New Guinean organisation, would count as being amongst the great work that Equal Playing Field has accomplished in reducing violence against women, promoting child protection and gender equality.

In 2017 she was awarded the Commonwealth Young Pacific Person of the year recognising excellence in development work that Equal Playing Field has contributed in Papua New Guinea and the Pacific region.

**Angelyn Amos**—Program Manager, Gender, Australian High Commission, Port Moresby  
Angelyn Amos is a Program Manager with the Australian High Commission in Port Moresby under the Program Strategy and Gender Section. She graduated in 2009 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of Papua New Guinea and received a Masters in International Public Health from the University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia in 2013.

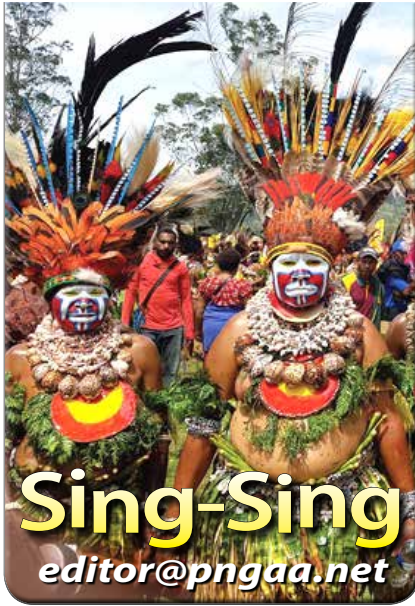
## ANDREA WILLIAMS

### South Australian BBQ to Welcome PNG Students

On Sunday, 10 February the newest and oldest of the South Australian Papua New Guinea groups joined together to host a welcome barbeque for new PNG students. The PNG Association of South Australia formed in 1977, and the Flinders Uni Pacific ▶



The tables groaned with food as PNGASA vice-president Fennessah organised us all



**Sing-Sing**  
*editor@pngaa.net*

Islands Club formed in late 2018, organised this event in a beautiful parkland in suburban Adelaide. They were joined by members of PNGAA.

About sixty people came together on the Sunday afternoon—earlier threatening weather had changed to a perfect afternoon, and unlike most PNG events the event started on time! The tables groaned with food (as usual) and instead of the hosts cooking the barbeque, Lawrence Purtang and Niwia Ebia Olewale did the honours. Yes, Niwia, the son of Ebia Olewale—the first elected PNG Minister for Education and subsequent Deputy Prime Minister—cooked for us all.

Lawrence and Niwia are part of a group of twenty-four students, selected by Australia Awards from the PNG Government and Private Sector, to do a three-month post-graduate certificate in Human Resource Management at UniSA.

These leaders returned home on April 13 and we wish them well as they work to develop PNG. In their short stay they contributed as much to the community as they received in training.

**KEITH SIMPSON-LYTTLE**

*(See page 14 in PNGAA Round-up for more about this project)*



Niwia Ebia Olewale concentrating on getting the meat just right (top), Lawrence Purtang, the leader of the group, enjoying the role of chef (centre) and some of the group who attended the barbeque (bottom)



**PNGAA Perth Luncheon**

The Perth, Western Australia, PNGAA group lunch was held at Bull Creek RAAFA Base, Perth, on 29 March 2019. Twenty-one members and friends attended the autumn lunch. Graham Bowden gave a talk about his time in the technical education sector and his vast involvement in sports, in particularly Aussie Rules, in PNG. *(See page 39 for more about his talk)*

Jill Worsley brought along the PNG quilt she made for the Perth PNGAA Group *(pictured above)*. The quilt is being raffled and the lucky winner will be announced at the Perth Christmas Lunch. The proceeds will go to the PNGAA.

‘We had a great time and really enjoyed ourselves. Our next lunch will be held in the Meg Olive Room opposite the Spitfire at the RAAFA CLUB on Bull Creek Drive, Bull Creek, Perth, on 29 November, and everyone is welcome.’ ♦

**LINDA CAVANAUGH MANNING, Co-ordinator**



## • PNGAA Newcastle

### PNG HISTORY IN PERSPECTIVE

#### Presenters:

MARK LYNCH,  
DR JAN McLEOD &  
SUELLEN HOLLAND

**When:** Saturday, 6 July 2019

**Where:** University Gallery,  
University of Newcastle,  
GS Building, University Drive,  
Car Park 6, Callaghan 2308

**Time:** Registration from 11.30  
Talks from 12:30 pm–3:30 pm

**Cost:** \$15 per person  
includes light refreshments

**Public Transport:** Bus No 111  
or train to Warabrook Station,  
which is just behind the Campus

**Disability Access:** Toilets & access  
available

**Parking:** Plenty of parking in  
front of the gallery

**RSVP:** 28 June 2019

**Contact:** Sara Turner 0401 138 246  
or [events@pngaa.net](mailto:events@pngaa.net)

**Payment:** CBA/BSB 062009;  
Account No. 0090 7724

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

All welcome

#### **Mark Lynch: 'My Time as a Kiap in the Anya Area'**

In PNG for twenty years from 1959, Mark Lynch served as a patrol officer for nine years in the then Eastern Highlands and Milne Bay Districts. He taught at the TPNG Administrative College and later served as Secretary of the Administrator's Executive Council (AEC) pre-Independence and as Secretary to the National Executive Council (NEC) post-Independence. Mark completed

a Bachelor of Economics (QLD) in 1967 and an MA (Sussex University) in 1972.

#### **Dr Jan McLeod:**

##### **'Shadows on the Track'**

Jan is a historian at the University of Newcastle, who has a personal connection to the Papuan Campaign. Two of Jan's great-uncles served with the 2/4th Australian Field Ambulance in Papua, and the war diary of one of these men formed the foundation for the many years of research that followed.

#### **Suellen Holland: 'Black Sand and Betel Nut—Childhood Memories of PNG'**

Suellen's autobiography, *Black Sand and Betel Nut—Childhood Memories of Papua New Guinea*, is a frank and moving account of Suellen's extraordinary childhood in pre-independent Papua New Guinea from 1960 onwards. Her collection of short stories recall the halcyon days of her childhood and pays tribute to a place she will always call home.

Suellen is a master scuba diver instructor, a published author and keeper of her precious childhood mementos and memories. She and her long-time partner, Andrew, and underwater photographer, are avid scuba divers who hold a passion for WWII underwater wrecks. They travel extensively and recall their experiences with photos and articles.

Suellen is now retired and spends her time, travelling, scuba diving and writing.

## • PNGAA Brisbane PNGAA LUNCHEON

**When:** Sunday, 28 July 2019

**Where:** The Ship Inn, Southbank

**Time:** 11.00 am–3.00 pm

**RSVP:** Kieran Nelson at  
[kierannelson@bigpond.com](mailto:kierannelson@bigpond.com)

## • PNGAA Melbourne

### CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

**When:** Saturday, 23 November 2019

**Where:** Caulfield RSL, Elsternwick

**Time:** 11.30 am–3.30 pm

Further details TBA

## • PNGAA Perth

### CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

**When:** Friday, 29 November 2019

**Where:** Meg Olive Room, RAAFA  
Club, Bull Creek Drive, Bull Creek

Further details TBA

## • PNGAA Sydney

### CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

**When:** Sunday, 1 December 2019

**Where:** Killara Golf Club,  
556 Pacific Highway, Killara

**Time:** 11.30 am–3.30 pm

**Cost:** TBA (incl. two course meal)

**RSVP:** 15 November 2019

**Contact:** Sara Turner 0401 138 246  
or [events@pngaa.net](mailto:events@pngaa.net) for more  
information—a silent auction will  
be available, so start earmarking  
your items now! ▶



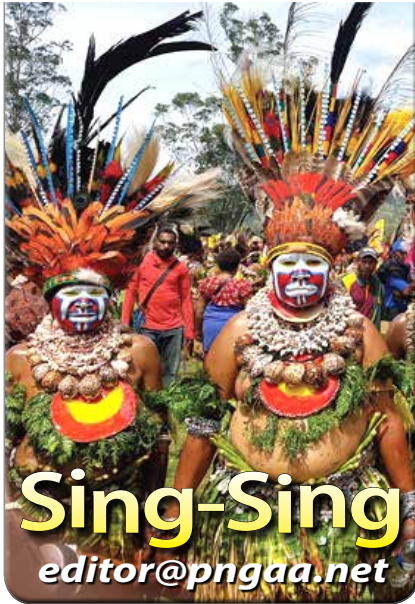
## Rabaul & Montevideo Maru Events

On **Sunday, 30 June 2019**

a luncheon will be held in  
Canberra for all our PNGAA/  
**Rabaul & Montevideo Maru**  
members and any family and  
friends—all welcome, so put  
it in the diary now and come  
along!

The **77th Anniversary**  
commemorating the sinking  
of the *Montevideo Maru* will  
be acknowledged at the Last  
Post Ceremony, Australian War  
Memorial, Canberra on  
**Monday, 1 July 2019.**

See 'Memorial News'  
on page 59 for further information  
on these events



## • Brisbane

### 'PARADISE PALETTE' EXHIBITION

This exhibition of contemporary art from Papua New Guinea, opening at the Royal Queensland Art Society (RQAS) Gallery in Brisbane on 27 August through until 16 September 2019, promises to be a kaleidoscopic explosion of colour and culture. Over twenty-five self-taught artists from Papua New Guinea will be showcasing their contemporary artworks embracing a wide selection of art media. Several of the artists will be in attendance during the exhibition to greet and share their



Artwork by Peter Wena

talents, culture and life stories with visitors to the gallery.

A key feature of the exhibition will be a display of decorative tapa cloth from Oro Province, situated along the northern route of the infamous Kokoda Trail. Learn the process of tapa cloth manufacture, and the cultural importance and significance of the tribal designs that adorn the cloth, from Rodrick Vana who will be presenting regular demonstrations during the course of the exhibition.

Meanwhile Bagam Isai and Nancy Qwareme will be on hand to demonstrate the techniques for knotting bilums, Papua New Guinea's ubiquitous string bags and baby hammocks.

Come and be energised by the vibrancy and momentum captured in the paintings produced by Albert Ipu, Gima Segore, Gigs Wena, Peter Wena, Gazallah Bruder, Morgan Lavapo, Elisabet Kauage and Simon Nonny among others.

The exhibition will be open daily from 9.00 am–5.00 pm, Royal Queensland Art Society Gallery, 162 Petrie Terrace, Brisbane. After hour viewings for groups of five or more are available by appointment.

Official opening night Thursday 29 August 2019, 6.30 pm–9.00 pm. All welcome.

For further information contact: Don Wotton, Curator, [wottondagmail.com](mailto:wottondagmail.com) or 0450 719 578 (mob.).

## • Sunshine Coast INVITATION TO A REUNION OF KIAPS & FRIENDS

**When:** Sunday, 10 November 2019

**Where:** Kawana Waters Hotel, Nicklin Way, Buddina Sunshine Coast, Queensland.

This invitation is extended to all

kiaps, their families and their friends and this includes teachers, didimen and whoever else may have crossed our paths in the days of yore.

The Kawana Waters Hotel, the same venue as for the last few gatherings, overlooks the marina and a large parking area is available. Drinks can be purchased at bar prices, and there is a good bistro where you may choose to eat: the bistro needs to know numbers so please let us know before 16 October 2019.

The hotel has some accommodation available, and if you require a booking please phone the hotel on 07 5444 6699 and mention that you are part of the 'Kiap Reunion' group. Other accommodation is available in Mooloolaba. Breakfast will be arranged on the Monday morning, at Bellissimo's Restaurant on the Esplanade at Mooloolaba.

Informality will continue to be the order of the day. No speeches, everyone is too busy catching up with friends. This format has proven popular so we will stick with it. We ask that you spread the word and pass on this invitation to those you feel would enjoy the day. Please mention the reunion to all of the kiaps you know as, unfortunately, we could miss some. Really looking forward to seeing you all again. There will be a small entrance fee of a 'gold coin' to cover costs of mail, etc.

Please ring or email Denys, Bob or Peter confirming your intention to attend the reunion. Apologies will also be noted and recorded.

Peter Salmon: 0438 092 052

[editor@exkiap.net](mailto:editor@exkiap.net)

Bob & Heather Fayle: 0411 138 884

[rjfayle31@gmail.com](mailto:rjfayle31@gmail.com)

Denys & Helen Faithful: 0437 274 927

[hfaith@bigpond.com](mailto:hfaith@bigpond.com) ♦





## *Mi Meri Tolai*

**LAWRENCE CREMIN**

**For those people who are not ex-PNG the Tolai people live in the Rabaul area of New Britain. *Meri* is the Pidgin word for female. Muriel Larner referred to herself as '*Mi Meri Tolai*'.**

**Only a few who have lived in PNG can claim the empathy that she had for the country and its people, born and raised in Rabaul she was truly *Meri Tolai*.**

MURIEL (MU, MIM) LARNER, née MacGowan, was born on 6 September 1929. A couple of volcanic eruptions later, in 1937 and 1939, and following the commencement of World War II, we find Muriel in 1941 on *Macdhui* being evacuated from Rabaul together with Diana Coote and Doreen Crawley, who would become lifelong friends and Doreen, her sister-in-law. Having survived the volcanos, she was now endeavouring to survive the war. *Macdhui* was sunk in Port Moresby Harbour the following year.

About this time, and now in Australia, Muriel's hearing deteriorated, and she had to go to ballet and art school rather than continue with a more formal education—there has been a number of times over the years that she looked at me quizzically as though I'd said something stupid, I can only hope it was because she didn't hear what I said. This, together with swimming, at which she modestly claims she excelled, seems to have taken up most of the war years.

She returned to Port Moresby in 1946 for what her parents thought was the school holidays, Muriel in the other hand, had no intention of leaving. She got a job with the Australian Petroleum Company as a draftswoman—in the typical Mu fashion of underselling herself (apart from her swimming claim), she doesn't say where she acquired her drafting skills, so I assume art school was a little more formal than she previously stated. Her mother was a draftswoman so that may have helped.

It was at APC that she met her husband-to-be, Wally Larner. According to Muriel he found her to be young and fickle—sometime during this period she was being courted by an American liberator pilot who used to buzz the house when he took off or returned, so Wally was probably justified. Apparently, it was enough for him to go off to fight in Korea for fifteen months. When he returned, it seems she had overcome 'young and fickle', and they married.

In the early fifties they went to the pictures and saw *Elephant Walk*, starring Peter Finch and Elizabeth

Taylor. This, of course, logically led them to believe they should become planters. They applied for and were granted a block in the Eastern Highlands.

I passed through what was to become Arau Plantation in 1956, a year shortly before Wally started developing it. This was the start of my own adventure and long association with PNG. At that stage the road (a term I use loosely) terminated at Omaura Mission—from there on you walked. Supplies came in by air to a short dirt strip on Karanka, the adjoining plantation about three miles away owned originally by RM Williams and then by Lawrie Crowley, who operated a small air charter company.

In the ten years that followed, Muriel and Wally established Arau, often with very little money and very limited facilities. Somehow, during this period they found time to participate in the construction of the Kainantu Country Club, which included a nine-hole golf course. In the following years many of us benefited and spent many happy evenings there—mainly talking when the film broke.

I didn't meet Muriel until twelve years after they had commenced developing Arau, that was in 1968, when I returned to the Highlands to manage Karanka, which had now become my uncle's plantation. The homesteads were about three miles apart.

Wally had died the year before and Muriel was managing Arau and caring for two young daughters; she was only thirty-nine. At twenty-nine I was bulletproof and I don't think I appreciated what she had to contend with. Kainantu was twenty miles away and our only communications were by radio. I always thought that nothing was beyond Muriel, and I think I was even a bit scared of her. It was only when I read her story about having to send the girls off to boarding school, and that she was having difficulty coping, that I understood the pressures she had been under. She may have been small in stature but she punched well above her weight.

In 1969 Mu was digging toilet pits and drains ▶

when she found first-class clay and, in her words, started playing around with it—this led her to teaching the local village children, pottery and screen printing which, in turn, led to the establishment of the Cultural Centre in Kainantu in the late seventies and early eighties. It also meant Muriel moving into Kainantu and leaving a manager on the plantation.

In 1972 I married a Sydney girl, Marianne, who had come to PNG looking for adventure and found me instead. I asked Muriel to make us a pottery dinner service. Forty-eight years later we are still waiting and over the years it became a standing joke, ‘Where’s our dinner service, Mu?’

Although we don’t have a dinner service, we do have a number of Mu’s pieces including a fragile one that sits on our dining room table. I console myself that we don’t have the dinner service because Muriel was helping other people. One was a lady who ordered a set of avocado bowls and, when she complained that they were too big, Mu presented her with an Arau avocado, which was a perfect fit.

I only remember one other contentious issue between us. I have volumes one, two and three of *The Thousand and One Nights*, Muriel possessed volume four. Whenever I suggested she should return it (which was quite often) she would counter with ‘How about you return my three volumes?’

In 1982, with the pottery going well, Muriel commenced training disabled people, some of whom became permanent employees. The pottery grew and went from success to success, and in 1983 Mu was awarded a well-deserved MBE. Following her retirement, she moved into Durack Retirement Village, where she started a pottery group and also travelled a lot visiting the Antarctic and other remote places, including Longreach (which is pretty remote) where she came and saw us.

The last time we saw Mu she was living in a unit surrounded by more PNG artefacts than you would find in the National Museum. That is the way I’ll remember her—my friend for over fifty years.

Some people just live, others live useful and productive lives. *RIP Mu.*

And if you get bored with resting in peace you might give some consideration to finishing my dinner service. ♦

*Muriel Larner passed away on 18 April 2019, aged ninety.*

**UV:** In 2009 Muriel gave an address in Brisbane, entitled ‘*Mi Meri Tolai: Born and raised in Rabaul*’. This was published in full on the PNGAA website in September 2015.

<https://pngaa.org/site/blog/2015/09/16/mi-meri-tolai-born-and-raised-in-rabaul-muriel-macgowan-larner/>

*(Photo on previous page, courtesy NT News)*

## Tribal Art Fair Sydney 2019

Saturday  
17 August  
9 am–5 pm



The Oceanic Art Society (OAS), is inviting vendors to take part in the Tribal Art Fair Sydney (TAFS), to be held at the National Art School (NAS), corner of Forbes and Burton Streets, Darlinghurst.

The TAFS is an annual tribal art event that showcases oceanic art. It is an opportunity for vendors (oceanic art vendors),

collectors, and Pacific-related societies to come together most specifically in the interest of oceanic art - to learn a bit about the art, and the cultures and artisans from whence it came; and of course also to purchase a piece of their own oceanic art. For further information go to:

[www.oceanicartsociety.org.au](http://www.oceanicartsociety.org.au)

PNGAA has participated at this event in the past, booking half a table to profile and showcase PNGAA. This was when Julianne Allcorn was the Events Co-ordinator, and she assured Sara that it was a fabulous day except she spent too much! On the table she had copies of *Una Voce*, various videos which have been sold through PNGAA and a background and history of the PNGAA, together with an opportunity to take membership.

We plan this year to book a full table with the view that PNGAA members may wish to bring along items for sale. This is an opportunity to clear your shelves! If using the PNGAA table then 10% of the sales will go to PNGAA, but if you have a number of goods for sale you may wish to book your own table. If you have an item to donate to the silent auction that would be most welcome, 20% to go to OAS and the balance to PNGAA.

This is a wonderful opportunity for PNGAA and OAS to complement and enhance each other’s organisations.

It is being organised by Sara Turner who would welcome assistance in organising and running the table. Please contact her on [events@pngaa.net](mailto:events@pngaa.net) or 0401 138 246 (mob.) ♦

# The Best Beer I Ever Tasted

**CHIPS MACKELLAR**

**On page 11 of the March 2019 edition of *Una Voce*, mention is made of the Star Mountains Patrol, conducted by Assistant District Officer Jim Kent from 22 September to 22 December 1954. This reminded me of the small contribution I made to this patrol.**

**At that time, I was a Cadet Patrol Officer stationed at Lake Murray in the Western District, and the Patrol-Officer-in-Charge at that time was Christopher Gordon Day. The nearest patrol post was Kiunga, further up the Fly River basin where, at that time, Patrol Officer Jack Baker was stationed.**

A Catalina flying boat (*below*) of the kind used for the airdrop to the Star Mountains Patrol. Note the blister between the wing and the tail. The top of the blister folds back allowing entry and exit. During normal flight the blister is kept closed, but for airdrops it is opened to the elements, and items to be dropped are tossed out from the open blister.

ACCOMPANYING THE STAR MOUNTAINS PATROL was Patrol Officer David Jacobs. Both he and Jim Kent were stationed at Daru, and they had made the long journey up to the headwaters of the mighty Fly River, past Lake Murray and Kiunga, to begin their even further journey into the Star Mountains.

At some stage during its duration, and I don't exactly remember when, the Star Mountains Patrol ran short of rations, and permission was granted by the Department of District Administration—Headquarters to resupply the patrol by airdrop. In those days there was no airstrip either at Kiunga or at Lake Murray. However, at Lake Murray there was, of course, the lake—roughly forty miles long by five miles wide—and it was decided that the airdrop to the Star Mountains Patrol would be made by Qantas Catalina flying boat staging out from Lake Murray.

The airdrop was to be made free fall. That is, no parachutes, or any other fancy airdropping equipment. Qantas pilots, who were well versed in the inflight art of airdropping, advised us on how to prepare for a free-fall resupply. Basically, what they told us to do was to re-bag everything to be dropped.

For example, they explained that a bag of rice dropped from a great height would burst on impact, scattering rice all around the drop site. Some rice will remain inside the burst bag, but the recovery rate would probably be less than fifty per cent. On the other hand, they said, if we were to enclose the bag of rice inside another bigger bag, for example, a copra sack, then when the rice bag bursts on impact it will spill most of the rice into the copra sack, and there will be 100 per cent recovery, albeit all inside the copra sack.

Jack Baker came down from Kiunga to assist, and so together with Lake Murray police and station labourers, we set about re-bagging all the supplies to be dropped. Bags of rice, twist tobacco, cans of meat, tea, sugar, salt and all manner of trade goods were all re-bagged into copra sacks, all stitched up with government-issue bagging needles and twine, ready for the big airdrop.

And when all the re-bagging was complete, I mentioned to the other officers, 'You know, Jim and Dave would not have had a beer for weeks. Why don't we airdrop them some?'

The only beer we had at Lake Murray was SP in long-necked bottles. Impossible, the other blokes said. Even inside a copra sack they said, the bottles will smash on impact, and all Jim and Dave will receive will be a sodden bag of broken glass. But not if we pack it well, I insisted. ▶



**... we hadn't had a beer for weeks and after what we had been through on that patrol I can tell you it was the best beer I ever tasted**

One bottle packed in *kunai* could survive on impact. Chris Day, being the senior officer, made the big executive decision, 'OK. One bottle. You pack it.'

So, with station labourers allocated to the task we unstitched two copra sacks and re-stitched them into one big sack. Into this we inserted one bottle of SP tightly packed all around with *kunai* grass harvested especially for the event. When complete the package was about two metres tall and two metres wide, tightly packed enclosing a single bottle of beer.

And so the Catalina arrived. We stacked all the airdrop items onto the station double canoe, paddled out into the lake where the Catalina was anchored, and there we loaded everything through the blister. The crew distributed the items around inside the plane to give the correct loading, and then they explained the drop. They would fly around the drop site in wide circles. While the Catalina was circling, we were to stack items to be dropped, onto the rim of the blister. For this purpose the canopy of the blister would be folded back, to leave us standing in the body of the Catalina with the open air above us. Then, at the crew's command, we were to push the items out of the blister. Since the blisters were not very wide, and there were so many items to drop, several circuits of the drop site would be necessary to complete the airdrop.

The crew would only allow Chris, Jack and me on board, and we alone were to make the drop. Jim had radioed the pilots the co-ordinates of the drop site he had prepared. Thus, the Catalina crew knew where to go and so off we went.

From inside the Catalina we had no view of the journey, and it was so noisy we could hardly hear each other shout above the roar of the engines. Finally, when we were approaching the drop site the crew opened the blister and told us to load up. And I can tell you it was really hard work lifting up 112-pound bags of rice inside copra sacks on to the sill of the open blister, only one bag at each circuit, and to hold it there with the wind whistling around us waiting for the crew's signal to push it out.

So, after a series of circuits the airdrop was complete, and we had pushed all the rice bags and all the other items to be dropped out of the blister, including the enlarged sack containing the beer bottle.

I saw it bounce when it hit the ground, and I hoped it survived intact.

And would you believe it—it did survive the drop—and back at Lake Murray we received a radio report from Jim that the drop had been successful, and he thanked us for the beer.

Years later, when Jim was a Deputy District Commissioner, I said to him, 'Hey Jim, remember when we dropped that bottle of beer to you in the Star Mountains?'

And Jim said, 'Yes, Chips. It was very welcome. We hadn't had a beer for weeks and after what we had been through on that patrol, I can tell you it was the best beer I ever tasted.' ♦



**An Airdrop in the Western District**

This photo of an actual airdrop was taken by Bob Hoard in 1963 whilst establishing Nomad Patrol Post in the Western District. The Catalina was loaded with supplies shipped to Kiunga from Port Moresby. However, the loading had to be carried out (on the Fly River) some kilometres downstream of the station where there was a long straight stretch of water.

The bags were tossed out onto the partially completed Nomad airstrip. This saved a 4–5 day carry and treacherous crossing of the Strickland River. With a relatively clear approach and large drop zone such a drop could possibly have been completed in 3 or 4 'runs'. The Star Mountain patrol would have had a smaller, much 'tighter', drop zone and so more 'runs' (circuits) would have been required.

**CHRIS WARRILLOW**

# Caroline Tiriman —a runaway who became *Tok Pisin* voice of Pacific

**For a Tolai girl growing up in Papua New Guinea between 1960 and 1970, career options were very limited. Forty years ago, that was part of the story for now veteran broadcaster, Caroline Tiriman, for the Australian public network ABC.**



‘MY MOTHER WANTED me to get married,’ Caroline says. ‘It was an arranged marriage. I didn’t know the guy. He was from the next village and I went to school with his sisters.’

Caroline Tiriman had just completed high school at the Our Lady of the Sacred Heart and her mother insisted that she ditch any plans for a job outside of the East New Britain Province.

While Tiriman was under a lot of pressure from her mother, her father, George, was quietly supportive. George Tiriman was a cook who worked for the small community of foreign Catholic priests. He encouraged his daughter to follow her heart.

‘I was so unhappy and I ran away back to the school. I told the principal that my mother wanted me to get married and I didn’t want to do that.’

Through the school’s help, Caroline was assisted by a careers officer who found her a job with the old government post and telecommunications company as a clerk.

## Found a Job

George Tiriman was very happy when Caroline told him that she had found a job in Port Moresby.

‘He helped me run away to Port Moresby. He took me to town and then to the airport and saw me off.’ It wasn’t long before another opportunity presented itself. Caroline Tiriman applied for another clerical job with the National Broadcasting Commission (NBC), later corporation, which was set up by the ABC in 1973, two years before independence. Her path towards broadcasting was largely due to a childhood fascination for radio broadcasting.

‘I used to wonder: who were those people talking in the radio? When I was in grade eight or nine, the NBC had a program called ‘Ring for Record’ and it was wonderful. We also listened to news and current affairs in class.’

If there is one important lesson from Caroline’s life, it’s the willingness to seize opportunities even if the possibilities are seemingly impossible. While at the

NBC in Port Moresby, her colleague and fellow veteran broadcaster, Kenya Kala, encouraged her to apply for a job with the ABC *Tok Pisin* service in Melbourne. The job was advertised in *The Age* newspaper. She applied and within four months, her new boss, George Sivijs, called her up to welcome her to the ABC.

## *Tok Pisin* Translation

‘During the interview, he gave me a ten-minute bulletin to translate into *Tok Pisin*. And in Rabaul, we didn’t speak *Tok Pisin*. I learned a bit of *Tok Pisin* in school but I didn’t speak much of it. Here, I was expected to translate English into *Tok Pisin*. It took me about an hour to translate the bulletin.’

Within the next few months, Tiriman prepared for the biggest transition in her life—her move to Australia permanently. As she was about to leave for Melbourne, she called her dad who was in Lae, ill with cancer. I said I got a job with the ABC and I am going to Australia. He said: ‘That’s alright. You can go.’ But within weeks, her brother called and asked her to delay her travel to Australia because her dad, her greatest supporter, had passed away. Instead of travelling to Australia, Caroline Tiriman spent the next month being with her mother and her family.

Over the next forty years, Caroline Tiriman became one of the most recognised Melanesian voices in PNG, Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands. Along with the small family of Australian-based PNG broadcasters, Caroline Tiriman was among several others who set the standards for PNG’s *Tok Pisin* broadcasters.

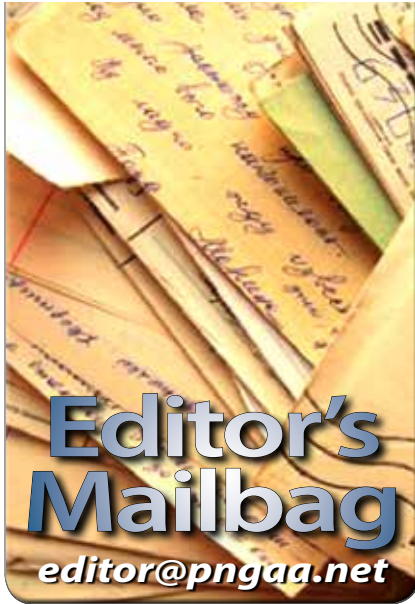
Now, when she is asked what she was going to do after forty years, she says: ‘I just want to take it easy ... listen to the birds, go to the bush and look for galip nuts and just talk with family late into the night.’ ♦

**From Asia Pacific report website**

<https://asiapacificreport.nz/2019/04/04/veteran-abc-broadcaster-caroline-tiriman-retires-after-40-years/>

(See ‘PNG in the News’ for Caroline’s history with the ABC)





**Featuring letters about previously published articles and news items, along with opinions of interest to PNGAA members. Also included is 'Help Wanted', for those who require assistance with their research or finding someone from the past.**

## More on the Caribou Crash

Congratulations to all those involved in the new-look *Una Voce*. They have now become a quality collector's item. Many thanks also to Belinda Macartney, Sara Turner, Andrea Williams and PJ van der Eyk for arranging the review on my latest novel, *Cross of Goa*.

I read with interest Russell Wade's story on the tragic Caribou crash of 1972. I will add the following (copied to them) and up to you if you think it may also be of interest to readers.

I was in charge of aircraft overhauls at Territory Airlines (TAL) Goroka from 1970 to 1975. That night Susan and I were at the Goroka Sports Club when we heard the terrible news about the Caribou missing with at least three crew and twenty-two children aboard.

Qasco Aerial Surveys were operating a Beechcraft B58 Turbo Super Baron VH-AEA out of Goroka at the time doing geodetic research and mapping. The consensus was that its sensitive scanners and high resolution cameras might have a chance of finding the aircraft if obscured by jungle (maybe a forerunner of modern aerial LIDAR scanning?).

Time was of the essence for survivors and the request came through to fly the aircraft to an

airfield as close to the suspect crash search area as possible for a critical pre-dawn takeoff and aerial scan.

The problem was it was night, and though the Super Baron was legal for night flights, Goroka airstrip had no runway lights. The Canadian pilot was Ray Fisher, who had also flown part-time for Territory Airlines and Aerial Tours.

Ray and a government official (it may have been recently deceased James Sinclair?) urgently called on all the members at the sports club to get their cars and drive out onto the airfield. We formed vehicle avenues down both sides of the airstrip with headlights on, pointing across the runway.

There was a thunderous cheer as Ray took off with no trouble, made it to the coast and was involved in the search next day. We later heard that it was Ray Fisher who made the initial contact that located the wreckage, but this has never been confirmed.

Hope this helps, cheers.

**BOB (RB) SHAW**  
[www.tropicanapress.com.au](http://www.tropicanapress.com.au)

### Response from Russell Wade:

I recall when I was in one of the searching Caribous that we landed several times for refuelling and pilot consultation with search co-ordinators. I remember, as was custom in PNG whenever an aircraft went missing, there was always a strong response from the civil aviation industry.

This does add some useful information about the total response. There were different claims regarding the first finding of the wreckage, but I understand it was army pilot, Terry Hayes, in a Sioux helicopter who spotted one

of the surviving boys standing on a rock in a river bed, waving a red T-shirt.

*Regards, Russell*

## Medical and School Conditions in PNG

Members may be interested to know the situation in PNG at the present time. Four of my sons live and work in PNG, but the plight of the people is probably not known. Our family is devastated with the situation, which is getting worse every day.

Peter and Robbie, two of my sons, live and work in Alotau in Milne Bay and Tim and Greg work in Port Moresby. Last year Robbie was medivaced out of Alotau with a serious leg infection. Being delirious, he overdosed on pain tablets.

Two PNG doctors in Alotau hospital realised his kidneys and liver were shutting down, and knew the only way to save his life was to put in a central line beside his heart before the plane flew him to Cairns Base Hospital. They don't have an ultrasound machine so they had to put this in by feeling his heart on the outside of his body.

When he arrived in Cairns the doctors at the hospital said he wouldn't survive the night. They were appalled at the lack of sterile dressings and plaster. He only survived because of what the Alotau doctors had done. The doctors in the PNG hospitals are trying to cope without medicines, etc. After nine operations and months in hospital his leg was saved and he is now back working in Alotau.

He and his wife, Catherine,

last year adopted a newborn baby girl whose mother is dying. Little Samaia is almost a year old and is spreading joy and love wherever she goes, she has large magnetic eyes and loves people. People come to her and she touches their face and smiles. The sight of their faces lighting up is amazing. She is a little angel who was sent to save her daddy.

Another worry is the spread of polio, tuberculosis and AIDS as there are no vaccinations.

The schools are in the same situation as the hospitals. I contacted Hon. Kate Jones, MP, who was Education Minister at the time and I was able to contact Ms Becky Walsh, who is the Director of State Schools Operations. She named the project 'Tools for Schools' and was responsible for the Brisbane teachers and staff collecting ten-thousand story books, teachers' reference books and school supplies. Our family collected them and shipped them to Alotau.

Our aim is to take them to every school in Milne Bay. I was in Alotau before the schools closed for the Christmas holidays. We were only able to take them to four schools.

We discovered termites have invaded classrooms and eaten the walls, the blackboards and anything else. There are no bookshelves. The children are sitting squeezed together on cement floors as there is no furniture. Free schooling seemed wonderful, but with no forward planning the children are flocking to the schools with not enough classrooms and not enough teachers. Our family will be distributing everything to the schools after Easter.

We all know the children of PNG are the future of the country, and without education there is no

future. Another invasion as well as the termites is the arrival of many Chinese who are taking jobs from the local people, and being given all the building contracts. The poor quality of the construction will be a danger in the future.

Please pray for PNG as the people and country you lived in—and loved—is suffering.

**COLLEEN NEVILLE**

### Administrators' Photo

I was interested in the photo on page 32 of the March edition of *Una Voce* of former Administrators and Ministers for Territories, most of whom I had met on various occasions, but noted a couple of corrections required for historical purposes.

The two persons seated on the left are Colonel Jack Keith Murray, the first postwar Administrator of PNG, 1945–1952, knighted in 1978, and his wife Evelyn. The lady in the back row, on Andrew Peacock's left, is Mrs Bell, the niece of Mr CE (Charles) Barnes, on her left. The absent Mrs Barnes refused to hostess or attend official functions, so their niece Mrs Bell would stand in for her, as she did for the opening by the Australian Governor-General of the first House of Assembly on 8 June 1964. I was the official English-Motu simultaneous translator on that occasion. Sir Hubert died at Samarai in 1940. (I have a distant family connection to Hubert Murray.)

**QUENTIN ANTHONY**

**UV:** Thank you for this correction; the original caption information was accessed via website.

### Attribution Correction

*Una Voce*, March 2019, PNGAA Victoria Pre-Christmas social photos (page 12) were taken by Louise Garetto.



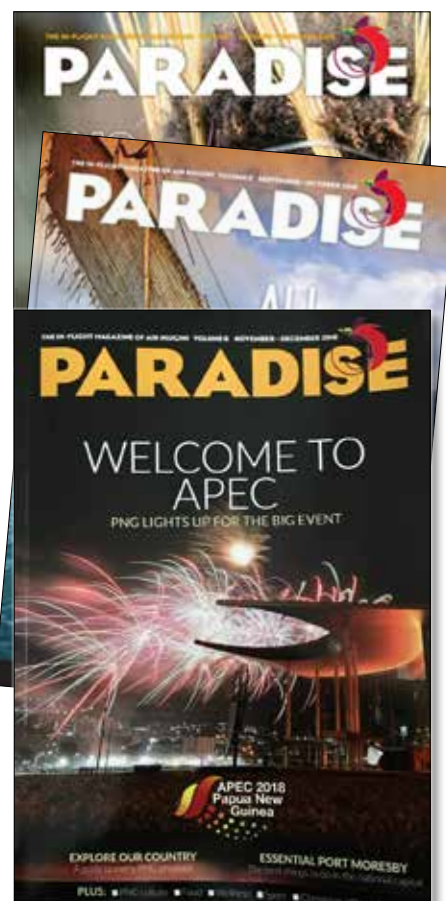
### Paradise Back Issues

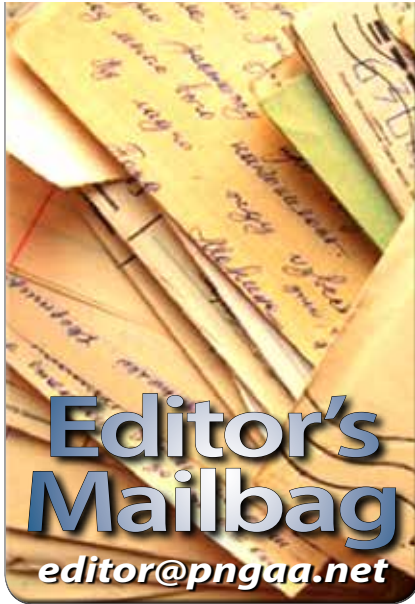
Is it possible to elicit your help with finding back issues of Air Niugini's *Paradise* magazine that might be sitting in PNGAA members' attics or garages?

Business Advantage International has been publishing *Paradise* since September 2014 and we have slowly compiled a pretty good archive of back issues going back to 1976. But we have some gaps in our collection we are very keen to fill.

We would love to hear from members who may have copies kicking around of the following issues:

Issues 1, 4–9, 12, 13, 15, 16, 18, 20–22, 71, 72, 74, 157–160, and also 2004/Vols. 1–4; 2008/Vol. 4; 2009/Vol. 2; 2010/Vols. 4, 6; 2011/Vol. 1–3, 5; 2012/Vols. 1, 3, 4; 2013/Vols. 1–6; 2014/Vol. 3. ▶





## Editor's Mailbag

[editor@pngaa.net](mailto:editor@pngaa.net)

Our end goal is to make a digital archive of these available once we have completed the collection. Thanking you in advance for your interest. Regards,

**ANDREW WILKINS**

Publishing Director, Business Advantage International Pty Ltd  
[www.businessadvantageinternational.com](http://www.businessadvantageinternational.com)

### Photo Identification

I am forwarding a photo which I found by chance in the Australian War Memorial collection and which may be suitable for publication in *Una Voce*. It was taken in 1940, probably in Rabaul, and shows 13 NGVR officers, including my father Colin Lancelot (Tony) Anthony. Some have been identified, as follows:

*Back row, left to right:*  
Unknown, unknown, unknown, NGX2033 Lt John Alexander Sutherland, NGX344 Lt William (Bill) McDonald (died of disease 20 July 1944), NGX342 Lt Colin Lancelot (Tony) Anthony, NGX2296 Lt Robert Phillips;  
*Front row, left to right:*  
NX151701 (N280518) Capt. Hugh Lyon, NGX265 Capt. Dr Noel McKenna, (killed accidentally in NG 30 September 1943), NGX455 Maj. William Manning Edwards (CO), NGX350 Maj. Edmund Jenyns (2IC), NGX433 Capt. Padre Vernon Sherwin, unknown.

I am sure the families of these men would be as excited as I was, if they can recognise

them, and perhaps someone can identify those officers marked as 'unknown'. The NGVR was raised in Rabaul on 4 September 1939 with twenty-one officers and 400 men. The HQS was moved to Bulolo in September 1941, with twelve officers and 284 men, many of the younger men having left to join the regular AIF.

The NGVR was eventually disbanded in April 1943, having been largely replaced by the Australian New Guinea Administrative Unit (ANGAU). ♦

**QUENTIN ANTHONY**

*(Photo courtesy AWM)*



### Letter from the Editor

Welcome to the second edition of *Una Voce* for 2019, and my first as the incoming editor.

My heartfelt thanks to Belinda Macartney, the outgoing editor, for her support, mentoring and encouragement. She was and will be, a hard act to follow! And grateful thanks also to Andrea Williams whose amazing knowledge and involvement with PNGAA is beyond measure. It is an absolute privilege, too, to have Max Uechtritz as the new President of PNGAA, with his

distinguished professional background and remarkable family.

I am very excited about this new role; I have already met many interesting people with connections to PNG, and learnt so much more about this complex and wonderful country. I would in particular like to mention the small band of proofreaders who do such an important job in helping get *Una Voce* ready for publication—and Jeannette, our production designer, with her amazing creative skills and endless patience.

We are always looking for articles. One focus for material is significant events or a snapshot of a way of life at a particular time and activity, stories of life and work in PNG, both current and historical. Humour is always welcome. Articles should ideally be around 500 to 1,500 words, although occasionally longer ones can be serialised. Accompanying photos are always especially welcome, but need to be supplied as high resolution JPGs (minimum of 300 dpi), captioned and attributed. Please email to me at [editor@pngaa.net](mailto:editor@pngaa.net)

**VICKI LONG**



# Family Farm to PNG Development Bank—Story of a Didiman

## MURROUGH BENSON—Part One

**Papua New Guinea was my home from February 1966 until September 1977, initially as a didiman (agricultural officer) and then with the PNG Development Bank as a rural officer.**

**This instalment traces the first phase of that journey.**

IN THE LATTER PART OF 1965, when I was nearing the end of my three-year Diploma of Agriculture course at Dookie Agricultural College in north-eastern Victoria, I started casting the net around for a job once I graduated. One application was for a position as an agricultural officer with the Australian Administration in the then Territory of Papua and New Guinea (TPNG). In due course, along with a number of my colleagues, I went to Melbourne for an interview with the Department of Territories.

Some three months later, though, as my time at Dookie drew to a close, I still had heard nothing from them, so I returned to the family dairy farm in western Victoria. While I thoroughly enjoyed life on the farm, it was never a realistic option for me to carve out a career there. We never wanted for much growing up, but a milking herd of seventy or eighty cows would not have sustained a grown family

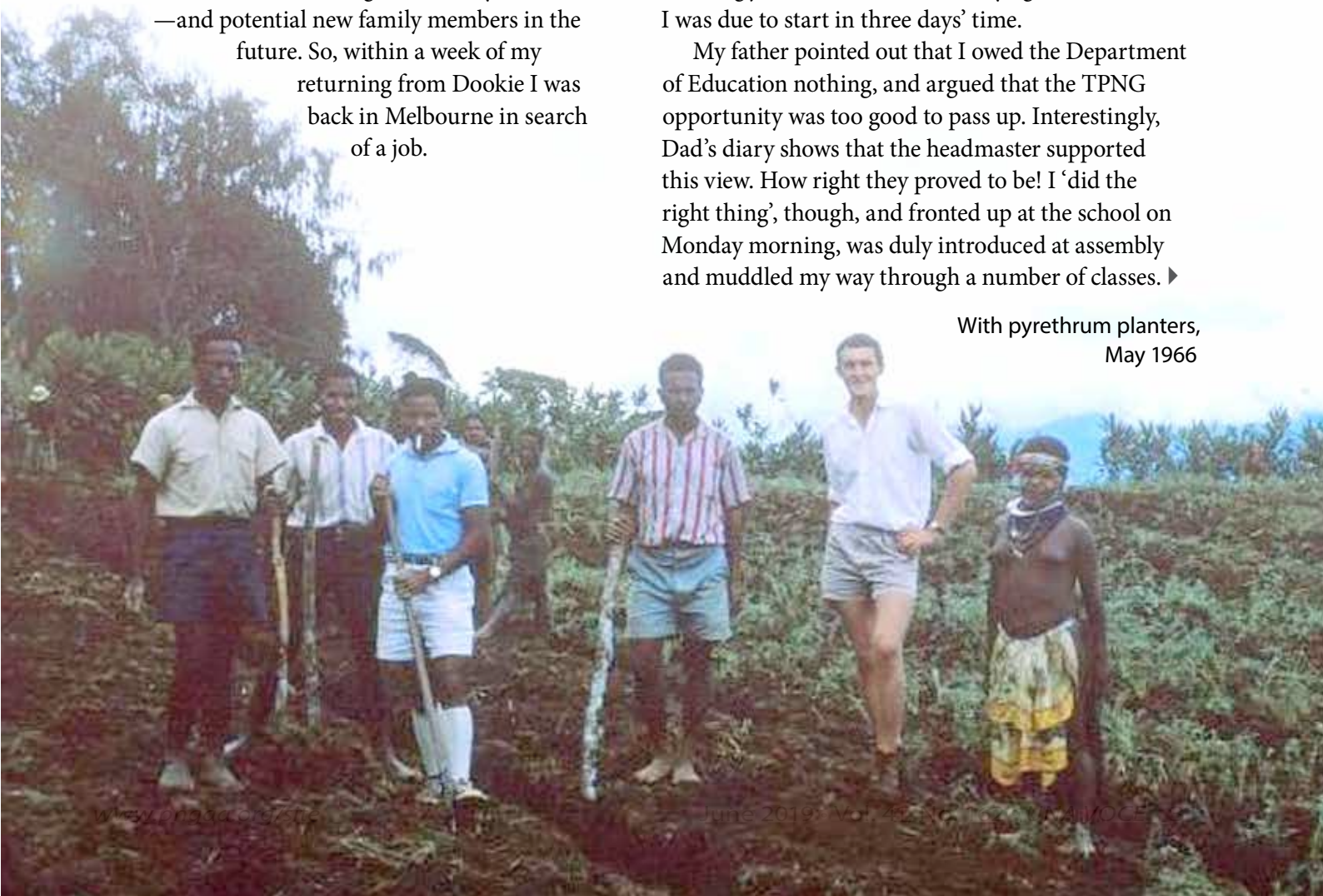
—and potential new family members in the future. So, within a week of my returning from Dookie I was back in Melbourne in search of a job.

Ten days later I had a phone call from the Department of Education offering me a position as a maths and science teacher at Derrinallum High School, a little over an hour away from our farm. So, what teacher training did I have? Absolutely none! In those days a qualification such as my Diploma of Agriculture was sufficient. I accepted the teaching job straight away and the next day was off to see the headmaster and arrange accommodation in town.

When I arrived home that evening, lo and behold, after three months of silence, there was a letter from the Department of Territories saying that I had been accepted as an agricultural officer in TPNG. Not only had I been accepted, but I was given a starting date of 21 February 1966, just seventeen days away! Having been brought up to honour my commitments, my immediate response was to say I would stick with the teaching job to which I had already agreed, and which I was due to start in three days' time.

My father pointed out that I owed the Department of Education nothing, and argued that the TPNG opportunity was too good to pass up. Interestingly, Dad's diary shows that the headmaster supported this view. How right they proved to be! I 'did the right thing', though, and fronted up at the school on Monday morning, was duly introduced at assembly and muddled my way through a number of classes. ▶

With pyrethrum planters,  
May 1966



## ***That I have stronger memories of the club than I have of the house I lived in perhaps tells us something***

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Meanwhile, at the headmaster's suggestion, my father negotiated my release with the department from the normal requirement of one month's notice of intention to quit. Dad could mount a very persuasive argument and, indeed, used to revel in taking on the authorities. So, helped by the fact that I had yet to sign formal acceptance of the position, by the end of day two of my teaching career I was free to go. I never did get paid for those two days of teaching! Clearly, not only did I owe the department nothing but the feeling was reciprocated.

Nothing heard for three months and then two and a half weeks to get myself to a new country, a largely alien new job and ready to hit the ground running. I was soon to learn, though, that this was how the world generally operated.

In reality, though, two and a half weeks was ample time; after all, I had very few worldly possessions, my commitments were even fewer and my bank balance was hardly a burden to bear—just one shilling left in my Commonwealth Savings Bank passbook (I still have the passbook to prove it).

So, having enough time to get myself ready was never an issue—and that included being formally released from my National Service obligations, which were due to be decided at the next ballot in March. I learned almost four years later, just after I was married, that my marble was in fact drawn at that ballot but I'll come back to this later in my story.

So, on the evening of 20 February 1966, I flew out of Melbourne headed for Port Moresby—on an Ansett-ANA Douglas DC-6B aircraft I think it was. Early the next morning, after a flight of nine and a half hours or so, we touched down at Jacksons Airport. After the initial blast of tropical humidity as we walked across the tarmac to the tin shed that served as the terminal, I was met by a local driver. He dropped me off at Burnley Court Guesthouse in Boroko, where I managed to grab a few much-needed hours of sleep.

After lunch I was picked up again and whisked off to DASF (Department of Agriculture, Stock and Fisheries) Headquarters at Konedobu. I found my posting was to be Okapa in the Eastern Highlands, some sixty-two miles south-east of Goroka and, so they told me, three hours by road. I liked the idea of the temperate Highlands' climate after just a few

hours in 'sticky' Moresby. After getting on the payroll (it's interesting how these pressing issues stick in one's mind after fifty years) I was booked on a flight to Goroka the following morning. So ended my formal induction as a didiman!

An early start the next day saw my introduction to the wonderful old DC-3 aircraft and, after a brief stopover in Lae, I was in Goroka by mid-morning. I booked into my temporary accommodation at the Goroka Hotel and then fronted up at the DASF office alongside the airstrip. Then I was introduced to my first job, overseeing the harvesting and curing of tobacco leaf on the DASF experimental plot alongside the Asaro River just outside town. These trials were the forerunner of smallholder tobacco plots that proved quite successful in the Goroka area over the next few years—in co-operation with the tobacco giants Rothmans and WD & HO Wills.

I was still a couple of months short of my twentieth birthday, and relished being thrown in the deep end, and being largely left to manage my own affairs. The nature of the job I had been given also meant that I had the use of a Land Rover over the weekend, which was quite a bonus, not that it was used for other than work but it did add to the freedom I enjoyed right from the start. I was to find that this freedom was a feature of many jobs in PNG—and one that equipped you to cope with most things later on in life, even if it led to some frustration when exposed to more restrictive hierarchical structures when working back in Australia years later—perhaps that is what is meant by 'culture shock'.

In between my tobacco responsibilities I was acquainted with budget estimates and other necessary paperwork, while doing my best to pick up enough *Tok Pisin* (Pidgin English) to be able to converse reasonably freely with the locals. I was also introduced to the key elements of coffee production, as well as the fairly new pyrethrum that was being introduced to areas at higher altitude where coffee didn't fare so well. That, however, was about the extent to which a didiman was exposed to any orientation or training specific to the job at hand. Clearly there was an expectation that the broad training we had received before arriving in the country, together with on-the-job training, was adequate and, by and large, I don't think many of us let down the 'powers that be'.

About three weeks after I arrived in Goroka, it was decided that Okapa would be better suited to someone with a little more experience than me. Instead, I would

now be going to Kundiawa, the administrative centre for the Chimbu District, a few hours' drive to the west of Goroka but only fifteen minutes flying time away. Three days later I was there, having had my first taste of flying in a Cessna 206 along valleys with mountains towering above. Another eye opener on that flight was the nature of the cargo—in the cabin behind me was a small trussed-up pig and a number of chickens in a *pitpit* (wild sugar cane) cage. While these experiences were a fascinating introduction to flying in the Highlands, it was not long before I became quite blasé about them—it became quite normal.

The plan was that I would spend at least six months based in Kundiawa. As it turned out, six months became less than three and then I was posted to Gumine. Clearly, I was by then considered sufficiently experienced to take on responsibility for managing my own sub-district. In Kundiawa, I shared a house just up the hill from the club with three kiaps (patrol officers) as well as a collection of snakes that one of them had—fortunately well contained (to the best of my knowledge). The club was the social hub of the town and the fact that, more than fifty years later, I have stronger memories of it than I have of the house I lived in perhaps tells us something.

My first month and a bit in Kundiawa was spent being introduced to a range of agricultural pursuits in the area: native cattle projects (fencing and yards, pasture establishment, management and basic veterinary services), coffee (maintenance, harvesting and processing), pyrethrum (production, harvesting, processing and buying), tree seedling distribution and identifying and preparing some village families for their move onto land settlement blocks at Kindeng in the neighbouring Western Highlands. With a big population in a relatively small area, there was a lot of pressure on land in Chimbu so resettlement of some families was seen as one way of addressing this issue.

The remainder of my time based at Kundiawa was spent mostly on patrol promoting the expansion of pyrethrum production, largely in the Kup Census District to the south-west of the town and extending around into the Kerowagi Sub-District. With the official opening of Stafford Allen's pyrethrum extraction plant just outside Mt Hagen on 16 May 1966, there was a renewed push to lift the production of pyrethrum, a daisy-like flower from which the active ingredient of a widely used non-toxic insecticide is extracted. Pyrethrum had been introduced a few years earlier as a cash crop in areas

mostly above an altitude of about 7,000 feet, where coffee could not be grown successfully.

Another newcomer, who had come to the Territory as a didiman a few weeks after me, joined me on the patrol. We worked with the local villagers helping them replant existing gardens and extend their plantings wherever they were keen to do so. As one area was completed, we moved on to the next area, establishing our camp either in an established *haus kiap* (rest house), village hut or, in some cases, under our own tarpaulin. Canvas bed sleeves rigged up on bush poles formed our beds and were quite comfortable with our sleeping bags to protect us from the cold. Lighting was provided by kerosene pressure lanterns.

Camped above 8,000 feet usually gave us spectacular views over the clouds in the valley below early in the morning. It did, however, present challenges in finding any dry firewood nearby for cooking and keeping us warm into the evening—and it could get pretty chilly. Our *manki masta* (domestic servant) saw to it, though, that we were always well supplied with dry firewood bought from villagers lower down the mountains as well as putting together all our meals. On patrol, the local people always supplied us with plenty of lovely fresh fruit and vegetables, and we supplemented this with a variety of tinned food that we brought with us. Most of our gear was carried from camp to camp in large metal patrol boxes, slung on a sapling and carried by two men who we would engage for the job at the start of the trek.

During this time on patrol we were fortunate to be given a short break to go to our first Goroka show, a spectacular event that drew thousands of people from throughout the Highlands in particular.

In mid-June 1966 I was posted to Gumine, about thirty miles south of Kundiawa. We'll pick up that part of my journey in the next instalment. ♦



Fortunately, patrol carriers were very sure footed



## New Papua New Guinea High Commissioner to Australia

The PNGAA congratulates John Ma'o Kali, CMG, OBE on his appointment as the PNG High Commissioner to Australia based in Canberra.

Mr Kali (*pictured*) was appointed in December 2018, having served in the public service for almost four decades. He recently took up his post in Canberra in early February 2019.

Prior to his appointment as as High Commissioner, Mr Kali served as Secretary for Department of Personnel Management (DPM) for more than a decade. As Secretary for DPM, he was responsible for advising the government on all public employment matters, particularly in the areas of industrial relations, human resource management,



## Featuring articles and news reports about contemporary Papua New Guinea

public sector and governance reforms and executive leadership appointments, performance management and development.

Mr Kali is an expert industrial relations and human resource management practitioner and a no-nonsense public administrator. He has been passionate and outspoken in reforming and modernising the National Public Service to change the organisational culture and improve service delivery at all levels through institutional partnerships with international organisations.

Mr Kali played a leading role in implementing the findings of the foreign aid review between PNG and Australia, particularly in respect of governance and advisor arrangements in the public sector.

He was also responsible for developing the PNG value-based leadership and management capability framework under which the Pacific Leadership and Governance Precinct has been established.

Through the Precinct key institutional partnerships have been established between academic institutions of PNG and Australia (UPNG and ANU) and training institutions of the two countries (Canberra Institute of Technology and Pacific Institute of Leadership and Governance) to deliver academic and competency-based courses under the leadership framework.

The intention of these partnerships is to develop and produce future leaders with strong ethical values who are performance oriented.

He is a champion in promoting and mainstreaming gender

equity and social inclusiveness and has set the pace for gender balance through a positive anti-discrimination agenda, which has seen an increase in numbers of female officers in management and executive ranks in the PNG Public Service.

His own department where he worked previously was a model example, where two out of the three Deputy Secretaries were females and almost eighty per cent of his middle management were also females.

He was awarded an OBE in 2008 in recognition of his dedication to public service and recently awarded a CMG in 2016 for his strong leadership in the Public Service. Mr Kali has a Master in Business Administration from the Victoria University of Wellington in New Zealand. He was a revered sportsman in his prime, representing the country in team sports such as Australian Rules and cricket.

## Walkley Foundation Launches Sean Dorney Grant for Pacific Journalism

Veteran reporter, Sean Dorney, has given his name to a \$10,000 journalism grant, to be awarded annually by the Walkley Foundation commencing in 2019. The Sean Dorney Grant for Pacific Journalism will support a significant work of Australian journalism about an under-reported issue or development in the region.

Walkley Foundation chief executive, Louisa Graham, announced the grant at the Walkley Fund for Journalism



Sean Dorney  
(Photo courtesy Patrick Hamilton)

Dinner in Sydney on 5 April, with Sean Dorney present. ‘Having recognised Sean’s outstanding contribution to journalism at last year’s Walkley Awards, we were very aware of his decades of inimitable work in the Pacific,’ she said. ‘We’re delighted to be collaborating with Sean on this grant. It’s a practical and powerful way to empower a journalist and a media outlet to report on the Pacific, and to continue Sean’s impact and legacy in the industry he loves.’

Sean Dorney had a forty-year career as an ABC journalist in Papua New Guinea and throughout the Pacific islands region. Sean retired from the ABC four years ago and is facing the challenge of living with motor neurone disease.

‘It is essential that Australians know what is going on to our immediate north and east. There are heaps of stories there and I hope we hear and read about more of them, thanks to this welcome initiative,’ Sean said. ‘China’s increasing presence in the Pacific seems to have generated new interest in Canberra. It’s now vital to increase our media coverage. This grant will help overcome the big obstacle—which is the cost—for journalists wanting to get out to our Pacific island neighbours.’

I am absolutely honoured that the Walkley Foundation is setting up this grant for Pacific Journalism in my name,’ Sean said.

**Reprinted from the Walkley Foundation website**

[https://www.walkleys.com/sean-dorney-grant-for-pacific-journalism-launched/?fbclid=IwAR2WEY-7TQxkk5CDmSfoM\\_1YMpL7bf7DE7RbiK07s24lBMj oJBZB6N7Qgyk](https://www.walkleys.com/sean-dorney-grant-for-pacific-journalism-launched/?fbclid=IwAR2WEY-7TQxkk5CDmSfoM_1YMpL7bf7DE7RbiK07s24lBMj oJBZB6N7Qgyk)

## Boluminski Highway, New Ireland

The Boluminski Highway upgrade, a 265-km high-quality completely sealed road between Kavieng and Namatanai, was officially opened on 11 April 2019 when 132 cyclists rode between Karu and Pinatgen in the inaugural Tour de New Ireland. This project was led by the Papua New Guinea Department of

Works and funded by the PNG-Aus Partnership. The ceremony marked the first time the highway has been completely sealed since its original construction in 1900, over 100 years ago.

Australian High Commissioner to Papua New Guinea, Bruce Davis, speaking at the opening ceremony at Bopire highlighted the importance of key infrastructure in the country’s development.

‘Not only does infrastructure play a critical role in driving economic growth, it plays a key role in lifting the quality of life of the local population. Roads play a major role in connecting people to services, to their leaders and government and to one another. Enabling communities ▶



The upgraded highway (top) and some of the 132 cyclists at the opening



to better connect is important not only for families and friends to see one another, but also vital for communities to interact for cultural, business and social reasons.'

Newcrest Mining worked with the New Ireland Government to install hundreds of safety and tourism signs along the highway. Both the Karu and Kanam bridges within the worksite were fully re-decked using locally sourced hardwood timbers. 140 local Papua New Guineans were employed each month.

Works began to seal the 32.4 km road between Loloba and Pinatgen on the Boluminski Highway in August 2016 and completed on 22 December 2018 on time and within budget.

In 2015 Malum Nalu walked a section of the road with former Kavieng MP, Ben Micah, and students from Utu High School.



Bougainville farmers with their cocoa beans

He said: 'It was an unforgettable walk, along what is inarguably the best road in the country, with picturesque scenes of coconut palms, unspoiled villages and unbelievable coastline. As evening fell, and the sun turned the land into a magnificent spectrum of colours, the students of Utu broke into a rendition of 'Niu Ailan Bilas Peles.'

Tourists, including Australian students, regularly cycle the Boluminski and stay in the villages along the way with the friendly and hospitable people. There are many attractions along the way, including the famous freshwater eels of Laraibina village, which visitors feed by hand.

New Ireland Provincial Works Manager Pela said: 'The late (German Administrator, Franz) Boluminski, who first built this road, used limestone coral from the sea and laid the foundation, so it's very compact. This road will last for many years to come.'

Franz Boluminski, who is buried at Bagail Cemetery in Kavieng, would certainly be proud of his *han mak* (legacy).

## Meet the Farmers Growing Bougainville's Best Cocoa

Steve and Elizabeth Saveke grow the best cocoa in Bougainville: their beans took out first prizes at the region's annual Chocolate Festival. Despite growing beans for decades, Steve Saveke told *Pacific Mornings* he'd never tried chocolate made from his cocoa. Biting on a slice of seventy-two per cent dark chocolate, he said, 'No, this is the first time I've tasted that. It's quite different, a bit sour.'

The farmers were brought to Australia by the Australian Centre

for International Agricultural Research (ACAIR). ACAIR's chief executive, Andrew Campbell, says the project is about finding ways to increase the amount small farmers are paid, 'To try and ensure they get a higher price for premium beans, and that a bigger share of the retail price makes it back to growers.'

The \$6-million project has been working in Bougainville to improve the quality of cocoa production, and strengthen potential export markets.

**From the ABC Pacific Mornings, 21 March 2019**

<https://www.abc.net.au/radio-australia/programs/pacificmornings/bougainville-chocolate/10923266>

## Network Kokoda Secures First Colombo Plan Project

Network Kokoda secures first Colombo Plan project for PNG in partnership with WSU and DFAT, and is proud to announce twenty scholarships for students from Western Sydney University (WSU) to allow them to participate in a twelve-day study program at the Iarowari High School, on the Sogeri Plateau in Papua New Guinea, which houses up to 1,000 boarding students from various provinces.

The scholarship program is a collaborative project in partnership with the Hawkesbury Campus of Western Sydney University, Richmond Rotary, Network Kokoda and DFAT. It is being funded by the Australian Government's new Colombo Plan and is the first project of its kind in Papua New Guinea under the plan.

The scholarship provides WSU students from all disciplines with the opportunity to travel to PNG

and will showcase and highlight our shared wartime history and the legacy of our veterans.

Students will connect with a diverse group of local organisations including Network Kokoda, Sogeri Community Resource Centre and Iarowari High School, and work on local projects aligned to their area of interest and/or discipline for credit. These activities will include:

- Australian World War II history including a day trek on the Kokoda Trail and an overnight camp on Goldie River
- Cultural immersion activities, 'Tok Pisin' language lessons and community development workshops
- Site tour of Varirata National Park for bird watching and war monuments
- Week-long internship/project with local partners: Sogeri Community Resource Centre, Iarowari High School and Network Kokoda

This new partnership is the culmination of a long association between Network Kokoda and Iarowari High School, developing market gardens on their vacant land. By April 2019 Network Kokoda will be providing fresh fruit and vegetables to the approximately 1,000 students and teachers at the school. The school will also be providing them to local supermarkets in Port Moresby to supplement their income.

The new partnership between Network Kokoda and Western Sydney University and DFAT under the Colombo Plan, along with the ongoing support of Richmond Rotary, will allow them to take their agricultural development at Iarowari High School to a new level and will



Iarowari High School Agricultural Project

assist in having the entire school rebadged as an agricultural college in the near future.

**Information reprinted from the Network Kokoda website, and for more details on the background to the project go to:**

<https://blog.kokodatreks.com/2019/02/08/network-kokoda-at-work-with-uws-dfat-and-the-colombo-plan/>

## Retirement of Caroline Tiriman

Caroline Tiriman retired in April 2019 after forty years at the ABC.

Her most recent role was hosting the Wantok program and producing *Tok Pisin* news content for *ABC News Online*. She has an extensive background in reporting on breaking Papua New Guinea and Pacific news stories.

Her career spans more than forty-four years and her knowledge of the Pacific allows listeners to be informed of issues, events and topics seen as vital to the Papua New Guinea and Pacific region.

Caroline was born in a small village called Vunadidir in East New Britain Province in Papua New Guinea where she completed



Pineapple crop at the school market gardens

primary and high school education.

In 1974 she left her village and relocated to Port Moresby to pursue a career in radio broadcasting. She began her career as a program producer and presenter for the National Broadcasting Commission of Papua New Guinea. Then in 1979, Caroline moved to Melbourne to join the ABC, where she was a reporter for Radio Australia and *Pacific Beat* program. ABC Radio stated that: 'Caroline has contributed significantly to the ABC's international broadcasting services. She will be greatly missed by the Radio Australia team.' ♦

**Extract from ABC Radio website**  
(See separate article on Caroline on page 27)

# Sports Snippets

## GRAHAM BOWDEN

**I arrived in Rabaul in TPNG at the end of 1963 for the 6th E Course. My future wife, Marg, turned up early in 1964, and we married in August of that year. I was posted to Maltech (with George Harrington as principal) in July and became sports master in a sports-based school in December 1964.**



Graham Bowden and his wife, Margaret



THUS, I SPENT MOST of my spare time involved in team sports during the eight years we were in Rabaul. Our first three children (Malira, Joanne and Fred) were born at Nonga Base Hospital (1967, 68, and 69). In 1966 we had a meeting in Len McKekerin's COSMO hotel with an aim to start Australian Rules Football.

This did happen.

The main men involved were John Waters and Henry Bodman with Ivan Peterson and myself invited. I was probably there because of my sports master role at Maltech, and thus the availability of the technical facilities of one of TPNG's top sports schools. I was actually playing rugby (or 'sniffo for no necks' as Henry Bodman referred to it) for Waratahs at the time. The first season of Aussie Rules involved no boots as most could not afford them.

In 1967 I was asked to coach the first TPNG village team at Matupit, because there were a couple of Victorians at the tech and Marg and I had begun lessons in Kuanua. The team was the Brown Eagles and we won the knockout comp that year. Also, Henry and John managed to persuade Lae and Port Moresby to have a National League formed and have a three-way carnival in Rabaul. This meant that the GANFL held office with Henry as secretary, John treasurer and I was president. I still have the booklet produced with player profiles, etc. in it.

In Rabaul I was playing cricket, hockey, squash and basketball, as well.

The school was also involved in rugby, soccer, baseball and athletics (fifteen of our students represented TPNG or the BSIP in the Port Moresby South Pacific Games). I was approached by Harry Cohen to coach the TPNG Under 9-stone team to go to Australia that year, but felt it was a conflict of interest to do that and to be president of the TPNG Aussie Rules.

Following the big *gurias* [earthquakes] in Rabaul in 1971 I was sent to the Goroka Tech as deputy principal. We were there for ten years and our other two children (Tom and Sam) were born in the Goroka Base Hospital (1975 and 1977). We lived for two years next to the airport on the Highlands Highway—very noisy in the day. I was made principal and moved onto the college grounds.

I became a regional technical division inspector for four years and then back to principal until we left at the end of 1981. Kevin Murphy and I travelled together at this time as he was promoting rugby league in the Highlands.

Whilst in Goroka I was involved in lawn bowls (we won the national pennant in 1981), horse racing, gumi racing [rubber tyre racing], the Goroka Sports Club, amateur theatrics, the Lions Club—as well as cricket, squash and football (as an umpire and non-playing coach). I even had a round of golf or two. Our kids were mainly into swimming, rugby and horse riding.

### Some sports snippets:

- Pat Guest 'out of uniform' at the bowls championship. Pat and Bill Guest were part of the group of very talented lawn bowlers in Goroka.

Pat was the national champion several times. And whilst in one of her title matches (I think it was in Port Moresby) it was brought to the notice of the match umpire that her black knickers could be seen through her white dress. A very big 'out of uniform' no-no! ▶

(Continued on page 40)





# How Prime Minister Bob Hawke Became a PNG Chief

KEITH JACKSON

**In 1966 I was transferred from my remote bush school in the Highlands to Port Moresby to edit the school magazines. At this time the headquarters of government in Papua New Guinea was an untidy collection of wartime army huts in the harbourside suburb of Konedobu. In one of these was located the Education Department's publications unit, of which I was a member, and right next door was the colonial Administration's industrial relations office.**

THIS OFFICE WAS one of Bob Hawke's bases during his PNG union days. At the time he was the man responsible for wage arbitration in the Australian Council of Trade Unions.

It was an influential role and a stepping stone to the leadership of the ACTU, Australia's peak union body, of which he was to become president in 1969 and from where he achieved high public profile and, eventually, the prime ministership.

In 1965 Hawke and his family had spent three months in Port Moresby, where Hawke was helping establish the trade union movement and advocating for better wages and conditions for Papua New Guinea's public servants.

He was doing this in conjunction with Papua New Guineans like Michael Somare and Dr Reuben Taureka and PNG Public Service Association executives Paul Munro and Rod Madgwick, who both later became Australian judges. Munro has written that Hawke 'pulled out all stops in his presentation of what was effectively a national wage case for the Papua New Guinea administrative vanguard.' And he remained a regular visitor to PNG through 1966, throwing his legs up on a desk at the industrial relations hut next to my editorial office.

As I sought to belt out Yokomo stories on my Remington typewriter, Hawke, Somare, Munro, Madgwick and others were conducting their serious business amidst gales of laughter and general uproar barely a body length from where I sat. I often felt I wanted to join them in these raucous and convivial sessions, and I regret now that I never did—although in time I became acquainted with them all.

So began Hawke's long friendship with Papua New Guinea, which continued apace when Somare entered politics. Much later, in the 2009 PNG New Year's Honours List, Hawke was made a Grand Companion of the Order of Logohu, the highest award that can be given to a foreigner.

It has been said many times in the days since Bob Hawke passed gently from our midst, that one of his great gifts was the ability to make strong, almost instantaneous friendships. It was a talent that served him well as a negotiator and conciliator, and of course as a popular and successful politician.

And it was a gift that knew no barrier of class, gender, ability or race.

In an emotional interview, journalist and sometime Hawke press secretary, Barrie Cassidy, said of his former boss soon after he died: 'He was an intellectual knockabout, and I tell you what most impressed me about him was that he just wouldn't cop racism. He wouldn't cop it at any level, even a whiff of it.'

As a young man, Charles Lepani, former long-term PNG High Commissioner in Australia, through Hawke's intervention, received an ACTU scholarship to attend university and would spend ▶



Grand Chief Michael Somare and Chief Bob Hawke in 2009—they became good friends establishing PNG's trade union movement and fighting for better public service wages (Photo courtesy ASOPA Typepad)

time at Hawke's then home at Sandringham in Victoria, joining demonstrations against the Vietnam War and advocating for Aboriginal causes in Australia.

In 2009, inviting Hawke to accept the Logohu Award, Somare had written that he was being honoured for his 'support for Papua New Guinea from the time you assisted us in the development of our trade union movement, and basic workplace conditions, to the strong support you gave us during your term as Prime Minister of Australia.'

The honour came with the title 'Chief', which greatly pleased Hawke. 'I want deeper bows thank you, much obeisance,' he said.

And then, fearing he may be misunderstood, 'No, seriously, it's a great honour, I'm very grateful.'

'I believe your contribution more than marks

your being awarded the highest honour available,' replied Somare.

But what endeared Hawke to Australians throughout his long life, was his possession of the common touch.

Australian rugby league icon, Phil (Gus) Gould, recalled: 'I remember one special moment I was up there, the Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea gave me two big bags of PNG coffee, saying, "Chief Hawke loves the coffee, can you take these home for him?"

'So, I took them home and dropped them into the golf club and they rang him and told him to come and get it. Somehow, he got my number and rang to thank me and asked me to thank the Prime Minister of New Guinea. A wonderful man.' ♦



## Sports Snippets

(Continued from page 38)

The umpire went up to her and pointed out that she would have to forfeit if she did not get rid of them. Pat then calmly shimmied out of the offending items, kicked them onto the bank and continued on her winning way.

- *Brian Holloway and the after-training on Matupit Island* during the Mataungan standoff and visit to the police club. I was coaching once a week on Matupit Island during the height of the Mataungan troubles, and had to pass through a police blockade at the causeway to get there.

Brian Holloway (the Assistant Police Commissioner at the time) was at the blockade as I crossed. He asked for a lift back to the Police Officers Club when I returned. When we arrived he said he would shout me a beer so we walked in. I had not been there before.

There was a lovely tiled floor with the police crest about five feet across between the tables. Brian led me to the bar ensuring that I crossed the crest. The dozen or so police there all yelled out as this meant free beers for them all.

- *Barry Coulter harassing Hobe* (Brian Lynch of the Hobe Plantation out of Goroka) for one of Hobe's horses. Hobe was always putting him off and stringing him along with promises to think about it. Baz loved the horse and was petting it one time when the horse tossed his head and smashed one of Barry's teeth. When told of it Hobe said, 'Don't complain to me mate, it's your horse.'

- *Ted Sale former Man U player* was unable to play on in Australia as he had a £40,000 transfer fee on him. He came up to Maltech as a plumbing instructor. We were sitting on the steps in light rain (it is warm in Rabaul!), having a smoke, looking at about 100 students playing 50-a-side soccer on the Maltech oval. Occasionally, Ted would yell out instructions to players. Anyway, the ball came out of

play to us and I said to Ted to show them how it should be done, hoping to see just how good he was.

He took the ball and began dribbling. At those times the students were very tentative about touching teachers in any way. Ted kept calling them to come and tackle him. By the time he reached the half-way mark some of the braver kids started to try to tackle him. Ted had on leather-soled shoes which are very slippery on wet grass, but this did not appear to me to slow him much. The tackling became more intense but in the end he seemed to just walk through them and tapped the ball in to the goal.

'Well boys, that's how it is done. Keep practising!' And he came back to light another smoke.

- *Joseph Bubo, a Bougainvillean, is one of the most talented sportsmen I have seen.* He kicked ten goals as a seventeen-year-old, in bare feet, at the 1969 Lae Aussie Rules Carnival; he was in the 1969 South Pacific Games in Port Moresby as a high jumper and a pole vaulter. Rumour has it that he was too sore to play Aussie Rules when he was an apprentice carpenter with DCA so he ended up playing league with Aviat, was selected for the Kumuls, made captain and scored two tries against an Australian rep side. He was a Rabaul representative basketballer. A nice modest man to boot.

Whilst at the games in Moresby he was found in the ladies' dormitory after lights out, so the team manager banned him from the high jump on the last day. Kila, a Papuan, won the event which was the last to finish. Joe went over to Kila to congratulate him and as the bar was still up asked if that was the winning height. Kila said yes and Joe walked back, ran up, cleared the height easily. ♦

**Talk presented at the PNGAA Perth Lunch,  
29 March 2019**



# The Sole Survivor

**RALPH SAWYER**

**Congratulations are due to Philip Selth for his balanced article on John Joseph Murphy in *Una Voce's* March 2019 Issue. 'The Trials of Mangrove Murphy' highlights one of the common problems that occurs when sole survivors are involved. The survivor has to come to terms with the fact that he is the sole survivor and that reconciliation process can last for years. What was even more daunting for Murphy was the question that would inevitably arise: 'How come you're the only one left alive?'**

MURPHY WAS EXONERATED on all charges but was never rewarded for his services. Selth states that both the prosecution and defence presentations were flawed. The prosecution case was mainly based on Japanese records, which may not have been that accurate. Nearly all of the Japanese garrison was stranded in Rabaul until the end of the war, and it is possible that many records were shredded or sanitised before they were examined.

There were cases of missing Australians and downed American airmen shot down near Rabaul with no record of their fate. Some were explained by the incomplete records of *Montevideo Maru*. Perhaps the exhumed pilots' bodies after the war did not merit recording in the Japanese order of importance.

On being interrogated, John Murphy should have given his name, rank, serial number and remained silent. This sounds proper but how realistic is it?

He was dealing with the notorious Kempeitai intelligence officers who were the equivalent roughly of the Nazi SS. For anyone in this situation with the threat of torture, some dialogue with the enemy was understandable. It meant you were more likely to survive, and safely give credible false intelligence to the enemy.

If Murphy had given vital intelligence, it is

unlikely that he would have been later acquitted. It is more likely that his information was false or already known. In a similar situation, an Australian prisoner qualified his information with '*and you can tell that to the marines*', a coded message that later exonerated him. And what do we know about Murphy's activities during captivity?

Civilian prisoners later testified that Murphy helped them survive. We do know that Murphy cared for a herd of mules that were used as pack animals. Food was short in Rabaul as the garrison was cut off from homeland supplies. Mule feed could have been copra meal and sago, both of which could double as human food at a pinch. By the end of the war even the mules were eaten.

John Murphy was a fluent linguist in Pidgin [*Tok Pisin*] and *Tok Ples* [local dialect]. It is reasonable to assume that he acquired a modicum of Japanese, and used it to his advantage in his struggle to survive.

We do know that Murphy did communicate with a Christian Kempeitai officer. When this officer came to court in 1946, Murphy volunteered as a friendly witness, which would not have earned him brownie points.

Like many of the ex-servicemen who became senior DNA officers in the 1960s, Murphy was one of that select group who managed miracles with scant resources.

In the 1950s the district headquarters of the Gulf district was transferred from Kikori to Kerema. Murphy was appointed as the new DC to administer from a prewar *sak sak* [woven sago palm] office. Kerema was serviced by a weekly Catalina flying boat. There was a need for a permanent airstrip. Fortuitously, Arthur Carey had arrested about thirty Kuku Kuku tribesmen who were sentenced to long terms at ▶

ABOVE: The District Office at Kerema

**Like many of the ex-servicemen who became senior DNA officers in the 1960s, Murphy was one of that select group who managed miracles with scant resources**

Kerema. Murphy soon had them clearing a sago swamp (no mean task in bare feet) for a landing strip.

The new Kerema club needed stock so the *Magila* was despatched to Thursday Island to pick up a load of lolly water. This prompted a few questions from customs, which the DC deftly handled.

There were other tasks that were performed at minimum cost, but unless you had experienced the perilous black palm floor of the ancient district office you would not fully appreciate the need to improvise at all times. Even as late as 1962, I was gratuitously and confidentially informed: *'Of course, you know he was on collaboration charges after the war.'*

'Honourably acquitted on all charges' seems definite enough but even the mention of 'charges'



Kuku Kuku prisoners unloading cargo at Kerema for the new airstrip

creates reservations with the ill-disposed person. The modern civil jargon 'no case to answer' has a similar ring to it.

With the distance of seventy-five years, most fair-minded people would agree that John Joseph Murphy was not given his full due as an officer and a gentleman. ♦



## My Early Days in TPNG

**MICK SMITH**

**Having just completed my electrical apprenticeship I applied for and was successful in obtaining a position as electrical fitter and mechanic with the Commonwealth Department of Works. I arrived in Port Moresby at 6 am from a midnight takeoff from Eagle Farm Airport on 11 August 1952.**

ONE MONTH LATER I was transferred, along with six other tradesmen—Bill Farmer, foreman; Arthur Carrodus, plumber; Jack Toohey, chippie; Ron Jolly, chippie; Lu Lucas, chippie and Paul Nylhorm, linesman—to start work at building up a new centre for district administration at Popondetta, Northern District. This followed a disastrous eruption of Mt Lamington a year earlier, killing over 3,500 indigenous people and thirty-five Europeans at Higaturu Government Station and surrounding villages, which took the full force of the blast.

I was quartered with Jack Gammon, motor mechanic, in his *kunai*-roofed dwelling until quarters were built for our workforce. The District Commissioner at the time was Sydney Elliott-Smith, assisted by Assistant District Officer (ADO) Clarrie Healy. Having one glass eye, Clarrie was fond of telling the story of how he left his glass eye on a post to watch over his indigenous prisoners. I think one of the clever ones crept up behind the post and put a cover over the eye. Fact or fiction??

After settling in and wiring several new homes, I

was asked to salvage a 25 kW Southern Cross lighting plant from Higaturu, have it repaired and relocated in Popondetta, for the town's electricity supply. I had a party of indigenous police to assist with this work of lifting and loading the unit. We left in a three-ton truck, and headed for Higaturu.

After fording the double crossing, we eventually arrived at Higaturu, and observed the terrible damage that had been inflicted on the centre. Open



Model of the WACO biplane, VH-UYD, made by Mick Smith several years ago (actual plane featured in the heading)

refrigerators with remnants of food still inside, trenches which had been hastily dug to bury the dead, a jeep three metres up a tree and just devastation everywhere. Fortunately, however, the small power house was easily located and the heavy lighting plant was unbolted from the floor and, eventually, secured on the truck for the bumpy ride home.

The lighting plant was repaired, and along with the switchboard was reinstalled in the newly-built power house, connected to the reticulation system, and the town had an electricity supply.

In late November a ceremonial opening of the Mount Lamington Memorial Cemetery at Popondetta was performed by Paul Hasluck, Minister for Territories. A large gathering of local people and visiting dignitaries helped make this a very moving event (*pictured at right*).

In those days Papuan Air Transport (Patair) used a WACO biplane, VH-UYD, to service Popondetta, with pilots either Frank Goussens or Hank Van Santen. The aircraft itself was originally purchased for 2,000 pounds and on its flight north it nosedived at Bankstown airfield and broke its wooden propeller. Once repaired it was flown to Port Moresby and became the company's first aircraft. I flew in it from Popondetta to Port Moresby late in 1952, piloted by Frank Goosens.

Early in 1953 the airline purchased an Avro Ansen, which also carried more passengers and flew to Popondetta on a regular basis. I was transferred to Yule Island in February of that year to provide power to the township of Kairuku, but that's another story.

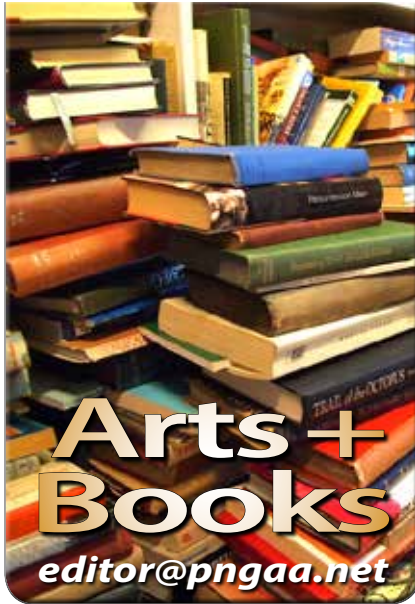
## TPNG Timeline

- 1952** Popondetta—Electrician, CDW.
- 1953** Popondetta then Kairuku, Yule Island, installation of power to the small township along with linesman, Ron Segsman. Provisions supplied fortnightly by CDW and flown in by Sandringham flying boat on its regular flight to Daru. Great little township, played cricket each Saturday against those from the nearby Catholic mission.
- 1954** L/H Electrician at Konedobu power station, Port Moresby, CDW.
- 1955** Foreman at CDW workshop, Port Moresby.
- 1956–59** Work Supervisor, CDW.
- 1957–63** Senior Training Officer. Transferred to Department of Treasury, Civil Affairs, Electrical Undertakings Branch along with



all other electricity personnel from CDW, in preparation for the formation of an Electricity Commission. In the following year Bill D'Arcy and I began training five local apprentices to become the territory's first indigenous electricians. Writing and printing training manuals for power house operators and linesman.

- 1963** PNG Electricity formed with Jock Rutter as Commissioner. Accepted position of Manager, Port Moresby.
- 1971** Applied for position of Town Manager, Yonki, Eastern Highlands, nearest town Kainantu—site of the Commission's giant hydro-electric project. All civil engineering works carried out by 200 Hyundai workers from South Korea. Our family were the first to live within the new township. Eventually, within the year we had a mess hall, which could cater for 200 people, regular movies showing twice a week, medical centre with doctor, staff, ambulance and fire engine. CDW officers were responsible for the supervision of the project. Lae was a three hours' drive away down the Kassam Pass, and in the other direction Kainantu was forty minutes away.
- 1973** Back to Headquarters as new Chief Administrative Officer. Travelled to all commission centres to determine what positions could be localised including my own.
- 1975** Left with family after Independence and settled on the Sunshine Coast. ♦



**Featuring new books about Papua New Guinea and reviews, art and craft exhibitions, interviews of interest to members and information for authors, artists and craftspeople**

creation in 1914 and through the 1920s in her book, *Long Ago is Far Away* (ANU Press, ACT, 1979). An academic work by DC Lewis titled *The Plantation Dream—Developing British New Guinea and Papua 1884–1942* (*Journal of Pacific History*, Canberra, 1996) is essential reading for any serious researchers into plantations in Papua.

Longhurst, however, deals with the difficult years for white plantation managers leading up to self-government and independence and into the following decade. And it is about Papua, which he describes as ‘the last frontier’.

His is an interesting and sensitive account of rapid changes during that period. The chapters in the book’s section ‘From stone axes to city skyscrapers’ are an important record of experiences, observations and impressions of someone who was intimately involved, living in sparsely populated rural areas, far from any towns and remote from the densely-populated Highlands

districts from where some of his labourers were recruited.

Fluent in both of the lingua franca (*Tok Pisin* and *Hiri Motu*) Longhurst was able to interact and communicate with, and so better understand, his (mostly imported) plantation labourers and also the former landowners who were his neighbours in nearby villages. He was thus one of a minority of expatriates in the private sector to experience such close associations with Papua New Guineans.

Life was sometimes very tough, especially given the isolation and lack of government support and not having the ‘powers’ of a kiap (whom, incidentally, he appears to have generally admired). Marriage and commencing a family added to the complexities, trials and tribulations of working and living in, what was then, surely, ‘the last frontier’ as recently as only forty years ago.

The book makes compelling reading for anyone who is interested in PNG, its history, race-relations and (colonial?) master-servant relations during the years immediately prior to and after independence. It is written by someone who is sympathetic to, and understanding of, the complexities of a rapidly changing world for both Papua New Guineans and their former white *mastas*, or in the case of Papua—*taubadas*.

His final chapters analysing the rapid changes from stone axes to skyscrapers should give food for thought to critics of post-independent PNG and current negative reporting on evolving situations in our nearest neighbour.

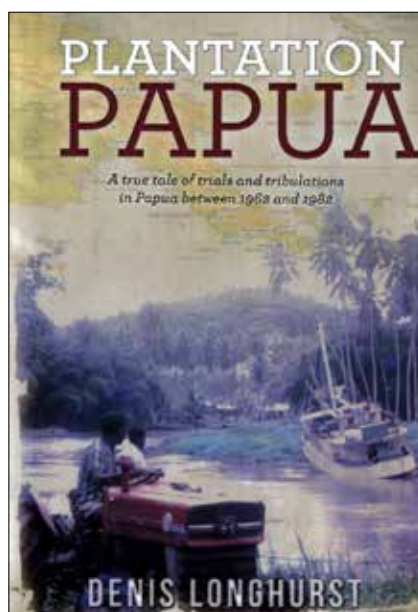
**DENIS LONGHURST**  
***Plantation Papua***

*We rescued them from what we deemed to be a primitive and dysfunctional existence, gave them a system of our own predilection, then left them to deal with the contradictions.* (Longhurst, 2016) ‘Plantation life is the untold story of TPNG’ was the introduction to an article about Epo rubber plantation, near Kerema, by Ralph Sawyer in the March 2017 edition of *Una Voce*.

Andrea Williams, in her review of Richard Broomhead’s *Living on the Edge of the Universe: Paradise Can Be Hell* (*Una Voce*, March 2015), touched on perceptions of the south-sea islands paradise envisaged by some dreamers (probably mainly during European winters). After all, Broomhead’s experiences were in the New Guinea islands—clear blue waters, pristine corals and white sands.

However, Longhurst experienced twenty years on copra and rubber plantations located on, or near, the south coast of Papua, much of which is better known for its less romantic muddy waters and expansive mangrove deltas and nipa swamps.

Penelope Hope gives some insight into earlier life on a plantation at Kikori from its



To again quote Sawyer, this is truly ‘the untold story’—but now an eye-witness account!

**Chris Warrillow, April 2019**

ISBN: 978-1-9255901-7-3

Vivid Publishing, WA, 2016; 329 pp, maps & photographs. Available from the author, phone 0409 897 509 or [denis.longhurst@bigpond.com](mailto:denis.longhurst@bigpond.com). RRP \$28.95

### ‘a Bit na Ta’ on Show in Port Moresby

If you’re in Port Moresby you have the opportunity to experience ‘a Bit na Ta’ at the National Museum and Art Gallery in Waigani.

This video and audio soundscape tells the history of the Tolai people of East New Britain. The project features contributions from the late historian, Gideon Kakabin, and music by George Telek and David Bridie, visual art by Lisa Hilli, video by Keith Deverell and sound design by Nao Anzai.

This travelling exhibition started off in Brisbane, travelled to Taiwan, back to Melbourne and finally is in Port Moresby. It showcases moving image on tapa cloth, Tolai songs and soundscape and a few exhibits from the



East New Britain Province. It’s a powerful experience that’s not to be missed!

Details at the NMAG website <http://www.museumpng.gov.pg/news/a-bit-na-tar-exhibition-opening-soon/>

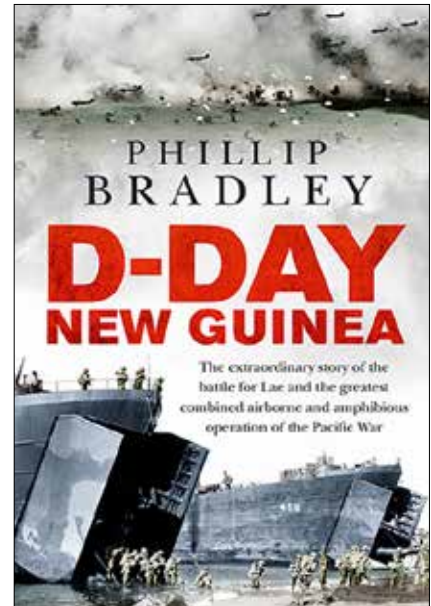
### PHILLIP BRADLEY D-Day New Guinea

This book tells the extraordinary story of the battle for Lae and the greatest combined airborne and amphibious operation of the Pacific War.

The capture of Lae was the most complex operation for the Australian Army in the Second World War. In many ways it was also a rehearsal for the D-Day invasion of France, with an amphibious landing combined with the first successful large-scale Allied airborne operation of the war.

The author provides an excellent background to the battle and tells the story of the New Guinea Volunteer Rifles (NGVR) and Australian New Guinea Administrative Unit (ANGAU) involvement leading up to and beyond the battle. He also recognises the feat of arms by the Japanese in moving its troops north across the Sarawaget Range to the north coast, losing twenty-five per cent of its force, escaping from the Australian pincer movement from west, east and south. This escape was a result of Australian underestimation of the Imperial Japanese Army and lack of foresight to prevent such an unlikely northern escape. If one is familiar with the area, the book is easy to read and understand.

D-Day New Guinea brings together the extraordinary stories of the Australian, American and Japanese in this battle, and of the fight against the cloying jungle,



the raging rivers and the soaring mountain ranges that made New Guinea such a daunting battlefield.

‘Java is heaven, Burma is hell, but you never come back alive from New Guinea’—Japanese military saying.

Phillip Bradley brings a compelling clarity, humanity and new insight into a little known but crucial Australian battle of the Pacific War.

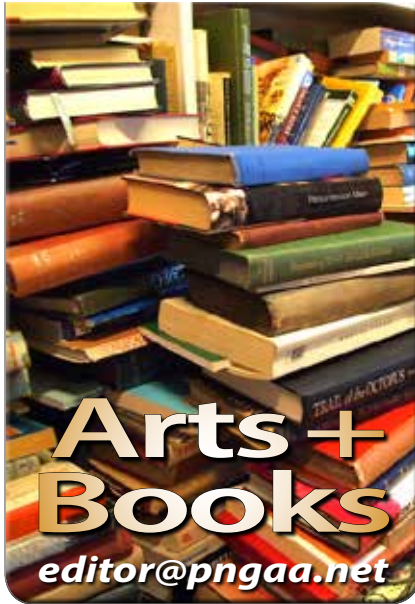
ISBN: 978-1-7606325-8-8

Allen & Unwin, 2019; 336 pp, maps and photographs. Available from Allen & Unwin or your local bookstore. RRP \$32.99

### PNGAA congratulates Julianne Ross Allcorn

Julianne Ross Allcorn was PNGAA’s events co-ordinator in Sydney for many years, and we congratulate her in her success in her artistic endeavours.

Juli exhibited thirty-two works in a solo exhibition at Ravenswood School in Gordon, Sydney in March and April 2019. She was also one of eight artists worldwide to be accepted for a Research Drawing Residency in Caylus, France from 23 March to 2 May 2019, and was asked to exhibit her two-metre square ▶



pencil and watercolour work on 12 birch panels—‘Et florere quid incipit cantus natura est scriptor’ (Nature’s blossoming and singing), in Paris (*pictured below*).

Juli has been a finalist in a number of prizes including the Gosford Art Prize, Ravenswood Art Prize, the Hunters Hill Art Prize where she also won the



People’s Choice Award in 2018, as well as winning the 2018 Mosman Art Prize Viewers’ Choice Award with ‘Bush Gossips and quiet moments’, a large but detailed mixed-media painting on wood panels inspired by animals and plant life within the Australian bush.

Congratulating Julianne on her win, John Cheeseman, Director, Mosman Art Gallery said, ‘Julianne’s quintessentially Australian painting was the clear winner at this year’s Viewers’ Choice.’

She is also a finalist in the Ravenswood Art Prize for 2019 and a finalist for the Hunter Hills Art Prize for 2019.

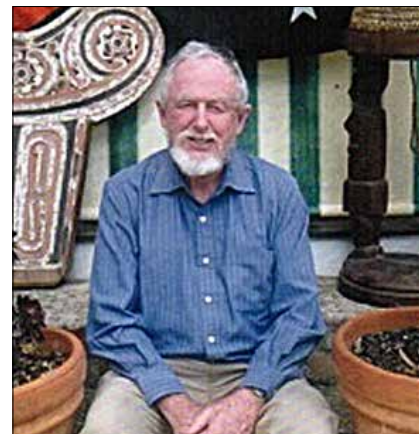
#### **ANDREA WILLIAMS**

#### **‘Liklik Samting Long Taim Bifor’**

Over the month of February, John Quinn—now a long-term resident of Avoca in the beautiful Pyrenees region of Victoria and a long-time contributor to *Una Voce*, held an exhibition of artefacts and photographs from his time (1959 to 1975) in various districts of Papua New Guinea.

The exhibition was entitled ‘*Liklik Samting Long Taim Bifor*’—for you non-Pidgin English speakers ‘Small Things from Times Past’—and was held at Gallery 127 in Avoca; the gallery is the refurbished Avoca Railway Station (built in 1874) with its name originating in the fact that it was exactly 127 miles by train from Melbourne.

The exhibition attracted quite a bit of interest, as it was something completely different from the paintings and sculptures usually exhibited there, with people coming from not only local areas, but also from Ballarat, Geelong



and Melbourne. Some PNG people, now resident in Victoria, also made the trip to have a look and to reminisce.

John (*pictured*) was also able to give advice to a local lass, who had been bequeathed some items from an aunt who had worked in a prewar mission in PNG; these turned out to be beautifully detailed and authentic tapa cloths—quite rare and valuable.

John exhibited some highlights including a set of cane armour from the Waina-Sowanda people of the Sepik District, and a Ligam splash-board—perhaps a hundred years old—from a Kula canoe of the Milne Bay District. He was only sorry that he hadn’t collected many more of the beautifully and intricately-carved wooden bowls from the Trobriand Islands as his, surplus to requirements, were avidly bought!

People also commented on photos of an engineering marvel of the Kamea people of the inland Gulf District—a suspension bridge over the raging Tauri River. This stretched over fifty or more metres, being made of jungle materials with not a nail or piece of metal used in its construction.

All in all, the exhibition hopefully did its small bit in encouraging interest in PNG, our nearest neighbour. ♦

**YANA DI PIETRO**





## Didiman's Diary #11

DAVID MONTGOMERY

The story continues from *Una Voce*, March 2019,  
of new experiences, challenges and developments in West New Britain

ONE OF THE DELIGHTS of tropical living, and the indigenous people's skill as gardeners, was the abundance of fresh tropical fruits and vegetables—beans, tomatoes, sweet potatoes, taro, yams, tapioca and leafy greens. Fresh European potatoes were highly valued, as those available from the Chin Cheu's trade store at Talasea were always well sprouted and of suspect quality. Our garden handyman, Tito, would request the peelings (with sprouts). On one occasion, some three months later, I asked him if he had dug the potatoes, 'Yes' he said and then confessed he had given them to the local Irish priest.

Apart from an occasional visit by a coastal trader there was little marine activity other than the government workboats. Ted Foad was the most regular visitor. You could hear him coming before he arrived over the horizon! This was beneficial in that there was time for the locals to get their produce to the wharf or beachside.

With the development of timber exports and the palm oil industry, a marine survey was to be undertaken of Stetten Bay extending to the proposed township of Kimbe.

**28 April 1964**—a telegram was received at the sub-district office: *Warship HMAS Paluma (3rd) due 1030 hrs.* The Assistant District Officer, Chris Normoyle, sent a note to Gillian, as our house looked across Stetten Bay and Garua Island, asking her to report the arrival of the 'warship'. In due course Gillian responded: *Warship Paluma has arrived and appears to be bogged* (Gillian's not very nautical terminology) *on a reef off Garua Island.* This was not the case;

however, it became a joke with the crew at our social evenings at the Talasea Club. Not so with the captain, Lt-Cmdr Varley, who had previously scraped off some of the survey gear attached to the ship on the Barrier Reef. HMAS *Paluma* carried an armament of two .303 service rifles and the captain's pistol! Interestingly, the Queensland town of Paluma has a war service memorial monument to an earlier vessel of the same name, *Paluma* (1st). The vessel stayed in the survey area for six months.

**17 May 1964**—there was much excitement with the arrival of the HMAS *Anzac*—a magnificent sight anchored off the north side of Garua Island. I was invited on board on several occasions by the Captain, Lt-Cmdr (Nobby) Clarke and his 'offsider', Lt-Cmdr (R) Wilson. Dr Wilson was a Perth medical specialist and was spending three weeks on the ship.

The forthcoming visit, and lunch, with the Governor-General Viscount Lord Sidney de Lisle and his daughter, the Honourable Catherine Sidney, was discussed. The captain said, 'Anything you need we have it.' I successfully negotiated a chief steward, a table steward, a bar steward, a complete silver service setting for eight, six bottles of wine, five dozen glasses, linen serviettes and a linen tablecloth for the official table at the Talasea Club on 22 May. To stock the club bar, unrestricted quantities of Victorian beer was required. ▶

*ABOVE:* The north eastern view from our house at Talasea, 1961–65. Lovely to wake up to everyday—looking across Stetten Bay to the Willaumez Peninsula and Mt Bola (*centre of photo*), an active volcanic land mass.



TOP: Cacao fermentary building under construction, 1964, Uasilau Central Nakanai West New Britain District  
 BELOW: Fresh water supply in bamboo 'bucket' for Government Rest House, 1963

During the week, visits to the ship by local village elders and council dignitaries were arranged and they, too, were guests of the Talasea Club for the luncheon.

What a memorable week, which also included a couple of picture shows for all at the club courtesy of the *Anzac*.

Three DC3s with press, public relations, etc. arrived a few minutes before the dignitaries landed at Talasea (Volupai airstrip), and so to the official welcome and lunch. All and sundry lined up, the local planters, government staff and the village officials. Brian McBride, the Assistant District Officer, introduced the Governor-General and my task, as president of the Talasea Club, was to introduce his daughter, Catherine. I was hopeful she would pause, ask a question, comment on the area, her surroundings. No—there was just the formal handshake and repeatedly 'How do you do'!

After the first twenty or so introductions, in my head, I was saying 'Cockle doodle do'. The protocol officer on the ship had earlier stressed, 'If you forget a name just make one up, your guest will in all probability be unawares.' That was okay until it happened with one of my own staff members. He was unimpressed with his substituted name.

Following the lunch there was a tour of the station. The official party departed the next day by air for Port Moresby.

A great upside of the *Anzac* visit, apart from the socialising, was that anything needed to be fixed—was fixed—wirelesses, lights, motorbikes, jeeps, generators, etc. It was great to have a skilled temporary workshop!

Land settlement had become the focus—initially, in the immediate vicinity of the town of Kimbe and extensive areas had been purchased by the administration. This extended to village areas from Cape Hoskins to Bangalu Bay and, eventually, extending further north to Ewase. Going forward fifty years, the scale of development of palm oil on the whole of the West New Britain coast is staggering. I would love to see this development now and the changes it has brought.

As an insight into a 'normal' day's work involving land settlement, the following diary note is recorded:

*9/2/64. 0900 by speed boat to San Remo Plantation (which was subsequently purchased by the Administration and is now part of the town of Kimbe). Walked to Ruango Village and then by tractor to the DAGI land settlement arriving 1115. Peter Croke (Project Manager) arrived 1300 after leaving Cape Hoskins 0600—getting bogged and raft turning over in the DAGI River. Departed the land settlement area by Landrover 1630. Brief stops San Remo (Wing-Comdr William (Bill) Faulkner-Allshorn as he preferred to be known) and Walindi Plantation (Margaret and Lou Searle). The trip took 4.5 hours—36 miles, arriving Talasea 2100!*

In each of my previous ten Didiman diaries there has been an aviation highlight. In the 1950s–60s when relying on unscheduled services, private or government charters, the catch phrase was 'the land of wait a while'. Strip sitting became the norm and often without any creature comforts. My diary frequently noted occasions like: *0900 to airstrip, awaiting Aztec. 0930—amended to 1030, 1145, 1215! Departed 1230 for Rabaul*. In earlier stories I spoke of there being no anxious moments flying in TPNG, however, there was one which, on reflection, could have been disastrous.

Having completed a patrol into Sibul, Esau, and Berberg river areas on the east coast to inspect cacao and coconut establishment, I returned to Cutarp Plantation (Mr Butcher) and then to Pomio Patrol Post. This area subsequently became part of East New Britain. The following morning a mission workboat was chartered to Jacquinet Bay and Unung Plantation

(Mr Bode). Contact was made with TAA Lae to ask for a diversion of the Aztec Rabaul-Kandrian-Lae service into Jacquinot Bay and Talasea.

The aircraft arrived Jacquinot Bay and at 1030 departed for Talasea with Agricultural Officer Jones and myself. Also on board was a passenger for Kandrian, the manager of Arawe Plantation. As we crossed the Whiteman Range (approx. 4,500 feet ASL) the pilot was advised that Talasea (Volupai) airstrip was closed so we headed west for Kandrian. Flying through cloud and severe turbulence we suddenly flew into clear still air which, in fact, was a 360 degree 'funnel' surrounded by dense cumulus cloud.

Our pilot was disinclined to fly into and perhaps through the cloud wall, and continued circling upwards in the hope of getting above the cloud and flying out. We were getting close to the Aztec's ceiling with severe icing occurring to the aircraft.

The pilot was looking for guidance. Fortunately, a DC3 flying along the south coast made contact and gave compass directions for clearer air. After an hour and a very bumpy ride we arrived over the Pacific Ocean and turned right to land at Kandrian.

From the outset, our Rabaul passenger was upset by the diversion and became volubly traumatised by the experience—and our fuel had been close to exhausted. The pilot was not prepared to take off again for Lae and requested avgas from Rabaul. A DC3 was dispatched with a 44-gallon drum of fuel! As the best option, Jones and I flew back to Rabaul on the DC3, and two days later flew back to Talasea via Cape Hoskins.

An interesting diversion in the Central Nakanai in 1959–60, centred on Uasilau, was the arrival of a CRA team of geologists. I had earlier provided some soil samples from the confluence of the Ala River and an adjoining river. Unannounced, and during my routine patrol inspecting native cacao plantations and processing facilities, a helicopter arrived carrying a couple of geologists who worked in the area for some weeks. The anticipation of economic copper deposits was not fulfilled.

Early in 1964 the move to individual land ownership was gathering pace, the forerunner to the now extensive palm oil and cacao plantings. Over a period of several days the project manager, Peter Croke, and myself registered over 380 applications. Public service conditions did not apply in those days. On 18 March after commencing the day at 0715 at the Uasilau base camp and inspecting settlement blocks,

the flooded Ala River was negotiated, and after an hour arrived at the Santa Maria Mission (Fr Wagner) at Silanga. At 2000 we started signing off applications and payment of lease fees. 225 applications, with queries, took us through to 0100 (1 am!). At 0630 we began a two-hour walk to Lasebu to board the government workboat MV *Langu* to return to Talasea.

Moving away from the intensity of the work involved in the land settlement program, special reference is made to Peter Croke who made a significant contribution to the success of the West New Britain land settlement projects. Peter continued working in TPNG, eventually assuming senior positions with the Papua New Guinea Development Bank.

Over the period of my TPNG career I had been nominated for a health education fellowship in the Philippines, but this was not approved by Canberra. I had also applied to continue my studies at the School of Tropical Agriculture in Trinidad. Insufficient professional qualification was the reason given for declining my application.

My decision to return to Australia was a relatively easy one. I had reached the top of my salary scale at age twenty-nine and I decided, with two small children, that the offer of a transfer to Port Moresby was an unattractive one.

Recreation and long service leave was due. Some twelve months previously I had notified our Chief of Division, Jack Lamrock, of my intention to resign. In August 1965 Gillian, our two sons and myself departed Rabaul on the SS *Francis Drake*. Gillian cried as we departed. Talasea was the happiest of times. ♦

*My 'Didiman Diaries 1954–65'  
have barely covered those exciting years—  
very special experience with very special people*



Scott, David, Mark and Gillian Montgomery on their 'swan song' tour, at Wau airstrip, before departing TPNG, August 1965

# 'We are not here for ourselves alone'

**GRAHAM HENRY JOHN POPLER, MBE  
1935–2019**

**He loved his adopted country and the people within it  
—although he retired to Australia, his heart remained in Papua  
New Guinea, and he retained his PNG citizenship until his passing.  
Graham Pople's life work and efforts have allowed his legacy to  
continue, not only with his current and future descendants,  
but also in the lives of those that he has touched,  
and the country itself—Papua New Guinea.**



BORN IN ARMIDALE NSW, on 14 March 1935, Graham's family moved to Beecroft NSW for the war years before returning to Armidale where he completed primary and secondary schooling.

Being very skilled in both academic and athletic ability, he played numerous sports including cricket, boxing and rugby union. Following his high school years, he enlisted and served on HMAS *Australia* (II).

Returning from his time at sea he moved to Sydney and studied at the Australian School of Pacific Administration (ASOPA).

In 1956, after attaining his certifications and completing the course, he applied for an advertised vacancy for a cadet patrol officer in Papua New Guinea. He was successful in gaining a position and his journey as a kiap began. As the role was due to commence shortly after his successful appointment, he flew to Port Moresby where he celebrated his twenty-first birthday with the late Sir Barry Holloway and many others at the Papua Hotel.

In his role as a patrol officer, his first posting was in Daru, PNG and in 1963, he was later posted to Gumine. It didn't take long for the locals to see the values and ideals that he always held close to him, and in 1964 he became the pioneer-elected National Member of the first House of Assembly for Gumine district in Papua New Guinea.

He was chosen by his peers in 1965 as one of eight to travel to Australia on a familiarisation tour. During their visit to Australia, four of the party appeared on the ABC show, *Four Corners*. A little hindsight came into play as when he watched the aired version of the episode, and realised that his refusal to apply makeup before appearing on camera, aged him considerably on the show.

The tour took them to Canberra and allowed them all to meet then prime minister, Bob Menzies, and

granted them a short meeting with the leader of the opposition, Gough Whitlam.

He completed his four-year term in Gumine and in 1968 stood for the Chimbu regional seat. On initial count, he lost by 200 votes, but following a recount later, the appointment was offered to him, which he declined, due to his lack of interest in the finer details of politics. This ended up being a great decision, as a role in politics would not suit someone as honest as he was.

Not long after, he relocated to the Trobriand Islands in 1970, and set up a base for himself with the local store and post office under his command. It didn't take long for him to take note of a local girl who caught his eye riding a bicycle in the heavy rain while holding an umbrella. Meeting Julia changed his life, and on 10 April 1971 he wed his island sweetheart in Losuia Uniting Church.

The next stage in his journey was very much due to weather as a cyclone hit Tufi, a town in PNG's Oro Province, hard. He relocated his new family there and worked hard to rebuild the Tufi Lodge and lengthen the airport runway. In a very short time, the lodge was refurbished and extended. With the extension came the additional opportunities within Tufi, which ended up with him setting up many of the still standing services. Included in this was the guest house, post office, bank, general store, airline agency and the local fuel agency. To put it in simpler terms, at the time, Graham Pople *was* Tufi, and he built it up from scratch following the cyclone.

The news of his father's passing influenced his decision to sell up at Tufi and relocate his family back to Australia. After a short stay in Port Macquarie, he settled with his family in Redcliffe QLD. As he did for everyone, he tried everything possible to provide for his family, with short bursts in different industries.

In 1985, following the death of his father-in-law in PNG, the decision was made that he would return there to seek employment as, at the time, there were more opportunities for his growing family due to economy and opportunity factors. With his skills and proven abilities, he was quickly able to secure a position as the general manager of DIFCO, stationed at Murray Barracks in Port Moresby. Within this newfound role, he oversaw the delivery of vital goods and services to military barracks throughout Papua New Guinea, and he was able to arrange that all barracks across the country were given access to cable television technologies.

He then took up the position of general manager with Territorial Enterprises, now known as TPNG. Following a few years of loyal service to the company, the decision was made in 1988 to establish Tomota Trading, which was the key to commencing trading as the Korobosea General Store.

Throughout the many ups and downs of the new business, he kept steadfast with his morals and life values. On more than one occasion, he visited homes of his staff to ensure that they were safe and taken care of, regardless of the situation or his personal safety.

He was approached with many opportunities, but eventually accepted an offer to join Porgera Gold Mine in 1992 as a community affairs officer. This new role granted him the opportunity to travel via helicopter to mines. His fluency in many local languages, including Motu and Kiwai, allowed him to connect and interact with locals which helped to ease some of the burdens of his role.

Before long, other mining companies learned of his prowess in his roles and he transitioned to the country manager for Barracuda (Madison). Based from a hotel room at the Weigh Inn in Port Moresby, he oversaw the successful management of the mining company. At the same time, he made continuous suggestions to the running of the Weigh Inn. The suggestions that he put forward were heard and actioned, and when the Mt Kare Joint Venture declined, he accepted the role of general manager at the Weigh Inn Hotel.

Even after the official cessation of employment with the mining company, he continued to liaise and facilitate many of the company's functions on a contractual basis until the company ceased to operate. With the change of industry from mining to hospitality, he became a friendly face at the Weigh Inn, and continued to manage the hotel for the next five years.

## **Graham was presented an MBE by the Governor-General for his community service and long-term efforts in rural PNG**

Due to some managerial conflicts, the decision was made to leave employment at the Weigh Inn and a similar position at the Hideaway Hotel was offered and accepted. This new position saw him enhance the hotel's offerings substantially before his retirement to Australia two years later, where he set up base in Woody Point, QLD (part of the Redcliffe Peninsula). Here he enjoyed the laid-back lifestyle and weekly beachside walks with his wife, Julia.

In November of 2011, he made a trip to Port Moresby and was presented an MBE by the Governor-General for his community service and long-term efforts in rural Papua New Guinea.

On 12 September 2014, both he and his wife, Julia, relocated to Cairns into the Regis facility at Redlynch. Five years of frequent visits from his family, he saw his last days through until his passing on 11 February 2019.

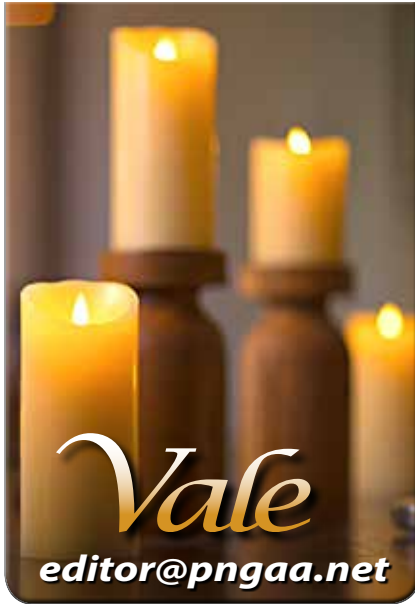
He was a gentleman and always carried with him an essence of respect and honour for others. He lived by the Pople family motto of: *'we are not here for ourselves alone'*. ♦

### **MWEISI CARRA, née POPLE**

An edited extract from Graham's eulogy



The Pople Family—  
Back, from left: Paul, Ilovau, Deric, Boutula;  
Front, from left: Kylie, Kalitoni, Grace, Mum, Shane, Mweisi, Mitakata, and Graham Pople (at left)



**BAKER, Tony Clarence A  
d. 19 December 2018**

I am writing to inform you that another proud expat has left this world. Dad was a teacher/principal/regional inspector and enjoyed a long career in PNG Education.

We lived in Keravat then Daru during the sixties. A couple of years in Wewak at Brandi, followed by Tusbab at Madang where Dad finished up his PNG career around the time of Independence.

I think 1975 was my last visit to Madang. We have fond memories of growing up in PNG, with no TV or Internet we really lived every minute of our lives.

I remember expecting a Beechcraft to be some sort of seaplane, like a Catalina. And Mum's homemade bread and ice cream attempts. Can still remember most of the swear words in Motu, Kiwai and a little Tolai.

Mum (Beth Baker) died in October 2017. Both were victims of cancer. They are sadly missed every day by Stephen, Julie and Jenny. And grandchildren Joseph, Ben, Nicole, Erin, Henry and Oscar.

*Steve Baker (son)*

**ENSOR, Norman Leslie, OAM  
d. 21 October 2017, aged 94**

Late of Newcastle, formerly of Revesby. Beloved husband of Betty (deceased). Much loved father, grandfather and great-grandfather.

Norm enlisted to fight in WWII

**The recent history of Papua New Guinea is intimately bound up with the people who made PNG their home and, in many cases, their life's work. It is therefore fitting, but also with deep regret, that we record the passing of members and friends.**

at the age of seventeen, joining the 7th Division, Army Signals. He was posted to PNG in November 1942, and was a signalman in the Kokoda campaign.

Norm had been the senior vice-president of the 7th Division Australian Imperial Forces Association since 2009 and was Secretary/Treasurer from 2004–2009. Norm was a volunteer at the Kokoda Memorial Walkway at Concord West, where he had guided hundreds of students and visitors. He said in a newspaper article in 2016, *'We took over 3000 kids a year, trying to teach them about the Anzac traditions ... teaching in schools very rarely gets past Gallipoli; to me Kokoda should be told as best as possible.'*

In 1964, along with other 7th Division veterans, Norm helped raise funds to set up the Situm School about twenty miles outside Lae, a primary school educating about 800 students. He returned for memorial celebrations at the school in 2013 where he was given a hero's welcome. In 2015 Norm started to raise money for solar panels for the school and hospital; his nephew David Ensor, president of Rotary in



Norman Ensor, when he was posted to New Guinea in 1942

Berry, NSW, then made the school his project and at the end of the year presented 5,895 kina to the Rotary Club of Lae Huon Gulf, who support the school.

Every Sunday Norm played the organ at the Padstow Anglican Church, and regularly gave talks to service clubs on a life well lived. Norm was an executive member of the Padstow RSL Sub-Branch; on Australia's Anzac Day Committee; and a long-time member of the Battle for Australia Commemoration Committee. He was awarded the Order of Australia Medal in 2016 for service to veterans and their families.

**UV:** compilation of information from newspapers, letters and obituaries, with special thanks to Doug Roser.

**FLETCHER, Charles Thomas  
d. 13 April 2019, aged 76**

Charlie was born on 6 September, 1942—a mere month after his father was killed in World War II.

For his first ten years Charlie, his mum Phyllis, and sister Pat, lived with his father's parents; a cold and oft miserly family. It wasn't a happy time, but it was a formative one for Charlie, as he developed strong protective instincts for Phyllis and Pat.

Things changed for the better when Phyllis was awarded a War Widow's Home: 40 Franklin Road, East Doncaster, which is the Forever Fletcher Home.

Graduating from Agricultural College, Charlie travelled to Papua New Guinea to work as a patrol officer then later for the Department of Agriculture. However, by the seventies he had become a trader, establishing co-operative stores in the inland and coastal area of Kerema, Gulf Province. And this is



Charlie Fletcher

where he first met Terori and Maria—the loves of his life.

When he left PNG in 1980, Charlie's unique skill set was highly valued and he was employed by Australian Volunteers Abroad and other NGOs to work in Vanuatu, Cambodia and the Northern Territory. He and Terori became integral members of these communities, working as a team in those remote areas.

To his two daughters, Charlie was the most loyal and dedicated father who made their world a better place

On retirement he returned to Franklin Road, and dedicated himself to his dogs, books and not forgetting the bowls club.

His unique sense of curiosity made him an intrepid traveller—and he and Terori have travelled much of the world. They were planning new adventures when he was taken ill.

Charlie—humble in every way, he always gave more than he received. He also had an unforgettable laugh.

**Sarah Walsh (daughter of Charlie's sister, Pat Murdoch)**

**LAMB, David**  
d. 13 March 2019

David Lamb had a strong academic background, including a PhD in forestry and in 1972 joined the Department of Forests in PNG as a research forester, where one of his

responsibilities was the supervision of forest practices for the Gogol Valley project, the first large-scale pulpwood logging operation in the Madang District.

He recognised early on that complex patterns of kinship, land ownership and ambitions for land use following logging were more difficult to deal with than the obvious technical challenges of forest regeneration.

He left in 1977 where he joined the University of Queensland and lectured in forest ecology, and worked on forest restoration for a range of international organisations.

He worked closely with the Australia Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation (APFNet), who stated that he will long be remembered for his immense contribution to forest restoration in the Asia-Pacific region.

**UV:** Compiled from obituaries from University of Queensland and APFNet

**LARNER, Muriel,**  
**née MacGowan, MBE**  
d. 18 April 2019, aged 90

Some people just live, others live useful and productive lives.

*RIP Mu.*

*(Please see page 23 for her funeral eulogy by her friend, Lawrence Cremin)*

**MITCHELL, Bevan Charles**  
d. 14 August 2018, aged 96

Passed away in Calvary Hospital, Canberra, late of Kalparrin Aged Care, Holt. Former husband of Robyn (dec.), beloved father of Olivia and Fran, compassionate friend to many.

Bevan was a lieutenant, RAN, in WWII, and was a legal officer in Papua New Guinea 1971–75. A scholar and a gentleman.

**PERRY, Graham Arthur**  
d. 1 February 2019, aged 89

Graham Perry was well known to very many kiaps in the Namatanai

area, and very well known as a plantation manager and business man in the Gazelle Peninsular, New Ireland and Kieta areas.

After serving six years in the Australian Army in Korea and Japan, Graham arrived in PNG in 1953 and was initially employed as a plantation manager in the Kokopo area. Several years later he transferred to New Ireland where he again worked on plantations in the Kavieng area.

In 1964 Graham married the gracious and accomplished Yoshiko Nishikawa of Hiroshima, Japan.

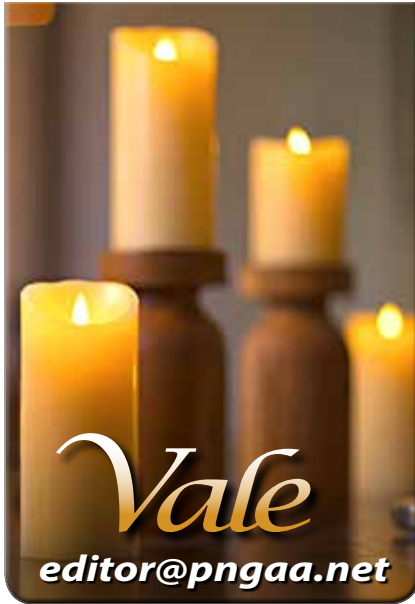
After becoming employed by Plantation Holdings Ltd, he was appointed manager of the Mageh Plantation located a few miles south of Namatanai. He subsequently redeveloped Mageh into a very viable business featuring copra, cacao and cattle. Graham also built up his own business interests in Namatanai township involving retail, postal and trucking activities.

Eventually, Graham and his family relocated to Rabaul and Kieta where he became involved in a number of agency enterprises. Graham and Yoshiko returned to Australia in 1988 and settled in Brisbane.

Graham Perry was the epitome of a determined and hard-working businessman. He had many practical skills being good at mechanics, carpentry, welding, plant maintenance and the like. Whilst initially he was typical of the plantation manager culture prevalent in the fifties and sixties, he did readily adapt to the changing times and came to relate very well with local indigenous people and politicians.

In his later years Graham competed successfully as a veteran marathon runner, and is survived by wife Yoshiko, son Grayson, and grandchildren Alexandra and William.

**Harry Redmond** ▶



**PETERSEN, Brian Francis**  
**d. 27 December 2018, aged 81**

Brian was born at Whangarei, New Zealand on 31 January 1937. He died in hospital at Woodville, South Australia, aged eighty-one.

As a permanent officer in New Guinea, he had a long career in the teaching service. This started in Daru, he then moved on to other Gulf District primary schools, and ended as a regional training officer based in Rabaul. Over the years he was appointed to high schools at Mount Hagen and Malabunga and, eventually, became headmaster of the Boisen High School in Rabaul.

Although I never saw him working with his students, my impression is that he had a remarkable rapport with them. This emanated from his generosity, energy and careful attention to detail.

For many years, when leave-time came Brian would take two or three youngsters to Australia with him as a 'prize' for their diligence at school. In the Boisen annual magazine there are photos of him as a participant in the sports day events. No-one could accuse this headmaster of being out of touch with his students.

In the last couple of years of his life Brian had many health problems. A stroke, combined with knee and hip pain meant that he was increasingly house-bound.

Latterly, one of the most-anticipated social events of his year was the annual PNGAA luncheon in Adelaide where a seat at the 'chalkies table' was essential.

Vale—Brian  
*PH Routley, AM*

**POPLE, Graham HJ, MBE**  
**d. 11 February 2019, aged 83**

Graham loved his adopted country and the people within it—although he retired to Australia, his heart remained in Papua New Guinea, and he retained his PNG citizenship until his passing.

Graham Pople's life work and efforts have allowed his legacy to continue, not only with his current and future descendants, but also in the lives of those that he has touched, and the country itself—Papua New Guinea.

*Mweisi Carra, née Pople*  
(Please turn to page 50 for an edited extract from Graham's funeral eulogy)

**SOMAL, Gabriel**  
**d. 11 April 2019, aged 71**

One of PNG's leading foresters. There will be an article on Gabriel Somal in the September edition of *Una Voce*.

**SWEENEY, John Joseph**  
**d. 19 May 2018, aged 97**

John Joseph Sweeney, known as Jack, was born on 7 December 1920 at the Atherton Hospital in North Queensland, the eldest of three boys and three girls. His father was a policeman and was stationed all over the far north. Consequently, Jack attended many schools and his final school years were at Columba Catholic College at Charters Towers.

In 1939, Jack joined the police force as a cadet. It didn't take him long to realise he did not like shift work, and he joined the navy and went to Victoria for his training where he qualified as a stoker.

Jack arrived at Singapore just as the Japanese bombing started and

was on board HMAS *Hobart* when it departed Singapore on 2 February 1942—just before the surrender on 15 February 1942. As well as service in Asia and the Pacific, Jack also crewed on other naval ships, mainly corvettes, in the Mediterranean and the Persian Gulf. At the end of the war he was on HMAS *Warramunga* in Tokyo Bay for the signing of the Japanese surrender, which took place on USS *Missouri*.

After his discharge from the navy, Jack re-joined the Queensland Police Force and served in Brisbane, Goodna and Ipswich. Once again shift work got the better of him, and after two years he decided he had had enough and resigned.

He then worked in a number of places around Australia, including Woomera Rocket Range and, ultimately, had three attempts at crocodile shooting because that was the way he wanted to make a living. The first two attempts in Northern Australia just paid the bills, but the third attempt in Papua New Guinea was financially successful, as Jack combined it with buying crocodile skins and selling trading-store goods.

Jack initially arrived in PNG in 1955 and worked for several years in various jobs, including crocodile shooting. Finally, in 1962, he travelled to Singapore to purchase the 70-foot 70-tonne MV *Crocodilo*, and sailed it down through Indonesia to Darwin, shooting crocodiles along the way. The following year Jack returned to PNG with the *Crocodilo* and based himself in Daru. Jack's nephew, Gary Selwood, later took over the vessel as a barramundi fishing boat.

By this time Jack had built a store in Daru, and also purchased the ferro-cement boat, MV *Vanlin*, with which he commenced regular trading on the Fly River system and also on the Aramia River in the Balimo area.

Jack was very good at spotting



business opportunities. On one occasion he was in Port Moresby and Government Stores was auctioning off surplus defence force metal ammunition boxes. Jack purchased one thousand of these, took them back to Daru and sold them when he was out trading on the *Vanlin*. These 'iron handbags' were very popular as they had a very strong waterproof rubber seal and kept belongings dry.

On another occasion Government Stores was selling off brass, language-proficiency indicators, which had previously been issued to PNG defence force personnel. Jack purchased these and stuck sets of them on small sheets of cardboard, together with a typed explanation, and later sold them.

He departed PNG in 1977 and in 1979 married Marilyn—they had eleven wonderful years together before Marilyn passed away. There were no children from the marriage. To keep himself busy in 'retirement' Jack slowly sold off his accumulation of hundreds of PNG artefacts, and made and sold jewellery, which often incorporated crocodile teeth. Jack was also a writer of poetry. He self-published two books of poems and had several poems converted to songs.

Jack was one of the 'old school' who lived a full life, shaped by the Great Depression and the war, and he retained values of integrity, honesty and humour all his life. Jack passed away on 19 May 2018, aged ninety-seven, and is sadly missed by his extended family and friends. Rest in peace, Jack.

**Gary Selwood & Deryck Thompson**  
(See *September Una Voce* for a story about Jack—'Record Delivery Time')

**WETHERELL, Ildikó**  
(née Szent-Ivany), OAM  
d. 16 February 2019, aged 78

Born in Hungary on 31 August 1941, Ildikó (Ildi) Wetherell came to

Australia in the mid-fifties at the age of fifteen.

Her grandfather, Colonel-General Géza Lakatos, commander of the 1st Hungarian Army, with his supporters in 1944 overthrew the German-installed government in Budapest armed with a single tank. Lakatos then became prime minister.

Before the war he had been awarded the title of 'Vitéz' (Gallant Soldier or Hero of the Nation). As prime minister he attempted to steer the country towards neutrality and out of a collision course between Nazi Germany and Soviet Russia. In politics he was independent; in religion his family were Reformed Church Hungarians (similar theology to Presbyterians).

He lost his military position and his estates under Hungarian Communism, but was allowed to join his daughter Maria, Ildi's mother, in Adelaide in 1966, the year of Ildi's marriage to Peter Wetherell.

Ildi had accompanied her mother to Australia ten years earlier, when the failed Hungarian uprising in 1956 had briefly enabled 200,000 people to emigrate.

By this time her father, Dr Joe Szent-Ivany, had been working for several years as an entomologist in the PNG Department of Agriculture, Stock and Fisheries (DASF) based in Port Moresby, where he had added considerably to the national insect collection at Konedobu. When Maria and Ildi arrived in Australia they had not seen Ildi's father for twelve years.

Educated at St Peter's Lutheran School, Brisbane, and at the University of Queensland 1958–69, Ildi divided her life between Brisbane and Port Moresby. The family home was at Boroko.

Ildikó Szent-Ivany met Peter Wetherell, formerly a student at Townsville Grammar School, through the Queensland University Musical Society. There were two



Ildikó Wetherell

children, Melinda and Christopher. In Adelaide, where they arrived in 1980, Ildi was one of the founders of the Hungarian Community School and, on its incorporation in 1983, its president. She was also president of the Ethnic Schools Association, and in this role organised exhibitions, dinners, concerts and balls.

She was a sparkling and witty personality, intellectually engaged, and a natural leader. She also resembled her mother in possessing a beautiful voice made distinctive by its Hungarian cadences.

For her work within the Hungarian community, Ildi was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in 2012. Six years later she was diagnosed with cancer. At first unsettled and disturbed, by late 2018 'her faith gave her comfort,' as her husband said, when knowledge of her condition became clearer. She was given a joint Hungarian/Reformed-Anglican funeral on 23 February 2019, attended by the state premier. The service took place at St David's Anglican Church, Burnside, Adelaide, where she had been a leading layperson.

**David Wetherell**

**Vales September Issue:**

**Mr Ping Quan HUI**  
(d. 20 April 2019, aged 100)

**Rita Rosemary O'NEIL, née Gough**  
(d. 26 April 2019, aged 89)



## The True Story of the 1st Independent Company

**SANDY McNAB**

**Here I am, the old dog with a bone! I have come to the conclusion that I must write my version of what happened to the 1st Independent Company in Bougainville. I condensed it as much as I could, got the salient facts on paper and gave myself writer's cramp ...**

IN EARLY 1941 a kilted soldier named Freddy Spencer Chapman visited the battalions in Bathurst NSW calling for volunteers to join a hush-hush unit. He had plenty of applications from frustrated 8th Division men.

The first batch of us arrived at Wilson's Promontory in May 1941 and, after six weeks' intensive training, were ready to travel to Guroke to join in the commando raid going on there. Instead we found ourselves on the *Zealandia* heading for the tropics.

The original plan was to be based in Rabaul. It would have been ideal for our unit, as there was plenty of jungle and mountains for operations. But the army heads acted as they always do and, when halfway to Rabaul, we got a message to proceed to Kavieng on New Ireland.

When we got there confusion reigned—no-one knew we were coming. Eventually, we found accommodation and life got back to normal. Then the powers-that-be delivered the final kick in the

guts to us, and split the unit far and yonder. We were stretched from Manus to Kavieng, Namatanai, Buka Passage, Tulagi, and Vila in the New Hebrides—273 men spread over thousands of miles!

No. 3 Section of No. 1 Independent Company finished up on Buka Island, where life was idyllic before Japan came into the war. They attacked us on 23 January 1942 with six planes. We managed to shoot one down and, after the rest went away, we demolished the airstrip and evacuated the unit to Bougainville, which was only separated from Buka by a passage 800 yards wide. Buka Island was too small and had no fresh water for the section to survive. Buka was only forty miles long and Bougainville about 140 miles.

Lt Jack Mackie, our officer, had made plans for the move and had established supplies at Rugen in the hills of Bougainville. From the coast it took us a day to stagger up to Rugen—a journey that would take us a couple of hours once we got fit after living in the mountains for some time.

The Japs initially only visited the area and, after looting some plantations, they left. Jack Mackie set about covering the island with observation posts. He

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ABOVE: Sandy McNab with 1st Independent Company mates in Bougainville

set three men at Kessa on the north coast of Buka, men at Buka Passage, four at Numa Numa, four at Kieta and four at Buin on the south coast. He had a roving headquarters: himself, a medical sergeant and me. We travelled a lot on the schooner, *Malaguna*.

With things not looking too bright, the sergeant diagnosed himself with appendicitis and the army sent a Catalina flying boat from Tulagi to evacuate him and he was never replaced. As we were low on supplies, Mackie appealed to our platoon at Vila and they sent the schooner, *Ruana*, with two of our mates, Shorty Bateman and Les Goodger, to take care of that.

When our headquarters at Kavieng was attacked, they told us they were going off the air and we should take orders from the 2/22nd Battalion in Rabaul, but when we tried to contact them they were off the air, too.

There settled an uneasy peace over the island. But at the end of March 1943 the Japs got fair dinkum, and soon all our outposts were chased off the coast. Meanwhile, we had moved our HQ from Rugen further up in the hills to Mutahi, a Seventh-day Adventist village. What a man the village head Okera was! He couldn't do enough for us. He built a camp for us in the bush where we would be safe. Jack Mackie then set about the task of getting the section, scattered all over the place, to combine at Mutahi.

At the time Coastwatcher Paul Mason asked Mackie could he spare a couple of men to go with him to establish an observation post at Buin. So Jack sent our Corporal Signaller Jack Wigley and Sapper Slim Otton with Mason. Eventually, Mackie got the section altogether at Mutahi and he was a much happier man to have them in one place again.

There was not much food, no medicine and no medical staff. We mere mortals wondered what we were doing there. Jack Mackie always kept us busy, doing all the tracks in the mountains until we knew the highways and byways like the back of our hand.

On 7 August 1942, it became clear. The Yanks landed on Guadalcanal and the air was full of Jap planes hurrying down the coast, while out to sea many Jap ships of all sizes and shapes headed down 'The Slot' carrying supplies and troops to join the fray.

Now No. 3 Section's purpose was revealed. We had established observation posts where we could watch the sea lanes and, as the bombers from Rabaul could not take fighters with them because the return trip was too far, they had to pick up fighter escorts from Buka airfield, which took them over us. If Coastwatcher Jack Read did not pick them up, we would, and get the message to Read because he had the radio.

We used to give them two hours' notice of the planes arriving, and the US Air Force had plenty of time to prepare a welcome and be up in the air waiting for them. They shot them down like flies. As for the ships, we would give about two days' notice of their arrival and they too got a hot reception.

So there we were, earning our keep at last and getting a plane once a month to feed us. We had the satisfaction of seeing a few straggling Jap planes limping back to Buka, and the same for the very few ships that made it back. The battle raged furiously until the Japs were beaten and Guadalcanal was safe and secure.

Meanwhile, as this was going on, Paul Mason with Jack Wigley and Slim Otton down south were doing excellent work and reporting any planes or ships the north missed.

One fly in the ointment was that Commander Eric Feldt, in an act of lunacy, put Jack Read in charge of the whole island, including our section—an untrained government official put over Lt Jack Mackie OIC of No. 3 Section. Read came down from his camp far back in the mountains to exert his power and tell us what he had planned for us. He was soon sent back to the mountains, being told we had no intention of taking any notice. Jack Mackie was our officer and that was that.

After Guadalcanal was secured, Mackie looked at the situation. Half his section was very ill and the natives were being put under enormous pressure by the Japs. So, on 22 February 1943, Mackie sent out this message:

*Army Moresby from Mackie: If enemy contacts or occupies Teop, my position on Bougainville will be hopeless and value nil. Native problem acute. My movements now confined to area from Inus to Raua. If forced to take to interior, reception of stores will be impossible. Have good knowledge of most areas on island and suggest immediate evacuation to preserve same. Accept no responsibility as to fate of Section if nothing done. Acknowledge immediately.*

We had to get Read to send this message, which he did. But added his own message, stating the situation was not as dire as Mackie reported and that, under the circumstances, No. 3 Section was of no practical use on Bougainville except under more experienced leadership. It would be wrong to construe that as derogatory to Lt Mackie, who I hold in high esteem.

Read pointed out the AIF had by then spent eighteen months continuous service in the jungle, and were susceptible to imaginary grievances that ▶

## ***So what was accomplished?***

### ***Half the relief section had been captured and either executed or taken prisoner***

inevitably sprang up against their superiors (whom they felt had abandoned them) and against each other. Read believed many of these problems could have been alleviated by activities like short patrols, but this was against army defensive training.

I say this was a lot of garbage. Read did not know about us. He had no contact with us, staying in his camp high in the hills—with us always between him and the enemy. Read arranged with Feldt to have a relief section sent because he had an idea of covering the whole of Bougainville with observation posts, and was confident that with a fresh AIF squad he would achieve this aim.

So the die was cast. Our second-in-charge, Corporal Don McLean, told me he and Mackie received a message stating: *Your job is done, come home!*

As Guadalcanal was now secure, other messages were relayed to us:

From Admiral Turner, US Navy: *Large share credit of our success against enemy due to splendid men in coast watching service.*

From General Patch, US Army: *Your magnificent and courageous work has contributed to success of operations on north Guadalcanal.*

Our two coastwatchers, Mason and Read, would not have survived a month without No. 3 Section's protection and No. 3 Section wouldn't have lasted a week without the loyalty, courage and care of the local people of Bougainville.

On 29 March 1943, half the section boarded the US submarine, *Gato*, and half stayed to familiarise the new men with knowledge of the land and the people. With only a month to do it, it was an impossible task. On 29 April 1943, we, the last of No. 3 Section, boarded the *Gato* on our way to our beloved Australia. As soon as we left, the grapevine knew and the Japs and a lot of the natives moved into the hills and started harassing the new boys.

After six weeks, Read had to radio that the situation was so bad coastwatching was impossible, and they should be evacuated immediately. So what was accomplished? Half the relief section had been captured and either executed or taken prisoner.

Before we left we had to arrange a supply drop to let the new men know how to manage the operation.

But, just as Mackie had forecast, because we couldn't arrange a drop on the coast, we had to arrange it in the hills. The plane crashed and, eventually, only two of the crew got off the island. So that was a Catalina flying boat lost.

In the meantime, Mason had led a party to the south. He had the idea he would return to Buin, but the southern part of the island was swarming with Japanese, and they soon found Mason's party and killed Lt Stevenson, another coastwatcher. Mason and the party had to flee northward, being harassed all the way. They eventually linked up with the rest of the group just in time to board the submarine and evacuate.

This sad ending would have been avoided if they had taken heed of Jack Mackie's appraisal of the situation. And I am sure not one coastwatching report got out in the six weeks.

I am convinced that Jack Read had the ambition to be on the beach when the Americans landed. This is the man who early in the piece remarked, 'If there is only one man left alive on this island it will be Jack Read.'



#### **FOOTNOTE:**

Comparison of the strength of No 3. Section and the Relief Section:

No 3. Section: one officer; two section corporals; one corporal cook; one signal corporal; one engineer corporal; two signallers; one engineer; two lance corporals; fourteen privates. We had one medical sergeant who was evacuated early.

Relief Section: one officer; eleven sergeants; two corporals; five engineers; five signallers; two privates.

I don't know who selected this section and I venture to say whoever it was had no knowledge of army protocol on the workings of a section. I must say many of these men finished up great mates of mine and they were all good soldiers.

But eleven sergeants in the one section, the mind boggles. And only two privates. Everyone knows the privates do all the work.

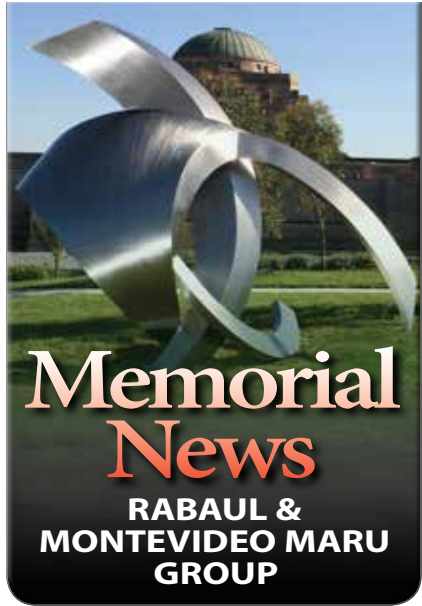
By the end of the war, the decorations won by members of No. 3 Section were: four US Silver Stars; one British Empire Medal; three Military Medals; three Mentions in Despatches. ♦

**Sandy authored the history of the 1st Independent Company: McNab, Alexander, 1998, 'We were the first: The unit history of No 1 Independent Company', Australian Military History Publications, Loftus, NSW**

**This article was previously published by the then Rabaul & Montevideo Maru Society (integrated into PNGAA January 2013) in Memorial News 23, February 2011**

**The Rabaul & Montevideo Maru Group was integrated into the PNGAA in 2013 with a Memorandum of Understanding, which includes Memorial News in the quarterly journal.**

**The Rabaul & Montevideo Maru Group encourages students and adults to explore the significance of WWII in the Papua New Guinea islands and what the start of the Pacific War in 1942 meant for Australia, including its worst maritime disaster.**



## 77th Anniversary Commemorating the Sinking of *Montevideo Maru*—1 July 2019

This will be acknowledged at the Last Post Ceremony, Australian War Memorial, Canberra on Monday, 1 July 2019.

Please email Andrea Williams at [admin@memorial.org.au](mailto:admin@memorial.org.au) if you are attending and also if you would like to lay a wreath. It is recommended that you be at the AWM by 4.30 pm on 1 July 2019.

This year the AWM will highlight Private Lloyd Sylvester Sibraa NX 34251 of the 1st Independent Company, who 'died at sea (*MS Montevideo Maru*)'. Refer: <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/R1698230>

On Sunday, 30 June 2019 a luncheon will also be held in Canberra for all our PNGAA/Rabaul & Montevideo Maru members and any family and friends—all welcome, so put it in the diary now and come along! Details will be finalised shortly so please let us know if you would

like to attend by emailing John Reeves: (M) 0448 483 932, (E) [neradaq@gmail.com](mailto:neradaq@gmail.com) or contact [admin@memorial.org.au](mailto:admin@memorial.org.au)

## Letter to Politicians

*Prior to Anzac Day this year, Margaret Henderson wrote to several politicians requesting that more is done to acknowledge that Australian civilians, apart from servicemen, were killed by war.*

*Her letter, which follows, was sent to Christopher Pyne, Darren Chester, Richard Marles and Amanda Rishworth.*

When I was a young child, I visited the war memorial on North Terrace looking for my father's name amongst those killed. I could not find it. Later, I had the same experience at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra. I knew that my father had been killed in World War II and concluded that the absence of his name was probably something to be ashamed of.

Much later, I learned that war memorials were for servicemen and women who were killed. My

father was a civilian and of less importance. His death was not worth remembering.

This attitude was again reinforced at the Anzac Day Service I attended last week. The number of people killed in the various wars was carefully spelled out. But civilians killed were 'collateral damage' and not worth a mention.

In World War II there were 462 Australian civilians killed in Australia, in Australian Mandated Territories or in waters around Australia. Fifty-three were killed in Darwin, 200 Australian merchant seamen were killed in Australian waters and 209 died when the Japanese ship, *MS Montevideo Maru*, was sunk by an American submarine.

The 462 civilian deaths are compared to 340 servicemen killed in Korea and 521 service men killed in Vietnam. The civilian deaths are not insignificant when compared to the deaths of servicemen.

My father was the Reverend Thomas Simpson. He was a Methodist missionary on the remote island of New Hanover, which was in the Australian Mandated Territory of New Guinea. In December 1941, my mother and I were evacuated to Australia, but my father was ▶

## More Upcoming Events



### 1 July 2019—NGVR/PNGVR EX-MEMBERS ASSOCIATION

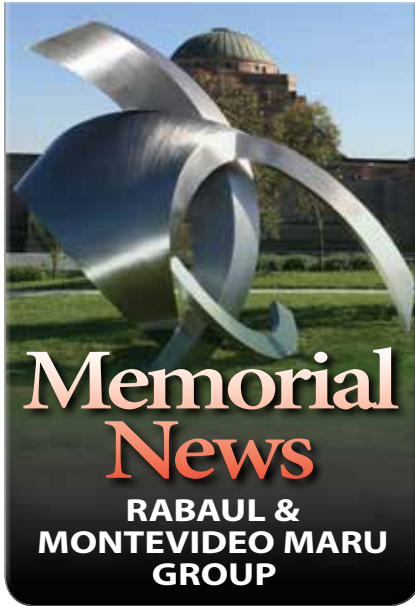
Annual Montevideo Maru service at Brisbane Cenotaph. All welcome. Please contact Phil Ainsworth: (M) 0418 730 348 or (E) [p.ainsworth@kingco.com.au](mailto:p.ainsworth@kingco.com.au) if you can attend.

### 28 July 2019—LARK FORCE TRAWOOL GATHERING

This Victorian gathering will be at the Tallarook Hotel where a BBQ lunch will be provided at a reasonable cost. A service at the Trawool Memorial will follow lunch at around 2.00–2.30.

For further information about the gathering, please contact Frazer Harry, M: 0497 785 112 or E: [frazer.harry@bigpond.com](mailto:frazer.harry@bigpond.com)





required by the Australian Government (and the church) to stay in PNG.

I have been told by reliable witnesses that my father was arrested by the Japanese and beheaded. He was not alone in this fate! I was determined that my father's sacrifice (martyrdom) would not be overlooked, and have spent a considerable part of my life trying to get him the recognition that he deserved.

I have written two books about my father. They are: *Yours Sincerely, Tom* and *Yours Sincerely, Tom Revisited*. I helped organise and attended the unveiling of a memorial in Kavieng, to civilians killed in New Ireland. I spoke on behalf of civilians at the unveiling of the Montevideo Maru Memorial in the grounds of the

Australian War Memorial. I laid a wreath on behalf of civilians at the opening of the Prisoners of War Memorial in Ballarat. I have been a guest speaker at numerous functions where I advocated more acknowledgement for civilians killed in war.

For several years, I communicated with the Australian War Memorial in an attempt to get a formal memorial for civilians. I was informed that the war memorial was only for servicemen and women and that there was no place for civilians.

Eventually, I contacted Kim Beasley, who had a civilian uncle killed in PNG. In a week, I heard from the war memorial that they would create a 'Commemorative Scroll' for civilians killed in the war. It was a partial victory, because only people associated with recognised organisations would be eligible for inclusion. Australians killed in Darwin and Australian planters in PNG would not be eligible. Furthermore, families had to nominate people for inclusion.

It is frustrating, after so much effort by many people, another Anzac Day has passed without any acknowledgement of the wartime sacrifice of some Australians. Of

course, I am not downplaying the sacrifice of servicemen and women. I am only asking for some acknowledgement that Australians, apart from servicemen, were killed by war.

I am only asking that the loss suffered by my mother and families such as mine is recognised.

**Margaret L Henderson**

## A Letter to Alan Jones

Dear Alan

I am forwarding this article, 'Our National Myopia—A History Forgotten', by Max Uechtritz, for your consideration and assessment. (See <https://pngaa.org/site/blog/article/our-national-myopia-a-history-forgotten-by-max-uechtritz/>)

This tragic story needs to have maximum exposure in the public media domain because:

1) It has been buried in and hidden from our official military history and it is an account of the first military assault on Australian soil.

2) This story truly tells the actions of an incredible heroic military event and the extraordinary incompetence of our WWII defence planning, which resulted in the deaths of almost 2,000 humans. It also reflects more accurately, the really courageous stories embedded in our armed forces' operational history. Sadly, the Darwin bombing story did not always completely meet this standard.

Another strand of this whole story around lack of planning and understanding of Japanese military expansion in the south-east Pacific region was an event I experienced in the late 1930s in Rabaul, then the Australian Territory of New Guinea (TNG). My barber was actually a colonel in the Japanese Imperial Guards!



Rev. Thomas and Nellie Simpson, with the mission pinnace and crew

He was just one cog in an extensive network of spies. Now we know how the Japanese planes were able to land a bomb in the slit trench outside the PMG in Darwin!

**PHILIP (HOOKY) STREET**  
February 2019

## Lament for Lost Diggers

Leading social commentator and business analyst Bernard Salt, AM, wrote an article in the *Weekend Australian* dated 13–14 April 2019, 'Lament for Lost Diggers' in relation to Lark Force and Rabaul, the Tol Massacre and the *Montevideo Maru*.

A response in the *Weekend Australian* magazine the following weekend said:

*My father was in the 2/22nd Infantry Battalion as part of Lark Force. He never spoke of the campaign. Over the years I gleaned the level of pain he carried in life yet never divulged to his family. He never returned to many normal things such as playing sport, riding motorbikes, which he loved, or religion.*

*So many lives lost, broken. Kudos to all the mothers (including mine), fathers, wives and family members who provided love and support to survivors.*

*Lynne Gilmore, Mudgeeraba, QLD*

## When the War Came: New Guinea Islands 1942

Published by PNGAA to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Fall of Rabaul and the sinking of MS *Montevideo Maru*, this book brings into focus the actions and characters of young men who left home to willingly serve their country, and then literally vanished off the face of the earth; of nurses and missionaries who volunteered to stay to help both the war effort and the local people; and of civilians—both

men and women—caught at home on WWII's Pacific front line. Alongside are incredulous stories of escape and survival in an environment that threw every obstacle in their path.

The Foreword is by the Hon. Peter Garrett, AM and the introductory piece by Max Uechtritz.

There are 460 photographs and 540 large format pages and the cost is \$60.00 (+ \$20.00 postage within Australia). Further options for overseas mailing are on our website. To order your copy, please turn to *Treasurer's Corner*, at the end of this issue.

## Statement to Parliament on Missing POWs and Civilians

*Following is the statement that Mr Ward, the Minister for the External Territories, gave to the Australian Parliament on 5 October 1945 regarding the missing POWs and civilian internees from Rabaul and the New Guinea Islands.*

*In the last paragraph of Mr Ward's statement to the House is the rationale for including John William Poole's name on the WWII Honour Board at Dubbo College*

*and the WWII War Memorial in Victoria Park, Dubbo.*

*I am not aware of other civilian internees having their names on war service honour boards or war memorials. PNGAA and Rabaul & Montevideo Maru members may be aware of other names of civilians on war memorials.*

*Interesting, also on page 6620 of Hansard, Mr Forde, the Minister for the Army, makes a statement about Harold Page's son, Robert Page. He states that Robert was awarded the Distinguished Service Order (DSO) during the war but there was no announcement in the London Gazette or the Commonwealth of Australia Gazette at the time because his father was in Japanese hands.*

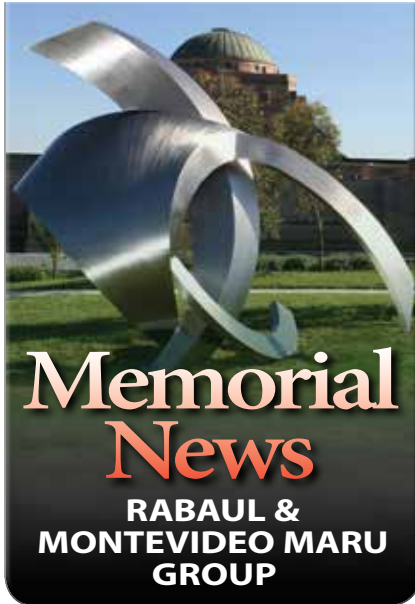
*Mr Forde states that Harold and Robert Page are still reported missing (as at 5 October 1945).*

## Mr Ward's Statement

At the time of the Japanese invasion of Rabaul and other parts of New Guinea in January, 1942, there was a considerable number of administration officials, missionaries and other civilians in the area, in addition to the army garrison.

Some of these people escaped at the time, but a large number ▶





were captured by the Japanese, and despite all efforts in the intervening years, it has not been possible to obtain any information as to their fate.

Some missionaries and a few civilians were rescued when the Australian forces entered Rabaul after the surrender of the Japanese, but there are 316 civilians who have not been accounted for.

On 26 September, the Minister for the Army announced that most urgent war inquiries were being made to ascertain the whereabouts of the men of the Rabaul garrison. These inquiries also covered the civilian internees.

The Minister for the Army has asked me to announce the result of these inquiries in regards to both military personnel and the civilian internees.

Investigation in Japan by Australian inquiry officers working with General MacArthur's forces has confirmed the government's fears that the majority of the Australian prisoners of war and internees captured in Rabaul, and still missing, lost their lives at sea.

It has now been ascertained that the Japanese Navy Department officially informed the Tokyo Prisoner of War

Information Bureau on the 6th June, 1943, that SS *Montevideo Maru*, sailed from Rabaul on approximately 22 June 1942, carrying 845 prisoners of war and 208 civilians, and that this ship was, during its voyage, torpedoed near Luzon with a total loss of the prisoners of war and internees embarked at Rabaul.

It has also been ascertained that among the prisoners of the war embarked were members of the 1st Independent Company, which had been operating in New Ireland.

A roll which, it is understood, contains the names of those aboard SS *Montevideo Maru*, at the time is now being translated in Japan in order that the information may be transmitted to Australia for notification to next of kin.

It will be understood that this is all the information we are able to give at present, and inquiries concerning the whereabouts of individual civilians or members of the Rabaul garrison cannot be answered in any greater detail than in this statement.

As there is a total of 1,053 persons involved, it is expected that some time will elapse before all names are available, but the next of kin can be assured that names will be progressively released as they become available in Australia.

Some Australian prisoners of war, who were still in Rabaul when SS *Montevideo Maru* sailed in 1942, have been recently recovered, and they have been able to confirm the names of some of the prisoners of war who embarked on this ship.

In all such cases the next of kin have been informed without waiting for the rolls from Japan. So far, no authentic information has been obtained as to the names of the civilian internees on the vessel.

These servicemen and civilians, who died in such tragic manner, have undoubtedly given their lives in defence of Australia just as surely as those who died face to face with the enemy.

To their next of kin the Commonwealth Government extends its deepest sympathy.

**With thanks to Patrick Bourke**

(Source: Australian Parliament's *Hansard*, House of Representatives, Friday 5 October 1945, The War, pages 6619-6620)

## Education Package

The History Teachers Association of Western Australia have included the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru education package on their website at <https://www.htawa.org.au/links/> ♦

**For an interesting story about our men during World War II in Bougainville, make sure you read Sandy McNab's article on page 56**







# Treasurer's Corner

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The website is a source of a lot of interesting articles, but it is also a means of contacting other members. However, many of our members have not yet logged onto the website and registered their details. Only about 470 out of our approximate 1,000 members are listed on our website. To see the list, first log onto the website, then go to *MEMBERSHIP* and then select *MEMBERSHIP LISTING* from the drop-down menu. If you do not wish to scroll through the many pages of names, you can type a name in the '*Search*' box to find someone you are looking for.

However, we produce a comprehensive Membership Directory each year at the end of June which is available to all members in a digital format on request. Alternatively, a printed version can be purchased for \$10.00 (more details overleaf on the Order Form).

**Roy Ranney, Membership Officer—[membership@pngaa.net](mailto:membership@pngaa.net)**



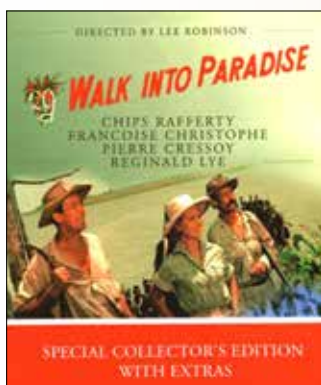
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## KIAP: Stories Behind the Medal

Some 2000 young Australian men served as patrol officers (known as Kiaps) in Papua New Guinea between the end of WWII and PNG Independence in 1975. In this film the men, their wives and children, tell their stories of living, working and growing up during this time. This outstanding DVD, produced by the Papua New Guinea Association of Australia & Gum Leaves Productions, provides a powerful and poignant tribute to the world of the Kiaps, and shining through is the close relationship between the Kiaps and the Papua New Guinean Police whose loyalty they depended on.

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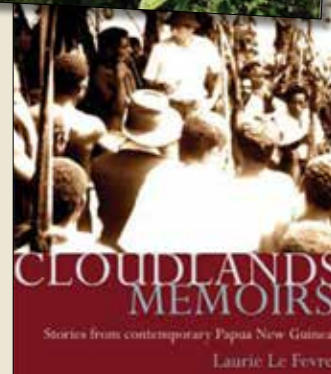
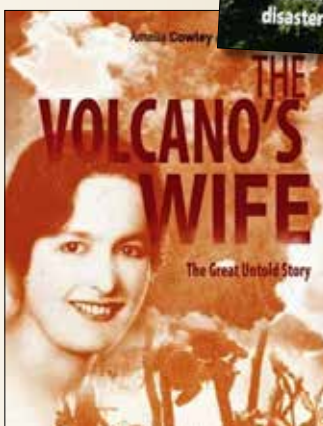
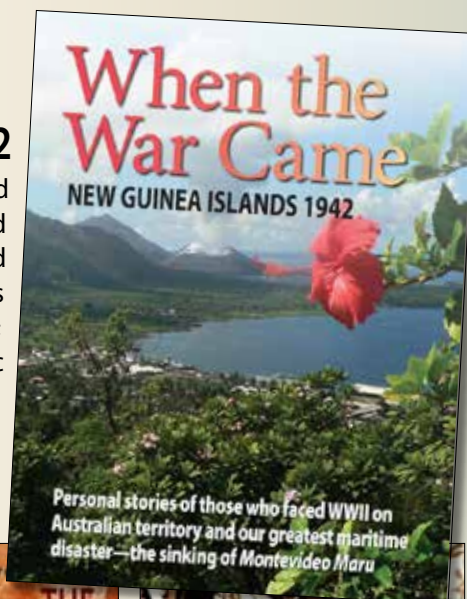
Starring our own Fred Kaad and Chips Rafferty, this unique film showcases fabulous scenery, and an authentic sing-sing with thousands of fantastically adorned tribesmen and women. We will most likely never see cinematography of Carl Kayser's calibre and scope again. Surplus funds generated from the DVD sale will be used to further the objects of PNGAA, specifically 'to encourage the preservation of documents and historical material related to Papua New Guinea' by way of digitisation.

**\$10.00 (+\$5 postage within Australia)**

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# The PNGAA Collection

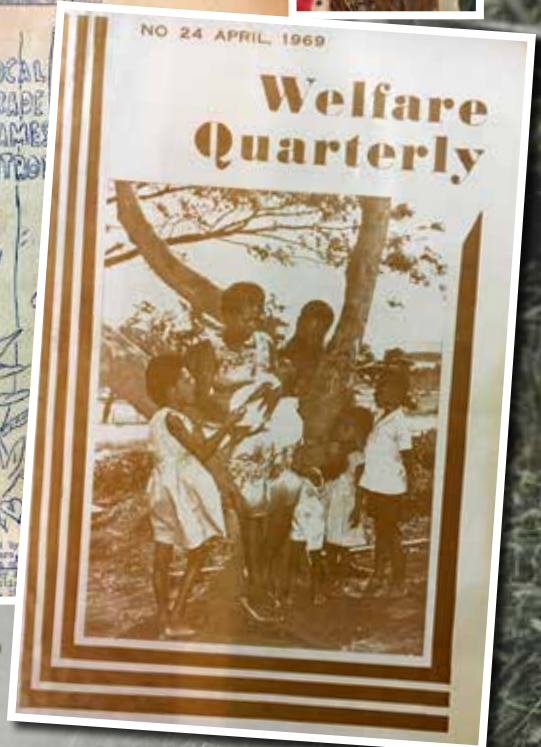
Papua New Guinea history is closely bound with that of Australia, and the PNGAA Collection consists of archival material —reflecting the lives and work of those who have lived in PNG. It grew from an idea of Mr Doug Parrish, former president of the association, and evolved over the years through the dedication and expertise of Dr Peter Cahill. From a modest assortment of photographs and a handful of letters and diaries, the PNGAA Collection is now a fast-growing compilation, and continues to attract local, national and international interest.

Among the items in the collection are photographs and writings about the two world wars, which had such a profound and devastating effect on Papua New Guinea, and provide a background to the significant changes in the progress towards independence. Other sections of the collection include patrol reports (some with maps and photographs), oil and gold mining, family photographs and diaries, and a definitive collection of material relating to ANGAU and its functions.

The process of collating, indexing and listing this expanding collection in detail is ongoing, and digitisation of the items will progress as resources allow.

The PNGAA wishes to ensure the collection is readily available worldwide to our members, researchers or those simply interested in the rich history of Australia's relations with Papua New Guinea.

If you have items you would care to donate, or you would like to contribute towards the digitisation of items already in the collection, please contact PNGAA Membership Officer, Roy Ranney, [membership@pngaa.net](mailto:membership@pngaa.net)



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