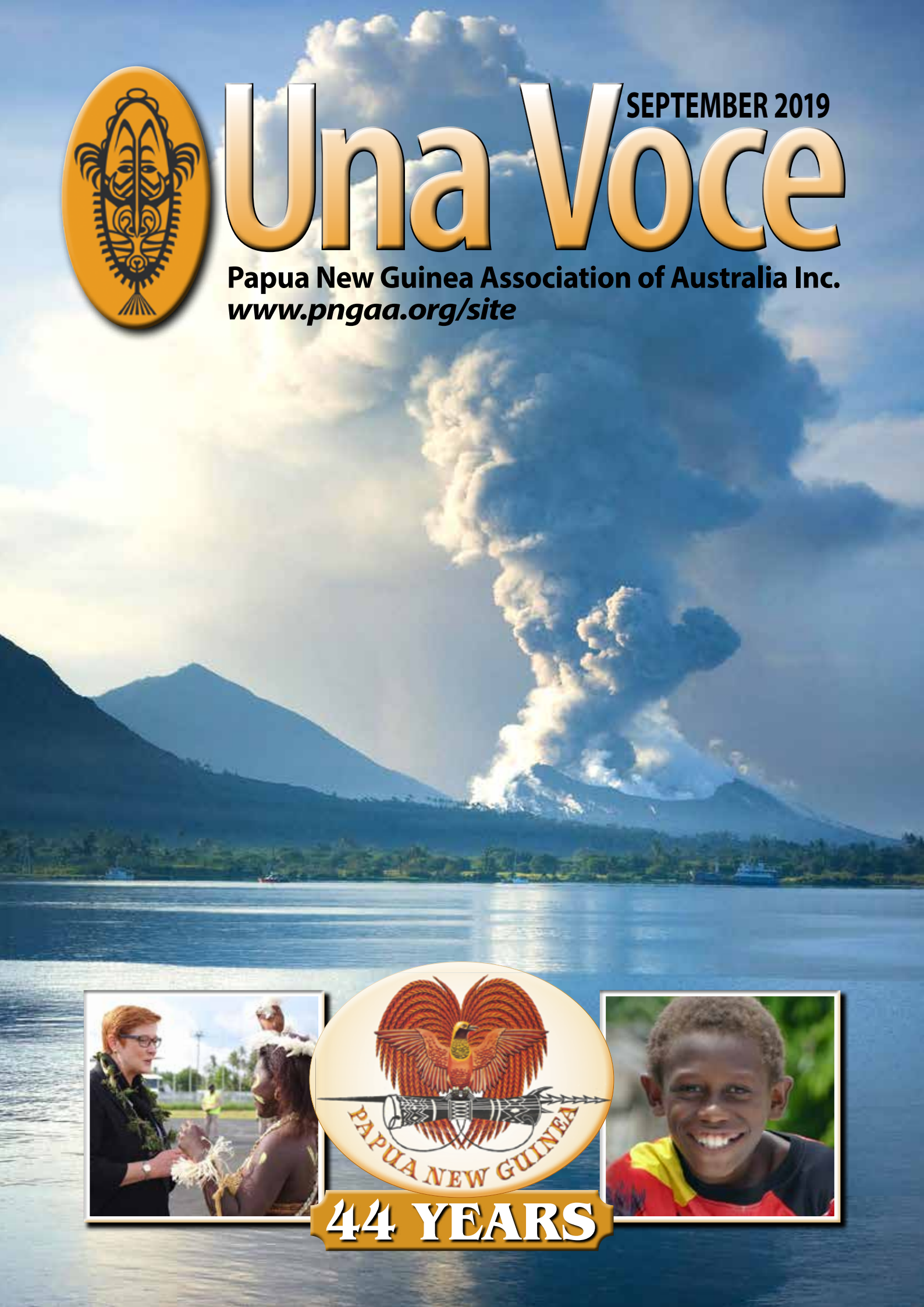




# Una Voce

SEPTEMBER 2019

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



**44 YEARS**





# PNG Celebrates 44 Years of Independence

FORTY-FOUR YEARS AGO, on 16 September 1975, the nation of Papua New Guinea achieved its independence from Australia.



Officiating at the main ceremony held in Port Moresby, were His Royal Highness Prince Charles, Prince of Wales (representing Queen Elizabeth II, the British monarch); Sir John Kerr, Governor-General of Australia; Australian Prime Minister, Gough Whitlam; Sir John Guise, Governor-General Designate of Papua New Guinea and the Chief Minister of Papua New Guinea, Michael Somare, who became the country's first Prime Minister. The new country became a constitutional monarchy with membership of the British Commonwealth, being the 37th country to do so.

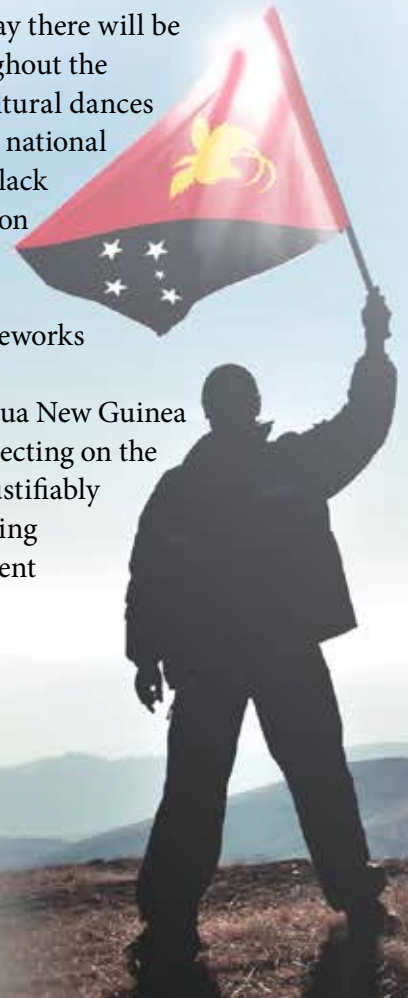


When the Australian flag was lowered in Papua New Guinea on 15 September 1975, Sir John Guise noted that the Australian flag was being lowered, not torn down. His statement reflected the positive spirit in which the Independent State of Papua New Guinea was established—to the credit of both the leaders of Papua New Guinea and the Australian Government.

On 16 September 2019, it will be forty-four years since that momentous event, and each of the different towns and cities will find unique ways to celebrate and commemorate the anniversary. During the day there will be flag-raising ceremonies throughout the twenty-two provinces with cultural dances and singing in the streets. The national colours of the country—red, black and yellow—will be displayed on every street and hang from windows of homes and shops. The festivities will end with fireworks in Port Moresby.



We, the members of the Papua New Guinea Association of Australia, in reflecting on the past forty-four years, can be justifiably proud of our past and continuing contributions to the Independent Nation of Papua New Guinea.





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**Copy Deadline for December 2019 *Una Voce***

**Friday, 13 September 2019**

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

Contribution guidelines are available on the website  
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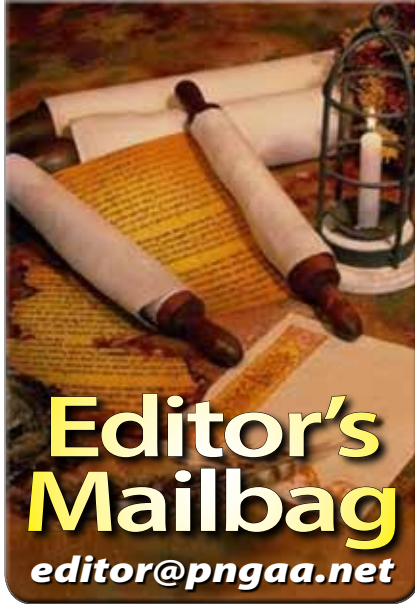


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**SEPTEMBER 2019**

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



## Welcome to the September Edition of *Una Voce*

This is a 'bumper' issue, an extra eight pages because of the wealth of material we have been provided with, and that we sourced for topical issues.

The strong connection that people have with PNG, whether as 'expats' or Papua New Guineans living in Australia, is evident in the vibrancy of the groups and their ongoing commitment to that wonderful country we all feel connected to in one way or another. This is reflected in the number of gatherings that have been planned or are in the pipeline.

There are also a number of anniversaries that are celebrated in the period covered by the September edition. Of great



**Featuring editorial, commentaries and 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.**

significance, of course, is the forty-fourth anniversary of Papua New Guinea Independence on 16 September 1975, and the 77th anniversary of the sinking of the *Montevideo Maru* on 1 July 1942—Australia's greatest maritime disaster.

This year is the eightieth anniversary of the formation of the New Guinea Volunteer Rifles (NGVR) in 1939. Also in this period is the twenty-fifth anniversary of the catastrophic twin volcano eruptions in Rabaul in 1994, remembered with our front cover and 'Disaster Struck the Garden City' on page 17.

There are significant events on the political front as well—the position of Minister for International Development and the Pacific upgraded from Assistant Minister, reflecting the importance that the Australian government places on the Pacific; the visit to Australia by the new PNG PM on the invitation of the Australian government; and the visit to PNG of the Australian Foreign Minister, Marise Payne. News, too, on the Bougainville Referendum in November about which there will be more in the December edition.

Thanks are due to the many people who have contributed to this edition: writers, proofreaders, the PNGAA committee and our remarkable production designer, Jeannette Gilligan, who weaves magic from pages of black type; and Lynette Arden, who ensures *Una Voce* appears on the website in a timely manner, both as

individual articles and as a PDF journal.

I would like to remind our loyal readers that subscriptions for 2020 are due by 31 December 2019 if not already paid (*see page 13*).

I hope that you enjoy this edition of *Una Voce*, and that you continue to send in your wonderful stories and articles.

**VICKI LONG, Editor**

## Remembering Leigh Vial

I grew up in a household where Leigh Vial's name was mentioned regularly (March *Una Voce*). My father, Willis Crocker, went to school with Leigh at Wesley College, Melbourne. They went cross-country skiing in the Victorian Alps and he was best man at my parents' wedding in 1941.

They were also both in New Britain in 1942, Leigh as a patrol officer and my father in the 2/22 Battalion—a Lark Force survivor—escaping on the *Maria*. In the diary of his escape he said:

*Feb. Mon 9. While we were having lunch a number of PBs (police bois) passed us and I asked one where he came from. When he said he belonged to Madang I asked him if he knew Master Vial. 'Masta Waial' he said, 'em i Kiap bilong mi' and was smiles all over his face. I then had a yarn with him and learned how Leigh had got away in one of the flying boats from Sum Sum. Whether my being a wantok of 'Masta Waial' had anything to do with it I don't know, but we never had any more trouble at rivers with canoes.*



There was always some boy to ferry us across.

My mother kept newspaper articles about Rabaul, my father and Leigh Vial, and the one featured below is worth sharing.

My parents and Marjorie Vial kept in contact into their old age.

**MALCOLM CROCKER**

(UV: Please see the article on page 27 on Leigh Vial and Willis Crocker)

**Flying in PNG**

Re: Mick Smith article, June *Una Voce*, p.42

Firstly, congratulations on taking on the mammoth job of editing our magazine. Your work is much appreciated.

I too arrived in Moresby on that same midnight DC4 flight in June 1954, affectionately titled 'The Skybag' as it carried the mail. A letter posted in Brisbane at 4 pm would be on your desk at 8 am the next day; postal employees would meet the flight and distribute the mail immediately. That same

service today takes two weeks. Ah!! The price of progress!

Patair's WACO biplane was replaced by an Avro Anson, and later a DC3 (probably paid for by Bert Keinzle, a substantial shareholder). Now, Patair had no pilots to ferry the WACO to Sydney, so Harold Farnsworth, a chippy who obtained his private pilot's licence during the war, did the job.

At the time the DC3 was acquired, Miles Lewis joined the company from KLM in Indonesia. It was considered impossible for the DC3 to fit into the original Bereina airstrip. The strip, outside the Mynoharna Catholic School, was covered in grass tufts that made effective braking very difficult. Miles said he could do it, and sure enough he did.

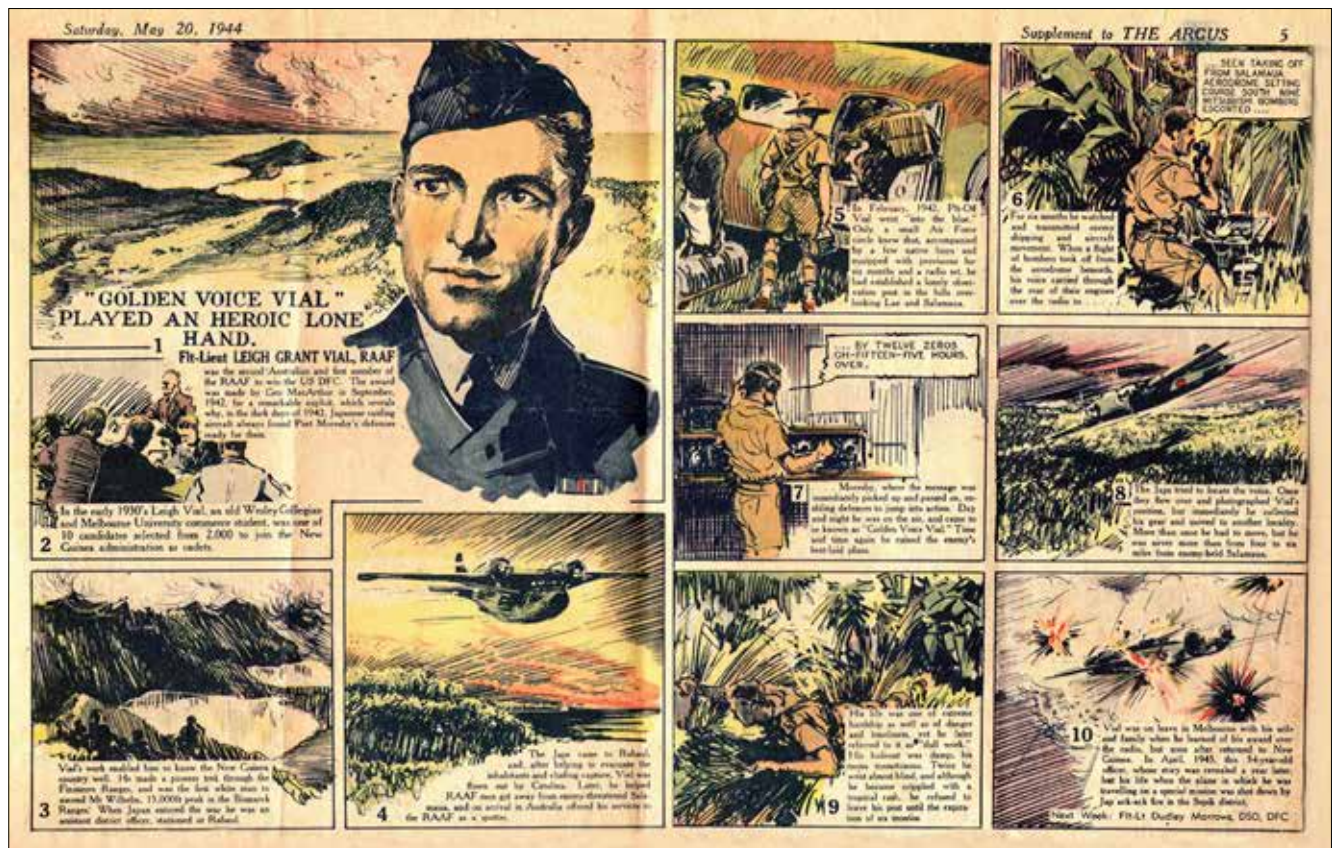
Flying into Kokoda with him, I was standing between him and his co-pilot, close to the hydraulic accumulator. Each time the hydraulics were used (flaps,

brakes, undercarriage, etc), fluid would pour from the accumulator. Unfazed, Miles handed me a plastic cup with instructions to catch the oil but not let the two first row passengers see what was happening. They were examiners of airmen, though Miles wasn't supposed to know that.

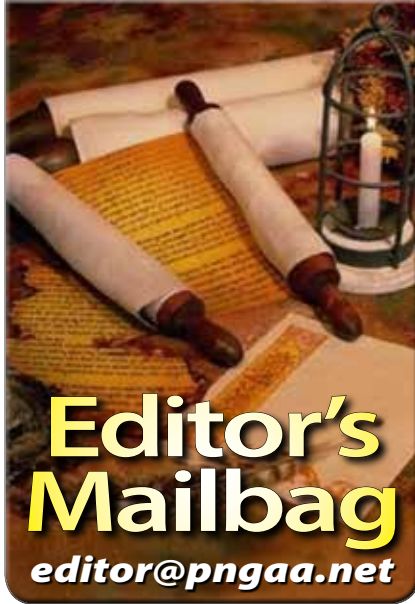
At Kokoda, the whole valley was covered in cloud. Again unfazed, Miles went through his pre-landing checks: flaps, gear down and locked, etc. He flew straight at the base of the mountain, then side-slipped between mountain and cloud to emerge under the cloud and lined up with the airstrip.

Thus, I learned that the gap between cloud and mountain is exactly equal to the gap under the cloud. I think the two examiners of airmen learned the same lesson.

Arriving back in Moresby, Miles took the cup of hydraulic oil, placed it on a horizontal ▶







board angled to the floor. Beside it he left a note for the Chief Engineer, Wally Gardner, commenting that the oil was to be used to put the skids under his job!

Miles was a real character. I flew a Tiger Moth solo from Moresby to Bereina at 1,500 feet. Sensing another presence, I looked off my wing tip, and could see Miles in the cockpit of the Patair DC3. He gave me a rude gesture as he passed me, with his port engine feathered. Miles also had an aircraft fire in the same DC3, and made an emergency landing at the then new Bereina airstrip. Medical supplies in the cargo had spilled together and ignited. Miles was only a small fellow but he jumped out through the small cargo door just behind the pilot's seat, and bravely volunteered to catch the hostess as she jumped. I think she pushed him into the ground



as she landed on top of him.

All that was left of the plane were the propellers and the tailplane. I landed shortly after in the Aero Club's Cessna to see if we could help, so I had first-hand knowledge.

Years later Miles flew the DC3 on trips around outback Australia. I wonder if anyone is aware of his present whereabouts?

**SIR RAMON R THURECHT**

### **AGM President's Report**

Correction to my name, which is Sara Turner not Turner-Carroll—my husband is Roger Carroll and our children's surname is Turner-Carroll—and the wonderful women from the PNG Women's Association NSW who were mentioned in the report, were such a delight and contributed so positively towards the CWA Dubbo Seminar. Their aim is to address the needs and interests of indigenous women in NSW and support women and children in PNG.

**SARA TURNER**

### **Photograph Query**

I write about the photograph on page 43 of the June 2019 *Una Voce*. The author, Mick Smith, describes a late November 1952 opening of the Mount Lamington Memorial Cemetery at Popondetta and the photograph (*at left*) illustrates the event. The five people in the foreground look like, from left to right, Minister CE Barnes (probably), Mrs Pam Bell, Mrs Rachel Cleland, unknown, Mr Donald Cleland. If it is CE Barnes in the photo, the photo must be of an event between 1963 and 1967 and not of Popondetta in 1952. The reasons for the date range 1963 and 1967 are that Barnes was appointed Minister for Territories

in 1963 and Cleland retired as Administrator in 1967 (I think).

Perhaps others can confirm, or otherwise, the likeness of Ceb Barnes.

**EVAN CLELAND**

### **Brian Dodd—A Life Lived to the Full**

A letter to your readers about a man who will be missed by many. Brian Dodd arrived in Port Moresby in October 1968 in a clerical capacity, twenty-one and looking for adventure. Back in Sydney he had been a keen bush walker and skilled mountain climber, feeling most at home exploring the rugged terrain of the NSW tablelands and Tasmania's south west, but now with his sights on the peaks of PNG.

Wasting no time he joined the Port Moresby Civil Defence unit, where he participated in staging training exercises as well as participating in real life rescues. There he met a group of rugged individuals who were into climbing, caving and exploring. As a consequence, Christmas saw him a team member on an assault of what was thought to be PNG's highest unscaled peak, Mt Kingkanu, in the Western Highlands. On reaching the top, much to their chagrin, they discovered they were seven years too late; it had been scaled in 1962.

At Easter the group tackled Mt Herbert, near Mt Wilhelm—definitely a first assault, and a feather in their caps.

In February, the group formed a volunteer ambulance and were rostered on duty every third weekend. As well, they formed a mountaineering club, under the auspices of Qld YHA, and spoke at various youth groups



Brian Dodd

in Port Moresby to encourage youth leadership to join and learn outdoor skills. Brian felt proud to be in on the beginning of these services, and part of a group that Mr Skinner (Civil Defence Director) referred to as ‘The roughest, most undisciplined bloody mob of individuals ... but some of the most efficient.’

In mid-1969 he was transferred to Kieta, Bougainville in a clerical capacity with Treasury. Here he was tasked with the numerous duties of a ‘one-man Treasury’ and where he learnt ‘... to be methodical, which is something I have been avoiding for as long as I could.’

But it was evident that he was happiest outside in the bush, and in May was accepted into the patrol officer’s training program. Despite his hopes for a posting to the Highlands, he found himself back on Bougainville where, because of his extensive map-reading skills, he was assigned to mapping clan and sub-clan boundaries for later surveying for the establishment of the open cut copper mine. The work was physically and mentally arduous—understandably unco-operative landowners and many, many small blocks and rugged rainforest terrain made for slow progress. After the establishment of the mine, the work involved assessing compensation for destruction of

gardens, fisheries and villages as a result of tailings deposition, mud slides and pollution.

It was during this time that Brian made two life-long friends: Mike Bell with whom he enjoyed an occasional weekend of fishing and swimming at Mike’s camp on the Jabu River, and Ian Oxenford, a newly-arrived didiman, and another larrikin at heart.

Of this period, Brian recently wrote:

*I don't think any of us could have conceived of the huge environmental damage and social dislocation caused by the mine, the tailings, and the influx of people from overseas and other parts of PNG. It was certainly beyond my experience. But the argument at the time was that the mine would cause damage for which people would be compensated, and the mine would fund PNG independence. I was twenty-one, new to PNG and believed the propaganda.*

*As the project continued it became obvious that the form of compensation was inappropriate, social and mental trauma extreme and a war with atrocities on both sides ensue ... even greed was not a winner from the resulting mess and, yet again, the end did not justify the means.*

In 1973, Brian, accompanied by myself and our son, was transferred to Banz and Angalimp in the Western Highlands. His duties involved settling land disputes and control of tribal fighting, demanding all the negotiation skills he had honed on Bougainville.

His final posting was to Madang in 1975, just in time to celebrate Independence Day in September. The six years we spent there were happy and fulfilling for Brian. Initially, he set up training courses and wrote manuals teaching law and court procedure to national staff. Later, transferring to the Department of Justice as

a district magistrate and final Court of Appeal for land matters in northern New Guinea. Our daughter, Skye, was born during our time there.

In January 1981 we left PNG, immensely sad to be leaving but knowing it was time to return and build a life back home.

Initially, we tried farming on the Sunshine Coast and our daughter, Kristen, was born there. In 1986 Brian joined Aboriginal Affairs (later ATSIC), serving in Katherine, Perth and finally Melbourne. He found his work with Aboriginal people to be rewarding and his personal gentleness, compassion and empathy, tempered by his well-known no bull-shit approach and his negotiation skills, stood him in good stead.

After retiring, Brian divided his time between his family and his passion for social justice, volunteering with the Greens and the Fabian Society. In addition to helping to build a school in Burma with his best mate, Ian Oxenford and wife, Tin, he subscribed generously to many a good cause.

A good friend to many, his humour, love of Irish music and big heart will be missed by many, especially his children and close friends. ♦

**MARY KENNEDY (Dodd)  
& CALLUM DODD**

*(Please see Brian’s vale on page 51)*



Brian with his family and their friends



## Help Wanted

CONNECTIONS & RESEARCH

### Help was Provided!

Bob Lawrence sent in a request for a Help Wanted notice in *Una Voce* asking for readers to consider donating to a GoFundMe campaign seeking to raise \$30,000 for an electronic mobility scooter for Sean Dorney.

On checking the link to the website, our ever-astute production designer, Jeannette Gilligan, found that the target of \$30,000 had already been reached! Below is the updated article from Bob.

### Sean Dorney's Mates Answer the Call

Being diagnosed with Motor Neurone Disease (MND) has not dulled the broad sense of humour of long time PNG/Pacific correspondent for ABC News, Sean Dorney. His many friends and colleagues from his forty-plus years in the media report that conversation with the former correspondent, who was also captain of the PNG Kumuls National Rugby League Team, is as bright and sharp as ever.

Sadly, the fleet-footed athlete now relies on a walking stick and will eventually need an electronic mobility scooter or wheelchair. Sean is likely to need

other medical aids as well in the future.

Such apparatus does not come cheap and so his supporters initiated several fundraisers including a raffle, a trivia night and a GoFundMe campaign seeking to raise \$30,000.

Following the trivia night, recently held by Sean's touch football club in Brisbane, the Graceville Kenmore Scraggies Sporting Club, the target has been reached.

Earlier this year, Sean's daughter Jervina and son Xavier and about twenty of their friends raised \$96,000 for the MNDandMe Foundation's research fund with a sponsored walk along the Kokoda track.

Motor neurone diseases are a group of conditions that affect the nerve cells that send messages to the brain, and result in a progressive weakening of all the muscles in the body.'

### BOB LAWRENCE

*UV congratulates Sean's friends and family for their amazing effort*

### Recognition for TPNG Service

For some time I have been looking at the possibility of having some form of recognition awarded to didimen and didimissus for their service to TPNG, often in remote and dangerous places.

I am aware from my joint patrols with agricultural extension, animal industry, health and public works colleagues, etc. that there are many whom I think should have their efforts in helping to build the nation, recognised. I would

like to hear from anyone who feels some recognition for their efforts would be welcome, and I ask them to contact me by email: [bill\\_deer\\_1999@yahoo.com](mailto:bill_deer_1999@yahoo.com) Contact with kiaps who feel they could support a move for recognition would be welcome also.

### BILL DEER

### Walsh Family Contact

Hello, I'm a close family friend of the late Herbert (Herbie) William Walsh and daughter, Maria, in the Southern Highlands Province of PNG. After Mr Walsh retired he and his daughter, Maria, lived in a local village (Pilipili Hailan) of Ialibu Government Station for some years with my father.

I grew up together with Maria under the care of Mr Walsh. My late father (Nande Porobia) was at that time a colonial health worker called 'Aid Post Orderly' in the 1970s and was a good work colleague friend at Ialibu Health Centre. I was at high school and heard of the death of Mr Walsh in a hospital in Australia after a short illness. I was still in contact with Maria Walsh in Australia, but after some time lost all contact.

Now I'm seeking help to locate Maria and Mr Walsh's sister and immediate relatives so we can reunite and share old memories and continue the good relationship. Please, if anyone can help, I'd like to be contacted through my email ([nandebernard@gmail.com](mailto:nandebernard@gmail.com)) or cell phone number: 675 73074640 or PO Box 104, Mendi, Southern Highlands Province, Papua New Guinea. May God bless you all. ♦

### BERNARD KEPO NANDE



Sean and his wife, Pauline



**Joining a PNGAA event is a great way to network and catch up with friends. You might like to hold an event in your area! Besides being an enjoyable occasion, these can serve to support a special project as a fundraiser and also raise awareness about the relationship between Australia and Papua New Guinea. If you're interested, our Events Team can help you—please email Sara Turner on [events@pngaa.net](mailto:events@pngaa.net) for more information.**

## MELBOURNE

### PNGAA Christmas Luncheon

**When:** Sat, 23 November 2019

**Where:** Caulfield RSL,  
4 St Georges Road, Elsternwick

**Time:** 11.30 am–3.30 pm

**Lunch:** Christmas Menu, TBA.  
Payment on day, approximate cost \$25–30.00 per person

**Parking:** At rear of RSL

**Transport:** Sandringham Line, Elsternwick Station within walking distance (few minutes) or 67 Tram. Please ensure that you make allowances in your travel time for any Victorian road works.

**Cost:** \$10 cover charge. Funds raised go towards cost of venue and our PNGAA collection fund. Payment on day.

**Merchandise:** Books, videos, PNGAA tote bag.

**RSVP:** 18 November 2019, please contact Yana: Mob: 0425 771 359  
E: [coordinator@pngaa.net](mailto:coordinator@pngaa.net)



Yana di Pietro



All Welcome. Please share this information with your family, friends and networks. We are also on the lookout for guest speakers and donations for our raffle prizes.

### YANA DI PIETRO

### 44th Independence Anniversary Lunch: PNG Wantoks Group Victoria



This year marks the 44th year of being independent for the country most of us call home—PNG. To some, it's also a country where we have family and friends, or where we were born, or where we have lived in the past and hold it in our hearts. Please join us for lunch and let's celebrate and enjoy the day together.

**When:** Saturday, 14 September

**Time:** 11:30 am–3:30 pm  
(Lunch will be served at 12:30 pm)

**Venue:** Edinburgh Gardens Community Hall, 578 Brunswick Street, North Fitzroy (behind the bowling club); limited parking onsite or park in Brunswick Street; Tram Stop 20 is the closest.

**Cost:** \$35 adult, \$20 children 5–17 years, 0–4 years old free.

The lunch will be a two-course meal and will be catered so we need to know numbers for catering purposes. We will also have tea/coffee with cake to finish. For any dietary requirements, please let us know when you purchase your ticket.



BYO drinks other than water. Tickets can be purchased online: <https://www.trybooking.com/BEBTZ>

Cut-off date is 10 September by 12 midnight. Please print off your ticket to bring or show your phone. No tickets at the door!

There will be a door prize (TBA), slide show of PNG pictures, raffles, background PNG music, etc. Only seventy places available so first come first served. Please wear neat attire or come dressed in PNG colours.

**Contact:** For information or if you need help purchasing a ticket or need to pay by cash, please contact:

Gorothy—0403 437 171

Lucy Loko—0439 348 896

Bibra—0425 733 842

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

E: [wantokgroupvic@gmail.com](mailto:wantokgroupvic@gmail.com)

## PERTH

### PNGAA Christmas Luncheon



**When:** Friday, 29 November 2019

**Where:** Royal Australian Air Force Association Club, 2 Bull Creek Drive, Bull Creek WA 6149

For all further details and bookings please contact Linda Cavanaugh Manning, Co-ordinator on  
E: [lindam121@bigpond.com](mailto:lindam121@bigpond.com) ▶



## CANBERRA

### An Invitation to View Bob Gotts' Butterfly Collection

Mr Andreas Zwick, a Research Team Leader at the Australian National Insect Collection (ANIC) at the CSIRO in Canberra, has made contact with me, in relation to the PNG butterfly collection which was donated to them by Bob Gotts, who passed away last year. The insect collection is a research collection and is not usually open to the public. However, Andreas has offered to have a small group come and enjoy this stunning butterfly collection.

Andreas will have Mr Ted Edwards, an Honorary Fellow

at ANIC, on hand to give a talk about some of the species and the collection. Ted was the 2015 recipient of the Karl Jordan Medal for outstanding original research on moths and butterflies internationally.

How fortunate is the PNGAA to be given this opportunity! This could be arranged to coincide with the NFSA visit (*following*). Please let me know if you would be interested in attending, via email: [events@pngaa.net](mailto:events@pngaa.net) or mobile 0401 138 246.

(UV: Please see article on the Gotts' butterfly collection on page 36)

### Inaugural Event

#### National Film & Sound Archives (NFSA) Canberra

Keep an eye on Facebook and other social media sites (November-December)

Please keep in mind that an event is presently being organised to allow members and friends to attend sessions to experience film footage, sound and still images about PNG. There is a range of fascinating material starting back from the 1930s—when gold prospectors penetrated the highland areas of central New Guinea with maps and bulky 35 mm camera equipment only to find a population of one million people living in its mountainous valleys—through to the current day, providing a unique insight into the history of PNG.

Stella Conroy, Jane Turner and Jane Clifton-Bassett and I have been steadily working with NFSA towards some time at this centre. If this entices you, it would be great to hear from you ASAP (E: [events@pngaa.net](mailto:events@pngaa.net)) so I can book the required number of sessions.

**SARA TURNER**



## SYDNEY

### PNGAA Christmas Luncheon



**When:** Sunday, 1 December 2019

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

**Time:** 11.30 am–3.30 pm

**Parking:** Plenty of parking at the club; 10 minutes' walk from Killara Railway Station; disability access available

**Cost:** \$70.00 pp includes two-course meal; please advise of any dietary requirements when you are booking prior to the event; attendees to pay for their own beverages at members' rates.

You are able to make up your own table of ten or request sitting with friends.

**RSVP:** 21st November, 2019

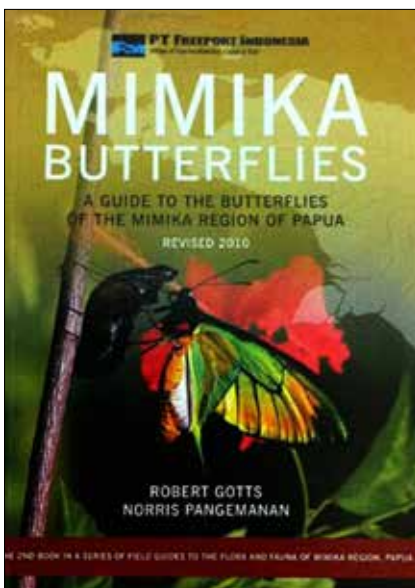
**EFT Payment:** BANK CBA: BSB 062 009; Account No. 0090 7724

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

**Silent Auction:** Will be available so if you want to start earmarking items now, that will be fabulous.

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

**SARA TURNER**





## ADELAIDE

### 2019 History Teachers Assoc. of Australia National Conference

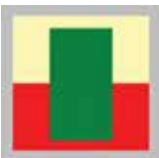
The 2019 History Teachers Association of Australia National Conference will be held at Loreto College, Marryatville, Adelaide from 1–3 October. The PNGAA is delighted that the workshop submission from Margaret and Scott Henderson in Adelaide has been accepted and included in the 2019 HTAA National Conference: 'History Matters'.

Please encourage any history teachers you know to attend.

*(UV: Please see Memorial News for more information)*

## BRISBANE

### 80th Anniversary of the Formation of the New Guinea Volunteer Rifles (NGVR)



... a special day to renew friendships and share memories

You and your friends are invited to celebrate the 80th Anniversary of the formation of the New Guinea Volunteer



NGVR B Company proudly display a Japanese flag they captured at Mubo on 21 July 1942

Rifles (NGVR). It will commemorate the service and sacrifice of this unique Australian Militia Unit which was formed, served and disbanded in New Guinea.

**When:** Saturday, 7 September 2019 at 10 am

**Where:** NGVR & PNGVR Museum, Wacol Military Precinct, 971 Boundary Road, Wacol QLD

**Dress:** Anzac Day Dress with large medals for members, veterans and servicemen; smart casual for civilians and friends

**Parking:** On site and outside on roads

**Program:** 10 am—Morning tea; 11 am—Commemorative Service in the chapel, conducted by NGVR Chaplain, R MacDonald, and an address about the early days of the Pacific War in New Guinea; 12 to 2 pm—Sit down, two-course buffet luncheon with cash bar in Everyman's Hut.

**Cost:** \$40 per person

**RSVP & Payment:**

By 1 September, using this event management link—<https://www.trybooking.com/BDWGV> ▶

**PHIL AINSWORTH**

*(UV: Please see more information about the NGVR on page 61)*

## The PNGAA Collection

This consists of archival material on PNG—photographs, documents, maps, patrol reports, books—reflecting the lives and work of those who have lived in PNG. The PNGAA wishes to ensure these are readily available worldwide to our members, researchers or those simply interested in the rich history of Australia's relations with Papua New Guinea.

The collection grew from an idea of Mr Doug Parrish, former president of the association. It evolved over the years through the dedication and expertise of Dr Peter Cahill, and from a modest collection of photographs, letters and diaries, the PNGAA Collection is now a fast-growing compilation and continues to attract local, national and international interest.

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 Cheryl Marvell at [collections@pngaa.net](mailto:collections@pngaa.net) or 0438 636 132.





# Sydney Wantoks Celebrate the 44th Anniversary of Papua New Guinea Independence

THE SYDNEY WANTOK ASSOCIATION through its residents, friends of PNG and wider NSW community celebrates the 44th PNG Independence Anniversary. During September 2019, the Sydney Wantok Association will hold the following community events to celebrate the PNG Independence Day on **16 September 2019**, and PNGAA members are welcome to attend.

All general enquiries to be sent by email to the president on [sydwantok@gmail.com](mailto:sydwantok@gmail.com) or phone 0475 922 166. The Event Co-ordinators will confirm specific details.

## **PNG 44th Independence Sydney Harbour Cruise—7 September 2019**

**Event Co-ordinator:** Marie Yaru

**Event Support:** Leah Ongugo

**Admission:** tickets \$100.00 per person

On Saturday, 7 September, the Sydney Wantok Association is hiring out the luxurious *Harbour Spirit* catamaran for a four-hour Sydney Harbour cruise.

The cruise includes a licensed bar (buy own drinks), lunch buffet, live music and DJ music. This will be a general fun day for wantoks and friends of PNG to enjoy our harbour city and celebrate our motherland PNG, our national heritage as a sovereign

independent country. The cruise will operate from No. 8 King Street Wharf, Darling Harbour leaving at 11.30 am and returning at 3.30 pm. Further details will be advised.

There are limited seats so hurry to RSVP via email to [sydwantok@gmail.com](mailto:sydwantok@gmail.com)

## **PNG 44th Independence Anniversary Celebrations—14 September 2019**

**Event Coordinator:** Dr Michael Mel

**Event Support:** Marie Yaru

**Admission:** FREE, car parking \$10.00 per vehicle

On Saturday, 14 September, the Sydney Wantok Association will hold its 44th Independence Anniversary Celebrations at MSC Catholic Monastery Oval at 1 Roma Avenue, Kensington, NSW 2033.

There will be an Independence church service commencing at 10 am with flag raising, the National Anthem to follow then various activities in a program to be advised. The day includes cultural performances and sports activities (touch rugby, volleyball, etc.), a live band and DJ entertainment, various groups and individual performances throughout the day. Don't forget your picnic rugs and chairs.

Interested participants of the event are encouraged to have stalls and lots of food and entertainment during the day. You will be required to pay for food, drinks and car parking, and gold coin donations are appreciated to assist with costs for the day.

## **PNG Independence Thanksgiving Lotu (Church Service)—15 September 2019**

**Event Coordinator:** Elizabeth Corner

**Event Support:** Marie Yaru

**Admission:** FREE

On 15 September, the annual PNG Independence Thanksgiving Church Service will be conducted by the Melanesian Lotu Congregation starting at 11 am at Turramurra Uniting Church, 10 Turramurra Avenue, Turramurra, NSW 2074.

It is customary practice for wantoks to bring along a plate of food to support lunch catering by members of the congregation. Fellow wantoks and friends of PNG are welcome and encouraged to join together to thank God for a blessed country and its people celebrating our forty-four years of nationhood.

**Steven Gagau, President, Sydney Wantok Association and PNGAA Committee member**



Sydney Wantoks celebrating at the 2018 anniversary



## 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.

It is on the date and at the venue shown above. The same venue as for the last few gatherings.

The Kawana Waters Hotel is located on Nicklin Way, near Kawana Waters Shopping Centre, on the main road between Mooloolaba and Caloundra. A large parking area is available at the hotel.

The venue outlook is over water to an extensive marina and has a covered outdoor deck area linked to an indoor bar/lounge with adequate dining and seating facilities available for our use. Last time they were able to cater for 309.

There is a good restaurant/ bistro adjoining our area where as with previous reunions you will be able to order your own meals and sit with whom you choose. The restaurant will be open from 11.30 am to 8.30 pm. Since we will be sharing the restaurant facilities of this popular establishment with the regular Sunday clientele, the hotel's Function Co-ordinator has requested that we provide an approximate figure of attendees by the 16 October 2019. So do let us know of your intention to attend or otherwise.

Drinks will be available at bar prices from the lounge bar and

public bars and these will be open from 11.00 am to 10.00 pm.

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.

The Kawana Waters Hotel has sixteen motel-style rooms available, which may be booked for the nights of Saturday, 9 November and Sunday, 10 November 2019. If you require a booking please phone the hotel on 07 5444 6699 and mention that you are part of the 'kiap reunion' group to secure a unit. It is the case of first in, etc. but we know the rooms were found to be very much in demand at all our previous reunions.

Other accommodation for those needing it may be available at:

Kyamba Court Motel  
94 Brisbane Road, Mooloolaba  
Ph. 07 5444 0202

Mooloolaba Motel  
46 Brisbane Road, Mooloolaba  
Ph. 07 5444 2988

Motel Mediterranean  
197 Brisbane Road, Mooloolaba  
Ph. 07 5444 4499

Mantra Sirocco  
59-75 The Esplanade, Mooloolaba  
Ph. 07 5457 6000

River Esplanade Motel  
98 River Esplanade, Mooloolaba  
Ph. 07 5444 3855

Twin Pines Motel  
36 Brisbane Road, Mooloolaba  
Ph. 07 5444 2522

Breakfast on the Monday morning seemed another popular gathering and this will be arranged again. It is held at Bellissimo's Restaurant on The Esplanade at Mooloolaba overlooking the beach and is near the Mooloolaba Surf Club and opposite 'The Loo with a View'.



We ask that you spread the word and pass on this invitation to those you feel would enjoy the day. Our address list is up to date, but we believe not all kiaps are listed and some addresses may not be current. 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. etc.

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

Denys & Helen Faithful:  
0437 274 927 / [hfaith@bigpond.com](mailto:hfaith@bigpond.com)

Bob & Heather Fayle:  
0411 138 884 / [rjfayle31@gmail.com](mailto:rjfayle31@gmail.com)

Peter Salmon:  
0438 092 052 / [editor@exkiap.net](mailto:editor@exkiap.net)

## CAIRNS

### Advance Notice Cairns Gathering

There will be a gathering in Cairns of ex-kiaps and friends in July 2020.

The exact date will be in the December issue of *Una Voce*. Please send any enquiries to Deryck Thompson on E: [dandy51@bigpond.net.au](mailto:dandy51@bigpond.net.au) ♦



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

## Queen's Birthday Honours

PNGAA congratulates Dame Sandra Geok Mai Lau, who was recognised in the Queen's Birthday Honours in June 2019, receiving an Order of the British Empire: *'For services to commerce and the community through her philanthropic contribution in the areas of women and children welfare, education and health services.'*

Dame Sandra, a PNGAA member for a number of years, is a business and community leader who's lived in Rabaul and Kokopo for forty-five years with



Dame Sandra's award is celebrated at Vunapope International School, Kokopo

**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**

her husband, John and their four children, Victor, Stephanie, Marina and Joanne and their families. They survived and rebuilt their business following the 1994 twin volcanic eruptions in Rabaul, and a later fire which destroyed the retail business. Their hospitality is legendary! They warmly welcome and host many visitors to Kokopo ensuring that their visit to East New Britain is memorable.

Whilst many left the area, John and Sandra regard Rabaul and Kokopo as their home and could not think of leaving. With their commitment to the people of East New Britain, they busied themselves with the rebuilding, restoration and resettlement program. They used their contacts in Japan, China and Australia to arrange basic help with items such as tarpaulins, cooking utensils, canned food and dry biscuits. They used the relationship they had established in the business and community, borrowed money from the bank and started trading again from Vunapope, where the Catholic Church leased them land and a boatshed building where they built their wholesale business. Twenty years later disaster struck again when a large fire broke out engulfing the entire retail store— Dame Sandra and the Tropicana team faced this with the same resilience they displayed earlier with the eruption.

Often called 'Mama Sandra',

Sandra is widely recognised because of her philanthropy, especially with children's education. The Laus help a number of students with annual tuition fees to attend schools in Kokopo and Rabaul. Dame Sandra said that 'educating children and empowering them was an investment in the future prosperity of the community, province and country.

'We are also assisting prisoners get an education in tertiary and vocational schools as we believe by assisting them they will become good citizens after they have served their sentence.'

Funding assistance has also been given to Nonga and St Mary's Vunapope Hospital to improve services. Dame Sandra is a member of the Nonga hospital board. Weekends are often spent visiting patients at the hospitals and making donations of items like mattresses and bed sheets. They have helped bring specialist doctors to the province, and built new facilities in both hospitals and schools.

Sandra, John and their business, Tropicana, assisted the PNGAA by shipping a container of books from Sydney to Rabaul in late 2014. Over 10,500 books were donated by the Rotary Club of Canberra, Weston Creek, and courtesy of our PNGAA member, Jack White. After their arrival in Rabaul, Sandra liaised with the East New Britain Education Department and organised





Dame Sandra and her husband, John dispersal to numerous schools in the province. See *Una Voce*, March 2015.

Dame Sandra said there is no secret to their success. ‘It is serving with a good heart and being open, having time and reaching out to the people. We believe in hard work and working with love for the people. That is what we have built the foundation of our business on,’ she said.

Dame Sandra feels honoured that her efforts in the community have been recognised and will continue helping her people. ‘I feel content in doing good to help the people. I see the need and it makes me feel good when I help.’

### **Diamond Jubilee Medal**

PNGAA also congratulates Wayne Uechtritz, of Lae, recipient of the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Medal for community services to PNG.

**ANDREA WILLIAMS**

### **Ministerial Appointment**

PNGAA congratulates The Hon. Alex Hawke MP who

was appointed Minister for International Development and the Pacific on 29 May 2019. This role has been upgraded from the position of Assistant Minister (Parliamentary Secretary) for International Development.

PNGAA has written to the minister to congratulate him and to introduce him to the PNGAA.

### **Sean Dorney Grant for Pacific Journalism**

The PNGAA congratulates Ben Bohane on being the inaugural winner of the Sean Dorney Grant for Pacific Journalism, a \$10,000 reporting grant awarded annually by the Walkley Foundation.

Ben Bohane is an Australian photojournalist, author and TV producer, who has covered Asia and the Pacific islands for the past thirty years. He is the founder and present director of Waka Photo Agency based in Vanuatu.

The grant, announced in April, bears the name of veteran reporter Sean Dorney, and is designed to support a significant work of Australian journalism about an under-reported issue or development in the region.

Sean Dorney had a forty-year career as an ABC journalist in Papua New Guinea and throughout the Pacific islands region. He was awarded the 2018 Walkley Award for Outstanding Contribution to Journalism. Sean retired from the ABC four years ago and is facing the challenge of living with motor neurone disease.



Ben Bohane

He was part of the judging committee that selected Bohane’s project from more than twenty applications, and said the overall standard was incredibly impressive.

‘The idea behind this grant was to generate more interest in stories about the Pacific islands region, to build a broader understanding of what’s going on in the region among the Australian public,’ said Sean Dorney.

‘Ben Bohane’s language skills, his archives of photos and long-standing knowledge in the region made his application a standout for this journalism grant, and we look forward to his reporting being seen by many Australians.’▶

**Reproduced from the Walkley Foundation website**



PNGAA operates on a calendar year basis, so please note that 2020 subscriptions are due by 31 December 2019—if not already paid. Your magazine address label shows the current status of your membership. Rates and payment options are included at the back of this issue in the **Treasurer’s Corner Membership & Order Form.**



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

## **Introducing Chris Pearsall, new PNGAA Secretary**

I was born in the early morning hours of 1 January 1951 at Port Moresby General Hospital, known in those days as the 'European Hospital'. My parents had arrived in Port Moresby in 1946 following the re-establishment of civilian administration after WWII. Having served in the RAAF during the war, my father was appointed as ADC to Col JK Murray who was appointed Administrator by the Australian Government, with the task of getting the new civilian administration functioning and restoring services as quickly as possible.

We originally lived in Boroko and I commenced my primary schooling at Coronation Primary



Chris Pearsall

School. When I was in Grade 3, we moved to a new house in Goldie Street, Kaevaga, which was a very small suburb wedged in between Konedobu and Hanuabada Village. Our house was only a few hundred metres from Port Moresby Harbour. I then changed schools and attended Ela Beach Primary School until the end of Grade 5 when, like many of my contemporaries, I had to return to Australia for secondary schooling.

I went to secondary school in Armidale, NSW, which had been my father's home town. I completed my Higher School Certificate in 1969 and enrolled in a science degree at the University of NSW. After the first year, it became obvious that the world of science was not for me and, after pondering my future and working at several jobs, including being a taxi driver for the now defunct Yellow Cabs, I decided to return to Port Moresby and took a job in the then Department of District Administration (DDA).

The movement towards self-government and full independence was gaining momentum and in 1974, with the writing on the wall, I returned to Sydney and joined the Commonwealth Public Service in the then Department of Overseas Trade. I also enrolled in an economics degree at Macquarie University, as the public service was gracious enough to give me some time off each week to attend lectures.

However, after five years, I decided that the public service was not my long-term career path, and I left to pursue opportunities

in the world of private enterprise, including a number of years with economic consulting and forecasting company, BIS Shrapnel, and a number of years providing export consulting services to a range of clients, mainly focused on advising clients on how to best address the US market.

In conjunction with my American business partners, the business morphed into advising US clients on how to enter the market in Asia. This involved a substantial amount of travel to and from the USA and in 1995, my US partners thought that I really should move to the USA.

So it was that, in February 1996, I moved the entire family to Evergreen, Colorado, in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains, about thirty-five miles from Denver. The business grew and expanded to include the provision of investment banking services, driven in part by the developing 'dot com' boom and the need for investment capital.

I continued to travel extensively in the US, visiting clients and spending a lot of time in California in Silicon Valley visiting venture capital and other private equity funds. It was an exciting time to be in the high-tech space and to be in and around Silicon Valley.

The dot com boom eventually busted and I returned to Australia in April 2002 after seven years in the USA.

Since then, I have remained involved in the investment banking/corporate advisory business and in 2010, with some partners, established my own company. Today we still provide a broad range of investment ►



banking and advisory services, but are focusing more and more on assisting Australian manufacturers establish operations in China.

**CHRIS PEARSALL**

## Event Co-ordinator Report, July 2019

It is with great excitement and satisfaction I am able to tell you that one of the major aims I had when undertaking this role, is well and truly happening.

Firstly, I wish to acknowledge that PNGAA events have been happily and wonderfully successful. I remember as a child my parents having fabulous 'get-togethers' in Mum's home in Melbourne every time we were on leave. So history shows us there is a need and interest to share time with others whose lives have been touched by PNG, and this is one of the aims of our events. I encourage you to come along and bring your friends—a crowd always makes an event fun!

In the early years of PNGAA most events were centred around Sydney, as it was where the Association started. Adelaide (Graham Taylor, Jan Kleinig and team) have recently held their 18th Annual Luncheon. Perth (Linda Cavanaugh Manning and team) has held great events for



Sara Turner

many years. Brisbane (Kieran Nelson) then Melbourne (Yana di Pietro) have also had many enjoyable lunches. I am pleased to let you know that this year Cairns has joined in with Deryk Thompson offering to organise events in this area. Newcastle and Canberra (John Reeves) have recently had their first PNGAA events. More events will be held in various states later this year, and I do hope to see many of you in Canberra.

A huge thank you to all these volunteers for their time and effort and, most importantly, being willing to take up the role. Also, to all those others who help in pulling together the event. By being a sounding board for ideas, suggesting venues, speakers, greetings, sales, raffles, silent auctions, helpers on the day for set up and all the other aspects of making a day enjoyable.

Working corroboratively with others in other regions has been a prime aim for me, to provide a service for our members' needs and interests and encourage interest in contemporary PNG, which aligns with PNGAA goals. It allows the skills, experience and local knowledge of a convenor to design and grow functions in their own way, too.

Having this network provides support to all convenors if needed. Continuity and sustainability stand a better chance of succeeding.

Organising a function can have its challenges. Having the availability to email or call a colleague to chat, clarify, express ideas, laugh and share a story is a supportive benefit for those doing these events. I find that two heads (and hearts) are better than one!

So please support your event



Steven Gagau at the Newcastle function

convenors by making sure you get replies in quickly, ensuring a wonderful day for all.

If you would like to assist on any of the PNGAA State Events Sub-committees, or form your own regional group to liaise with the PNGAA Management Committee where one doesn't already exist, please let me know.

**PNGAA-CWA-PNGWANSW-SydWan Collaboration:** People are still giving talks about PNG to the CWA groups around the state, which is a productive commitment. Thank you.

However, if you do a talk, please forward the CWA group name, date of talk, where you went and a photo. It will be a great historical record.

Thanks to all.

**SARA TURNER**

*email: events@pngaa.net*

## Cost of Living and Superannuation Update

CE (Tim) Terrell, AM, PNGAA's representative on the Australian Council of Public Sector Retiree Organisations (ACPSRO), has presented information which aims to bring members up to date on the recent activities of the council. Please see page 38 for the full report. ♦

## Membership

[www.pngaa.org/site/members](http://www.pngaa.org/site/members)

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

We are delighted to see so many new members joining the PNGAA in recent weeks. We hope that our new members enjoy the experience and that they will let their friends and family know about the association.

**Ms Diana BARNETT**

PO Box 6163, Hawthorn West  
VIC 3122

**Mr Julian BENSON**

9 Gallum Road, Cooriemungle  
VIC 3268

**Mr Denis BISCHOF**

PO Box 9497, Wiltonton  
QLD 4350

**Mr John BROOKSBANK**

PO Box 317, Kuranda  
QLD 4881

**Mr Peter DIEZMANN**

10 King Street, Kings Beach,  
Caloundra QLD 4551

**Mrs Norelle HARTWIG**

71 St James Road, New Lambton  
NSW 2305

**Mr Les HARTWIG**

71 St James Road, New Lambton  
NSW 2305

**Mr Craig HORLEY**

36 Allan Street, Curtin  
ACT 2605

**Ms Helen JEFFERY**

8 Bluestone Gardens,  
Jerrambomberra NSW 2619

**Miss Joss LARKINS**

43 Murphy Street, East Bendigo  
VIC 3550

**Mr Bruce MACKINLAY**

PO Box 87, Port Moresby  
PAPUA NEW GUINEA

**Mr Stewart MacLENNAN**

12 Coal Street, Islington  
NSW 2296

**Mr Alan MATTHEWS**

PO Box 949, Townsville  
QLD 4810

**Mr Ian MINNS**

Unit 17, 14 Olakuna Crescent,  
Ferny Hills QLD 4055

**Ms Helen PREECE**

10 Benjee Place, Isabella Plains  
ACT 2905

**Mr Robert RAE**

100 Andrew Road, Valentine  
NSW 2280

**Mr Brian RICHES**

PO Box CS001 (Princes Road,  
opposite the Police Post),  
Naitasiri Province, Colo-I-Suva  
FIJI

**Ms Roberta SKY**

31/6 Blossom Place,  
Quakers Hill NSW 2763

**Ms Mary Ann UECHTRITZ**

PO Box 6097, Mooloolah  
QLD 4553

### Change of Address

**Mr Kevin DEUTROM**

20A Cobham Avenue,  
Morphettville SA 5043

**Mr Edward GODDEN,  
OBE FCPA**

Sapphire Gardens Retirement  
Village, Unit 198, 196 Logan  
Street, Eagleby QLD 4207

**Miss Alison GOUGH**

Westerwella Garden Village,  
7 Garden Crescent,  
Port Macquarie NSW 2444

**Mrs Christine KING**

1 Nelson Avenue, Bronte  
NSW 2024

**Mr David MONTGOMERY, AM**

'Kimbe', Range Road,  
Grabben Gullen  
NSW 2583

**Mr Maurie MORRISSON**

PO Box 716, Tolga QLD 4882

**Mr Andrew NORMOYLE**

35/45 Blackall Street,  
Barton ACT 2600



## Treasurer's Corner Membership & Order Form

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 confidential and your details will never be revealed or traded.





Remembering  
**25 Years  
 Rabaul  
 1994**

# Disaster Struck the Garden City

It has been twenty-five years since the major eruption on 19 September 1994 of volcanoes Vulcan and Tavorvur, destroyed

**the once-picturesque coastal town of Rabaul, then the capital of East New Britain Province.**

THERE WERE ONLY nineteen hours of warning, but the town and most nearby villages were evacuated before the eruption. Five people were killed—one of them by lightning from the eruptive column—but the planning and evacuation drills helped keep the death toll low.

During the eruption, ash was sent thousands of metres into the air and the subsequent rain of ash caused eighty per cent of the buildings in Rabaul to collapse, destroying the airport and covering most of the town with heavy ashfall.

The eruption, and continuing low and modest levels of activity, prompted moving the provincial capital to Kokopo, the former German Herbertshöhe.

Nonetheless, Rabaul is slowly rebuilding in the danger zone. Vulcan has remained quiet since 1994, but eruptions from Tavorvur, small and large, occur intermittently, with the most recent of note being in 2009 and 2014.

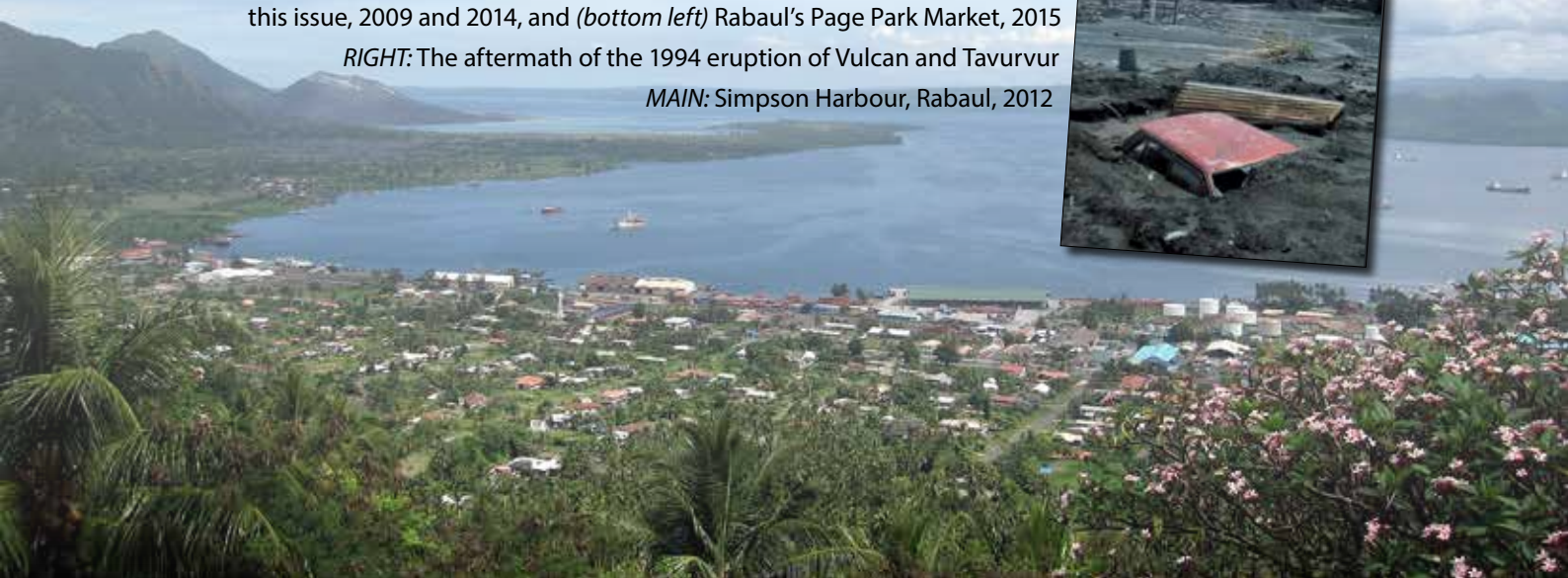
Today, Rabaul is a major tourist destination, popular for its volcanoes, diving sites, WWII history and cultural life—with many cruise ships visiting each year. ♦



*LEFT:* Volcanic eruption of Mount Tavorvur in 2008, also featured on the front cover of this issue, 2009 and 2014, and *(bottom left)* Rabaul's Page Park Market, 2015

*RIGHT:* The aftermath of the 1994 eruption of Vulcan and Tavorvur

*MAIN:* Simpson Harbour, Rabaul, 2012







# PNG in the News

At one-minute past midnight, 16 September 1975, Sir John Guise issued the Proclamation of Independence:

*Papua New Guinea is now independent.*

*The Constitution of the Independent State of Papua New Guinea, under which all power rests with the people, is now in effect.*

*We have at this point in time broken with our colonial past and we now stand as an independent nation in our own right.*

*Let us unite, with the Almighty God's guidance and help, in working together for a future as a strong and free country.*



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

### PNG Prime Minister Visits Australia

The new PNG Prime Minister, Mr James Marape, visited Australia for a 6-day visit from 21–26 July as the official guest of the Australian Government, two months after he took over as leader.

Prime Minister Marape was accompanied by his wife, Rachael Marape, and several ministers. Mr Marape was elected Prime Minister on 30 May, having previously served as Finance Minister and Education Minister. A father of six and son of a Seventh-day Adventist pastor, Mr Marape has arts and environmental science degrees from the University of Papua New Guinea and entered parliament in 2002.

In Canberra he had high-level political engagements along with good opportunities for connecting with business and community groups.

In Perth, a particularly significant moment was where 300 members of the PNG diaspora drove for hours for the chance to meet him. And, there were strategic opportunities to engage with the mining and resource, education and defence sectors.

Mr Marape's speech at the Lowy Institute on Thursday, 25 July was his first international address since taking office, and allowed him to consolidate the themes he had been setting out since taking office in May. He accepted the first forty-four years of his country's independence have not always been a success. The next phase

of his country's history needs to be written, he said, describing it as 'a new book', with a very important first chapter.

Agriculture and sustainable development were consistent themes through the week, an emphasis on ensuring resource projects large and small deliver real results for his country, and the establishment of a commission to fight endemic corruption in his country.

#### Excerpt from Mr Marape's speech at the Lowy Institute

Ladies and gentlemen, Papua New Guinea is at a crossroads. The old book of PNG belongs to the past forty-four years [since independence from Australia] and is littered with chapters of few success and more failures, and that is history and their story. And we anticipate to anchor our new book for the next forty-four years from lessons learnt in the first book.

Amidst many pronounced failures including systematic weakness of service delivery, PNG, a nation of over 830



Hon. James Marape MP





Mr and Mrs Marape at The Lodge in Canberra

tribal and languages groups has maintained unity in a democratic system of government, with a functional and independent judiciary, and has managed to survive thus far as a united democratic country.

We have developed a vibrant economy, we have refined our political systems, we have enhanced democratic process and the rule of law, and made great headway in addressing the development challenges of the most geographically and culturally diverse nation on earth.

But it is clear to me, and must be clear to all who care to listen, that the new generation of leaders I lead on behalf of our people demand change, of course, for the better because what we have done thus far as a nation, has been inequitable and disproportionate to our natural resource extraction.

In a country where population growth trends above economic growth or GDP, our annual budget provisions continue to be far less than actual need for development, it is

now time to do things differently. Generational change demands change in modus operandi.

Now is the time to embrace economic opportunity so that we can provide for all of our people, both today and for the generations to come.

We have a responsibility to ensure that we invest in our future, so that our children, our children's children and all those that come beyond have a strong foundation.

For the full speech go to: <https://www.lowyinstitute.org/publications/address-hon-james-marape-mp-prime-minister-papua-new-guinea>

Based on information from the Lowy Institute website

## Australian Foreign Minister Visits Bougainville

In June the Foreign Minister of Australia, the Hon. Marise Payne, visited Bougainville as part of her visit to PNG, the first visit to PNG by a Foreign Minister since 2014. She met with PNG's Minister for Bougainville Affairs, the Hon. Sir Puka Temu MP, and the Acting President of the Autonomous Bougainville Government, Raymond Masono. They discussed Australia's support for the 2001 Bougainville Peace Agreement and preparations for the referendum currently scheduled for later in the year. She also met with women peacebuilders from around Bougainville to hear about women's participation in the peace process.

Below is a link to the media release issued by her office on 20 June 2019, on her visit to PNG: [https://foreignminister.gov.au/releases/Pages/2019/mp\\_mr\\_190620.aspx](https://foreignminister.gov.au/releases/Pages/2019/mp_mr_190620.aspx)



TOP: The Hon. Marise Payne MP arrives in Papua New Guinea  
MIDDLE & BOTTOM: Celebrating at a previous Frangipani Festival  
(Festival photos courtesy Max Uechtritz)

## The Frangipani Festival

This will be held in Rabaul in New Britain, from 13–16 September 2019.

The festival is held annually and celebrates the rebirth of Rabaul after the 1994 twin volcanic eruptions that almost completely destroyed the Rabaul township twenty-five years ▶



ago (see page 17) and, being in September, it also celebrates forty-four years since Papua New Guinea gained its independence.

The streets of Rabaul come alive with noise and colour for an annual float parade. The first float parade was held in 1995 with twenty-five floats, on the first anniversary of the eruption, just as the town was getting back

on its feet. The festival has been growing every year and in 2016 the parade hit an all-time high with 165 floats and 7,000 people lining the streets.

The festival is named after the frangipani flower, the town's signature bloom and the first plant to blossom in the midst of the ash.

### Bougainvilleans in Australia Register to Vote in Referendum

Bougainvilleans were registering in Queensland in July to vote in the Bougainville Independence Referendum, now delayed until November to ensure domestic and international voter registration is completed, and to finalise other preparations. In Australia registration has been open only at the Brisbane and

Cairns PNG consuls, and people travelled from across the country to enrol.

The referendum will ask Bougainville people if they should have greater autonomy from PNG or full independence. It comes three decades after the start of a bloody civil war on the island that claimed thousands of lives and saw many flee overseas. Bougainville first unsuccessfully tried to declare sovereignty in September 1975, just before PNG independence from Australia.

Bougainville's civil war erupted thirty-one years ago, when landowners revolted over the lack of direct benefits and the environmental damage from the world's largest copper mine on their island, run by Rio Tinto. The Panguna mine has not reopened since.

Former Irish prime minister, Bertie Ahern, who helped broker peace in Northern Ireland, has been appointed Referendum Commissioner and visited Bougainville in July.

Not all weapons were surrendered during the New Zealand-led peace process in 1997 that gave Bougainville a measure of autonomy from PNG and paved the way for this referendum.

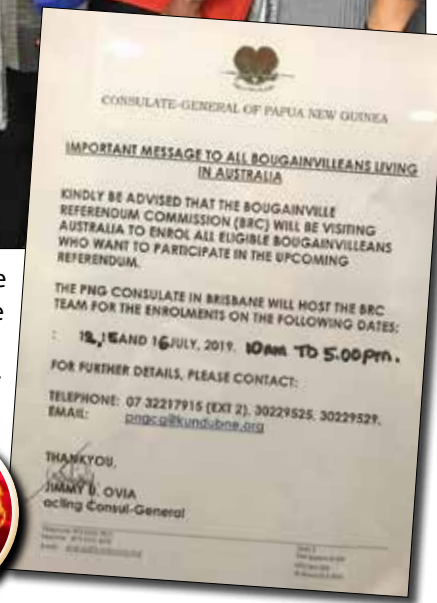
However, a summit by former Bougainville combatants has pledged disarmament and peace ahead of the coming referendum vote on independence. An additional weapons disposal meeting will be held as a result of the summit outcome.

The referendum result is non-binding and must be ratified by the PNG parliament. The PNG Prime Minister, Mr Marape, said it is the view of his government that PNG is stronger with



Bougainville people register for the referendum in Brisbane (top) and notice to Bougainvilleans living in Australia

Photos courtesy Stefan Armbruster





Bougainville than without, and unity was the preferred course of action, but he said they would let the referendum take place, listen to the people of Bougainville, and then consult on options for the future.

Based on SBS article by Stefan Armbruster and other websites.

## 25th Anniversary of the National Mask Festival and Warwagira

The 2019 National Mask Festival & Warwagira, which took place from 10–12 July in Kokopo, marked the twenty-fifth anniversary of the event. The festival showcases the unique mask cultures of East New Britain Province, and is a cultural tribute to the people of East New Britain—the Tolai, Baining and Pomio. The festival is an extravaganza of cultural dancing, ritual performance, story-telling and exchange, with a variety of arts and crafts on display.

### A First-hand Experience of the Mask Festival

KOKOPO—East New Britain has been buzzing this week as the South Pacific Export Mask Festival and Tolai Warwagira welcomed visitors from all over the world to experience the magic and wonder of an intricate and unique culture.

The annual festival showcases dances from East New Britain, West New Britain, New Ireland and other provinces in Papua New Guinea.

One of the highlights is the Kinavai ceremony which starts on the beach at dawn. *Dukduks* and *tubuans* arrive on canoes just as the sun rises.

*Dukduk* is a secret society, a sacred part of the Tolai culture.



The society represents spirits. The *dukduks* represent male spirits and the *tubuans* are female spirits.

The only way to differentiate between *dukduk* and *tubuan* is by the mask worn by the dancer. Even though they may be representing a *tubuan*, the dancer will always be male. Always. Females are not allowed in the society.

As the canoes approach, villagers, residents and tourists congregate on the shore of Omorong Beach. Hundreds gather and wait in silent anticipation.

I witnessed my first Kinavai in the 1990s. My heart beat in perfect timing with the drums. The chanting was mesmerising. Everyone around me immersed in the perfect rhythm of their heartbeat and the drums pulsating in unison.

The beats lured me into a trance, igniting emotions I had never felt before. I was simultaneously fearful, excited, curious, proud and in awe. It



The Kinavai Festival (top) and the Baining Fire Dance (bottom)

was a pivotal moment in my life.

I was home and suddenly my identity was clear and precise. I am a Tolai.

No-one could take this away from me. No-one. Here was my birthright. ♦

**VANESSA GORDON, 2018**  
Reprinted from *Keith Jackson & Friends: PNG Attitude*



# Sir Michael Somare & PNG

**IAN TAUKURO**

Ian Taukuro was in Grade 6 at Korobosea Primary School, where my wife taught, whilst I was working at Air Niugini 1979–88. In 2017 he gave this to her as a commentary on the retirement of Sir Michael, and I'm sending it for publication, with Ian's permission, as it is a universal essay on nationhood that should be read by all. I met Sir Michael only briefly when I was in PNG with the military in Lae at self-government, and Ian's feelings seem poignant to me given the current state of affairs there. *Victor Bibby*

I THINK WE SHOULD give credit to Sir Michael Somare, where credit is due. The deep gratitude, well, mine at least, goes to him for shepherding us all, as a people, on to the world stage as a nation called Papua New Guinea.

I am proud of that fact alone. That, in the eyes of the world, I have an identity. A singular identity as someone from that amazing, wild, adventure of a country whose people speak 800 or so different languages. I am someone from that island nation,

surrounded by other islands, jutting out of the Pacific Ocean that was once viewed as a dark forbidding place—it had the grim nickname: *The Last Unknown*.

But one day in September of 1975 we earned a real name with an uncertain but bright future, and we were anything but unknown—and it was all largely due to the efforts of one man. Sir Michael was, in my opinion, the right man at the right time, in so far as attaining Independence for us without violence is concerned. Not many people remember that when we gained Independence, many foreigners who were still here, left our country thinking that we would descend into a huge civil war, because of our diversity.

But, at the time, there was a profound sense of unity among all our leaders who hailed from all regions of our country. Sir Michael was a uniting figure, whose charm, charisma and sheer force of will, held it all together as we plunged forth into the great unknown that day in September 1975. I still have some memory of the day because my father took myself and my elder brother to the old stadium to see the Australian flag being lowered and our brand-new beautiful bold bird of paradise being thrust up enthusiastically into the sky.

I remember the array of soldiers. The straight-backed royal prince from England who was there. The towering frame of Gough Whitlam and, most of all, our champion, Michael Somare, beaming and buoyant with pride as the changeover ritual was completed. Even the sound of his voice on the radio at the time had fire and steel in it.

At the time I had no idea what all the fuss was about. But I have since grown up and cherish the fact that I am a citizen of a unique country. I am a Papua New Guinean. I have rank and status among all other citizens of all nations of this world. Because of it, I am today a driven man with obligations and children to fend for, with steady eyes focused ahead on their future well-being in the ever-changing world.



Prime ministers Gough Whitlam and Michael Somare at the Independence ceremony in 1975 (top), and the raising of the PNG flag on Independence Hill at the ceremony (bottom).



Maybe those are the same essential things that propelled Sir Michael in his approach to the huge challenge of forging a nation of one, out of an incredibly diverse population—Identity—Future—Prosperity. Those who mock the pomp and ceremony of the farewells accorded to Sir Michael Somare, perhaps look at him through the lens of the years since Independence in 1975, and the economic and developmental issues that continue to frustrate our progress. Yes, there were instances of controversy while he was at the top. I suppose in the court of public opinion in this country the man will remain a respected but tainted individual, which is something that any person in a long-lasting position of political influence will always bear as history shows.

Yes, he could and should have done more to influence how the country grew to make it into a more inclusive society of equal wealth distribution and protection of purely PNG interests. That is agreed.

But you tend to see things clearly when you look back on what transpired, and I suppose we do tend to overlook that Sir Michael is only one man. He started something for all of us. Something good and nice that could and should still flourish if we all take the time to nurture and care for it responsibly.

After all, we live in a democracy where everyone is entitled to a fair share in economic productivity and, at the same time, we also have an equally fair responsibility to do what is right to ensure that those who run our public institutions and those we elect into office are honest and, if not, held accountable. That's the shared ideal and the burden of ownership we desperately need to take on if we ever want Papua New Guinea to really move forward in leaps and bounds.

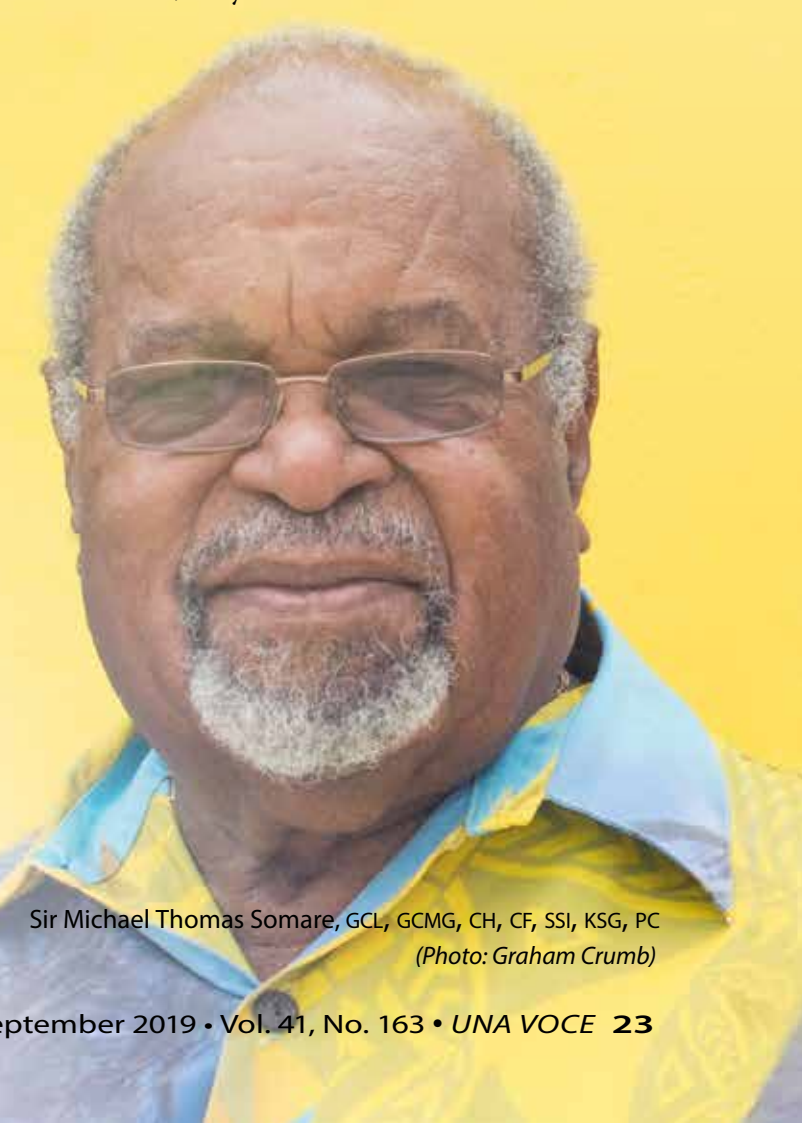
Sir Michael brought us to the table as one family—when a family sits down together at meal time, everyone seated has played a role in ensuring the meal is prepared. Everyone is supposed to contribute to what you eat at that table, right? You don't just sit back and wait for a few to make the decisions for you. You get involved. You work. You contribute. The fact that our table is still not laden with the wonderful things to satisfy us all, is because we all have not played a part in helping to build our nation. Over the years we have developed a sense of complacency on a national level that has led us to become incredibly forgiving of serious instances of encroachment on the ideals that created our nation.

The proud young nation of Papua New Guinea is now a playground for foreign interests, weak government authority and self-satisfying leaders. We, the people, are the hapless pawns in it all, continuously misinformed, always led astray and perpetually trod on. As a people, we appear to be losing or have already lost our sense of self-respect.

Our sense of nation is fleeting, you catch a rare glimpse of it at international sporting events only. It lifts and swells the heart and then it's gone. After that, it's back to the 'me and mine', not 'us and ours' attitude. It certainly wasn't like that when we gained Independence.

I think we owe it all to ourselves and the legacy of Independence, now fully bequeathed to us by the departing Sir Michael, to do the absolute right thing this election cycle, and vote with neither your stomach nor your pocket, but with your heart and your conscience. 2017 presents us with a great opportunity to arrest our continual slide into apathy. Let us, as one people, recover our sense of nation, of being one people, desiring to move forward, together, for everyone's benefit, as was the grand hope of Sir Michael on 16 September 1975.

Thank you, Michael Thomas Somare, leader and fellow citizen, for your service to our nation. ♦



Sir Michael Thomas Somare, GCL, GCMG, CH, CF, SSI, KSG, PC

(Photo: Graham Crumb)

# PNG's Government -Village Communications Post -Independence

**ROBERT FORSTER**

**Papua New Guinea's first government had a well-established provincial, administrative and village contact structure on independence.**

**At the core of the successful kiap system was a central bureaucracy that had direct contact with villagers throughout PNG—no matter how remote the location.**



Flag being raised during routine patrol at Munumul near Nondugl in the Wahgi Valley in 1973 (Robert Forster on left)

IT WAS CHANNELLED through an estimated 2,000 official rest houses where local communities and government representatives regularly met. These assembly points were most commonly used for routine visits or, in more outlying areas, formal patrols, to update census records, monitor community health, assess village mood or pass on new government directives.

Kiaps were the dominant symbol of Australian administration and PNG's post-independence politicians would, not unnaturally, have been keen to distance themselves.

But this came at a price. Whatever anyone might have thought about kiaps themselves, they functioned within a structure that had polished its capacity to deliver government messages, and at the same time return useful messages, or observations on shifts in village circumstances or attitude, back to government.

A good example is that the new PNG flag was shown at every village assembly point over 1972–73—well ahead of Independence Day itself in 1975. Few, if any, Papua New Guineans would not have been aware of it, which meant an overnight, possibly destabilising, jolt to national perceptions was avoided.

Showing the new flag was not straightforward. Village resistance to Independence could be fierce and there were occasions when kiaps had to summon all their skills to make sure the new national emblem could fly unchallenged and unmolested.

Now, forty-four years later, it is clear that abandonment of the regular and blanket government-village and village-government communications exchange that was central to the kiap system has triggered unforeseen consequences.

The absence of regular and direct government-village-government contact means that all too often Port Moresby's response to rural problems is to ignore them—assuming it is aware of them in the first place. Or, in the case of village unrest, or direct challenges to central authority, descend on the trouble spot with overwhelming force, then almost immediately retreat, leaving a confused and unguided community to its own devices.

This being the case it is no surprise a number of no-go areas have emerged. One of which is the Kunimeipa section of the Goilala sub-province, which is hardly eighty miles from Port Moresby itself.

Another result is that disintegration of government-village contact continues and, unless a similarly effective rural administration system is re-established, further decline in contact between villagers and central government is an inevitable, unfortunate, and avoidable, result. ♦



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

## MURROUGH BENSON—Part Two

**Part 1 in the June edition of *Una Voce* described my move to PNG and my posting as a didiman to Kundiawa, the administrative centre for the Chimbu District.**

IN MID-JUNE 1966 I was posted to Gumine, about thirty miles south of Kundiawa and a couple of hours' drive—on a good day that is, with no rain, no landslips, no breakdowns (luckily, Land Rovers were generally pretty reliable) and no punctures, a combination not often enjoyed. The limestone-paved roads (where they were paved at all) were pretty harsh on tyres so we always carried a repair kit with plenty of vulcaniser patches. Another hazard on the road was pigs, and it was a good idea to avoid hitting one, as the usual response of the owners if you didn't stop was to remove the decking of a bridge further down the road to halt your progress while compensation was negotiated.

Fortunately, I managed to avoid hitting any pigs in my time in Chimbu, although I did once hit one on the Highlands Highway in the Western Highlands. I was lucky to avoid any confrontation with the local people on this occasion though as there was no one nearby at the time, and the big wide road allowed me to get well away from the scene before the dead pig was found.

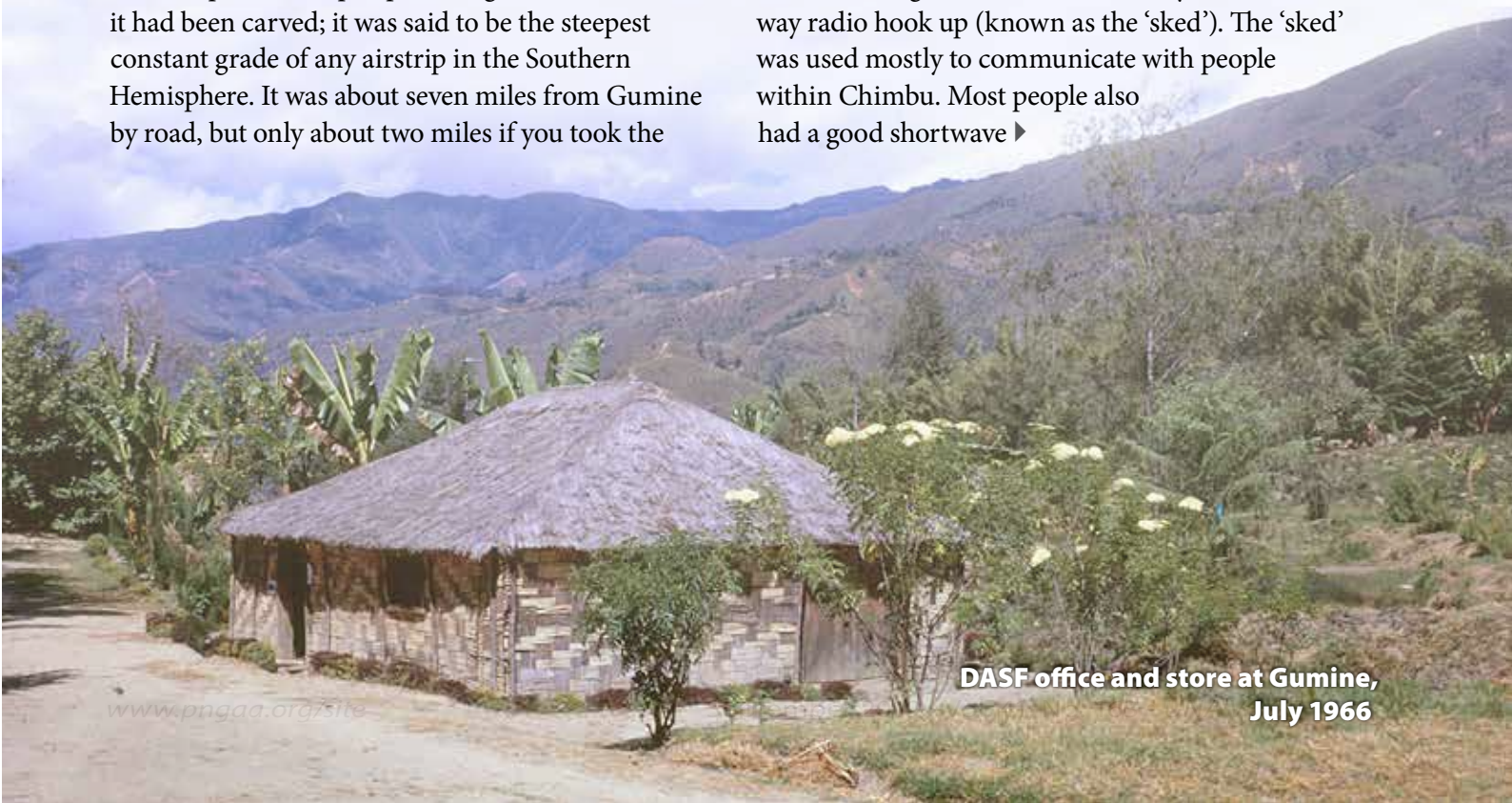
Apart from access by road, Gumine was also serviced by Omkalai airstrip, renowned for its thirteen per cent slope up the ridge out of which it had been carved; it was said to be the steepest constant grade of any airstrip in the Southern Hemisphere. It was about seven miles from Gumine by road, but only about two miles if you took the

tough one-hour walk across the big gorge between the station and the airstrip.

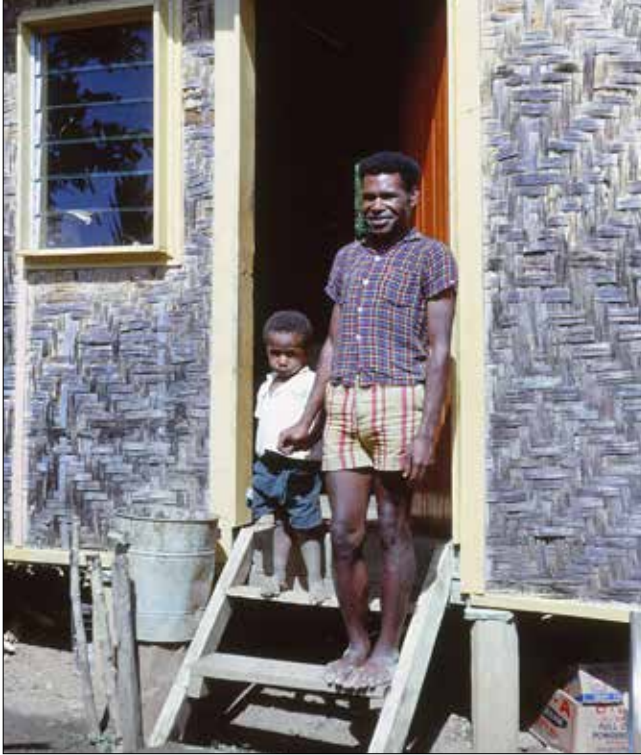
This route became quite familiar to me as the Department of Agriculture, Stock and Fisheries (DASF) extension centre was alongside the airstrip, and transport was often not available to make the trip on wheels. Departing planes would disappear off the end of the strip, down over the Wahgi River far below, before circling to regain height and going on their way.

Coming in to land presented another challenge: making sure the plane maintained enough momentum to reach the level parking bay at the top. More than one pilot not familiar with the strip found themselves stranded part way up and had to call on local manpower to help them complete their journey by giving the plane a push. A government air charter plane serviced Omkalai three times a week from Goroka, bringing in our supplies and mail, so we were by no means isolated. If we flew to Goroka it only took about fifteen minutes and Kundiawa was barely seven minutes away.

Apart from physically visiting other centres, communication with the outside world was by means of letters, telegrams or the twice-daily scheduled two-way radio hook up (known as the 'sked'). The 'sked' was used mostly to communicate with people within Chimbu. Most people also had a good shortwave ▶



**DASF office and store at Gumine,  
July 1966**



Kuri and son at my Gumine house, 1966

radio to keep in touch with world news, sporting events and so on.

Gumine was a pretty little station at an altitude of 5,600 feet with a wonderful temperate climate—warm days and at least two-blanket nights. Annual rainfall was about 90–95 inches, mostly falling from November to March. Mosquitoes were practically non-existent and I rarely saw a snake there, which I was very happy about. The station serviced a population of about 38,000 people. During my time there it was home to seven expatriates—the Assistant District Commissioner (ADC) and his wife, a patrol officer, cadet patrol officer, a primary school teacher, doctor and myself.

Initially, I shared a permanent materials house with one of the kiaps, but after a few months I chose to make way for a newly-arrived *liklik kiap* (cadet patrol officer) and moved into a little place of my own. It was a single-bedroom house with corrugated iron roof, woven *pitpit* walls and pitsawn timber floor—basic but very comfortable. I had my own *mangki masta*, Kuri, who bought all the vegetables and fruit at the weekly market on the station—never any shortage of lovely fresh local produce—and did all my cooking and cleaning. Kuri also came on patrol with me and looked after all the domestic arrangements while I was out working during the day. Sometimes his wife and children would help with the chores, too.

Regular meals or parties in each other's homes were our main social outlet and other recreation took the form of tennis, table tennis, football and swimming. The occasional weekend or few days away

on business or pleasure at one of the bigger centres provided a bit of variety. One of those jaunts not long after I went to Gumine was to shear some sheep near Goroka for a woman, who taught the local people how to spin and weave wool and other materials. I met up with the fellow who was with me on my first patrol outside Kundiawa, and it took us most of a day to shear thirty or forty sheep with extremely long and greasy wool. We also marked a few lambs while we were there.

The DASF office when I first went to Gumine was an eight-foot square *kunai* (tough, long-bladed grass) hut with woven *pitpit* walls and a dirt floor. It was clearly designed for people much shorter than my six foot two frame—but it didn't really matter for I didn't intend spending a lot of time there. The rats obviously enjoyed the meagre stationery supplies, but I'm not sure that the recipients of my monthly reports were particularly impressed with the quality of what I sent them—and that's before they even got to read the content. I suspect my explanations may have fallen on deaf ears, too; a bit like some of those excuses teachers get from students who have not done their homework.

A visit by one of the DASF 'big wigs' from Moresby, after I had been at Gumine for only a couple of weeks, hastened the funding of a new office; it's probably an understatement to say he was not particularly impressed with our *kunai* hut. Nothing like getting them out in the real world to get a bit of action—not that I was particularly concerned about action on that front at the time, but the presence of both the regional and district agricultural officers at the time probably added some weight to the argument for an upgrade. Our new office, complete with concrete floor, corrugated iron roof and woven *pitpit* walls was ready for use early in 1967.

The local DASF staff with me consisted of a very capable assistant agricultural officer, who had done a two-year course at PATI (Popondetta Agricultural Training Institute), an agricultural assistant who can perhaps be best described as a *bosboi* (foreman), again very capable in that role, and nine farmer-trainees who stayed with us for up to twelve months, and learned by helping us with our work in the field. The idea was that they would then return to their villages and help spread the word around. How effective this trickle-down approach was, however, is debatable. I suspect many of these young men drifted into town rather than return to their home places. ♦

**To be continued in the December issue of *Una Voce***





# Two School Friends in the War in Papua New Guinea

## ***The Brave Coastwatcher with the 'Golden Voice': Leigh Vial 1909–43***

Leigh Grant Vial, patrol officer and coastwatcher, was born on 28 February 1909 at Camberwell, Melbourne, eldest of four sons of Victorian-born parents, Stanley Browning Vial, school proprietor, and his wife Mary, née Smith. Educated at Wesley College, Leigh worked in retail stores before beginning a commerce degree at the University of Melbourne in 1932. In November of that year he applied to be a cadet patrol officer in the Mandated Territory of New Guinea. Stocky, self-reliant, quiet and earnest, he was one of ten chosen from 1,659 applicants, and in June 1933 was sent to Morobe District.

In August–October 1934 Vial accompanied assistant district officer, Gerry Keogh, in chasing the murderer, Ludwig Schmidt, through unexplored country between the Lai and Sau Rivers in the western Highlands. Vial attended a patrol officers' course at the University of Sydney in February to August 1935. Judged 'very solid and thoughtful', he was promoted patrol officer on 7 June. He returned to Morobe and was posted first to Otibanda then in July 1936 to Buki, south of Finschhafen.

At Salamaua on 26 November 1936 he married Marjorie Kathleen Strangward in a civil ceremony. They went to Buki, but Leigh was rarely at home, patrolling for months in the mountains. He was transferred to Salamaua in late 1937 and Madang in June 1938, and on 31 August 1940 was made assistant district officer, Rabaul. On 15 August 1938 he had become the first European to climb Mount Wilhelm, the Territory's highest peak, and during his town postings he wrote fifteen articles on the peoples of Morobe and the Highlands, most for *Walkabout* or *Oceania*.

A day before the Japanese occupied Rabaul on 23 January 1942, Vial led one hundred ground crew of No. 24 Squadron, Royal Australian Air Force, to Put Put on the east coast of New Britain, where two flying boats took them to Townsville, Queensland. He was appointed pilot officer, RAAF, on 28 January and assigned to coastwatching in New Guinea. Reaching Salamaua on 20 February, he took his cumbersome

teleradio inland, and on 28 February, his thirty-third birthday, he and two New Guineans set up an observation post (OP) looking north-east over Salamaua and Lae. He wrote later that OPs should be positioned in terrain that confused radio direction-finders, and have well-concealed lines of withdrawal, cloud-free views and a water supply.

New Guineans pronounced Vial's name 'Well'; his post became 'Well's O-Pip'. From it his clear, calm voice sent as many as nine messages a day on the weather and on Japanese aircraft, ship and troop movements. He was nicknamed 'Golden Voice', and an American pilot was to recall, 'We all felt a closeness to him.' In the dank jungle, constantly wet, beset by leeches and mosquitoes, he suffered tinea so badly that he had to crawl to send reports. The Japanese attempted to bribe local people to betray him, and two patrols passed under the tree in which he was hiding, but he remained until 12 June, when he moved closer to Salamaua to get under cloud.

The new post was extremely dangerous, and on 24 June Vial suspected that a Japanese aeroplane had located it. He moved to what became known as ▶



Leigh Vial

Vial's OP, and later admitted to a 'bad scare' once a week on average. On 28 July he was promoted flying officer, but poor food, privation and the constant use of binoculars were blinding him, and he was relieved on 11 August. He walked to Wau in two days, then flew to Port Moresby. His intelligence officer reported that 'not on any single occasion did he neglect to get his messages through'. In 1942, for his extraordinary heroism, he was awarded the United States' Distinguished Service Cross, that country's second-highest bravery decoration and its highest for non-citizens.

On leave in August to November 1942, Vial wrote a handbook on jungle survival. He then took command of the Port Moresby section of the Far East Liaison Office, which made propaganda broadcasts, dropped leaflets—some of which Vial wrote—and supplied allied patrols in Japanese-occupied territory. The following January he was promoted to flight lieutenant, but on 30 April, 1943 on a supply drop, the Liberator carrying him crashed near Bena Bena in the Highlands. All twelve on board were killed. Their bodies were recovered and buried in Lae War Cemetery. Vial's wife, and their son and two daughters, who had been evacuated to Melbourne, survived him.

Written by Bill Gammage, published in the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Vol. 16, (MUP), 2002

### **Willis Talbot Crocker— a Lark Force survivor**

Willis grew up in Melbourne then worked on stations in Queensland and NSW during the Depression. He returned to Melbourne in 1940 to enlist in the Australian Imperial Force (AIF), and his service number was VX28596. Commencing duty at Balcombe on 1 August 1940, he was posted to 2/22 Battalion Lark Force. Training was at Puckapunyal and Bonegilla, where he was graded Intelligence Duties Group II.

He married Aileen Margaret Hamilton in Melbourne in January 1941. Lark Force was sent to Rabaul, New Britain, three months later in April. Oral history relates that he spent much of his time there on cypher duties. He was promoted to Lance Sergeant in July 1941.

The Japanese invaded Rabaul on 23 January 1942.

As orders were 'every man for himself', he and others walked across the Baining Mountains to the south coast of New Britain, then along the coast to Uvol Mission, narrowly missing the massacre of



Willis Crocker

soldiers by the Japanese at Tol on the way. He and ten others left Uvol Mission on a pinnace, *Maria*, reaching the Trobriand Islands and, eventually, the island of Samarai. On Friday, 16 February 1942 at about 7.30 am a catalina, which was returning to Port Moresby after a bombing trip over Rabaul, landed at Samarai buoy and picked up twenty-one people, a mix of civilians and Australian Army men, one of them being Willis.

Some time after his return to Australia, Willis wrote an account, in the form of a diary, of his escape from New Britain after the invasion. The diary commenced on 23 January and ends on 27 February 1942. Again, oral history relates that the day before the Japanese invaded Rabaul, Willis and others were at Vunakanau airfield emptying drums of aviation fuel. So he was already out of Rabaul on Friday, 23 January 1942 when they heard that the Japanese had landed at Vulcan in the morning.

On reaching Port Moresby on 27 February, suffering from tropical ulcers and an injured knee, he was admitted to hospital. The injury to his left knee had happened on 12 February when climbing up the bank of a wide river, after which he had to walk on it locked. Later it was found to be an injured cartilage and bursitis. He was repatriated to Australia, embarking on the *Malaita* on 9 April 1942, disembarking in Cairns on 14 April. He travelled to Melbourne by train.

After the invasion of Rabaul the army sent Aileen a telegram stating that Willis was listed as 'missing ▶

(Continued on page 31)



# Madang Field Trips, 2014

**MARY MENNIS, MBE**

## **#1: MALMAL VILLAGE**

**In June 2014 a group of enthusiasts headed by Professor Glenn Summerhayes of Otago University did two archaeological digs in the Madang area of Papua New Guinea.**

**These were in Malmal Village, located some twelve kilometres north of Madang, and Bilbil Island which is ten kilometres to the south.**

**There were seven of us in the team, including Professor Glenn Summerhayes, Dylan Gaffney, an MA student, Affrica Cook from Oxford University, Teppy Beni, a fourth-year student from UPNG, Herman Mandui, Deputy Director of the National Museum, Dr Judith Field of the University of New South Wales and myself.**

IN APPLYING FOR THE GRANT, Professor Summerhayes noted that, ‘This project aims to shed light on the nature of human occupation along a long-neglected area of PNG—its north-east coast—and also to determine the age of the traditional trade network along this coastline, as Bilbil is strategically located to assess prehistoric movements of peoples and ideas from west to east. As we know little of this movement or of subsequent occupation along this part of New Guinea’s coastline, archaeological research here is a priority.’

My input into the field trip was to liaise with the local people and provide background information from my own studies of the area. As I had lived in Madang through all of the 1970s, I was able to renew some old acquaintances. While the old informants I had known were now deceased, it was sad to hear that even some of the next generation had also died. We heard that the life expectancy for men in PNG is only fifty-five and for women fifty-seven years. The people I had most to do with in June 2014 were my own children’s friends from the 1970s. For example, my old Bilbil informant, Maia Awak, had died in 1979 but since then his daughter, Sibol, and husband, Masil, had also died. Their daughter, Sima, friend of my Joanna, now lives on Kranket Island with husband, Desmond Gadi, who is an electrician.

We arrived in Madang on 4 June 2014, and were kindly given accommodation at Sir Peter Barter’s residence. We decided that the best way to access Bilbil Village and Bilbil Island was by banana boat. The first day at Sir Peter’s residence, I noticed an electrician and asked if he knew Desmond Gadi. ‘Oh, yes, he’s our boss. He will be here after lunch.’ I had not seen Desmond for twenty years so that was a fortuitous meeting. Desmond knew all the owners of the banana boats, which were lined up on a nearby beach. He recommended Isaac who proved honest and reliable for the duration. A routine was established: when Isaac was ready he called Professor Glenn on his mobile and we boarded the boat within a few minutes. As it turned out we did not need Isaac for over a week because of delays at Bilbil Village.

Another useful contact was Mako Nakuk, a friend of our son, John. I had known him since he was a young boy in the 1970s. He was a ▶



Dinner at the Haus Win at the Madang Resort Hotel in Madang, (left to right) Herman Mandui, Mary Mennis, Sir Peter Barter, Dylan Gaffney, Prof. Glenn Summerhayes and Affrica Cook

grandfather now and worked for a government official. Early in our stay, Mako drove us out to Malmal and Yabob Villages. On Thursday, 5 June 2014, we drove out to Bilbil Village along a very bumpy road with potholes caused by the recent rains. At the village, the first person I met was Kubei Balifun whom I had not seen since a visit back in 1994. The people gathered and there were whoops and greetings all round. Kubei had been a young man when I first visited this village in 1974, now forty years ago, but there were many missing faces. The people gathered around eager to hear Glenn speak about what we were going to do on the island and the importance of the dig. They understood that we were not like miners looking for gold or precious metals.

Even though we had prior permission from the village elders to do a dig on Bilbil Island there was still some hesitancy. Kubei mentioned he was going to the Rai Coast at the weekend, and when he returned on Monday he would call a meeting of the councillors for their final decision. As our plan was to begin the dig on Bilbil Island that weekend, it meant everything was delayed, but in the end all worked out for the best.

Meanwhile, the elders showed off the beautiful new *palangat* [canoe] they built in 2013. I had written a manual for the construction of these canoes in 1978 when I organised the last of the canoe builders to build one of them.

On Sunday, 8 June, Mako Nakuk drove us out to Yabob Village, the sister village to Bilbil, where Yeyeg happily showed us the first stage of pot making and then took us to the gardens where deposits of clay were still to be found. While the

Yeyeg of Yabob, the last of the pot-makers there



women in Bilbil still make pottery, the art has come to a close in Yabob Village. Yeyeg (pictured at left) was the last of the Yabob potters and died within months of this photograph being taken.

Over the previous centuries, the Bilbil and Yabob people made pots and became the centre of a large trading zone that stretched along the north coast as far as Sarang, including Karkar Island, and south along the Rai coast to Sio and Siassi Islands. The women of Bilbil Village, which is now on the mainland, still make pots, some in the traditional fashion and others with more modern designs for the tourist market.

### Malmal Village

On Monday, 9 June, Mako Nakuk drove us out to Alexishafen and on the way back we called into Malmal Village to check a location that Dr Brian Egloff had mentioned in his 1975 report. We sat in a *haus win* to talk to the local people and Professor Glenn read out a section of Egloff's report, which mentioned a possible site for future archaeological research. He also showed a mud map of the area drawn by Egloff, detailing the small peninsula of Tilu jutting into the sea.

One of the men listening got quite excited and said he remembered Egloff coming to the village and could show us the site. We were amazed. He led quite a procession under the coconuts to the smaller hamlet of Tilu. 'I was only a small boy, but I remember that man with his notebook,' he said as he pointed out the exact place, which then became a possible archaeological site.

It was easier to get permission from Joseph Barem, the headman of Tilu, to do a dig than it was to get the same from Bilbil Village. The dig was carried out over the next week, mainly by Dylan, Teppy and Affrica, with help from Glenn and Herman. On the first day, the whole group took the bus to Tilu. We sat in the *haus win* while Pr Summerhayes talked to the people. He and Dylan then measured a metre-square research pit and Dylan began digging with a trowel. With Teppy's help, he filled bucket after bucket of soil that was sifted through a sieve by me, Affrica, Glenn and two village women. This revealed pottery sherds, obsidian, beads and other treasures. Malmal never produced pottery itself so most of the sherds were old Madang pottery from Yabob or Bilbil.

While the excavation continued, I sat and talked to Joseph Barem, the headman of Tilu. There are



three clans in Malmal Village: Tilu, Milimakomo and Sosia. The Malmal people speak a Bel language as do the people of Sek and Alexishafen, so they were able to communicate quite well with the Yabob and Bilbil traders who once travelled as far as Malmal in their trading canoes. The Malmal people did not make pots but they did build similar trading canoes and sailed as far as Bilbil Island. The pots would have been used as part of the bride price and for trading with other places, as well as for home cooking. Pots allow people to boil water and cook vegetables cleanly and not just roast them on the fire.

When trading, the Bilbil men would arrive at Malmal with pigs and pots and there would be a feast with food cooked in a long line of pots. The Bilbil men gave their Malmal trade partners the pots, but perhaps did not pick up the trade items until they were returning home. They might continue on as far as Sarang on the north coast where they waited for the wind to change so they could sail back to Malmal to collect the galip nuts, yams, teeth necklaces and other trade items. The Malmal used some pots themselves but traded others on to Megiar and Sarang as the pots were like their money.



Sunai Damun, Kubei Balifun and Nupen Tegil in front of the large palangut canoe built in 2013. They learnt the technique of canoe building from their fathers.

In 1975, when Brian Egloff did a dig here and at other points along the Madang Coast, he mentioned that, 'The pottery recovered from these sites is directly ancestral to the modern industries of Yabob and Bilbil, particularly with respect to the predominant vessel form and the presence of a red slipped surface finish'. ♦

**#2: Bilbil Village and Island, will be featured in the December edition of *Una Voce***



## Two School Friends in the War in Papua New Guinea

*(Continued from page 28)*

in action'. Her mother said to her that she was taking the news very calmly. Aileen's reply was that she knew he was alive. His survival and escape were not known until she received a letter from him dated 27 February 1942, written from hospital in Port Moresby. There was no advice from the army that he was there. Again, the army did not advise Aileen that Willis was due in Melbourne by train—he managed to send her a telegram letting her know when he was due to arrive. The actual date of his arrival in Melbourne is not in his military records. Aileen and his mother, Maud, had to find him and help him along the platform of the railway station as he could barely walk. He was nursed back to health by Aileen and Maud.

Declared medically unfit for further active duty, in between spells in hospital with malaria, and having the left knee cartilage repaired, his duties were in signals and cypher sections. In October 1942 he was detached for Special Duty in the 1st Australian Cypher Section and sent to Canberra for six months. He travelled to Goulburn by rail and

the only way to get to Canberra from there was to ride a bicycle.

At the end of 1943 he was discharged from the AIF to enable him to enlist in the RAAF in January 1944. His service number was 129846. He attended the Signals School and Cypher Officers Course at Point Cook, and was posted to various places with most of his time being spent in the Northern Territory, first at Gorrie, 54 Mile, Batchelor and then Darwin until the end of the war. On demobilisation his appointment with the RAAF was terminated on 19 December 1945.

As happened to so many returned men, Willis did not talk about his wartime experiences until late in his life, when in June 1992, he and others went on a trip to Rabaul. It included a visit to Tol. Having to use two walking sticks to move around it was not an easy trip for him, but he did need to go on it. It was a very emotional and meaningful occasion for him. ♦

**From an account of Willis' life  
by Lynnette Aileen Bowman, née Crocker**

*UV: See Editor's Mailbag for a letter from Malcolm Crocker describing the friendship between his father and Leigh Vial*

# 77th Anniversary Commemorative Service

## LAST POST CEREMONY, AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL, CANBERRA—1 JULY 2019

**They died in eleven minutes  
—all 1,053 prisoners aboard the Japanese Hell Ship,  
the *Montevideo Maru*.**

I was honoured to represent the Papua New Guinea Association of Australia (PNGAA) and lay a wreath at the 77th Commemorative Service for these poor souls—military and civilian prisoners who had been taken from Rabaul, then the capital of Australian-mandated New Guinea.

The Prime Minister, Leader of the Opposition, various ministers and shadow ministers, the Chief of Defence Forces and head of the Salvation Army also laid wreaths.

The ceremony commemorated the life of Private Lloyd Sylvester Sibraa, 1st Independent Company, who was on board the *Montevideo Maru* when it was sunk by the American submarine USS *Sturgeon* on 1 July 1942.

Each July 1, there is a commemoration for them at the AWM, this year also attended by the politicians resuming the new parliament.

Patrick Burke, representing the Sibraa family, laid the first wreath, and I was joined by PNGAA's Andrea Williams for the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Society and Michael White, PNGVR Canberra member, representing the NGVR/PNGVR Ex-members Association. Also laying wreaths were John and Carolyn Reeves on behalf of the Rabaul Historical Society and Kylie Adams-Collier—who lost her grandfather, Harry Adams, on the ship and has penned a moving song to him—and Les Drew on behalf of the 2/22nd Lark Force.

We were heartened that this largely forgotten tragedy—the greatest maritime disaster in Australian history—was being commemorated with our political elite.

For decades and generations our political and media establishments sadly neglected this tragedy. Warm thanks to the Australian War Memorial staff for their efforts in arranging the commemoration.

**MAX UECHTRITZ, PNGAA President**







***Lest We Forget***

*Photographs courtesy Australian War Memorial*





# Observations on Mining Capitalism in Papua New Guinea

**MARTIN KERR**

**Stuart Kirsch's book, *Mining Capitalism: The Relationship Between Corporations and Their Critics*, broke into a memory bank of experiences with a powerful message. Observe and take notes, whether photographically, through reports and correspondence, or on a smart phone. Kirsch's observations as an ethnographer on the Ok Tedi River, PNG, led to the then biggest legal challenge on environmental matters to a mining company ever.**

SO, STIMULATED BY THIS BOOK, featured on page 48 of this issue, I have a few observations to share. As a cadet patrol officer, I was assigned to Telefomin, an isolated South Sepik station on the north side of the Hindenburg Range. A newly-turbocharged helicopter for high altitudes was assisting in a mineral survey of the area. I was privileged to ride in it and inspect country to the north-west. A thirty-six-day patrol followed, February–April 1965, led by Assistant District Commissioner John Wearne.

To the south, the Star Mountains were tramped over by a private expedition which included Telefomin-based school teacher, Barry Craig (later to become Curator of Foreign Ethnology at the South Australian Museum), psychologist Paul Symons, geologist Mike Shepherd, David Cook and Tom Hayllar, and backed up by medical assistant Jean Huon Navrancourt using the facilities of the Baptist Mission.

In early January another 'private' expedition funded and led by District Commissioner Tom Ellis, a former medical assistant prewar in the Maprik region where gold was being mined, headed west and possibly south-west into the Ok Tedi region. I heard no results of this latter expedition. It was a discreet and brief fly-in-fly-out manoeuvre staffed by experienced PNG Nationals.

I was enthralled by these goings-on. John Wearne and I looked for gold in several creeks and found iron pyrites, associated with auriferous ground. Gold was a romantic concept. I searched for it again in 1967 while working on the Sepik River as a trader and crocodile skin buyer for Las Kompani's John

Pasquarelli and Warren Hanson. Found nothing, though Pasquarelli was then opening up the Frieda River, where he had discovered copper ore and gold in 1963, suggesting he would put me in there with a team of locals to start a mine of sorts. In August of 1967 Wau-based geologist, Duncan Dow, was also investigating the headwaters of the Sepik for the Australian Bureau of Mineral Resources. However, Pasquarelli was entertaining a fellow PNG parliamentarian; highly intelligent Graham Gilmore (a purported son of Errol Flynn), who after a messy divorce was staying with John at his headquarters in Ambunti. So not much was done then.

Gold-capped Mount Fubilan in the Star Mountains, where Ok Tedi mine is situated, was first summited in 1958 by two kiaps, Len Aisbett and cadet Harley Dickenson, their police and carriers. I came to know Harley in 2002 while with my new girlfriend, Anna McGibbon (Chu), who, in her book *Kapiak Tree* (2008), mentioned a discreet affair with him in Angoram in 1959. Harley became a member of the Victorian Legislative Assembly before losing his seat and writing memoirs, mainly in the form of his paintings, which included Mount Fubilan. Harley later told me he was looking for recognition from BHP for his historical feat in 1958.

While working in Melbourne, and later as a BHP shareholder, I observed BHP's development of the Ok Tedi resource from 1982 and also Rio Tinto's developments in Bougainville.

These activities engendered romantic illusions: breaking new country with bulldozers and explosives, only recently discovered by the white man. The locals were counted and land issues identified and



negotiated. These were minor impediments. The mineral resources were there to be quantified and exploited. The tide of international mining capitalism was rising fast, though I did not fully appreciate it at the time.

Nevertheless, over these years I penned the *Amon* trilogy of novels, reflecting on the human experience of mineral discoveries in PNG involving fictional French companies, a French love interest, local entrepreneurs and tribespeople; compared to real German and American involvement with BHP as the managing partner in Ok Tedi, or Rio Tinto's development of the Panguna mine on Bougainville.

*Mining Capitalism*, gifted to me by my son, Thor, a lecturer in Cultural Studies at Curtin University for my seventy-eighth birthday is a challenging read. The author's modest and hesitant observations of the degrading of waterways were first published in PNG, where he lived for two years, 1986–1988. They contrast vividly with his broad-ranging, well-researched professorial study twenty-five years later.

Kirsch recognised that, from his experience in Ok Tedi, local charismatic leaders had to emerge, and, with the help of local and international non-government organisations (NGOs), would intervene and mount legal challenges against BHP for compensation. Slater and Gordon, based in Melbourne, were the lead lawyers.

The author describes mining projects in PNG, West Papua, the Solomon Islands and elsewhere. Mineral resources were discovered and exploited, and in most cases, lax environmental standards were applied, either to unforeseen and unsolvable conditions as in Ok Tedi, or through acceptance mining waste could be disposed of through riverine degradation or deep sea-bed dumping.

Stuart Hirsch investigates NGO involvement, including activism against big companies as well as collaboration. He observes the use of science and self-auditing and how these can be manipulated by corporations and the supporting academy. In more recent times, he evidences new mining operations with emphases on community involvement and the influence of social media.

When BHP abandoned management of the Ok Tedi mine in 2002 the PNG government continued to allow the pollution of the river systems. Profits massively increased providing more income to finance PNG budgets. In the case of other mines, different conditions applied. The option of rebellion over legal action, as on Bougainville, resulted in

abandonment of large-scale copper mining in 1989, even though under the shadow of referenda there is talk of re-opening the mine at great capital expense.

Throughout these examples of big mining let's not forget large scale employment of PNG nationals occurs in these operations. In case of the Lihir gold mine local businesses provide mechanical repairs and other services enabling the mine to operate more profitably than previously. Senior managers living on site also make a difference. Communities and the human side of capitalism can get on with each other given a cultural will to do so. It is this kind of co-operation some projects in Australia are seeking to establish with local communities, white and indigenous. A recent example is Andrew Forrest's Fortescue Metals Group mining operations in WA.

Shared experience is the everyday business of resource extraction; engagement of labour, transport, equipment maintenance, social development, educational opportunities; solutions made at the 'coal face' are more efficient and equitable. But head offices of large corporations and state-run enterprises with mining projects need to be kept under constant purview.

A greenhorn policeman on that long patrol with me and John Wearne in 1965 married a Telefomin girl. Her daughter holds a senior administrative position at the Ok Tedi mine. PNG surveyors, mining engineers and other workers from mines on Bougainville, the Porgora and Ok Tedi have been recruited to help overcome Australia's skill shortages. The PNG democratic government must continually review its position, with emphasis on clarity concerning mining, oil and gas, forestry, agricultural and fishing projects: including importing skilled labour; training, retaining and remunerating workers; handling tax, royalty payments and compensation to land users and owners; environmental, financial and other contractual arrangements.

*Mining Capitalism* is a useful reference tool providing an analytic framework on how capital and big companies attempt to achieve their objectives. ♦

**Martin Kerr's *New Guinea Patrol* was first published in 1973.**

**His cult memoir, short stories and seven novels, including the *Amon* trilogy and Papuan refugees' novel, *Diansinkan—the Exiled*, are available on Kindle.**



# Papua New Guinea Butterfly Collection

**TED EDWARDS**

**The Australian National Insect Collection (ANIC), part of the CSIRO, is recognised both nationally and internationally as a major research collection. It is the world's largest collection of Australian insects and related groups such as mites, spiders, nematodes and centipedes, housing over twelve million specimens.**



*Ornithoptera chimaera* and  
*Ornithoptera alexandrae*

IN MAY OUR LEPIDOPTERISTS were delighted to receive the Robert Gotts Collection under the Taxation Incentives for the Arts scheme. The collection is primarily of New Guinean butterflies.

Robert Gotts (1929–2018), universally known as Bob, began collecting Australian butterflies in northern Queensland in the mid-1950s. In 1961 he and his family moved to the highlands of Papua New Guinea, where his first posting as a teacher was to Tari in the Southern Highlands. His son, Bob Jnr, tells how he captured their first *Ornithoptera chimaera* by hand on a hibiscus flower at school. Bob then went on to rear a series of *O. chimaera* and discovered the life history of the species, which was later published by Ray Straatman.

Bob became great friends with the small community of butterfly collectors in Papua New Guinea, including Ray Straatman, Harry Borch and Richard Carver. From then on he collected intensively in all but two of the New Guinean provinces, and widely in South and Southeast Asia. Bob would offer his class of school children a small reward for any live pupae collected and, with such sharp eyes in support, rapidly built up a large collection. Bob Jnr remembers that over time they had forty pairs of *O. alexandrae* hatching in the laundry cupboard. There is a story of a technique he and Joan (his wife) developed; while she drove slowly along a track, he stood on the backboard of the vehicle, net at the ready. One day, at the end of the track he was missing, having fallen off thirty miles back.

When PNG became self-governing in 1973, Bob returned to Sydney, living at Wahroonga, but he continued collecting widely in Asia and the Pacific, commissioned by JP Sclavo and others. In 1994 he sold most of this first collection overseas but immediately started to build a second collection. He moved to Winmalee near Springwood, NSW, in 1996 and continued to build the collection, concentrating on a few groups like *Delias* (Pieridae), of which the collection contains some paratypes, and *Ornithoptera* (Papilionidae, birdwing butterflies).

Eventually, through Ray Straatman, Bob was invited by Freeport Mining to join with Norris Pangemanan to write a book on the butterflies of the area covered by the Freeport Copper Mine in West Papua. He travelled to Tembangapura and Timika, wrote the text, took the photos and then typeset the book before sending it to the publishers. *Mimika Butterflies* was published in 2001 and ran to a second edition, which has itself become a collector's item.

The collection is contained in four fourteen-drawer wooden cabinets, beautifully handmade and with well-fitting protective doors. The donated collection is about a third the size of the one originally sold. This is a fantastic addition to the ANIC. It provides us with an even deeper coverage of *Delias*, a genus of Australian origin but with many species in New Guinea and Indonesia. There are specimens of *Leucacria* known from two rare species, which Michael Braby assures me are the probable sister-group to the speciose, spectacular *Delias*.

The ANIC Brandt collection is deficient in *Ornithoptera* and, while the birdwings are not part of our research focus, the fact that the Australian National Insect Collection should be so deficient in these large butterflies was an embarrassment. Bob Gotts' collection contains all the species, and good series of them, except for *O. alexandrae*,



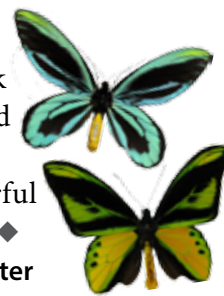
which we have from other sources. There are some miscellaneous gems, such as drawers of stick insects and Parnassiinae, the Northern Hemisphere, cold-climate subfamily of Papilionidae, which are so exciting for an Australian overseas to see alive.

Bob Gotts married Joan Keith in 1954 and they had three children, a girl and two boys. All spent their early childhood in PNG and all have a treasure trove of the most wonderful memories. Bob himself never forgot the wonder of *O. goliath* on the wing at

Bundi in Madang Province.

The lepidopterists warmly thank Bob Gotts and his son, Bob Jnr, and their extended families and are thrilled and excited by this wonderful and special addition to the ANIC. ♦

Reproduced from the ANIC newsletter on their website



(UV: See page 8 for an opportunity to view this wonderful collection)



Further to my story in the June 2019 issue of *Una Voce*—'The Best Beer Ever Tasted', here is another 'beer' story concerning members of the Star Mountains Patrol, Dave Jacobs and Jack Baker

NOT LONG AFTER the Star Mountains Patrol had ended in 1954, both Dave Jacobs and Jack Baker happened to be on leave at the same time but in different parts of Australia. Dave was staying with his parents in South Australia, and Jack was driving around Victoria.

On a sudden whim, Jack decided to visit Dave. In those days there was no internet, therefore no email, no Facebook, no Instagram and none of the other kinds of modern social media methods now available, and the only way to message someone urgently was by telephone or telegram. Jack knew Dave's address, but didn't know his phone number, so Jack decided to announce his arrival by telegram.

Now, in those days in PNG, in remote areas of Papua it often happened that the sole medium of communication with Papuans was *Motu*, the long-established lingua franca of Papua, and all kiaps who served in these areas were fluent in this language.

*Motu* was also a useful language among kiaps on leave in Australia, for example, if they were in a crowded bar discussing which girls to chat up. So, to prevent the girls overhearing such ribald conversation, the kiaps could discuss it all between themselves in *Motu*.

Also, in Australia, *Motu* was an instant form of recognition between kiaps so when sending his telegram to Dave, Jack sent it in *Motu*. It read: *Lau mai eta lau diba lasi West End ia namo*. (Translation): *I am coming. Arrival date not certain. West End is OK.* and it was signed simply *Jack*.

At that time Dave happened to be away from home for a few days, and in his absence the telegram was received by his father. Because the content of the *Motu* telegram was clear to Dave, he would have immediately known it had come from Jack Baker visiting alone. But the only words of the telegram his father could understand was 'West End', the name of a very popular brand of South Australian beer.

There were no mobile phones in those days, so Dave was temporarily incommunicado and could not be contacted concerning the mention of 'West End'. Thinking that Dave was away organising a kiap reunion or some other kind of get-together, and that the telegram had something to do with this, Dave's father did not want to be caught unprepared, so he ordered the delivery of twelve cartons of West End.

A few days later Dave returned home and, by coincidence, he and Jack and the twelve cartons of West End all arrived at the same time. Since nothing between them had been pre-planned, Dave and Jack suddenly found themselves confronted by the onerous task of disposing of the twelve cartons of beer. Needless to say, it took the remainder of Jack's visit to South Australia for them to work their way through it.

Thereafter, Jack told me, on the rare occasions when he and Dave happened to have a drink together, they would remember their days in Papua with the unforgettable *Motu* toast of: *West End ia namo*. ♦



# Cost of Living and Superannuation Update

CE TIM TERRELL, AM—PNGAA Representative, ACPSRO

This information aims to bring you up to date on the recent activities of the Australian Council of Public Sector Retiree Organisations (ACPSRO), of which PNGAA is a member and to which I have been PNGAA's representative for several years.

Over much of this time, ACPSRO's primary focus has been on seeking change in the way in which the pensions of public sector retirees are indexed. This affects both retirees from the old PNG Superannuation schemes and anyone else on CSS and State pensions. Indexation of these pensions has been tied for decades to the Consumer Price Index (CPI), which has resulted in pensions paid having failed to keep up with the cost of living as experienced by Australians in contemporary markets. This is because of changes that were made to how the CPI is calculated in the late 1990s.

This deficiency has been identified and recognised by a wide range of enquiries and reports, including two senate reports, which ACPSRO has been supporting and sponsoring. All, however, have been rejected by governments of both persuasions on any or all of the following grounds:

- a change would be too expensive and could not be accommodated in the Budget;
- public sector superannuation schemes are generous when compared to those in the private sector and there is no justification for making them more generous;
- to the extent that increases in public sector salaries are related to market factors, there is no obligation on governments to maintain the same equivalence;
- the public sector 'fat cats' are already well rewarded and do not deserve any further reward;
- CPI measures by how much the economy changes in value and this is therefore the appropriate index to use in superannuation changes.

ACPSRO and its member organisation have spent years disputing these claims and attitudes, but so far to no avail. While in no way resiling from its opposition to these arguments, ACPSRO is now focused on the last—the appropriateness or otherwise of using CPI as a tool for indexation.

A wide range of recurrent payments

governments and other entities are required to make, need adjustments to provide year by year for changes in the value of money in future years. CPI is often used for this purpose, but is by no means the only measure by which these changes are estimated. The justification for the measure used is often opaque and open to question.

The need for an economy-wide investigation into how and why indexation measures are used in Australia has been recognised by ACPSRO as the essential first step needed to bring rationality into the issue. It has therefore launched a campaign with this as its objective.

Such an investigation may or may not establish that the CPI is an inadequate and inappropriate means of calculating changes from year to year in the cost of living, if such be the objective of indexation. If it should not be the objective, then the objective will need to be specified and the best way of achieving it identified.

ACPSRO is glad to note that the Australian Securities and Investment Commission (ASIC) has recently published a requirement for providers of retirement calculators to take into account changes in the cost of living on top of the CPI. This confirms the long-held belief by ACPSRO that the CPI by itself is inadequate for this purpose, and looks forward to the general application of ASIC's ruling by not only private sector retirement providers, but public sector ones as well.

PNGAA members are encouraged to pursue any opportunity they may have to take this matter forward.

#### **Note from Editor:**

*Not all PNGAA members may be aware of the background to PNGAA. It was previously known as the Retired Officers' Association of Papua New Guinea, being formally constituted in 1951. The Association owed its genesis to the concerns of retired officers who had served in the Public Service of Papua (then an Australian possession) and New Guinea (then a Mandated Territory under the League of Nations) prior to the outbreak of World War II, in the Provisional Administration of Papua New Guinea immediately after World War II or in the combined Public Service of Papua and New Guinea. Their concerns related to the maintenance of superannuation entitlements and retirement benefits affecting both themselves and their dependants.*





## Judy Terrell— Lifetime Partner of an Ex-Kiap

**CE TIM TERRELL, AM**

**I met Judy in PNG in March, 1956. Shortly before, I had been brought in to Port Moresby from Lake Kutubu in the Southern Highlands where I had been a patrol officer for four years.**

I TOOK UP A POSITION in the headquarters of the then Department of District Services and Native Affairs, of which all kiaps were a part. Staffed mostly by men who had been in the field for some time, the news that Alan Roberts, the head of the Department, was shortly to take on a new female secretary generated eager anticipation. When the new secretary arrived and was found to be an unmarried, beautiful, twenty-two-year-old lady, enthusiastic competition for her favour began. Thus, in the throng, I met the bewitching Judy.

Perhaps because I was the only one of my competitors with a car, I managed to get ahead of the pack and got to see a lot of Judy. That she seemed to find something in me that kept me there was, for me, unbelievable but, nevertheless, we were married just before Christmas that year at St John's Church in Port Moresby. Her boss gave her away, and my best man was a somewhat corpulent colleague who earlier, with the temerity of an over-sexed kiap, had challenged Judy to a race to the top of a nearby hill, the stakes being a bottle of overproof rum. Judy won convincingly, but graciously allowed the vanquished and the onlookers to share her winnings. Judy and I then went on our honeymoon at the Rouna Falls Hotel up the road towards Sogeri and the Kokoda Track.

A year later, I was posted to a station on the other side of PNG. This was Lumi in the Sepik District, in the Torricelli Mountains between the sea and the mighty Sepik river to the south. There Judy lived a life that few Australian women have. She was the first kiap's wife to live there and became much admired and loved. When she married me, Judy had had to give up the position she had held as a secretary, but her skills were far too valuable to go unused, so ways were found to bring her into our office. At Lumi, she became an excellent office manager and was the 'girl with the golden voice' on the district radio

network. She became a marvellous hostess for our many visitors, despite being startled on one occasion when she opened the fridge door and a de-feathered but very alive chicken that she had earlier asked the faithful *manki-masta* to pluck for dinner, flopped noisily out.

In 1959, Judy was the first patient admitted to the then newly-built Boram hospital near Wewak. There Holly was born. That should have happened on Judy's own birthday, but the birth was difficult and went on for an extra day. That nearly cost Judy her life. She has always valued highly the prayers and support she received from the nuns who tended her through the prolonged birth. Thank God Judy and Holly survived and Holly grew up to become a nurse and midwife before earning a doctorate in critical care nursing and now heads the University of Canberra's school of nursing.

Another year or so later, I was asked to move to Finschhafen to start the first training program and live-in centre for local patrol officers. While there were more local services there than there had been at Lumi, outstation life continued to present Judy and Holly with many challenges. These were exacerbated after Judy had our second child, Kim, who was born in Lae in 1962. Again, thank God, Kim, like Holly, and with Judy's dedicated nursing, survived early environment-related health problems. Kim went on to become an Olympic swimmer, competing in the Los Angeles Olympics in 1984 before becoming a senior executive. He now heads the recently renamed Commonwealth entity, Hearing Australia. We spent 1963 in Brisbane while I completed a degree and Judy took advantage of a return to metropolitan life.

I was then posted to Rabaul. While living in the shadow of a volcano in Rabaul had had its moments, it offered a much more sophisticated lifestyle than we had been used to on small outstations, which we all enjoyed. A highlight of Judy's stay there was a visit ▶



Judy, Tim and their daughter, Holly

to the district by the then Governor-General, Viscount de L'isle. He was accompanied by his daughter, who was to receive a floral bouquet at their public assembly. To Judy's surprise and delight, Holly, then aged five, was invited to make the presentation. This she did beautifully.

In 1966 I was appointed to a position in the headquarters of the department, so we returned to Port Moresby to live in Boroko. Judy took up a position in the office of the PNG Public Service Association (PSA). Rodney Madgwick (later Judge) was then General Secretary of the Association and Paul Munro (also, later Judge) was its Industrial Advocate. It was a busy time for the PSA, which had launched an action against the Administration seeking pay and conditions for local staff equal to those of expatriate staff. The PSA had sought assistance for the conduct of this case from the ACTU, which made available its own industrial advocate, one Bob Hawke (later to become Australia's PM). Judy got to see a lot of the PSA legal team at that time, including at our home at a barbeque where, on one occasion, Bob got bailed up by our bull terriers when he took a short cut from his car over the fence near where her children were playing. He was rescued by seven-year-old Holly.

During our time in Port Moresby, we got heavily involved in swimming. Both Holly and Kim showed promise as swimmers and trained hard with the Boroko Amateur Swimming Club. Soon both were winning age group events and Kim went on to become an Australian backstroke champion and to play representative water polo.

Judy valued highly the life membership we were awarded by the club.

After nine years in Port Moresby, with independence for PNG nearing, we moved to Darwin in 1974, where I joined the Commonwealth public service. We re-established there into what we had hoped would be a new and more settled life. Judy found new friends, including among the immigrant Filipinos who had become our neighbours. This ended abruptly on Christmas Eve, 1974, when Cyclone Tracy demolished our new home and the rest of Darwin. Judy's courage and fortitude through this event was awesome. While we had not been injured physically, we lost nearly everything we had and the psychological impact was immeasurable. We were fortunate in having family support in Queensland for Judy, Holly and Kim, after they were evacuated. She managed the whole trauma without showing the deep impact it had had on her.

When our family reconnected after the cyclone in Canberra in February 1975, Judy led the process of finding a new home for us. I am forever grateful for her contribution then, and afterwards to rebuilding our lives. That included a new home round which she created a garden that was once described by a judge of a Canberra garden competition as 'the best he had ever seen'. The children completed their education in Canberra and have both moved into successful careers. Both have subsequently raised families of their own, and being involved in their children's growing up has been an ongoing joy for Judy, and has earned her their devoted and enduring love.

It remains only for me to say that Judy could not have been a better wife, supporter and loving partner over the sixty-two years we lived together, nor a better mother for Holly and Kim. For their many achievements Judy felt much respect, admiration and pleasure. She also loved deeply Holly's husband, Geoff and Kim's wife, Maree and her five grandchildren—Jaimie, Kiri, Christabelle, Elise and Rian. She adored her great-grandson, Henry. Sadly, she missed the birth of her second great-grandson, Mallee (Kiri's first child), who was born less than a week after she died. She would have loved him just as much.

We all love you so much, Judy. We'll never find another you, but I look forward to being with you again in God's good time.

Goodbye for now and may God bless you. ♦

**This was the eulogy given at Judy's funeral on 31 May 2019 by her husband, Tim Terrell**

*(UV: Please see page 55 for Judy's vale)*





## Gabriel Samol— One of PNG's Forest Statesmen

Gabriel was born on Manus Island, and graduated in forestry in 1971 from the Bululo Forestry College. In government service he rose to the level of Assistant Secretary in the Department of Forest. He commenced as an assessment forester, and then became Regional Forest Officer, Morobe Province, in Lae.

AFTER INDEPENDENCE IN 1975 he was among the pioneer senior national forest officers from the regions to be appointed to understudy senior expatriate officers at the Forest HQ in 1977, and eventually became Assistant Secretary Port Moresby in the Department of Forest. In that role he led the PNG delegation to USA to present the status of PNG's forest resources and to seek funding from the World Bank. He was one of the team members who put the legislation together prior to the Commission of Barnett Forest Enquiry, which led to the establishment of the PNG Forest Authority (PNGFA), which replaced the Department of Forest.

He resigned in 1992 having served the forestry service for over twenty years, moving on to seek a career in the private forest sector, where he rose to Assistant General Manager of various companies, before deciding to establish his own consulting business. He also ran his own small-scale milling business in Lae.

However, in recent years, forestry inaction drew him back into the forestry political arena and he rejoined the main industry private sector player as forestry co-ordinator. He became president of the Association of Foresters of PNG (AFPNG), and that enabled him to represent AFPNG in the National Forest Board, and he was then elected chairman of the PNG National Forest Authority Board. Prior to his retirement he was the Assistant Executive Officer of the PNG Forest Industry Association.

His forestry activities were recognised by the

Commonwealth Forestry Association in awarding him the regional medal for forestry excellence in the Pacific. It was in April 2001 at the 16th Commonwealth Forestry Conference held in Fremantle, Western Australia, where he received the CFA Regional Award for Excellence. He was the first PNG forester to receive the Queen's Regional Award for Excellence in Forestry.

The citation read:

*Mr Gabriel Samol of Papua New Guinea whose professional career has illustrated his commitment to sustainable forest management and particular concerns for those whose lives depend on forestry activity.*

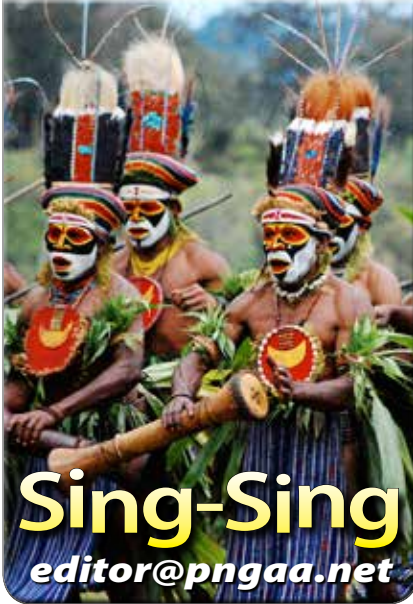
Sadly, Gabriel Somal passed away on 11 April 2019, aged seventy-one years. A brief vale notice was in the June edition of *Una Voce*.

His various colleagues in the forestry industry have described Gabriel as great forester, a natural leader, a true gentleman and a loyal colleague. Other colleagues also referred to his outstanding skills as an internationally-qualified soccer referee who could have been a FIFA referee.

The consensus amongst the many friends and colleagues who commented upon his passing was that Gabriel Somal was one of the legends of foresters in PNG, whose legacy in the forest industry in PNG is long-lasting. ♦

**This article was compiled from information supplied by Dick McCarthy from McCarthy & Associates (Forestry) Pty Ltd, and Bob Tate from PNG Forest Industries Association in their obituary for Gabriel Somal.**





## Annual 2019 PNGAA Brisbane Lunch

Sunday, 28 July 2019 was the date for our annual lunch for the benefit of our Queensland members and friends, which was held at The Ship Inn at Southbank in Brisbane—as in previous years providing a very



## Featuring reviews of events, festivals and reunions held throughout Australia and Papua New Guinea, and attended by PNGAA members

relaxing and informal setting at a very comfortable time of the year for Brisbane.

Enjoying the opportunity to catch up with others sharing their PNG experiences were Maureen Mopio Jane, Noeline Allen, Max Uechtritz, Cathy Uechtritz and husband, Michael Wolter, Gay Bruce, Brian and Pat Stone, Maryanne Uechtritz, Bill Deer, Rod and Cathy Parry-McLennan, Joan and Joanne Colman, Arthur Uechtritz and his wife, Gail Burgess and her mum, Tanya.

It was a thoroughly enjoyable day for everyone attending and we were very fortunate this year to be joined by recently-elected PNGAA President, Max Uechtritz, and members of his family (*top photograph*). Max provided everyone with an insight as to what the association is doing and what is planned, which was of interest to all.

Also mentioned was the upcoming book launch by Betty Lee on her great-uncle, Commander Eric Feldt, who formed and was head of Coastwatchers during WWII, scheduled for the third week in August. Invitations were also provided for the Paradise Palate 2019 exhibition in Brisbane on Thursday, 29 August 2019.

### KIERAN NELSON

## PNGAA 2019 Adelaide Reunion Lunch

Over forty PNGAA members and their friends celebrated the 18th Annual PNGAA Reunion Lunch at the Public Schools Club, Adelaide, held in Braggs Restaurant, on Sunday, 28

April 2019. The reunion had been rescheduled from the last Sunday in October 2018. We welcomed two members of the PNG Association of SA Inc. (PNGASA): Gima Kilamanu Naima and Rose Mokiri Launch, attending the lunch as guests. Following this report, Rose and Gima have written notes about their background and studying in Adelaide.

Peter Thomas welcomed and introduced our guest speaker, Graham Taylor, who spoke on 'Aunty ABC's role in Papua New Guinea' and its contribution to the development of PNG during the three decades 1945–1987. It was a fascinating and riveting address giving new insights into what was an intrinsic part of the PNG experience for all of us, and will be included in the December issue of *Una Voce*.

Robin Radford extended the vote of thanks. Sincere thanks and appreciation are extended to Shan and Tony Morbey who organised and ran a great raffle. They certainly kept things moving. Yet again our members were very generous and donated a wonderful array of varied prizes. This generated funds which served to amortise the cost of the occasion. Also, there was the usual and popular 'PNG books for sale' table overseen by Robin Radford with a display of books concerning PNG by South Australian authors.

Please note that the 19th PNGAA Adelaide Reunion Lunch will be held at the Public Schools Club on a Sunday in April 2020.

**JAN KLEINIG**





Graham Taylor and Gima Kilamanu Naime

### **Rose Mokiri Launch:**

I am a 3rd Year Flinders University Student (Bachelor of Disability and Developmental Education), and I am a widow with five children. I was born and raised in Gabagaba village, Central Province of Papua New Guinea with strong Christian beliefs and values.

I had the desire to be a missionary, but as I grew my perception changed. I graduated with a Grade 10 certificate and then attained an elementary teaching certificate. I worked for the disability services for sixteen years as a deaf mentor before taking up the Australian Awards Scholarship 2017.

I enjoy singing, dancing and getting involved in church activities. I currently have my own disability service organisation that educates and empower persons with disabilities (PWDs) in the rural areas to have a sense of belonging and to acquire daily living skills to live and participate independently and meaningfully in the society.

I hope to take back the knowledge and implement through this Independent Disability Consultant organisation

and venture into income-generating programs to sustain its activities. I look forward to building an empowerment training centre for PWDs.

### **Gima Kilamanu Naime:**

I was born in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea where I began my formal education. My tertiary studies were completed in Lae City, where I obtained a bachelor's degree in Telecommunications Engineering at the Papua New Guinea University of Technology.

Following my studies, I had joined the public sector at Telikom PNG. After ten years, my interest in business had prompted me to pursue further studies in 2017 and this has brought me to Adelaide.

Currently, I am undertaking a Master of Innovation and Entrepreneurship degree at the University of Adelaide. It is a two-year course that is nearing completion by December 2019. The studies are already changing my perspective to what is possible when I return to Papua New Guinea.

I am clearer about pursuing entrepreneurship when I return, which is a change from what I did before. However, I will be utilising the skills I have obtained from my previous employment but applying them in a new way. I am sure with God's guidance I will be able to contribute to impact many people.

### **PNG History in Perspective**

**Presenters: Mark Lynch, Dr Jan McLeod and Suellen Holland**

The recent event, held at the University of Newcastle on 6 July 2019, was great hit. The venue was fabulous as we all gathered at

'The Gallery' at the uni.

I have to acknowledge and thank Gilleen Shaw, curator, for being so generous with the venue, and allowing our guests to have access to the Senta Taft Henry Museum was a bonus.

I had thought we might get twenty-five people and, in attempting to save money for the association, Roger and I had decided to cater. We ended up with seventy-five! So, we were up to our necks in sandwiches, filling, biscuits, cakes, tea, coffee and the works. Thank heavens for Jane and Shan being there to help. Very little food was left so it must have been okay.

There are many attendees who wish to continue the contact with each other, and it is planned to have a more relaxed get-together before the year is out. For me it was wonderful to catch up with John Mills, Christine and Wayne Johnson, Suellen and her family, Rebecca (Hopper) and Scott. All people from my years in Rabaul.

Thanks to Joy and Murrough Benson for their continued assistance. A day out in Newcastle with a carload of all the paraphernalia that we have at these events. Also, to Steven Gagau, who joined us from the Central Coast and then sold raffle tickets on the day. Jane Turner looked after the books, etc. sales. I asked Rebecca to write up her impressions of the day, and this is below.

### **SARA TURNER**

#### **A Day of Remembrance and Reminiscing**

A day to remember where many old faces as well as new converged on the Art Gallery space of the University of Newcastle on a spectacular winter ►





Dr Jan McLeod



Mark Lynch



# PNG History in Perspective NEWCASTLE, 6 JULY 2019



Suellen Holland





morning in July. The draw cards were the three speakers who captivated us in different ways with their stories of adventures and memories of family and friends in PNG.

We started the day over coffee and tea—there were a lot of attendees, and it was such a delight to see John Mills from Rabaul days, ever so spritely and cheeky as always. The others included Suellen Holland, an old childhood friend from Rabaul, whose family played such a big role in the development of the town.

We started the afternoon hearing of the courageous and amazing story of Jan McLeod's two uncles, in her book, *Shadows on The Track*. They were field medical officers during WWII and so bravely tended to the injured and dying in shocking conditions along the Kokoda Track. Her touching recollections of her two uncles, who kept their treasured photos and mementos in an old ice-cream bucket, moved her to write about their heroic journeys at this terrible time in history.

The next speaker was Mark Lynch, who gave us an incredible talk on his work as a kiap with the Kukakuka tribes—in the early seventies as a young patrol officer forging new roads and building bridges in remote highlands of New Guinea. Mark also had incredible footage in a documentary filmed at the time, which was truly fascinating.

Last but not least was Suellen Holland, who delighted us in her reminiscences of her childhood in Rabaul, my home town and birthplace. Her book, *Black Sand and Betel Nut—Childhood memories of PNG*, was a lovely

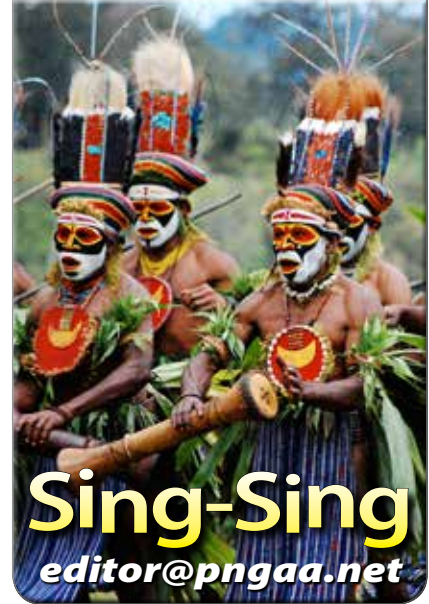
walk down memory lane and the fantastic childhood we all had growing up in Rabaul and Kokopo. It was an afternoon I enjoyed and I know many others did as well. A great day organised by Sara Turner and her ever-helpful crew of supporters.

**REBECCA HOPPER**

## 2019 Melbourne May Lunch

Greetings to everyone! We have been having regular luncheons in Melbourne with the aim of bringing like-minded folk together from our PNGAA Victorian membership and the PNG-Australian community and network.

Everyone is welcome at the lunches, including friends, family, wantoks and the wider community. We have had some excellent speakers along the way including Andy Grainge, Chris



Warrillow, John Quinn, Andrea Williams and our president, Max Uechtritz.

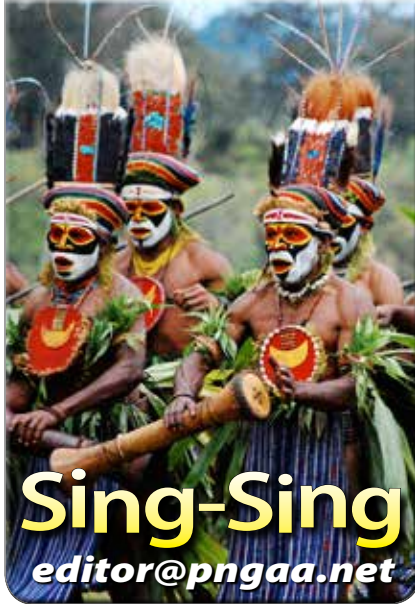
Many thanks to Chris Warrillow, Peter Milburn and Geraldine Tyler for their ongoing support and contribution to the PNGAA in Victoria.

Our May lunch was well attended and folk came from afar including country Victoria, NSW and QLD. We enjoyed good company and food as well as ▶



Max Uechtritz, Raymond Moworu and James Hardy (top) and Albertha Sukaliana (left)

Photo credits: Clarence and Albertha Sukaliana, Louise Garetto



heard from our outgoing Acting President, Andrea Williams, on the Ten Terminal 2016— Australian Community Centre for Pacific Nations Proposal. Our



new president, Max Uechtritz, spoke on the importance of the PNG-Australian connection that is embedded in the shared history of PNG and Australia.

We thank them both for travelling to Melbourne, meeting our members and the wider community. Other committee members at the gathering included Phil Ainsworth, Vicki Long, the new editor of *Una Voce*, and Chris Warrillow.

We also warmly welcomed Lucy Loko of the PNG Wantok Group (Victoria) and Albertha Sukaliana from the PNGAA Victoria, visitors from PNG and locally, including Raymond Moworu of Siwai (Buin) doing his Masters of International Business at Monash University.

Our luncheons are held at the Caulfield RSL and we aim to have at least two a year. We are on the lookout for speakers so if you or someone you know would like to speak on a topic or maybe share an experience from the ‘land of the unexpected’ drop me a line via [coordinator@pngaa.net](mailto:coordinator@pngaa.net)

See you all at the Christmas Lunch, Saturday, 23 November at the Caulfield RSL. Family and friends welcome!

**YANA DI PIETRO**  
PNGAA Victorian Regional  
Co-Ordinator



Andrea Williams and Vicki Long (top); Raymond Moworu and Prof Allan Easton (below) and Clarence Sukaliana and Michael Cleary (right)  
Photo credits: Clarence and Albertha Sukaliana, Louise Garetto



## The 77th Anniversary of the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Commemoration

This included a luncheon in Canberra on 30 June 2019, organised by member John Reeves, and attendance at the Last Post Ceremony at the Australian War Memorial on 1 July 2019.

For more about the luncheon and the ceremony, please see Memorial News and pages 32–33 in the centre of this issue.

## 2019 Women’s Panel

On 19 May 2019, we returned to Gordon Golf Club for what has become the annual Women’s Panel. There was a very supportive and interactive crowd, which was great for Max’s first meeting as PNGAA’s President. The speakers were humorous and made the occasion a joyful one. It was such a privilege to hear all their talks.

Marie Clifton-Bassett’s anecdotes of being a young bride with few domestic skills, adjusting to life in the tropics, coping with the ‘hoi polloi’ who crossed her threshold were most amusing. They can be laughed about now but I am sure there were some disconcerting moments in the early days of the administration of PNG.

At age ninety, Marie is a wonderful example of gentleness, adaptability, enjoyment of life and circumstances as she remains involved in PNGAA events and with her community. The benchmark is set high by this remarkable lady.

Liz Thurston took us around the world with many adventures, and still plenty to come as she enjoys her present role of





grandmother to Jack. What a career and contribution Liz has made in the publishing world in Australia and overseas.

Life in PNG was not exciting enough for her as she undertook sailing around the world for four years with two very young children in tow! The relaxed life in Fiji that Liz now lives is well deserved. Liz has been involved on the PNGAA and RMvM committees, and worked on the DVD, *Walk into Paradise*. She wrote *Dolphins at Sunset*, a book about their voyage, and edited and contributed to *No Turning Back*, her father's memoirs.

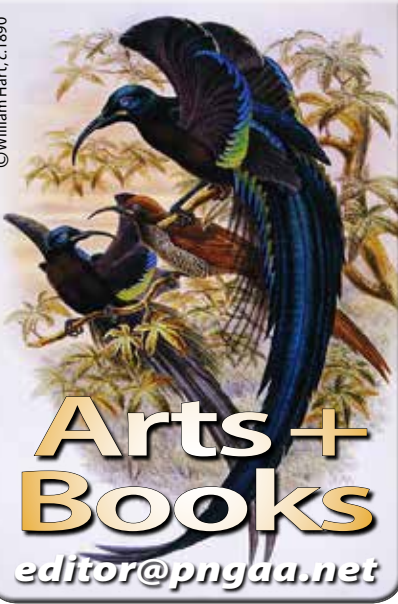
It was a delight to have Julianne Ross Allcorn be happy to share her wonderful experience of her recent trip to France to undertake a three-months artistic journey. The experience has benefited us all as Juli continues to produce the most delicate and soul-moving nature paintings. Juli's most recent successes are so encouraging to us all to follow our dreams. Keep an eye out for the magnificent Christmas cards and bee cards that Juli will be offering very soon.

Who's next to speak at the Women's Panel? ♦

**SARA TURNER**

Liz Thurston with daughter, Drina Thurston-Mundy and grandson, Jack (top left); Marie Clifton-Bassett (right); Juli Ross Allcorn (second right); the audience (second left) and Rita Uechritz and Dr Jeffrey Brock (bottom)





## Nora Heysen, Official War Artist in PNG

A recent exhibition was held of the works of Hans and Nora Heysen at the National Gallery of Victoria (NGV) at Federation Square in Melbourne. Nora Heysen was the daughter of the renowned landscape painter



Heysen in her Melbourne studio completing paintings that she began in New Guinea, January 1945



Ambulance plane carrying battle casualties from Morotai to Townsville (Both photos courtesy AWM)

## 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

Hans Heysen, and established her own reputation as an artist in war and in peacetime. The exhibition included paintings from her time as a war artist in PNG.

Nora was the first Australian official female war artist, and had been given the task of painting women in the services, firstly in Australia and then nearer the action in New Guinea. She had been told to capture the work of Australian nurses in PNG, but she expanded her task—despite not being near the front as male artists were—to include soldiers going about their business.

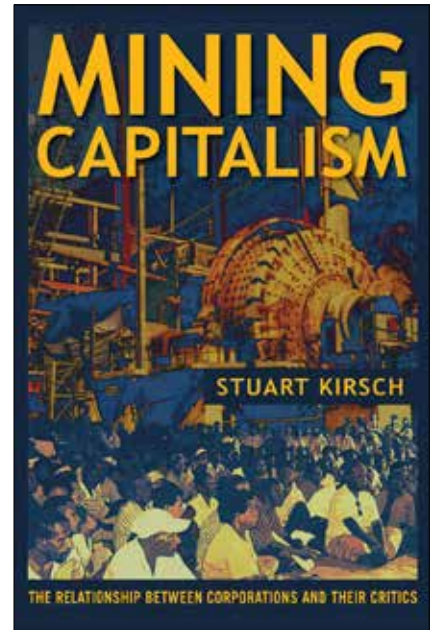
She spent seven months painting in PNG, returning to Australia suffering from dermatitis. She continued her painting of the war effort in PNG when back in Australia.

**VICKI LONG**

## STUART KIRSCH *Mining Capitalism: The Relationship Between Corporations and Their Critics*

Corporations are among the most powerful institutions of our time, but they are also responsible for a wide range of harmful social and environmental impacts. Consequently, political movements and non-government organisations increasingly contest the risks that corporations pose to people and nature.

*Mining Capitalism* examines the strategies through which corporations manage their relationships with these critics and adversaries. By focusing on the conflict over the Ok Tedi



copper and gold mine in Papua New Guinea, Stuart Kirsch tells the story of a slow-moving environmental disaster and the international network of indigenous peoples, advocacy groups, and lawyers that sought to protect local rivers and rainforests.

Along the way, he analyses how corporations promote their interests by manipulating science and invoking the discourses of sustainability and social responsibility.

Based on two decades of anthropological research, this book is comparative in scope, showing readers how similar dynamics operate in other industries around the world.

**University of California Press**  
ISBN: 9780520281714

University of California Press, USA, 2014; 328 pp, maps & photographs. Paperback available from UC Press for US\$29.95.

*(Please see page 34 for a review and article about the book by Martin Kerr)*



## Soldiers Without Guns

Film documentary produced by John Kier, Lisa Walker and Will Watson; directed by Will Watson; released in 2019.

In May, the Brisbane Bougainville Community Group (BBCG) hosted a screening of the film documentary, *Soldiers Without Guns*, at the Chermside Cinemas. There was a full house for this one-off event with many friends of the community attending, including several PNGAA members. BBCG's Veronica Kirin Henderson introduced the film, encouraging everyone to view potentially difficult scenes in a spirit of compassion and friendship, knowing there could be families from either side of the conflict in the audience. How could we not follow her wise and heartfelt request?

The film was a remarkable piece of cinema; inspired by his own young family, it took director Will Watson thirteen years to make, and included archival footage of the conflict as well as his own remarkable scenes of this beautiful island.

It told the fascinating story of a New Zealand peace-keeping corps who arrived without guns and armed only with guitars and the Maori culture, into the chaos of a war that had been raging for ten years. There had been fourteen previous failed attempts at peace.

The film documents the remarkable work of the soldiers sharing waiata, performing haka, understanding the local culture, listening to the women, and bringing the warring sides together. The peace created has lasted until now, leading up to the referendum for Bougainvilleans to say if they

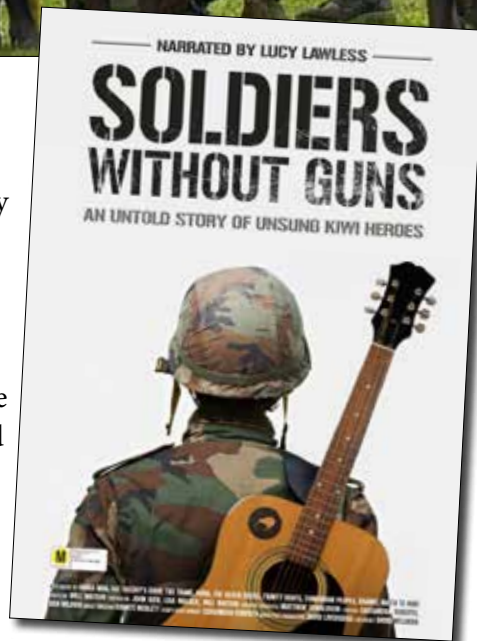


wish to be independent from PNG.

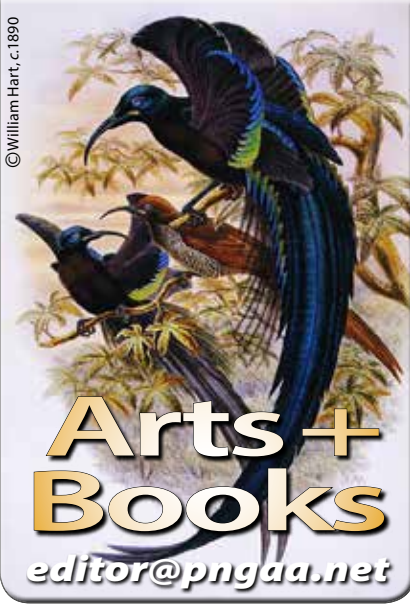
Following the reflective mood left by the film, there was a totally uplifting live performance by the young women of the Brisbane Bougainville Dancers. The resilient, positive nature of the people of Bougainville is nowhere more evident than in these proud young women!

If you missed seeing the film, there is a 1-min/30-sec trailer at <https://vimeo.com/user60313969>

**BELINDA MACARTNEY**

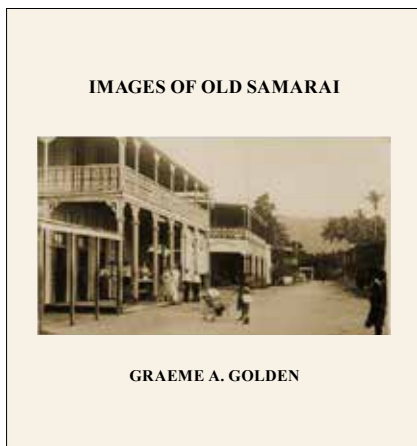






## Book Donation

PNGAA thanks Graeme Golden for the kind donation of his books, *Images of Old Samarai* and *Yarns from the South Seas*, as auction fundraisers at PNGAA events.



## *Images of Old Samarai*

This book of eighty pages paints a pictorial and written history of the island of Samarai, in the Milne Bay District of Papua New Guinea. It records the time of that country's annexation as British New Guinea in 1888, through its era as an Australian Mandated Territory, until the Battle of Milne Bay in 1942–3.

Samarai was British New Guinea's second most important administrative and commercial centre in its early days, based primarily on its location in the China Straits and as a direct shipping route from Australia.

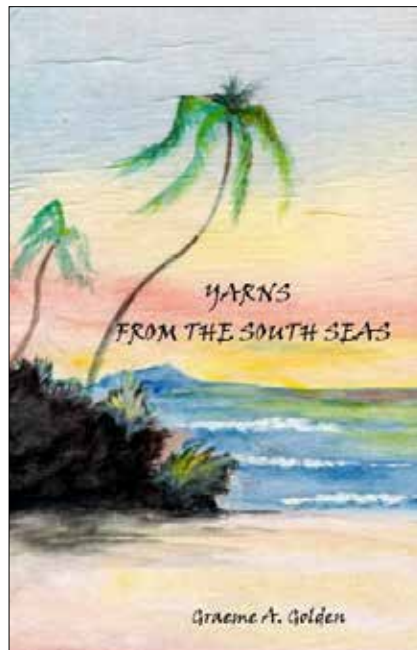
In the face of the Japanese advance south towards Australia, it was evacuated in 1941 and destroyed by the Allies in 1942, to prevent it falling into the hands of the Japanese forces. It follows that all that remains of its physical features are prewar photographs and the fading recollections of a few residents prior to 1942.

The book contains more than 140 photographs of Samarai and its environs taken prior to 1940. Nearly all of the photographs are from family collections and have not previously been published.

## *Yarns from the South Seas*

This book consists of a series of short stories from Australia and the Pacific Islands set in the colonial era.

Whilst the principal characters and their stories are fictional, locations and their historical settings are real, in the hope that the yarns may provide the reader with a glimpse into a period of time when life could be hard and sometimes dangerous, but where on occasions the impact of differing cultures could give rise to events of good humour.



The reader is urged to pardon the author's occasional lapse into terminology or expressions rarely experienced in today's vocabulary, but considered worthy of preservation.

*Description of books taken from Blurb Books website*



Laurie Bragge speaking at the launch

## Laurie Bragge Collection

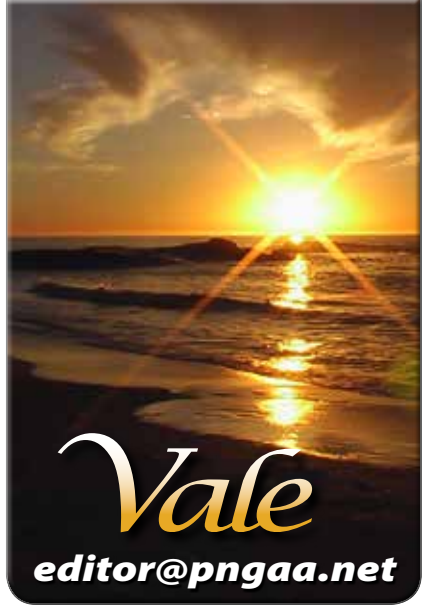
On 22 May 2019 there was a launch of the Laurie Bragge collection at the Cairns campus of James Cook University (JCU). This extraordinary collection was donated to JCU by Laurie and is in two connected parts: 600 material culture artefacts collected during the time Laurie was in PNG, and the extensive personal library he amassed containing various resources, which he used extensively when writing his multi-volume history of the Sepik.

Laurie also donated a copy of his seven-volume history of the Sepik to the PNGAA Collection, for which the PNGAA extends its grateful appreciation.

An extended article on Laurie and the collection will be in the December edition of *Una Voce*. ♦



**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.**



**BEINSSSEN, Walter ('Wally')**  
**d. 5 January 2019, aged 81**

Wally came to the Territory of Papua New Guinea as a CPO (cadet patrol officer) in 1958. He was initially posted to Rabaul, but subsequently left the public service to manage Warana Plantation.

Wally's father, Ekke, had also spent time in PNG in the 1920s leading a prospecting expedition through uncontacted Kukukuku territory in the Upper Watut, amongst other adventures.

His brother, Peter, also served in PNG as a didiman (agricultural extension officer) during the sixties.

Wally became a tetraplegic after a car accident ten years ago, but continued to live fairly independently in his home in Lota (Brisbane) until he died.

He is survived by his five children and ten grandchildren.

*Peter Beinssen*



Wally Beinssen

**COSGROVE, Hank**  
**d. May 2019, aged 86**

**DODD, Brian**  
**d. 31 May 2019**

Brian lived in PNG from 1968 until 1981, working in a number of different places and roles including Port Moresby, Bougainville, the Western Highlands and Madang. For a detailed description of his life, please see the family letter entitled 'Brian Dodd—A Life Lived to the Full' on page 4.

**Hill, Richard Christopher**  
**d. 30 June 2019, aged 83**

Rick's life (born 28 January 1936) began in Bristol (UK) and traversed through Colombia, Scotland, South Africa, Rhodesia, Australia, PNG and back to Australia.

In 1955, he answered an advertisement—for a 'career with a challenge'. He accepted and spent a year at ASOPA. In

1956, he landed in Port Moresby and was posted to Minj as a kiap (patrol officer), eventually becoming a district officer. Luckily for us, he survived the 1957 plane crash on Lake Kopiago, becoming a member of the exclusive Upside Down club.

In 1959 he married Zelda and they had three children—Diana, Stephen (deceased) and Penny.

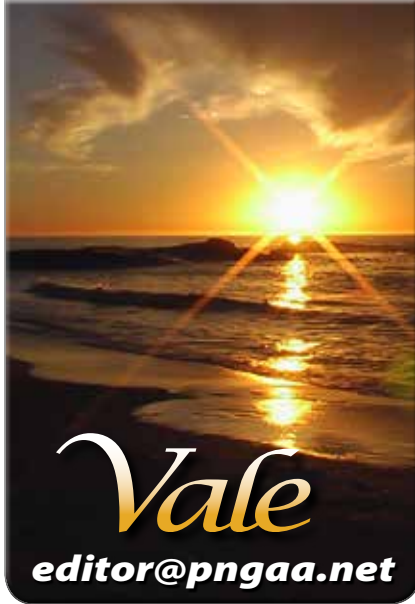
Over the years Rick's work in PNG took him to a number of postings: Western Highlands (Minj), Central District (Guari, Tapini, Woitape, Bereina), Eastern Highlands (Kundiawa, Gumini), Port Moresby, Milne Bay (Losuia), Morobe District (Lae, Finschhafen), and Eastern ▶



Brian Dodd



Rick Hill



**JOHNS, Prof. Robert James  
d. 21 April 2019, aged 74**

Prof. Robert (Bob) Johns passed away in London on 21 April 2019 after a long illness. Bob graduated from the University of Auckland, New Zealand in 1966 with a B.Sc. and in 1968 with a M.Sc. He first came to Papua New Guinea in 1968 as a research assistant for the Department of Geography, Australian National University to manage their field station on Mt Wilhelm. He joined the PNG National Herbarium in 1969. In 1971 Bob took up a lecturing position at the PNG Forestry College, Bulolo to teach botany, dendrology and forest ecology before moving to the PNG University of Technology (UNITECH) in 1979 as Senior Lecturer.

He was Head of Department from 1987 until 1990 when he moved to the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, to take up the position of Curator for Ferns and Gymnosperms. He retired from Kew in 2004 but continued as a research fellow, which allowed him to continue his work on the ecology of the flora from both Papua New Guinea and

Indonesian New Guinea (Papua), with particular emphasis on the ferns. In addition to Kew, Bob continued to be a familiar face at herbaria in Leiden, Lae and Bogor.

He was an active participant of the Flora Malesiana Project, attending all of their symposia, which commenced in 1989. His contributions to the floristics and ecology of the vascular flora of Malesia was recognised posthumously at the 11th International Flora Malesiana symposium in Brunei in June.

Bob published extensively on the botany and ecology of both Papua New Guinea and West Papua and his work can be found in journals and books. One of his early publications, *Common Forest Trees of Papua New Guinea*, is still used as a major teaching resource at both Bulolo and Lae campuses.

He taught many of PNG's foresters and set very high standards in his courses. He was also an excellent organiser, securing NZ Government funding to build the library at the Bulolo Forestry campus as well as European Union funding to build the forest herbarium at the

Highlands (Kainantu). His final posting was a teaching position at the Administration College, Port Moresby. He enjoyed the challenge of working in PNG and later his time with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC).

Rick moved to Australia in 1979, where he continued to pursue his passion for sailing, participating in many races including the Brisbane–New Caledonia and the Sydney–Hobart. He also completed his Master of Environmental Science at Queensland University.

Following his departure from PNG, he became a lecturer at the Australian Institute of Management. He later worked at the Aboriginal Development Commission and finally the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission. He loved his work in PNG and ATSIC.

To quote Rick when reminiscing with friends: 'I wonder if others realise what a privileged career we've had.' He retired to the Sunshine Coast and became involved with the Verrierdale community, Land Care and the Volunteer Coast Guard. Those who loved him and relished a contested debate will miss him!

**Diana Barnett & Penny Lehman**



Bob Johns collecting plants with his students, Milne Bay, 2006



Taraka campus. In addition, he arranged for UNITECH to open a guest house, which he managed from 1982 until his departure from Lae in 1990.

Although working in London from 1990, Bob continued to mentor many Papua New Guinean foresters and botanists from both UNITECH and the University of PNG over the years, providing encouragement and support as they continued their studies for a higher degree. His heart always belonged to Papua New Guinea.

*Mex Peki, Head of the Forest Department, UNITECH, Lae*

**Le FEVRE, Laurence David**  
**d. 2 June 2019, aged 79**

Laurie, well known to many of us, had a very extensive career covering Papua New Guinea, Australian government departments and agencies, Sri Lanka and others.

He was born in Benalla, Victoria on 14 August 1939. When he was seven years old the family moved to Hobart and he lived the rest of his childhood in the suburb of Moonah. On graduating from Hobart High School, he attended the telecommunications technician school, and various pressures in this school stirred him to look abroad.

Papua New Guinea attracted him and he was interviewed by District Commissioner John Foldi, and appointed to the Customs Department in Port Moresby in January 1961. His stay in Moresby was brief and he was posted to Samarai in Customs, travelling by boat on the MV *Bulolo*.

In April 1962 Pat arrived in Samarai and romance bloomed. Laurie was then posted



Laurence le Fevre

to the Western Highlands (Mount Hagen) and appointed confidential clerk and general executive officer to the District Commissioner, Tom Ellis, where he served for three and a half years. Tom Ellis held Laurie in the very highest esteem. Pat and Laurie had tied the knot but legal reasons, including the acquisition of a house, made it necessary to return to Australia, much to Tom Ellis's regret.

Laurie took up employment with Woolworths but the call of PNG was strong and he returned in 1978 as a co-operative officer posted to Kerowagi in the Simbu Province. I was seconded as District Co-operative Officer at that time for Simbu and with the Chimbu Coffee Co-operative. Laurie was a most valuable asset to my office and particularly in the field where he excelled. After two years he returned to Australia and held a range of executive positions in Victoria.

However, PNG still called and from 2001 to 2003 he returned to Tabubil as advisor/mentor, Procurement Team, Ok Tedi Mining Ltd. Laurie had remarkable communication skills with peoples of all races and he has left so much behind one cannot explain in full his achievements. He wrote many

pamphlets and several books including *Cloudlands Memoirs*, *Scribblings by a Visitor to Tasmania*, and *Tabubil Sunday*. He also contributed to major government works on supply and procurement.

Tragically, in 2017 Laurie slid into dementia and a tragic loss of a brilliant mind. All who knew Laurie—Australians, Papua New Guineans and others—will remember him with pride and send their love to Pat and his children, Andrew and Madeline. *Supplied by Roy Andrews with Pat's gracious assistance.*

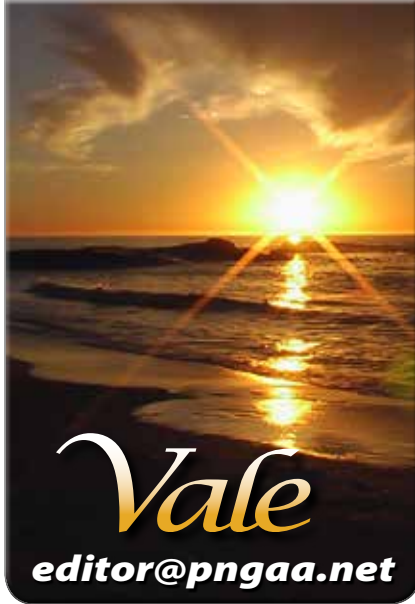
**O'NEIL, Rita Rosemary**  
**(née Gough)**

**d. 26 April 2019, aged 88**

Our mum, Rita O'Neil, said living in Port Moresby's expat community in prewar times was like an extended family, a happy community. Her father, Thomas Patrick Gough, a policeman, and his wife, Muriel Rose Gough, lived in a roomy bungalow in Musgrave Street. Rita was born in 1930, a year after their arrival. Rita's Uncle George and his wife, Gwendoline, were also part of this close community.

Rita said her childhood was enchanted and remembers her games with her father's right-hand man, Bagita. 'Where are you, *pikinini*?' he would ask. Her reply, 'I am here, Bagita! Don't tell taubaba where I have been!'

When the war began, like many women and children, Rita aged eleven, her baby brother, Burnie, their mother and aunt were evacuated to Australia on the MV *Katoomba*. The sea journey took longer than normal as the Japanese were believed to have a submarine in the Coral sea. Their menfolk remained at ▶



their posts under military law.

In 1942 Rita's Uncle George became critically ill with malaria and was evacuated to Brisbane for treatment, escorted by his brother, Tom, who was then transferred to the Commonwealth Police for the duration of the war. The family were stationed in Stanthorpe, Jervis Bay and Canberra where Rita played women's basketball and won a couple of championships.

After five years Rita and family returned to Port Moresby aboard the *Ormiston*. Their new home was in Winter Street, home to the old Court House and the Commonwealth Bank, where Rita enjoyed her first job as secretary, loving the camaraderie with the 'bank boys'.

Her father, Tom, retired due to ill health and the family left Port Moresby in 1950 to move to Chestnut Street in Wynnum, Brisbane. Rita found fulfilment in a career change as a nurse and midwife, starting at the Mater Hospital in 1955. She met her husband-to-be, Harold O'Neil, and was married in 1962. She continued as a part-time nurse and helped her mother, Muriel, care for Tom. After her divorce in 1984, Rita cared for her mother at Nazareth House where Muriel lived until the age of 104.

Rita lived with chronic pain from osteoarthritis, but was devout in her faith and our devoted mother. She always loved her memories of Papua in Port Moresby. She would look at the moon at night and say to us, 'Look, Kath and Chris, that is the same moon that is shining in Port Moresby.' *Bamahuta* beloved Rita—our Mum.

*Goughy*

### **ROBBINS, Douglas George d. 8 May 2019, aged 74**

Doug was born in Brisbane in May 1944, and went to PNG as a kiap with his wife, Annette, in 1969, based in Northern (Oro) Province, returning to Australia in 1973. In retirement Doug returned to PNG on many occasions, assisting local communities with eco-based tourism, then later with his wife, Annette, volunteering on the YWAM ship delivering medical and dental care to remote communities.

Doug's time in PNG made a huge impact on many people, and a testament to this is that on hearing of his passing, many of Doug's PNG friends spoke of losing a family member, and thanked Doug for his passion for their country.

Particularly poignant, was a tribute from Adalbert Gangia. Adalbert's father, Randolph was



Doug Robbins

Doug's interpreter and friend in the 1970s, and when Doug returned to PNG forty years later, Doug became, in Adalbert's words, his mentor and friend. Doug's children had the honour of accompanying him and Annette on a trip to PNG in 2009 and the family took great pride in the warmth and respect still afforded to Doug by people who had not seen him for nearly forty years.

Anyone who knew Doug knows that the qualities he possessed as a patrol officer and solicitor—honesty, integrity and respect—permeated through every facet of his life. Doug was honest to a fault and he treated everyone as an equal.

Doug was loved and respected and will be dearly missed. Doug, your humility and selflessness will continue to inspire those of us who were lucky to know you. Rest in Peace, Doug.

This was a summary and part-excerpt from the funeral eulogy provided by his family. There will be a longer article on Doug in the December edition of *Una Voce*.

Please see also an obituary by Keith Jackson at:  
[https://asopa.typepad.com/asopa\\_people/2019/05/doug-robbins-dies-ex-kiap-contributor-to-png-attitude.html](https://asopa.typepad.com/asopa_people/2019/05/doug-robbins-dies-ex-kiap-contributor-to-png-attitude.html)

### **TAYLOR, Rev. Allen Leslie d. 8 February 2019, aged 84**

Allen was born in New South Wales on 18 August 1934. He first went to TPNG when about the age of twenty, working for Burns Philp & Co., mainly in Rabaul.

In 1959 he felt a call to the ministry of the Methodist Church and returned to NSW, where he was accepted for training and spent 1960–62 in Leigh College, Enfield.



He served as Minister on Probation at Tamworth, but then offered to return to TPNG with Methodist Overseas Missions, and was posted to the New Guinea District of MOM (New Britain and New Ireland).

During 1964–68 he served at Namatanai on New Ireland, then on New Hanover. At first he was still completing his studies and his time as a Minister on Probation, and was ordained in 1966.

Allen then spent 1969 on Matupit Island in Rabaul Harbour; but hearing that there was a need for an additional chaplain with the Pacific Islands Regiment, he offered for this position and was posted as chaplain to the 3rd Battalion of the Pacific Islands Regiment (PIR), stationed at Lae, in 1970. He served in this position until 1979.

By this time the Methodist Church had become part of the Uniting Church in PNG and the Solomon Islands. Allen returned to the pastoral work of the Uniting Church, first at Rabaul and then as chaplain at Sogeri National High School, where he served until 1987, when he returned to NSW and served as a minister of the Uniting Church in Australia, at Eastwood (1987) and at Burwood-Croydon (1988–96), retiring in 1996.

During his years in PNG Allen developed warm relationships with the Chinese communities on New Ireland, at Rabaul and in Lae, and when back in Australia he maintained those relationships with the Chinese who had moved down to Australia from PNG.

In retirement he attached himself to the Malvern Hill congregation of the Uniting Church, which had a large Chinese component, and in 2012

was made Minister Emeritus of that congregation. He also served as a chaplain to the National Servicemen's Association until 2018.

His time as a chaplain, both in PNG and in Australia, was vitally important to him as a part of his service as a Christian minister. He was a keen member of the PNGAA, liking to maintain contacts with those who loved the country as much as he did.

Allen died on 8 February 2019, and his funeral service at Malvern Hill Uniting Church was attended by many of the congregation, by whom he was well-liked and respected.

*Neville Threlfall*

**TERRELL, Judith Ann,  
née Robinson  
d. 22 May 2019, aged 85**

Judy was born in Perth in 1934, where she spent her childhood. After training as a steno-secretary, she worked at the US Consulate in Perth and the WA University Guild of Undergraduates before being appointed as secretary to the then head of the Department of District Services and Native Affairs, Alan Roberts, in Port Moresby. She arrived in PNG in March 1956, and met and married Tim Terrell in the same year.

For the next eighteen years, Judy accompanied her husband on his postings round PNG in the Sepik (Lumi), Morobe (Finschhafen and Wau), New Britain (Rabaul) and, finally, Port Moresby.

Her first child (Holly) was born in Wewak while stationed at Lumi, and her second (Kim) in Lae, while based at Finschhafen.

The family moved to Port Moresby in 1966, and then returned to Australia in 1973,



Judy Terrell

to Darwin and then Canberra.

Judy was hospitalised in early 2018 after a collapse. She returned home, but remained unwell. After further deteriorating, she was admitted to permanent residential care earlier this year, and three months later died peacefully with her daughter Holly beside her.

Judy's funeral was held on 31 May, attended by more than sixty family members and friends who subsequently shared a thanksgiving function for Judy's life at her home, hosted by her family. It was a fitting tribute to a wife and mother who was deeply loved and for a life well lived.

Judy is survived by her husband Tim, daughter Holly and husband Geoff, son Kim and wife Maree, grandchildren Jaimie (partner Brett), Kiri (husband Evan), Christabelle (husband David), Elise and Rian, and great-grandchildren Henry and Mallee. Very much loved, Judy will be deeply missed by all.

**CE Tim Terrell, AM**

*Judith's husband*

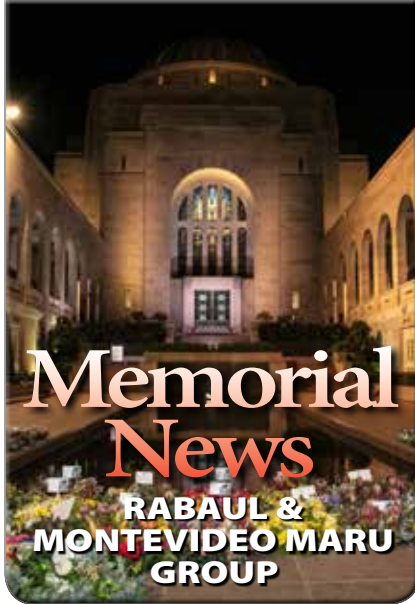
*(UV: Please see page 39 for her funeral eulogy by Tim Terrell)*



**Vales December Issue:**

**Bill McGRATH**

*(d. 30 July 2019, aged 86)*



**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—the sinking of *Montevideo Maru*.**

## The 77th Anniversary of the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Commemoration

This included a luncheon in Canberra on 30 June 2019, organised by member John Reeves, and attendance at the Australian War Memorial on 1 July 2019.

This ceremony remembered Private Lloyd Sibraa, NX 34251, 1st Independent Company, based in New Ireland.

The Last Post Ceremony on 1 July 2019 also marked the

opening of the 46th Federal Parliament. The ceremony was attended by Prime Minister, the Honourable Scott Morrison MP, and Leader of the Federal Opposition, the Honourable Anthony Albanese MP, who both spoke for five minutes each, along with other members of the Parliament and Senate.

Patrick Bourke, who represented the family of Lloyd Sibraa, and who is chair of the PNGAA/Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Education Group, laid the first wreath. This was followed with the laying of wreaths by the Prime Minister, Leader of the Opposition, various ministers and shadow ministers, the Chief of Defence Forces and Brett



John Wearne with Tim Terrell at the luncheon

Gallagher, Chief Commissioner, Salvation Army Red Shield Defence Services. Max Uechtritz, President PNGAA, together with Andrea Williams on behalf of the PNGAA/Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Group, Dr Les Drew representing the 2/22nd Battalion/Lark Force Association, Michael White, PNGVR Canberra member, representing the NGVR/PNGVR Ex-Members Association, John and Carolyn Reeves on behalf of the Rabaul Historical Society and Kylie Adams-Collier, who has penned the moving song, 'Montevideo Maru 1942'. A number of relatives also laid wreaths. *(Please see pages 32–33 for photographs of the ceremony)*

## Video Tribute

A moving tribute to those lost in the New Guinea islands at the start of WWII and highlighting Kylie Adams-Collier's song 'Montevideo Maru 1942' was launched at the PNGAA Canberra luncheon. It



Meeting up after forty years at the luncheon: (L-R): Helen Uechtritz, Debbie Bowman, Tony O'Dowd, Flora Bowman & Max Uechtritz



can be found at: <https://vimeo.com/343583104>

This video is a tremendous resource to help members when doing talks and presentations about this history. With thanks to Max Uechtritz, Kylie Adams-Collier and the PNGAA/Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Group.

Photos of the Last Post Ceremony, commemorating the 77th Anniversary of the sinking of the *Montevideo Maru* are at: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/tralianwarmemorial/48176276921/in/album-72157709373598726/>

The Last Post Service can be seen at this link: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4vTX6\\_ojJEA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4vTX6_ojJEA)

At time of writing it has had 356 views on YouTube and over 3,000 on Facebook.

## Prime Minister's Speech at Last Post Ceremony, 1 July 2019

Following is a transcript of the Prime Minister's speech at the AWM's Last Post Ceremony, on 1 July 2019—it can also be found at <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/address-last-post-ceremony>

I extend a warm welcome to everyone who has joined us here this evening. In particular, can I acknowledge the traditional owners, the Ngunnawal people, their elders past, present and emerging.

Can I also acknowledge any servicemen and women who are here with us today, indeed any veterans, and simply say on behalf of a grateful nation—thank you for your service.

In this place, our national war memorial, the 102,000 men and women who have given their lives in the service of our country, call us to live and believe in



Private Lloyd Sibraa, NX34251

the future of our nation. Our inheritance is the result of their sacrifice, and our freedom is the result of their selflessness.

At this Last Post today, members and senators from the new parliament, together with the public, gather to remember.

In this hallowed place there is no Liberal, National, Labor, Green or party affiliation. The only word that matters is one that unites us all: Australian. The only cause that we share today is Australia.

We gather and we draw strength from the men and women whose names adorn the cloisters above. We are a country of memory, and it is right that every day this memorial reminds us of the stories of those who have gone before us.

Today, we'll hear the story of Private Lloyd Sylvester Sibraa of the 1st Independent Company. One of over a thousand Australians that would perish aboard the Japanese prison ship, *Montevideo Maru*.

Today marks seventy-seven years to the day since this worst maritime loss in our nation's history. A thousand Australians lost, among the 40,000 who would give their lives during the Second World War.

Thousands of Australian prisoners of war were held on ships like the *Montevideo Maru*. The 'hell-ships' as they were known.

Sickness and disease aboard these vessels were rife. People locked in holds with little food, water or sanitation. A thousand prisoners could be crammed into spaces meant for mere hundreds.

All the while at constant risk of being attacked by submarines—for these vessels looked no different than any other Japanese commercial vessel.

Eighteen hundred Australians would perish aboard these 'hell-ships'. Yet these names fell out of memory: *Montevideo Maru*, *Harugiku Maru*, *Rakuyo Maru* and *Tamahoko Maru*—a 'hell-ship' that was sunk and whose survivors were transported to Nagasaki.

Last week marked seventy-five years since the *Tamahoko Maru* ▶



The Prime Minister delivering his speech at the ceremony



# Papua New Guinea Remembers the Fallen

**Australian achievements in Papua New Guinea during the Second World War were critical to victory in the Pacific War against the Japanese. These successes, and also the inevitable human price— about 150,000 Japanese soldiers died, nearly 12,000 allied soldiers were killed, and it's not certain how many Papua New Guineans died—are commemorated by official memorials across the country.**



**Milne Bay Memorial** commemorates the Battle of Milne Bay in August–September 1942—the first significant defeat of the Japanese forces on land during WWII.

**Port Moresby Memorial**, in Bomana War Cemetery, remembers over 700 officers and men of the Australian Army (including Papuan and New Guinea local forces), the Australian Merchant Navy and the Royal Australian Air Force, who gave their lives during the operations in Papua and who have no known grave.

**Isurava Memorial** was constructed in 2002, on the site of some of the most intense fighting in the Kokoda Track campaign, in remembrance of all those Australians and Papua New Guineans who fought and those who died there in 1942.



**Coastwatchers' Memorial** in Madang is a working lighthouse and commemorates the civilians and military personnel who continued their work in enemy-held territory throughout the war, and staffed this organisation at extreme risk to themselves and those native people who assisted them.

The **Popondetta Memorial** commemorates the service and sacrifice by Australians, Papua New Guineans and their Allies in the Battle for Buna, Gona and Sanananda in 1942–43. It was refurbished in 2002 and a new pavilion added.

**Rabaul 1942–45 Memorial** honours all those who lost their lives in the air, on land and at sea in the defence of New Britain, and in the course of the Japanese occupation during 1942–45. The memorial also features a cairn in remembrance of *Montevideo Maru*, the unmarked Japanese ship torpedoed off the Philippines on 1 July 1942 and sunk with the loss of all lives. Due to the memorials being buried by the 1994 volcanic eruptions they were relocated to a raised platform in 2002.



Some of the other WWII memorials in Papua New Guinea are the **AIF Memorial** at Lae, commemorating battles in the Salamaua, Nadzab and Lae areas; the **Surrender Memorial** in Wewak commemorates the surrender of the Japanese Army on 13 September 1945; and the **Wau Memorial** salutes the force composed of Australians and New Guinea Volunteer Riflemen, who fought a desperate defensive battle against the Japanese who advanced from Salamaua in early 1943.





◀ was sunk—with 190 Australian prisoners of war lost.

None of those Australians lost on the hell-ships had burial places—and so this memorial is where they will be forever remembered. This is where families have honoured the memory of their own—touching the wall, kissing it, or leaving a poppy. And we remember those who remained and who were forever changed.

Behind every name that surrounds us is a family, an Australian family, proud of their loved one's service, but never quite the same.

There were mothers like Mary Keid. When collectors came to the door to ask for donations to help build a local war memorial, she replied, 'Sorry, not me. I already gave four sons.'

She would raise her grandson Les. Les died aboard *Montevideo Maru*.

And widows like Katherine Russell. Her seven sons signed up in the Second World War. Two of them, Andrew and Charles, were on the *Tamahoko Maru*.

Charles drowned when it sunk. Andrew was rescued after eleven hours in the water and delivered to a PoW camp in Nagasaki, where he died from its cruelties months later. Their younger sister, Dorothy, would keep their photos by her bedside till the end of her days.

We also remember Mark and Jesse Turner who lost three sons, Sid, Dudley and Daryl, on the *Montevideo Maru*.

Sid and Dudley Turner were especially protective of their younger brother, Daryl. He was just seventeen.

They enlisted together and they were all selected for the 1st

Independent Company. They kept their promise, to stay together and watch over young Daryl. Until they all perished together.

Their father, Mark Turner, withdrew from society. And their mother, Jesse, would wear her government-issued silver badge with three stars—one for every son killed—until the day she passed away.

These are the casualties of war we don't see. These stories are not just relics of the past. They live with us, as they should, today.

As long as there is Australia—and that will be forever—our people will never forget the sacrifice of those who served in our name to establish it.

And as long as we are a free nation, the men and women of our parliament will come here to draw strength, as we do this evening, from those who served.

*Lest We Forget*

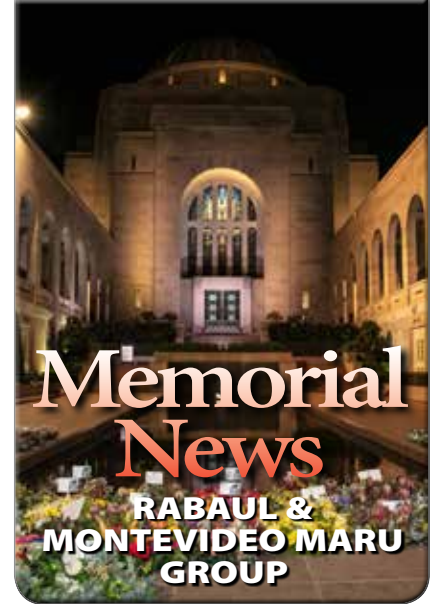
## **Montevideo Maru Remembered**

**The Australian War Memorial posted on their Facebook on 1 July 2019:**

On this day in 1942, the Japanese transport ship, *Montevideo Maru*, was sunk by the American submarine, USS *Sturgeon*. The loss of the *Montevideo Maru* remains Australia's worst maritime disaster. It was carrying more than 1,050 Australian prisoners, captured on New Britain and New Ireland. None of the prisoners survived.

To read more: [https://www.awm.gov.au/articles/encyclopedia/montevideo\\_maru](https://www.awm.gov.au/articles/encyclopedia/montevideo_maru)

**Annie Beazley wrote in response:** My grandfather's brother was missing from Rabaul for years. At the end of the war research of

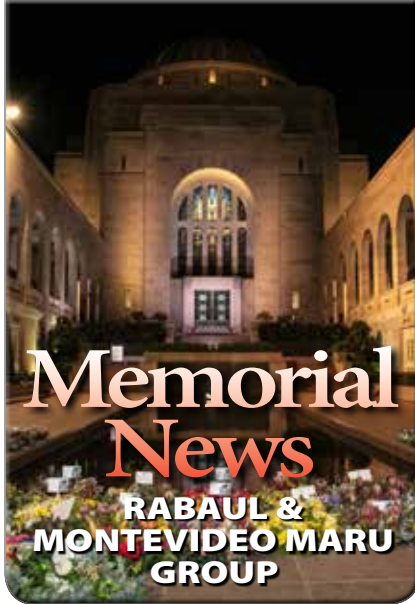


Japanese documents finally found the numbers of civilians who were on the *Montevideo Maru*. My grandfather was notified and the information is recorded in the *Leeton Irrigator*. Great-uncle Herbert J Washington was taken prisoner with civilians and military and taken on the *Montevideo Maru*. He was a plantation owner in Rabaul. He had fought in WWI and then in WWII in the local Volunteer Rifles (NGVR) being rejected for full enlistment. I found his history on TROVE and AWM. His family were evacuated to Australia. Two sons also fought with the Australian Army in PNG. A tragic time. ▶

*RIP—Lest We Forget*



Remembrance poppies placed at the base of the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Memorial in Canberra



## 1st Independent Company

The names of the 133 commandoes of the 1st Independent Company, who died on the MS *Montevideo Maru* on 1 July 1942, have been added to the story page on the AWM's Places of Pride website which is at: <https://placesofpride.awm.gov.au/memorials/168801>. They are also acknowledged on the Memorial website at <http://www.memorial.org.au/Electronic/IndepList.html>

## NGVR Navy (also known as the Harris Navy)

There is no record of the War Cabinet or Chief of Staff formulating a plan or making any effort to rescue the soldiers whom they deployed, and the civilians they abandoned in Rabaul and New Guinea Islands. The soldiers and civilians who escaped owed their lives to civilians and serving men in NGVR, ANGAU and the RAN who took the initiative, accepted the risks and went to the aid of friends in need.

Nothing had been heard from Rabaul or the New Guinea Islands since the Japanese invasion. Without obtaining approval from higher authority and relying on his friendship, Eric Feldt, the

commander of the Coastwatchers, contacted District Officer Talasea, Keith McCarthy, on the Coastwatchers' frequency and asked him to find out what was happening in Rabaul.

McCarthy, with the support of his loyal police, went to the Gazelle Peninsula, and within a week he knew he was the only effective person with the power and authority to do what had to be done. McCarthy told Feldt he needed coastal vessels and authority over soldiers regardless of rank.

ANGAU had been formed and former District Officer GWL Townsend was its commanding officer on the New Guinea mainland. Townsend, H Niall and KC McMullan, ex-NGVR men, and who held authority in Wau and Bulolo, called for volunteers from NGVR, the only Australian armed force north of the Owen Stanley Range, to man the small coastal vessels.

The response was immediate,

and crews were formed. The main problem was to assemble the small boats. The Officer-in-Charge NGVR, Lae, instructed Jack Goad, NGVR, to accompany Patrol Officer Harris to Finschhafen to obtain Lutheran Missionary boats and enlist their expatriate crews into NGVR, which they did.

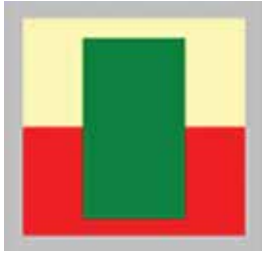
On 18 February 1942, three weeks after the Japanese invasion of Rabaul, six boats had been assembled—the three from Lae headed for the north coast of New Britain, the others were held in reserve. On board were twenty-two soldiers from NGVR, of which nine were on the forward rescue boats. Additionally, each of the boats carried their usual New Guinean boat crew who had volunteered for this hazardous journey,

The rescue operation ended on 20 March with 214 soldiers and civilians embarked on MV *Lakatoi*, destination Cairns, Australia. By this time the Japanese had occupied Lae, ▶



WWII watercolor, titled 'Heavies Over Rabaul', by US war painter/combat artist attached to the 13th Airborne Division, Robert Laessig (1913–2010). Streets such as Malaguna are quite clear as is the Matupi causeway. With thanks to Paul Hopper.





# New Guinea Volunteer Rifles (NGVR): Keepers of the Gate

**PHIL AINSWORTH**

WHEN WWII STARTED IN 1939, the NGVR, a militia unit, was formed in the Mandated Territory of New Guinea, initially in Rabaul and then extending to the New Guinea mainland and goldfields before the start of the Pacific War. This courageous small band of civilian volunteers led the defence of New Guinea and Australia during the early period of the Pacific War, when there was a seemingly hopeless inferiority in numbers and equipment, due to Australia having most of its defence force in the Middle East.

Eighty NGVR soldiers fought with Lark Force when the Japanese invaded Rabaul on 23 January 1942 and suffered a seventy-seven per cent casualty rate including the loss of thirty-six when the Japanese prison ship, *MV Montevideo Maru*, was sunk on 1 July 1942. Others were killed in action, massacred after capture or died through hunger, misadventure and disease during their escape.

Between the Japanese occupation of Rabaul late January and May 1942, the men of NGVR were the only armed military force in the path between Japanese forces and Port Moresby until the arrival of Kanga Force in Wau. NGVR contained the advancement of the Japanese from the coastal areas of Lae and Salamaua. They rescued over 200 Lark Force soldiers and civilians

who escaped when the New Guinea islands were occupied by the Japanese.

Many of these men had been barred from enlisting in the AIF due to physical disability, nationality requirements or exceeding the age limitations. They developed tactics and initiatives that became examples for future commando units. Some later served as coastwatchers or in the Australian New Guinea Administrative Unit (ANGAU) until the conclusion of hostilities in 1945 but, sadly, no ex-NGVR soldier is alive today. In the years that followed the 1939–45 war, the spirit of the volunteer defence fighters was carried on with the formation, in 1950, of the Papua and New Guinea Volunteer Rifles (PNGVR).

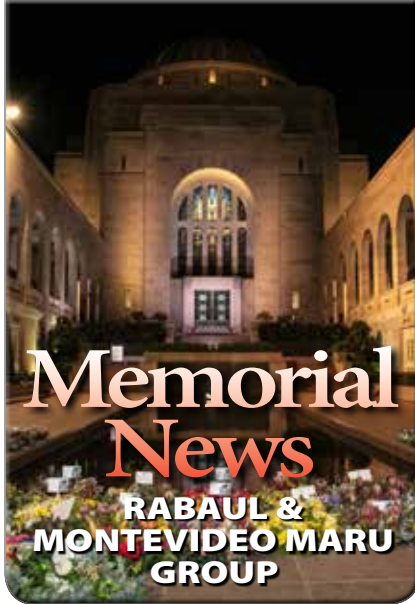
In honour of NGVR's service and sacrifice, PNGVR established a NGVR Memorial Museum in the Military Historical Precinct at Wacol, Brisbane, which will be available for viewing at the celebration of eighty years since the formation of the unit.

This will be held on Saturday, 7 September 2019 at 10 am, at the NGVR & PNGVR Museum, 971 Boundary Road, Wacol QLD. There will be morning tea at 10 am, a commemorative service conducted by NGVR Chaplain, R MacDonald, and a sit-down two-course luncheon. ♦

*(For more details, please see page 9)*

NGVR marching in Rabaul, prewar

**NGVR  
80 Years  
September  
1939**



## 2019 History Teachers Association of Australia National Conference, Adelaide, 1-3 October

The 2019 History Teachers Association of Australia National Conference will be held at Loreto College, Marryatville, Adelaide from 1-3 October 2019.

The PNGAA is delighted that the workshop submission from Margaret and Scott Henderson in Adelaide has been accepted, and included in the 2019 HTAA National Conference: 'History Matters'.

We thank Margaret and Scott for supporting our association and helping to educate Australian history teachers and students.

Their workshop, 'Australia's Worst Maritime Disaster', is timetabled for Tuesday, 1 October at 2 pm.

Please encourage any history teachers you know to register and attend. Your children and grandchildren can also ask their teachers to attend! Any presentations can be supported by the PNGAA/Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Online Education Package at <http://www.memorial.org.au/Education/index.htm>

The Rabaul and Montevideo Maru teaching resources are now on the South Australian website, 'Virtual War Memorial Australia', at <https://vwma.org.au/education>.

This adds to the educational links in NSW, ACT, WA and Qld.

It is noted that the Premier of South Australia, the Hon. Steven Marshall MP, attended the Last Post Ceremony on 1 July. He kindly wrote to Patrick Bourke following the event.

Additionally, the Hon. Mark Coulton MP, Federal Member for Parkes and Minister for Regional Services, Decentralisation & Local Government, placed a note on his Facebook page. The Ford Bridge area (north-west of Bourke) where Lloyd Sibraa worked prior to his enlistment in the AIF is in his electorate.



## Lark Force Museum Display

The Bendigo District RSL Sub-Branch Inc in Victoria has a Soldiers Memorial Institute Military Museum with a display related to the men of Lark Force. Included is a pack of cards believed to have been owned by Frederick Birkin, VX32484, 2/22nd Battalion AIF, who lost his life with *Montevideo Maru*. The cards are all signed by different men he was with. The 'First Field Dressing' has the initials EP Birkin, possibly Edna Phyllis Birkin.

Griffiths, VX38532, has written on one:

*Little drops of Whisky  
Little drops of Beer  
Makes a man see blue angels  
Then they disappear. ♦*

◀ Salamaua and Finschhafen so their destination had to be Port Moresby or Cairns. *Lakatoi* reached Cairns on 20 March 1942. The rescue from the southern coast of New Britain is another story. Overall, over 400 soldiers and civilians were rescued in these operations, 400 of about 1,800 Australian men, men who had been called 'Hostages of Fortune' by the Australian Government.

**PHIL AINSWORTH**

## NGVR/PNGVR Ex- Members Association Annual Montevideo Maru Service

NGVR/PNGVR Ex- Members Association held their annual Montevideo Maru Commemorative Service at the Brisbane Cenotaph on 1 July 2019 at 10 am. This was followed by a morning tea in the Salvation Army City Temple rooms. The address was given by Major General John Pearn.







# Treasurer's Corner

Payments to: PNGAA, PO Box 453, Roseville NSW 2069

Enquiries to: [treasurer@pngaa.net](mailto:treasurer@pngaa.net) or phone 0448 216 049

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Please help by keeping us up to date with your membership 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 confidential and your details will never be revealed or traded—more information overleaf.

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Signature of Card Holder: ..... Date: .....

*Note: Payments made with a credit/debit card will be subject to a surcharge (approx. 2.5%) to cover the charges levied by the card provider and processor*



## Using the New Website

[www.pngaa.org/site](http://www.pngaa.org/site)

This is our new website address, and your user name is your email address or nominated *User Name*—you can use either one. If you have forgotten your password, select the option '*Forgot password*' and a new password will be sent to your email address. It will be a complex computer-generated password, but you can overwrite it to something with more meaning for you. If you do not receive the password email, check your Spam Folder. If you are still having trouble, let me know and I will reset your password.

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)





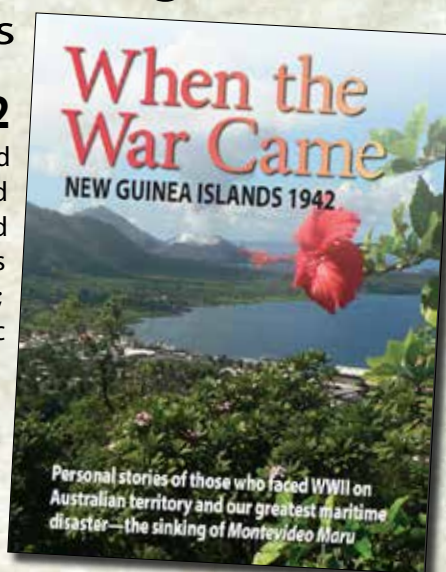
# Unique gifts for any occasion!

With every purchase you make, PNGAA attracts funds for ongoing work of the Association through the generosity of these writers/creators

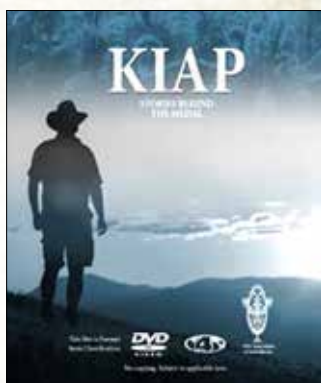
## WHEN THE WAR CAME: New Guinea Islands 1942

Published 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. Foreword by the Hon. Peter Garrett, AM and introductory piece by Max Uechtritz.

**\$60.00** (+ \$20.00 postage within Australia)



Personal stories of those who faced WWII on Australian territory and our greatest maritime disaster—the sinking of *Montevideo Maru*



## KIAP: Stories Behind the Medal

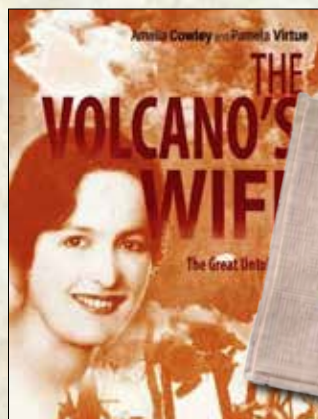
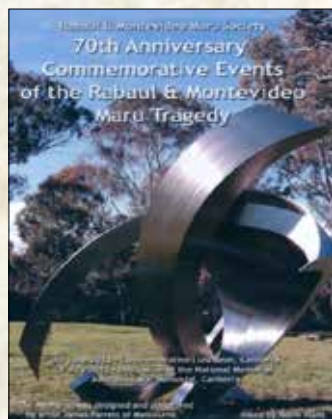
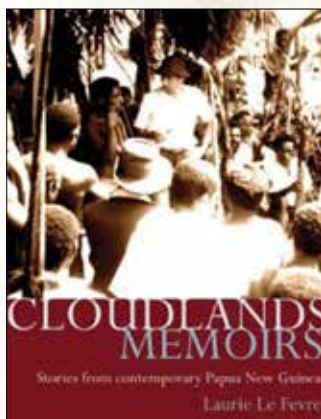
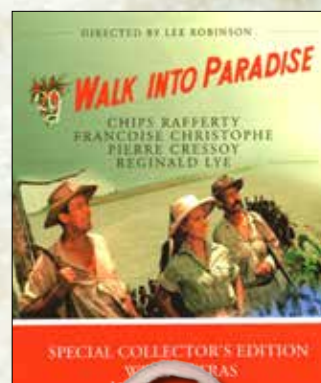
Some 2000 young Australian men served as patrol officers (known as Kiaps) in Papua New Guinea between the end of WWII and PNG Independence in 1975. In this film the men, their wives and children, tell their stories of living, working and growing up during this time. This outstanding DVD, produced by 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.

**\$25.00** (+\$5 postage within Australia)

## WALK INTO PARADISE: Collector's Edition

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)



To purchase any of these items, please fill in the details in the Treasurer's Corner Membership & Order Form on the previous pages or order from our website: [www.pngaa.org/site](http://www.pngaa.org/site)



# The Expatriate Experience in Papua New Guinea

In many cases, this had an outcome that the outsider could never have expected: people became emotionally wedded to the country and its people, and continued to feel that attachment for the rest of their lives—even if they never returned to PNG's shores.

The expatriate experience was also unusual since it frequently placed ordinary people in extraordinary circumstances. This often had a lifelong influence on individuals, who knew that Papua New Guinea had changed them, and that they would always define themselves a little differently because of it. These people retain a common bond and understanding.

It is therefore not surprising that many—who would not normally put pen to paper or poise fingers awkwardly over a keyboard—have felt the call to record their experiences. In doing so they have done future generations of Australians and Papua New Guineans a service, because what are revealed are stories and incidents and thoughts that go beyond the official record and beyond the ken of historians.

What is also revealed is the unvarnished reality of the challenges facing men and women who were tasked to do their bit to transform nearly a thousand tribes into a single nation.

The history of the settlement of Papua New Guinea indicates that people first arrived there 40–50,000 years ago when sea levels fell due to an ice age. The island was joined to the Australian continent until about 6,000 years ago, as a result sharing with Australia many species of plants and animals, including marsupials.

The more recent history of European colonisation, nation building and national independence dates back only to the 19th and 20th centuries. It is the latter period that concerns us, since the outsiders who settled and lived in Papua New Guinea can tell their stories of a time that is becoming distant and of a place that has changed.

They are stories that need to be told while they can be told, and the PNGAA is doing that here in *Una Voce* and on their website.

Expatriate photographs (from top): Kiap Harry West, Vicki Miller and friends, Murrough Benson à toilette, Andrea Coote and friend, Eleanor & Chris Viner-Smith

[www.pngaa.org/site](http://www.pngaa.org/site)

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